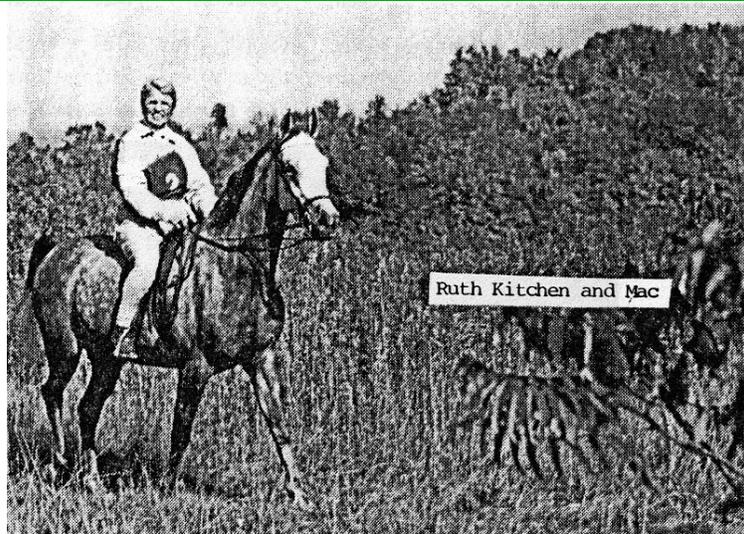


HONOUR ROLL HORSE

BARRA DJADAH (aka Mac)

(nominated 1983)

by Ruth Kitchen (discovered & retyped by Kristen Howard)



Mac competed in the first Flesherton Ride, as well as many others. Here is a list of his accomplishments:

- 1967, first Flesherton, Sweepstake
- 1967, first 50 mile ride, 1st Lightweight
- 1968, second Flesherton, 5th Lightweight
- 1968, second 50 mile ride, 2nd Lightweight
- 1969, Vermont 100 Mile, 1st Lightweight
- 1969, third 50 mile, 1st Lightweight
- 1970, Vermont 100 Mile, Sweepstake
- 1971, first Trail Horse, Sweepstake
- 1971, 50 mile, 3rd Lightweight
- 1972, 30 mile Creemore, Sweepstake
- 1975, 40 mile Riding Canucks, 2nd Lightweight
- 1976, 30 mile Trent Valley, 6th Lightweight

In 1960 a friend, Elva Miller, and I decided to go to Vermont and ride the Green Mountain Horse Association 100 Mile Ride. We knew nothing about competitive rides as there were few rides in the United States and none in Canada. There were two rides in the eastern states - the Virginia, and the Vermont Ride. Since the Virginia ride was held in the spring we decided to ride later on in the Vermont, held in the early fall. We arrived the night before the ride started, and in spite of our ignorance we both finished the ride. There were only two divisions at that time, Lightweight and Heavyweight. I was in the Lightweight Division and to make up the weight my horse had to carry 29 pounds of lead weight.

Vermont now has three divisions (when I rode in 1969 in Middleweight I only had to carry ten pounds extra). Deneba, my purebred mare, and I placed 9th (1960)! I learned a great deal, and decided I would return someday and ride the same ride again. I was hooked!

A few years later I bought a four-month old Arabian stallion (born June 21, 1961 by *Jerah*, and out of *Bur-Dals Ga-Selja*) which I later showed as a three year old, and won Grand Champion Stallion at the Breeders' Show, then held in Markham. Mac was gelded as a four year old, and I showed him in many line and performance classes, where he won his share of top ribbons. He was shown in the side-saddle class at the Royal Winter Fair by Nancy Beacon, and placed third in a class of nineteen.

I did all his training and schooling myself and showed him in a variety of classes, winning many firsts in hunter, trail, and pleasure classes. He was never defeated in the Park classes. He was entered in open competitions such as Dressage, and Trail. In the Ontario Championship Trail Horse competition, Guelph, with entries from the United States, Mac, ridden English, placed 11th out of close to sixty horses.

Mac also participated in the Guelph Rides, but I have no records of them or the dates.

In 1979 at Peterborough Equestrian Club's One-Day Event at Lakefield, open to all horses (with over 30 entered), Mac ridden by Dave Harris placed 2nd overall, and first in the teams. Dave and Mac competed in several Three-Day Events: Maple Valley in which they placed 6th, and in the Caledon event.

At an open show for hunters, in 1980, when Mac won all five hunter classes, the Judge, from the Toronto area, suggested he was so good he ought to be shown in the Toronto area.

Another honour, after the two great honours on the Vermont 100 mile rides, is the inclusion of Mac as an International Champion in the book Canada's International Equestrians. The only other horse included that wasn't on the Olympic Teams, was the great *Highland Wedding*, winner of the Grand National, in England. Pretty good company for a Competitive Ride Horse!

When the Summer Games were hosted by Peterborough a large display of Mac's trophies, ribbons and awards was shown in the Peterborough Museum, along with Champions in other fields such as canoeing, baseball, etc.

Over the years, Mac has taught many children to ride and several, such as Mary and Jim Raymer, Laurie and Carl Miller, Andrew Rose (who was Jr. Rider for several years), Sharon Murray, and Dawn Hasenhindl became interested in Competitive Riding. Most of their mounts are brothers or half-brothers of Mac.

Mac is 22 years old is still sound and spry. He will still teach youngsters to ride, and be as always my friend and companion, and favourite riding horse.

The following is reprinted from OCTRA's Winter 1987 Volume 5, Issue 1 Newsletter - The Pulse:

by Carl & Laurie Miller (discovered & retyped by Kristen Howard)

ONE HORSE THAT WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN!

BARRA DJADAH - popularly known as 'MAC', owned by Ruth Kitchen, died at the age of 27 in his stall on a peaceful January night.

Mac and Ruth won many competitive rides, most notably the tough Green Mountain 100 mile competitive ride in Vermont, USA in consecutive years of 1969 and 1970. To quote the Rutland Daily Herald, a local newspaper near the ride site, (September 1st, 1969), 'Mrs. Kitchen's small grey horse - he stands at 15 hands - acted as if he were ready to start another 100 miles if only given the word'.

Again in 1970, the Rutland Daily praised the game little Canadian horse, 'An Arabian gelding from Canada pranced into the Sweepstake Championship here Saturday afternoon to cop top honours....the sprightly dapple grey BARRA DJADAH won the blue ribbon in the lightweight division before going on to win the Sweepstakes'.

Not only could this horse win competitive trail rides, Mac could and did win in the show ring. At two years of age, Mac was halter champion stallion. Ruth owning Mac's sire, chose Mac to be her competitive gelding. Mac could and did compete at the Preliminary level of eventing and won.

Mac had the disposition of a saint. Mac was one of Ruth's

most sought after horses for riding lessons. Many students - too many to mention - learned to ride on Mac's back, and only last summer, Mac was teaching our son the finer points of riding.

We tend to think rides were easier years ago, or the competition was not as tough! Really, 100 miles then is still the same distance as 100 miles is today! The competition - while records are made to be broken - it was 17 years ago, Mac won his second win in a row in Vermont. Has anyone repeated that feat? Like the thoroughbred, Man-O-War, many believe he would have been just as outstanding today, as he was in his time. After watching Mac win in 1970 in Vermont, we believe Mac would be just as outstanding today, against whatever competition we modern competitive, or endurance riders could throw Mac's way.

Mac (to our knowledge) is the only Canadian competitive or endurance horse, so far, to be acknowledged as one of Canada's International Equestrian horses in the field of long distance riding.

Mac never knew the meaning of abuse. He was treated with love and respect and in return, Mac gave all, and exemplified an outstanding will to win and never, ever quit.

Mac was more than a horse, he became a friend to everyone who knew him.

Like humans, no two horses are identical nor can they be made so - too bad in this case!

