

How Appropriately Named He Was...

CH RADIANT SUCCESS

by Bob Funkhouser

No matter if you qualify as a large or small breeder, you know how agonizing it can be naming foals. When you do use that special name you had been holding back, you hope and pray it goes with a foal that lives up to it. You have to wonder when Mrs. F.D. "Katherine" Sinclair named a 1992 colt Radiant Success if she had any idea just how much it would fit?

A glance at the papers quickly tells you he is a Sinclair product through and through. A big colt, with a lot of neck, Radiant Success was sired by Radiant Sultan, Judy Werner's extremely successful son of the legendary Supreme Sultan, out of Mrs. Sinclair's many times world's and reserve world's champion fine harness mare, CH Glenview's Radiance. Not only was she a great show mare, Radiance was also a full sister to one of the most famous families (Oman's Desdemona Denmark x Dixie Duchess BHF by Stonewall Supreme) in American Saddlebred history, which included twice World's Grand Champion Five-Gaited CH Belle Elegant, twice World's Champion of Champions Amateur Five-Gaited CH Summer Melody and twice World's Champion Junior Exhibitor Five-Gaited Mare CH Denmark's Grand Duchess and the breeding stallion All Hail Columbia.

On the bottom side of Radiant Success' pedigree you find none other than Mrs. Sinclair's World's Grand Champion Fine Harness CH La La Success, herself a Broodmare Hall of Fame matron. She was by the former number one rated sire, Stonewall's Main Event. The colt had a lot to live up to just on his pedigree alone. He also had the right backing with the breeder/owner/trainer team of Mrs. Sinclair and Crabtree Farms.

Redd Crabtree brought Radiant Success out, earning the first of 21 career reserves, this one the 1994 Two-Year-Old Fine Harness Stallion/Gelding Reserve World's Championship. His next show would be his first of 63 career wins, Asheville Lions Club's Three-Year-Old Fine Harness blue. Two years later Casey Crabtree took over the training when Redd took the DuPree job in Georgia and he was second in the Junior Fine Harness Stallion/Gelding class at Louisville, finishing the year as the Junior Fine Harness Champion at Kansas City.



Nelson Green drove CH Radiant Success to three consecutive World's Grand Champion Fine Harness titles for two different owners.

In the gelding's five-year-old season the youngest Crabtree again drove into Freedom Hall for Mrs. Sinclair, this time finishing third in the stallion/gelding class behind CH Roselawn's Secret Rhythm with Mike Barlow and The Edge with John Champagne. Back in the championship Crabtree and Radiant Success rose to another level and finished as reserve world's grand champions behind Nelson Green and the mare world's champion CH A Sweet Treat, owned by Sinclair's great friend, Sallie Wheeler.

In fact, during this class Mrs. Sinclair and Mrs. Wheeler were sitting together and struck a deal with Mrs. Wheeler buying the gelding. They later told their respective trainers to work it out.

"Nelson [Green] called me the Sunday after Louisville and said, 'I guess Sallie bought your horse' and I said, 'What horse?' explained Crabtree. "He says, 'Your harness horse.' Mrs. Sinclair hadn't told me anything but she called later that day and we talked about where to price him. As far as I knew he wasn't for sale. Earlier in the year at Oklahoma City we had someone make a good offer for him and when I took it to Mrs. Sinclair she looked at me and said, 'Do you like showing him?' I said, 'Yes ma'am.' She said, 'And I like watching him so I guess that's the end of that conversation.'

"He was a lot of fun to show on Saturday night at Louisville of his five-year-old year. I knew in

For his final job, CH Radiant Success was Sallie-Mason Wheeler's first show horse out of Academy with Smith Lilly.



the make up ring that he was going to be good. I begged my grandfather [Charlie Crabtree] to show him for me but he said, 'No, he's your horse.' His check popped off and heck, he didn't even need it."

"Sallie [Wheeler] picked him out," added Green. "I was showing Sweet Treat for her and won it and Radiant Success was second. She was sitting with Katherine Sinclair during the class and they worked out a deal for her to buy him. When I saw her she said, 'I wanted Sweetie for me so I bought him [Radiant Success] for you.' Nobody had a better eye for a horse than that lady, especially a harness horse, so if the truth be known I've always thought she bought him because she saw he was going to be great competition. I went on to win three world's grand championships with him, two for the Wheelers and the last one for the Streds."

During that three-year run, Green and Radiant Success defeated many stars of that era: Revival, CH Rejoice, Holy Fruit Salad, My Special Dream, The Edge, Great Day's Came The Son, Call Me Ringo, CH Albelarm Sorcerer, Lady Maya, It's Hammertime, and Arborlane Tango's Wee Pee, among others.

"He was a good, solid citizen," said Green. "He was a lot of fun, very consistent and dependable. He took good care of himself on the road and he would elevate his performance at a horse show. We would ride him some to keep him interested in his work."

"Some nights he was good and some nights none have been better than him. One night at Lexington Don Stafford told me, 'That's the best harness horse I've ever seen.' Compliments like that don't come lightly from horsemen of his caliber."

"The Wheelers really did right by this horse buying him back for Sallie-Mason to learn on. I had sold him to the Streds before he won his third title and then he went on to a few other places before Kenny and Ceil bought him back."

Before becoming a very special partner for the youngest of Sallie Wheeler's granddaughters, the gelding debuted under saddle with Dena Lopez showing for the Stred family. He was quite impressive as a walk-trot horse and soon would be selected by the Judah family for their daughter Ali. Under the direction of Neil Visser they had several good wins, including a Junior Exhibitor Three-Gaited Reserve World's Championship before moving to the ASHA Youth Fine Harness Challenge division and taking a reserve world's championship.

Next in line was Doris Marks and she got a few drives and victory passes in under her ownership before the transfer slip said Long Hollow Farm and Rachel Seifert. A season and a half later Kaylee Norman was the new owner, successfully showing CH Radiant Success first in walk and trot pleasure and later junior exhibitor show pleasure and show pleasure driving. This was done with John Goda and Jeanie Waddell as trainers.

Going full circle, Radiant Success returned to the Wheeler family, with one last mission, teaming up with Sallie-Mason.

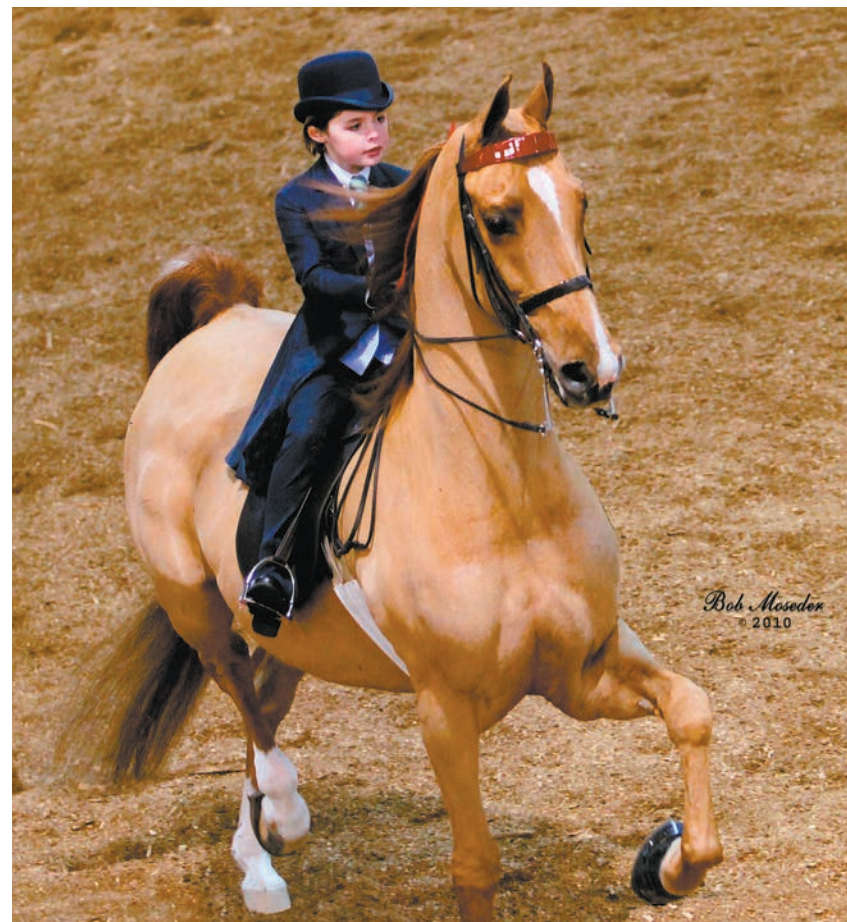
"We heard he was available and we wanted to bring him back home," explained Kenny Wheeler. "He was so good for mom, we wanted to give him a good last home. He was such a beautiful horse in harness, very high headed and went a big, correct trot."



Rachel Seifert debuted with CH Radiant Success in the fall of 2005, winning the amateur harness class at Decatur.



Dena Lopez won the over two stake at Lexington for the Stred family. She was the first to show the gelding under saddle.



Sallie-Mason Wheeler and CH Radiant Success became quite a team, both in the show ring and around the farm.

"Smith [Lilly] picked him up for us and worked him for a little bit and said, 'What the heck, let's try.' Sallie-Mason showed him at Bluefield and then ASHAV. She was eight and they were her first shows out of Academy. He was a true show horse, but a very kind horse. She loved that horse. When we brought him home she would ride him bareback all over this place. He was as great as a trail horse as he was a show horse.

"It's pretty amazing to watch these former great show horses come home and just be horses. Ceil had [Walterway's] Remember Me here with Radiant Success and they had a blast together. These horses are so smart and courageous. They love life, it's just the greatest breed no matter what you ask of them."

Unfortunately as all animal lovers learn, losing them is one of the most painful things you'll ever go through, yet for those who are truly invested, you want to be there for your animal friends until the very end.

"He was colicking and she insisted on meeting me and riding to the clinic with me," said Kenny of Sallie-Mason. "As a father it was breaking my heart but she wanted to be there. She was with him and said good-bye to him."

At the age of 24, CH Radiant Success had spent many years fulfilling dreams and expectations for all his owners and trainers. He was a champion driving, riding, in the ring and on the trail. He was a teacher and a friend. There wasn't anything he wasn't successful at.

As Nelson Green said of one of his favorite world's champions, "he always made you look good."



Ali Judah showed CH Radiant Success both under saddle and in harness. They won a reserve world's championship in the ASHA Youth Driving Challenge.