ALBERT HARRIS Kemah Stud



Albert W. Harris at his horse farm, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin.

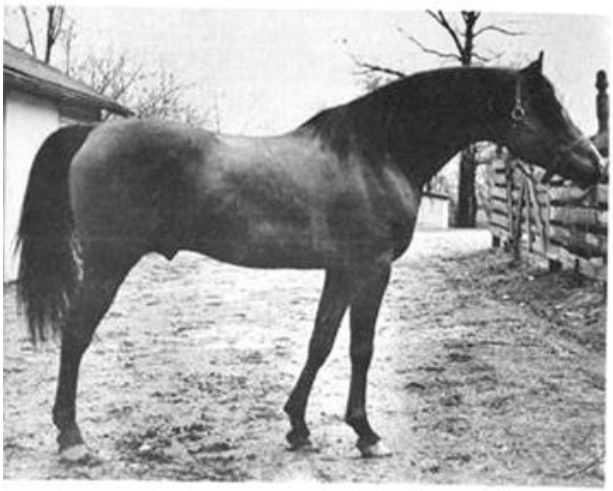
Arab Horse Journal:

I enclose article on the Harris Farm. As you no doubt know, this farm is one of the oldest in the USA, and Albert Harris and his son, Norman, pioneer breeders of Arabian horses. For some years the farm had been fairly inactive, but Norman Harris has now come back into active participation in shows, breeding, etc. His new manager, Brad Braden, is a very capable man. Due to the large number of Harris-bred Arabians on the stud farms all over the country, I think the article would be of interest to most everyone. Many of the pictures enclosed have never been published. With best wishes,

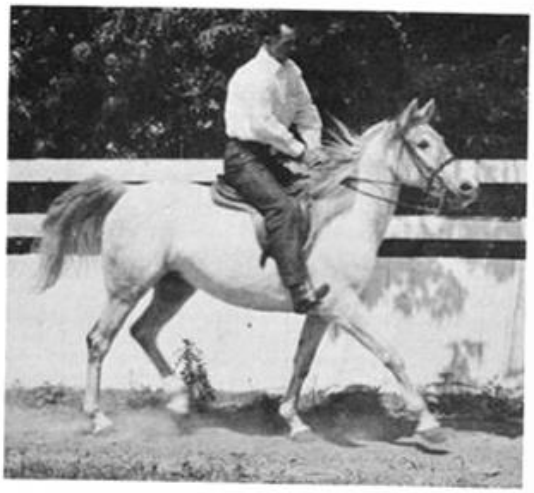
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With the passing a short time ago of Albert W. Harris, the recognized "Dean" of Arabian Horse Breeders, an era has ended for the Arabian breed in America. It has passed its crucial test of acceptance with the general public and the horse show world, and through the selfless devotion of Mr. Harris and the other men and women who were willing to put their time and money into publicizing and promoting the breed, a registry, respected by all, an international organization with member clubs, breed magazines, and innumerable shows have come into being.

Although in recent years activities at Mr. Harris' Kemah Farm in Wisconsin were curtailed due to age



KATAR 724 (Sire: Gulastra; dam: *Simawa) at 10 years.



KERIMA 7623 — Brad Braden up

and poor eyesight, the large number of horses of his breeding that have been sold to all parts of the USA have assured them of an important position in the Arabian picture today. Their role is far from finished, for the Kemah Farm is taking an active role once again, according to Norman Harris, who inherited the love of a good horse from his father.

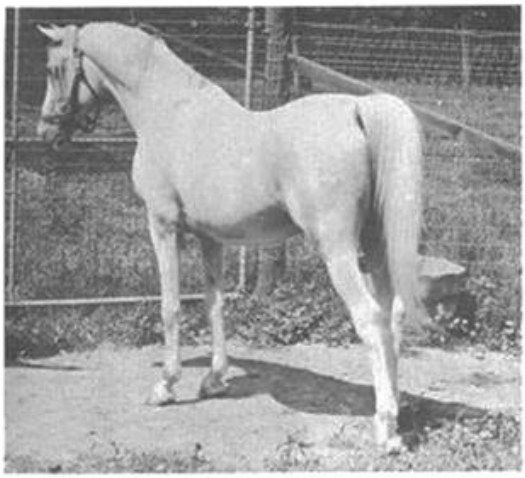
"Kemah," an Indian word meaning "face in the wind," was founded by the elder Harris in the early 1900s, with some 17 head of Mustangs purchased from the Chief of the Ponca Indians in Oklahoma. Carrying the blood of the Spanish Barb (predominantly Arabian), these mustangs were crossed with NEJDRAN JR. a few years later, to produce a number of excellent foals, most of whom matured larger than their sire, and proved to be superior saddle horses.

Nejdran Jr. was purchased in 1907 from Homer Davenport when Mr. Harris went to see the 24 imported desert bred Arabian horses he had brought back from the desert in 1906. With Peter Bradley as his partner, and an introduction from President Theodore Roosevelt, Davenport had selected these animals to be used as a United States Cavalry Stud. Not being able to purchase any of these animals at this time, Mr. Harris selected Nejdran Jr., a yearling, by Nejdran D. B. stallion imported from England, and out of Sheba, whose sire and dam were brought to the World's Fair in Chicago by the Aamidie Society in 1893 and sold here.

Shortly thereafter, President Roosevelt's proposed United States Cavalry Stud was turned down by Congress, and the US did not get a Cavalry Stud until 1918, when the United States Remount was established. Favorably impressed with his first Arabian, and convinced of the superiority of the breed, Mr. Harris began his accumulation of Arabians in 1910, and built up his stud until at one time the horses numbered about fifty. Emphasis was placed on the doing ability of the horses, and Kemah Arabians were put to a great variety of tasks to help prove the skeptics the value of the blood. Many of Nejdran Jr.'s colts proved to be outstanding horses, among them ALCAZAR 533 (out of Rhua 69), an excellent stallion; AL AZHAR 530 (out of Nanda 15) who at the ages of 16, 17, and 18, won the Iowa 100-mile trail rides and placed 2nd in 1943 at the age of 19; and LAILA 939 (out of Niht 578), a beautiful mare who won the Chicago 100-mile ride in 1939. From 1919 until 1944, when the United States Remount Service was discontinued, Mr. Harris' interest was principally centered in raising suitable horses for the Cavalry. Although the Remount had at first only purchased Thoroughbred stallions, the Arabian victories in three of the first five endurance rides led to the addition of Arab stallions also. Albert Harris himself participated in the 1919 endurance ride, riding RAMLA, who placed first, and Norman Harris had the distinction of riding the only stallion to ever finish the 300-mile event—EL SABOK 276. In 1941 Mr. Harris was instrumental in getting other Arabian breeders to donate good Arabians to the Remount, and he himself gave the bay stallion KATAR 724 (Gulastra-Simawa) and three of his top mares.

Kemah Arabians were trained for other uses also—KAABA 546, later the head of the Wrigley Stud on Catalina Island, was trained as a racehorse at three years old, and won a mile race in 1:50 with 132 lbs. up, on a half-mile track—considered four seconds slower than a mile track. KEMAH 545 (Nuri Pasha-Nanda), was not only a beautiful stallion and excellent sire, but also an accomplished dressage horse. KORAH 547 (Nuri Pasha-Ana) turned out to be an outstanding jumper, and KHALIL 629 (Nuri Pasha-Ophir), who headed a Harris Stud in California, was a wonderful trail horse.

Noting the accomplishments of the just mentioned four horses, this perhaps is the place to describe the best known of the Harris sires: NURI PASHA 517. Imported from England in 1923 as a three year old, he was sired by Nureddin 11, who was bred by Lady



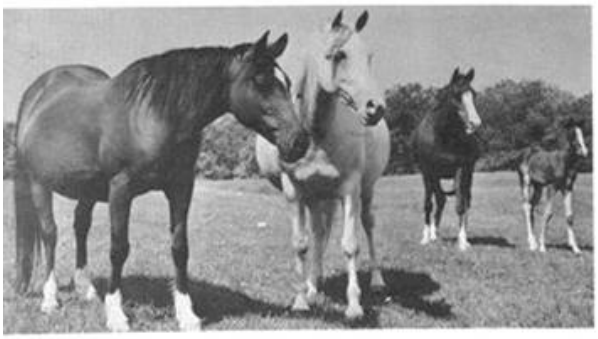
*NURI PASHA 517 at 20 years old (1920-1950)



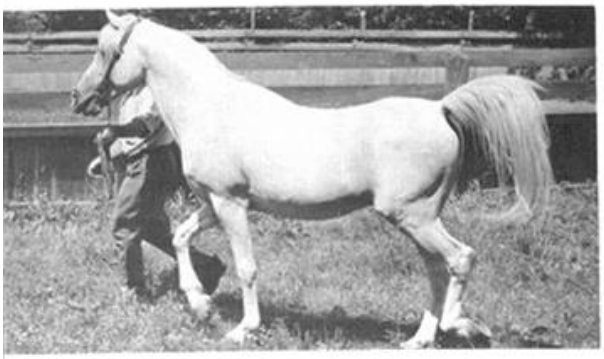
Albert W. Harris on KHALIL 629, Anazeh Ranch, Chino, Calif.



*SUNSHINE 943 at 27 years, Travis Braden at 4 years of age



Left to right: Kinsale, Countess, and Kilmony with filly foal. All three mares are granddaughters of Nuri Pasha.



KEMAH 545 (Sire: *Nuri Pasha 517 - dam: Nanda 15)

Wentworth, and who was champion Arabian stalion in England in 1919, 1920, and 1922. His dam, Ruth Kesia, traces to Kesia, a desert bred mare imported to England. Ruth Kesia placed first in brood mare classes in two important shows in 1920. Albert Harris considered Nuri Pasha his greatest stallion, and the horse sired fifty-three purebred colts and twenty-four Anglo Arabs. His last foal, which he sired at the age of 29, is KEMAH PASHA 6186 (out of Kinsale), now in his second year at stud. He will be kept as one of the main stalions at the farm, and has just recently, with a gelding, been sent to the East for training for the Arabian races.

KATAR 724, a blood bay stallion was another outstanding Harris sire. By Gulastra out of Simawa, who was purchased in foal, Katar produced foals that were later used to head some of the top breeding establishments in the USA, among them KAHAR, one of the three main stallions at the Van Vleet Stud in Colorado. Katar, as mentioned before, was given to the Remount, and died of pneumonia in 1944.

In November, 1931, Mr. Harris imported four desert bred mares from King Ibn Saud of Arabia. One of these was in foal, and produced the chestnut stallion SUNSHINE 943. Although small, this stallion proved to be not only a good individual, but a producer of quality foals, usually larger than himself. His fillies were particularly outstanding, and Kemah Farm still has four of his daughters. Sunshine recently died, nearly twenty-eight years old, and is buried in the horse cemetery at Kemah.

The Harris residence was turned over to the Chicago Boys Club in 1952, to be used as an honor camp for boys who have special artistic talents or who have demonstrated leadership traits, and the Arabian breeding and training activities are now centred at the farm on the north side of Como Lake, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Under the guidance of manager-trainer Brad Braden, hired in 1958, the horses at Kemah are again out in competition, and proving their merit, as an impressive array of ribbons and trophies in the 1959 season alone will attest. Braden, a man with a decided gift for fitting, training and showing, was a perfect choice to keep the tradition of "doing" horses alive. Although he also will show some of the horses under English tack, his heart is with western riding. With the renewed interest in racing too, the Harris horses will be the first from Wisconsin to appear on the tracks in 1960.

The recent purchase of five new horses by Norman Harris brings the total band to sixteen mares (with five 1959 foals), four geldings, and four stallions (including two yearlings). The classic gray IBN JULEP 9786 (Julep-Fae), who won the Illinois champion stallion award in 1959 in addition to numerous winnings previously, will be used on the granddaughters of Nuri Pasha, daughters of Sunshine and Katar, and on the four new mares purchased from C. A. West of Pennsylvania. Two of these young mares are by the English bred stallion RITHAN 7275 (Raktha-Rishna), one is by SULEJMAN 1545 (Fetysia-Fasila) and one by SHAMADA 7276 (Rithan-Somara). Kemah Pasha 6186 will also be used on mares with whom he has nicked well. The aim at Kemah for the future, as it has been in the past, is to produce the kind of Arabian horse Albert Harris admired—a beautiful animal, with the ability to "do" that a good horseman demands of his mount, and with which the Arabian breed is so amply endowed.