

More than a Supreme Champion....

MS DOC STEP

AQHA, PHBA

1982—2009

Submitted by Marian Alton

Many happy memories accompany this special tribute to a once in a lifetime palomino mare and my lifelong friend, Martha Williamson Swartz. Don and Martha, Owasso, Oklahoma, were the breeders, owners, riders of MS DOC STEP. They were also the breeders of her dam, A GOOD STEP, her granddam, A BIG STEP, her great granddam KANDY BAR BAILEY, and Martha owned the great, great granddam MUCHACHIA BAILEY aka Kandy by the renown GOLD KING BAILEY.



Martha Swartz, Sooner member, on Ms Doc Step.

When “Kandy” was bred to AQHA GOOD BARS and produced the mare, KANDY BAR BAILEY, the latter was bred to the Swartz champion, A BIG STEP, whose dam was the famous, Patsy Jeanne, owned by Don and Martha. A Good Step, when bred to Margaret Hudpeth’s AQHA stallion, TWO BIT DOC, by DOC’S PRESCRIPTION by DOC BAR, produced MS DOC STEP.

Let us roll back time to around 1960 when the events began that thirty years later blessed Don and Martha with a wonderful mare who became 1990 Supreme Champion Amateur Palomino #32, meaning there had been only 31 before her. She was 1988 Reserve World Champion Amateur Palomino Ranch Horse. She was also #1 in the nation in that class in ‘89 and ‘90, in western riding, and in 1988, reining. The list of her accomplishments is something to be proud of.



Dr. Donald Swartz DVM, Martha’s husband, rode and won on Ms Doc Step in the Trail Classes, including beating Martha in Amateur Trail.

Back to around 1960. Martha had occasionally taken me to see ApHC HANDS UP south of Chelsea, Oklahoma, and became acquainted with Roy and Naomi Wood who also had the later famous Appaloosa stallions, CHIEF CHELSEA, CHEROKEE, OKLAHOMA, FIESTA, etc. At a Guy Ray Rutland sale in Tulsa, Martha spied an elegant buckskin daughter of Rutland’s stallion GOLD KING BAILEY. She was MUCHACHIA BAILEY whose dam was by JOE MOORE out of a CHICARO BILL daughter.

Roy Wood was at that sale and saw how much Martha wanted the filly and — bought her! Martha later paid Roy and “Kandy” was owned all her life by Martha. We still laugh about “Kandy’s” very first “training” which was risky, but Martha and I had so much fun



1988 Reserve World Champion Ranch Horse, World Championship Palomino Show, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

we didn't realize the chances we were taking with me on my big black greenbroke HANDS UP daughter snubbing Kandy alongside with Martha aboard!

And so began the countdown of years to Supreme Champion, MS DOC STEP. When Martha married Dr. Donald Swartz, DVM, he made the "mistake" of telling her she could keep all the palomino colored horses she could raise. Talk about COLOR, she got it for years and had a pasture full of golden champion prospects! They're gone now, but fantastic memories remain.

It was a tough morning February 12th when Don and Martha euthanized MS DOC STEP who would have been 27 in April. Not only was she a champion but also a splendid example of Don's and Martha's successful forty years plus breeding program.

It is a great honor to have them take A BIG STEP right into our Appaloosa world, and what a thrill it is to look forward to the years ahead and see what our combo of bloodlines produces. I hope so much that there will be a champion palomino/Appaloosa mare for them. Here's to the next 52 years of friendship!

Martha, your chum thanks you for all you've done and continue to do.

Marian Alton

MS DOC STEP ... conclusion



Martha and MS DOC STEP won Rogers State Horseman's Association High Point Adult in 1992, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998 when they competed in Claremore, Oklahoma.

