

Memorial
Tucson – Ell Bravo
1988-2009

Submitted by Nancy Skakel

Ell Bravo, affectionately known as "Tucson", died February 12, 2009. Minetta King, of Sheridan, Wyoming, bred this Shagya gelding. Tucson was a full brother to the influential mare, Echo Daal, sired by Hungarian Bravo out of the Arabian mare Dollys Echo. Minetta rode Tucson extensively in the mountains near her home, on hunting and packing trips with her husband. Tucson was then purchased by Bob Riggio as an endurance prospect, and moved to Pennsylvania. There he nearly died from botulism poisoning, a problem common with the hay from that area. After he recovered, Valerie Bullock arranged for him to come to me for re-sale.

Once Tucson was here at my ranch, he found a home. I offered him for sale, but never found the right buyer. He spent a season doing endurance with Toni Jones, and was even shown in saddle seat in a Shagya presentation at the Oregon Horse Affaire. On our ranch, Tucson was used for trail riding, riding lessons, and ponying colts. He was a favorite mount of the neighbor children, and taught many of them to ride. They will sorely miss him.

I always thought what Tucson needed was a devoted twelve year old child who would adore him and make him feel loved. Sadly, he never had that experience. I hope his years here with us provided him comfort and companionship. I was very fond of him, the children enjoyed him, and he had several buddies in my herd.

I have had nine sons and daughters of Hungarian Bravo here in my herd: Bold Bravo, Sjonja, Csilla AA, Bravita, Viva Bravo, Ell Bravo, and the part percherons from countess Besseney's carriage team - Trojan, Greyboy, and Nora. Bold Bravo and Viva (the last foal born to H. Bravo) are the only two left from that group, but Hungarian Bravo's blood is a rich vein running throughout my herd, through grand- and great grand- sons and daughters.

I am a firm believer in the value of this line of foundation breeding. I can see Hungarian Bravo's influence in each of my horses. Tucson was not H. Bravo's best son, but he was a solid and dependable riding partner. I will miss him, and I hope he has found welcome in greener pastures.

Note: A week after losing Tucson, my 26 year old Arabian mare, Woodrim Reina, also died. Reina was selected for me by my mentor, Capt. Laszlo Monostory, as perfect for Shagya breeding. She gave me two very nice colts by Bold Bravo. It has been a long, difficult winter.