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# HERITAGE HIGHLIGHTS

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## INSIDE: THE MCGURDYS OF ALABAMA



## WHO IS IHWHA?

IHWHA.com

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## The McCurdys of Alabama

### On our cover:

Leon Oliver and Buds Sterling Bullet. No doubt, Leon is making some sort of horse deal on his cell phone.

Our lovely covers are designed courtesy of Jennifer Klitzke. Please visit her blog: [www.NaturallyGaited.com](http://www.NaturallyGaited.com) for stories, videos, and information about training your gaited horse using dressage and natural humane training methods. Thank you, Jennifer!!

IHWHA memberships for Family and Individuals go from January 1 to December 31 each year. Enclosed in this newsletter is a membership application.

Come on join us! We are a sound horse organization and the only registry that requires gait certification and our fees are very low compared to other registries.



**The McCurdy Plantation home**

This article was first printed in the July 1948 issue of The Tennessee Walking Horse magazine. It was reprinted in the National Horseman, May 1962 (Vol. 98, No. 5).

Since the early pioneer days of our country residents of various areas of the United States have been prone to favor certain types of horses. In some sections, draft horses are popular and in other sections light horses meet the fancy of horse lovers. Needless to say, draft horses are used primarily for farm and heavy drayage work; and usually the light horses are strictly pleasure mounts.

However, the development and breeding of Tennessee Walking horses many years ago in the blue grass section of Middle Tennessee gave to people of that area a light horse that could be used for heavy farm work and at the same time be used as a pleasure animal. As a matter of fact, many of the better Tennessee Walking Horses have at one time or another been used for farm work; and they are so adapted that this type of work made them better pleasure mounts.

A section that has long been famous for its good saddle horses is Central Alabama, and in this area have been developed some of the finest Walking horses of the past 50 years. As Allan F-1 and Roan Allen F-38 are outstanding contributors to the blood of Walking horses in Middle Tennessee, so are the McCurdy horses

regarded and respected by a large member of veteran horsemen in Central Alabama.

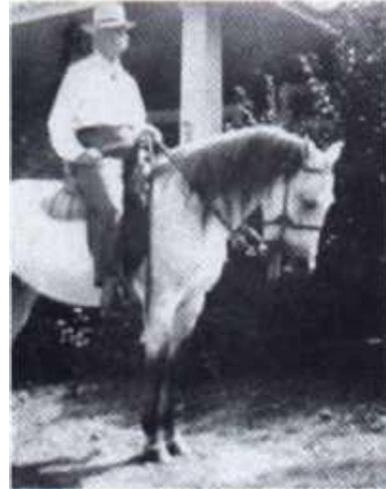
The McCurdy horses of Central Alabama had their beginning as the result of the efforts of the late Ed S. McCurdy of Lowndes County. The fountainhead of the McCurdy horses in Alabama was McCurdy's Doctor F-79, which for a number of years was owned by Mr. McCurdy and his brother, George McCurdy. McCurdy's Doctor F-79 was also head of the stud on Mr. McCurdy's farm at that time. According to the registry of the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders' Association, McCurdy's Doctor F-29 was a gray horse foaled May 5, 1905, and bred by U. Dailey of College Springs, Tennessee. The sire of this outstanding Alabama Foundation horse was W. C. Bill Oats by Dick Taylor X-186, by Charles O'Malley; is dam was Nancy McLain, by Slippery Jim, by Pat Malone F-27.

In the early 1900's Ed S. and George McCurdy purchased McCurdy's Doctor F-79 from Dr. Jim McLain, who now lives near Montgomery, Alabama. The sire of McCurdy's Doctor, W.C. Bill Oats, was a popular stallion in certain sections of Alabama, and he is named after Mr. Oats who was at one time a senator in the great state of Alabama. The horse, Dick Taylor X-186, was also outstanding in Central Alabama as a plantation Walking horse. Quite a number of fine horses were sired by him. Some 50 or more years ago the horse, Charles O'Malley, was taken to Uniontown, Alabama by some horse traders who said they purchased him in Tennessee. They sold the horse to J.F. Connor.



**Moore's Dick Taylor, Wiley Kirby, up, owned by A. B. Moore of Marion Junction, Alabama. Picture taken in 1910.**

Although McCurdy's Doctor sired many outstanding horses which enriched the plantation Walking horse blood of Alabama, possibly the most outstanding of his sons were John McCurdy and McCurdy's Fox. John McCurdy died several years ago, but McCurdy's Fox still stands at the Ed McCurdy barn at Lowndesboro.



**Ed McCurdy on McCurdy's Fox in 1935**

Members of the McCurdy family have dealt with horses all their lives and for the past 80-odd years the area around Lowndesboro has been noted for its horse enthusiasm manifested by the McCurdys. About 1865, Lewis McCurdy and W.D. McCurdy operated as McCurdy Brothers at Lowndesboro in the breeding and racing of Standardbred horses. One of their most famous stallions was McCurdy's Hambletonian, and this horse was known as one of the greatest sires of his time, having a good trotting record. Another outstanding stallion of that day that the McCurdy Brothers owned was The Tramp by Jaybird, which they were reported to have sold for \$10,000. Later they also owned Dr. Long, which was the fastest four-year-old in his class in the race season of 1918. These brothers had adjoining plantations near Lowndesboro and on the farm of Lewis McCurdy, who was the father of Ed and George, there was a regulation racetrack and excellent show barn for that day and time.

Although Ed and George McCurdy were interested in the breeding of trotting horses in the early days of their youth, the blood of McCurdy's Hambletonian, The Tramp, or Dr. Long was never intermingled with that of the plantation walking horses which later were the

progeny of McCurdy's Doctor F-79. This famous Foundation Sire was bred by Ed McCurdy to some of the finest plantation walking mares of Central Alabama.

Mrs. E.S. McCurdy still resides on the plantation which is operated by her and her two sons at Lowndesboro. It is at that farm that McCurdy's Fox now stands, and he is stabled in the same barn which was famous in the olden days as the home of outstanding trotting horses. Mrs. McCurdy's husband was born at Lowndesboro on May 28, 1874 and passed away on September 21, 1946. He spent his entire life breeding and racing horses of the highest type.

Typical of the esteem folks of Central Alabama hold for Ed McCurdy is this item which appeared on the editorial page of the Advertiser in Montgomery in about 1940.

"The McCurdys of Lowndesboro have for several generations been engaged in raising and handling horses. It is said that Ed McCurdy before he was 24 hours old was taken on horseback by his father to his grandfather's house for exhibit. Ed McCurdy has spent a large part of the more than 60 years since that time in the saddle. Last week he was sitting sideways on his horse watching the loading of some hay. A sudden noise frightened the animal and the horse jumped out from under him. Mr. McCurdy's left arm was broken in three places by the fall. Which proves that a horse will sometimes fool the best and most experienced horsemen."

Still on the McCurdy plantation is a 20-year-old gray mare, Dixie, which Ed McCurdy rode for 15 years prior to his death. This mare is by McCurdy's Doctor, and she is representative of the type mares which were sired by McCurdy's Doctor. Most of the McCurdy horses are gray; however, there are quite a number of bays and sorrels. They are of average height, have heavy manes and tails, and all of them have easy backs. Chris Heinze of Selma, who is responsible for contributing the larger portion of information for this article says, "The best idea that I can give as to the conformation of the McCurdy horses is to look at the picture of Robert E. Lee's Old Traveler and you will see a near duplicate of

McCurdy's Fox; and most of the offspring of the old horse are very similar."

Perhaps one of the greatest authorities on the development of the McCurdy horses in Alabama is W.N. Rahn of Hayneville, Alabama. Mr. Rahn, who is a well-known blacksmith of Central Alabama and who knows more about doctoring horses than "lots of vets", used to shoe McCurdy's Doctor and on many occasions saved his life by doctoring him. Mr. Rahn said this Alabama Foundation horse was just about the greatest Saddle horse he rode. Incidentally, the 71-year-old Mr. Rahn was born and reared in Hayneville and has been shoeing and doctoring horses for over 50 years. On one occasion, he said, McCurdy's Doctor had tetanus. He cared for the old horse through the period of dangerous infection, and the horse soon pulled through all right.

The horse people of Central Alabama will forever remember the name McCurdy and Ed and George McCurdy who meant so much to the development of the high-type Saddle horses in their area. During more recent years McCurdy mares have been registered in our association registry and have been bred to registered Tennessee Walking Horse stallions. Their offspring develop into excellent Walking horses and show horses.

The conformation after crossing registered Walking horses with registered McCurdy mares results in colts with good heads and necks, backs, good legs and excellent fineness. Today in Central Alabama, McCurdy mares are highly respected and are much sought after by a number of Alabama breeders.

There aren't many sections of the United States more thoroughly appreciative of good Walking Horses than the horse people of Central Alabama. Many of them still recall McCurdy's Doctor F-79, and with much nostalgia recall that this grand old sire of Alabama Walking Horses died at the State Fair in Montgomery in 1928 after having been ridden the 20 miles to the Fair from the McCurdy plantation.

Too much tribute cannot be paid to the McCurdys who, in their section of Alabama, were as highly regarded as the Dements, Walkers, Hunters, Brantleys and other equally famous pioneer breeders from the Nativity of the Tennessee Walking Horses in Middle Tennessee.

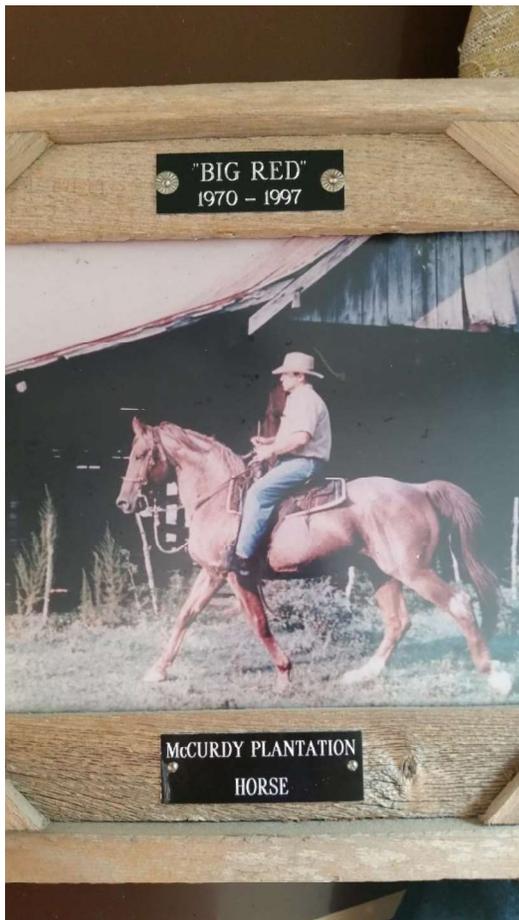
**Our THANKS goes to Franne Brandon for finding and sharing this article, also to June Snook and Colleen Cates for providing photos for this article!!!!**



**McCurdy's New Tradition**

**Foundation Reg. F-16, dappled gray  
1997 McCurdy Plantation and TWH  
J-Bar Farm**

**June & Barry (Bear) Snook  
23338 S Blount Rd  
Canby, OR 97013-9703**



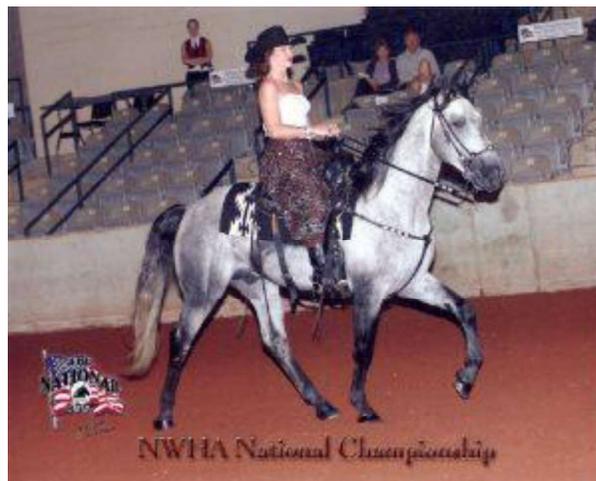
**McCurdy's Little Iron Man, Stallion**

**Ed S. McCurdy, Jr.  
1020 Houston Park  
Selma, AL 36701**



**Doctor Coppertone F12, Stallion**

**Dunrovin McCurdy Horses  
New Arran Farm  
Rick and Debbie McDuffie  
777 Miller Rd.  
Benson, NC 27504**



**McCurdy's Ragin Cajun**

**DESTINY HILLS RANCH  
Ron and Colleen Cates  
7450 CR 2800  
Athens, Texas 75751**



**Rogers Stables  
Roy and Janice Rogers  
3850 Luverne Hwy.  
Greenville, Al.**