

This month I am going to tell you a story about a very special horse and the chain of events and relationships that all came with this little stallion.

His name was **Nu Bar**, he was a direct son of Doc Bar and his dam was Tressa Tivio, a daughter of Poco Tivio. Nu Bar was a full brother to Fizzabar, Cal Bar, Docs Haida, and Docs Remedy. A very impressive family, all winners and all having a long term, profound effect on the current blood lines of today's cutting horse industry.

In 1973, I was working out of Ed and Modine Smith's ranch in Escalon, CA. I heard that Arnold Dolcini up in Petaluma, had Nu Bar for sale. He was unbroken and 2 yrs. old at that point and Arnold was asking \$10,000 for him. So a friend of mine, Dennis Hatfield and I hooked up a stock trailer and away we went. Arnold's ranch was an old Jersey Dairy, it had wire fences falling down everywhere, cattle feeders and old machinery laying around, and right in the middle of all this was a very old mare and a 2 yr. old stallion that wasn't even halter broke! That was my introduction to Nu Bar. I looked him over, couldn't find a scratch on him and he was absolutely beautiful! I told Arnold I would take him.

So, I wrote Arnold a check, with the words, "that check's no good, but if you'll give me two weeks, either the funds will be there to cover it, or else I will bring your colt back with two weeks of training at no cost to you." Yup, that check was hotter than a pistol. Arnold just grinned and replied, "Son, you got a deal."

Dennis and I caught the old mare and led her into the trailer, the colt followed, then we just led her back out. He was loaded and ready to go, and we hadn't laid a hand on him, I love it when a plan comes together. When we pulled out of the drive, Arnold grinned, waved and said, "I'll be talkin to you!"

When I got home, my wife really chewed my hind end and told me, "You're going to jail for writing a hot check!" That night I made three phone calls and sold half interest in Nu Bar to Hannah Satika from Nevada and had it covered. I called Arnold that same night and told him the check was good, he laughed and told me how much he enjoyed doing business with me!

Nu Bar was a tremendous horse to train, and he made a great futurity horse for Ft. Worth, however, the futurity didn't go as I had planned. I won the first go around, split 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the second go around, and I won the semi finals by four points but back fenced a cow in the finals as the whistle was blowing. Nu Bar was the last horse to work. I was crushed, I got off and led him out of the arena as the crowd gave the brilliant little stallion a *standing ovation*. I went over to my partner Hannah, who was as mad as a wet hen, she wanted to sell her half of the colt back for her original investment. I walked two boxes down and asked Chester Dennis if he wanted to buy her half out. He got a big smile on his face and immediately wrote her a check right there on the spot. Hannah was out, Chester was in.

My new partnership with Chester was great. I couldn't have asked for a better friend or partner, he was a real gem and a genuinely wonderful man. Nu Bar was 3<sup>rd</sup> in the NCHA Derby that year, won the PCCHA Maturity, the Northwest Maturity, was PCCHA Novice Horse of the Year and was the Champion AQHA Junior Stallion. The following year he was the PCCHA Open Champion in the Seven Western States and finished 6<sup>th</sup> in the top ten of the NCHA Open Championship.

That was the last year we showed him, he retired sound, healthy – he was never injured, sick or had any injections the whole time he performed.

Nu Bar was a pretty good sire too, his first crop of colts went to the futurity and were very successful. I rode a roan stallion named Roan Star Bar and finished 3<sup>rd</sup> with him. Francine Linders from Tulare, CA made the non pro finals on Nu Early Time. Buddy Westphall from Montana made the non pro finals on a filly by Nu Bar, and my dear friend Tom Tofell made the non pro finals and missed the open finals by ½ point on a horse named Nu Bar Double Doc. Nu Niner Bar was reserve champion in the NCHA open futurity as well as NCHA Novice Horse of the Year. Nu & Sassy was my personal favorite. We won the semi finals, and finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the futurity, 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Derby and won the first NCHA Challenge in Austin, TX. She was up against 120 horses. Everywhere we went, she either won or placed, she was a real “show horse” and a blast to show!

Several years later, Nu Bar was sold in a dispersal sale. Upon hearing that he was being sold, my friend, Keith Barnett, called and told me that he wanted me to buy Nu Bar in the sale for him. He said he had a client that wanted to own him. Well, I wasn't about to sign for the kind of money I knew he'd go for in that sale, I trusted Keith, but I was still very uncomfortable since I didn't know this man of his from Adam. It tends to get a little sticky if you buy a horse in a sale (not to mention one with a very high profile) and don't have the money to pay for it immediately.

The day of the sale, I saw Nu Bar in a special pen by himself, so I strolled over to say hello and reacquaint myself with him. After fussing over him for a few minutes I turned to walk away. It was at that point that he picked his head up and nickered at me. That did it... I bid on him and bought him at auction for \$1.1 million dollars that day. Talk about betting the ranch! I thought to myself, hmmmmm... what have I done now??? It sure seemed like the right choice at the time even though it didn't make much sense. I believe in miracles, they happen to me every day and that day was no exception. It was a blessing in disguise. The opportunity that presented itself to me that day looking like a *potential disaster* turned out to be the beginning of yet another very special relationship in my life thanks to cutting. The extraordinary gentleman that I purchased Nu Bar for, was Bob Waltrip from Houston, TX. Bob became a great friend and client for many years, and I enjoyed his friendship immensely.

Til next time... cut clean, quit clean and have fun in the middle!