

## NOBLE KALARAMA 12395



Noble Kalarama was bred by J. R. Reed of Springfield Kentucky and foaled in 1931. A red bay in color, he was marked with a small star and stood 15.2 hands. His sire was Kalarama Rex and his dam was Daisy Reed by Noble Denmark, a son of Highland Denmark. Noble Kalarama was purchased as a yearling by S.J. Thompson Sr. of Knob Creek Farm in Hodgenville, Kentucky. Mr. Thompson had raised and trained saddle horses for years and had owned such good stallions as Red Light 2nd, and King Vine, the sire of Spelling Bee BHF who produced Flirtation Walk BHF. Shortly after the purchase of the yearling colt, S J

Thompson Sr passed away, but Knob Creek Stock Farm continued under the management of his nephew John and son Jack. Noble Kalarama and Jack Thompson would be inextricably linked for the rest of their lives, as Jack was his trainer, exhibitor and managed his career as a breeding stallion. Noble Kalarama's training was brought along slowly, and when Jack Thompson was forced to sell the family farm, he continued working horses at the LaRue County Kentucky Fairgrounds. Noble Kalarama became a good fine harness horse and began his winning career in 1934. During his career in fine harness, he displayed speed and brilliance to win stakes at Lexington, the Indiana and Ohio State Fairs, and the Chicago International. He was twice reserve and once World's Grand Champion Fine Harness horse. In 1940 at the New York National, he became the only horse to twice defeat the great fine harness mare Vanity, and she was only beaten three times in her entire career. Noble Kalarama was also gaining a reputation as a good sire, but shortly after his wins at the Kentucky State Fair, World War II broke out. Jack Thompson was drafted into the Army and he had to leave Noble Kalarama and his band of broodmares in the hands of friends. Jack was in Italy, and in January of 1944, he stepped on a land mine and lost both legs above the knees. His right elbow was also severely injured.

Jack Thompson was rehabilitated, but remained in hospitals in Italy and then the US until a year after his accident. He was fitted with prosthetics and learned to walk again. And most amazingly, he continued to work as a trainer of saddle horses. The farm he had purchased before going in the service didn't have indoor training facilities, so he had to drive the colts outdoors. His help would long line them, but Jack always broke the colts to the jog cart.

Noble Kalarama became a leading breeding stallion and placed #1 on the sire list in 1950. Jack Thompson gave a special exhibition with the old stallion at the Kentucky State Fair in 1951. During his career at stud, Noble Kalarama sired notables WCC CH Lady Lola, RWGC CH Noble's Color Added, Noble's Wonder Girl, RWC CH Hickory Kala Noble, WC Golden Kalarama, WCC Peter's Noble Lady, and WCC Strutting Kal (shown as Cloud Inspector). Interestingly, many of the mares bred to Noble Kalarama were sired by King Vine or Red Light 2nd, so they were truly a product of the original Knob Creek breeding program. Noble Kalarama passed away in 1953, and Jack Thompson became ill with kidney disease and died in 1955 at the age of 43. That he was able to continue his work with saddle horses with the disabilities that he endured is simply amazing. Both pictures on this page show the bond between Jack Thompson and Noble Kalarama, one in the 1930's and the other photo taken in 1951 when the stallion was 20 years old.

Noble Kalarama's record at the Kentucky State Fair:

- 1938 WC Fine Harness Stallion Stake
- 1939 WC Fine Harness Stallion Stake, RWGC Fine Harness Championship (won by CH Meadow Vanity)

- 1940 WC Fine Harness Stallion Stake, WGC Fine Harness Championship (2nd place to CH Mountain Raven, the dam of WGC CH Lady Carrigan)
- 1941 WC Fine Harness Stallion Stake, RWGC Fine Harness Championship (won by CH Meadow Vanity, 3rd to CH Mountain Raven)

