

THE MARE THAT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE

‘ODETTE W’

By Karin de Haan

WHEN YOU THINK OF BREEDING SPORT HORSES, ONE HAS TO THINK OF ODETTE W. SHE IS SECOND ON THE LIST OF THE HIGHEST BREEDING INDEX.

SHE JUMPED INTERNATIONAL LEVELS WITH SWEDISH RIDER ANGELICA AUGUSTSSON. HER MOTHER CARTA JUMPED NATIONAL LEVELS AND BESIDES ODETTE, HAD 3 OTHER DESCENDANTS WHO JUMP INTERNATIONAL LEVELS. ODETTE W HAD ONE FOAL, SINATRA (V. EPILOT), WHO IS NOW 9 YEARS OLD AND ALSO JUMPS INTERNATIONAL LEVELS.

The story of Odette W begins with her grandmother Karta (Millerolexx x Alanda x Majesteit Hendrik). This mare had many foals at the stables of Heinz Fassen in Herkenbosch, and even though this was about 25 years ago, Elke Jaspers Fassen, his daughter, still remembers Karta.

Elke: “I was about 11 years old when my father searched for a mare for me to ride and compete with. The mare he found was Karta. She was a brave mare and although her father was a thoroughbred, she was a classic model. She had powerful and large movements. At that time we used to train in a small accommodation which was shorter than 40 meters in length, so it just took 3 strides to cover that one side. After some time we decided to breed Karta. All her foals had one thing in common; they could jump. From Almé she got Dino. He was sold to Johan Heins, who trained some Japanese riders. One of them jumped International levels with Dino and even started at the Olympic Games. The brother of Dino, named Elvis, was placed in Z level dressage and Z level jumping as well (1.30m). From Graveur she got Nancie, who is the mother of Selena (v. Farn). Selena was a breeding mare of the Brouwers family from Baexem who bred a lot of National and International horses such as Mirage, Largo II (v. O. Largo) and Why Not (v. Abgar xx).”



ODETTE W



ODETTE:

She is a sensitive and competitive mare who always jumped in the right way with the right mentality. In 2006 she competed with the Swedish rider Angelica Augustsson at the European Championships for Young Riders and she was 14th on the individual level and 7th on the team level. In 2007 she jumped in Munich at the 1.55m levels mixed competition and in Wiesbaden she started at the Grand Prix. In Ravensburg she was 3rd in the 1.40m level mixed competition. Odette was a bay horse; 1.65 min size. She is the mother of Sinatra who also jumps International levels.

BONJORNA

ELKE JASPERS FASSEN HAS THE BEST MEMORIES OF KARTA'S DAUGHTERS BONJORNA AND CARTA. SHE JUMPED WITH BOTH HORSES, BONJORNA IN THE Z CLASS AND CARTA IN THE ZZ CLASS AND ON NATIONAL SHOWS AS WELL.

Both mares were also employed as breeding mares. Bonjorna's oldest daughter was Indurain (v. Larome). She jumped with her in the Z class before she was sold to an Italian junior rider who was settled at the stables of Dion van Groessen. Her second foal was Lundi which Elke jumped in the ZZ class as well as in National shows, and is now used as a breeding mare. Her oldest son is 11 named Palazzo, and was sold when he was 5; he was competing in the M class. He went to the stables of Beat Maendli where he later on jumped 1.40m levels.

Then came Redcliff from Zeus who jumped Z classes before he was sold abroad. Now she has a 3 year old stallion from Cassini II.

After Lundi, Bonjorna was covered by the approved stallion Marlon v. Zeus. This stallion came back this year from abroad since his foals were doing so well. As a result Marlon is again available for Dutch breeders, and after Marlon came Odysseus. Elke: "Some time ago we got a tape from Khaled Assem showing Odysseus. He is doing well in Egypt and I know that he has just gotten another owner. It is nice when you get some information about your horses that were sold to foreign countries; sometimes, news about these horses is seldom available."

Because Bonjorna and Zeus were a good combination, Elke used this stallion for breeding again hoping to get a mare; the result was Penelope. Elke only jumped Penelope in the M class although she could jump bigger, but she was too busy with family affairs. Penelope was a very important breeding mare for her.

Penelope's first foal was Ufo (v. Darco) who was sold to Ireland and is doing well there. Last year she had a mare by Celano and now she has a mare by Douglas. After that Bonjorna got Rainbow (v. Cash) who jumped in the M class before he was sold to Egypt. Then came the stallion from Hors la Loi who got the name Talent. Talent is already jumping in the 1.40m classes with Rogier Linssen and Dennis Evertse. Following that came 2 mares from Andiamo and Oklund. Verena is used as a breeding mare and Werena (v. Oklund) is now being trained to start a career this year. After Werena, Bonjorna died.



▲ *Bonjorna & Penelope*

CARTA:

THE STORY OF BONJORNA'S FULL SISTER CARTA WAS NOT LESS SUCCESSFUL. SHE WAS ALSO USED IN THE SPORT (SHE JUMPED ZZ CLASSES AND NATIONAL SHOWS) BEFORE SHE BECAME A BREEDING MARE. HER FIRST FOAL WAS KARTA II (V. LAROME). WITH ELKE AS HER BREEDER, SHE JUMPED WITH HER IN THE ZZ CLASSES BEFORE SHE WAS SOLD TO EGYPT (RIDDEN BY ALAA MAYSARA HABASH). SHE JUMPED THE HIGHEST LEVELS AND WAS EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL. AFTER KARTA II, CARTA WAS SOLD TO BENNIE WEZENBERG FROM IJSSELMUIDEN. SHE WAS A FANTASTIC MARE WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDE. HE COVERED HER WITH LIBERO, THE FAVOURITE STALLION OF BENNIE WEZENBERG.

Bennie Wezenberg says: "I am the greatest Libero fan in the Netherlands." Elke has often gone to see him jump at international shows. Libero was a horse with a special character, a real fighter. Most of his foals also have those qualities.

Carta got 4 foals by Libero. Bennie sold them when they were young. At that time he had 30 foals every year and it was just impossible to keep them all. The oldest one was Midaro W who jumped International classes with the Italian rider Christian Pitzianti. His sister Nicarta jumped Grand Prix levels with the Canadian rider Lauren Hayes. Then came Odette W who jumps International levels with Angelica Augustsson. Her last foal was Platina. Carta and Platina were bought by Elke's family again. They sold Platina, covered by Andiamo, to France where she is still being used as a breeding mare. They tried to cover Carta again but didn't succeed. She was sold and even the new owners were never able to get her pregnant again.



▲ Carta & Platina, full sister of Odette



▲ Karta

ODETTE W:

Odette W was sold to Jeroen Dubbeldam when she was a foal. Jeroen Dubbeldam says: "There was an auction at the stables of Hans Horn. Odette was there and I liked her. She looked nice and had a very interesting pedigree. I rode a lot of Libero's; they have a lot of qualities but need more time. They are often sensitive but very competitive."

When Odette W was 3 years old she had a foal by Epilot who was standing at the stables of Jeroen. When the foal, called Sinatra, was old enough they began to train Odette. It was a very talented horse with the right attitude. When she was 5, she was sold to Switzerland. Later on she came to Angelica Augustsson. She jumps with her the biggest tracks. Her son Sinatra didn't look like Odette. He was



▲ *Lundi*

much bigger, but they both have the right attitude and enough blood for the sport.

SINATRA:

Sinatra was 3 years old when he was sold to Klaas Schaftenaar from Wezep. Some years later, Teus van den Brink saw him jumping in Geesteren. Jan Diepman was his rider. Teus bought and rode him in the Ian Trofee. He jumped very well even though they weren't selected for the World Champions in Lanaken. Teus then sold him to a friend of his, where he was ridden by his son Danny van Raay. At that time his name was Superfreak. When Danny quit riding, Teus bought Sinatra back; she jumped him in the Z class and in November 2007 sold him to Pablo Barrios. By March 2008 he was already jumping at the Nation's Cup and Grand Prix in Wellington.

Teus: "It is really great that this horse was already jumping at this level. I saw it myself; otherwise I wouldn't have believed it." Teus thinks that Sinatra acquired his qualities from his mother and father. He has the attitude of Libero and the model of Epilot. He is big, with a lot of blood, and cannot be forced into doing anything. When he started jumping, many people thought he couldn't jump Grand Prix levels. But these horses often jump normal at 1.20m levels yet they begin to impress you when the courses are bigger. Teus also thinks that this horse has a good future ahead of him.

Finally, I would like to say that breeding is so many things put together. It's about passion & vision embraced with experience and knowledge...knowing the bloodlines; having the patience to test yourself & follow up the performance of the offspring is part of this fantastic experience. With little or lots of luck and the right mare, you might just make some difference. **HT**