

LARRIGAN (G.179)  
26.11.84 - 28.7.02  
(Glenormiston O'Niell Clanaboy - Easter Journey)

On a very hot November morning Ann Bush's mare, Easter Journey, foaled a little black colt, and from the very beginning it was obvious this chap was not going to make life easy for those who handled him. With the temperature steadily rising, the colt refused to drink from the mare, so after several attempts to encourage him to drink, the mare was milked and he was force-fed.

Ann decided on Larrigan as his name, after Tanya Larrigan, an Irish lass who was a guest at the time he was born. As he was such a lovely colt with the potential of being a future stallion, Ann decided against her normal practice of gelding early. Her judgement was well founded as Larry grew into a beautiful dappled grey colt, receiving many ribbons in Breed classes and going on to be Champion Connemara Stallion at the 1988 Adelaide Royal Show.

The down side to Larry was that he was a very difficult and untrustworthy animal to handle, and after doing a school with a German Instructor, his advice was either buy some mares and run him with them and not handle him, or geld him. With not wanting to breed with this temperament the decision was easy, and Larry was gelded. Although this did little to improve his disposition, he became the most useful, versatile and talented pony.

When a new Hunt Club started up, Ann took Larry out, going through gates and not jumping. After a few hunts, Ann decided Larry was not the steady ride she was after and offered him to Tasmanian, Catherine Atkinson, a niece of a long time friend who was at Uni in South Australia. Catherine suited Larry as she jumped him and they had some really good hunts until it was time for her to return to Tasmania.

At about this time, Carole Benassy arrived on the scene and she and Larry "clicked" straight way. It was not long before Carole was promoted to Whipper-In, and to see Larry with Carole effortlessly doing the same work as the much bigger hunters was a wonderful sight. Even seasoned huntsmen/women were in awe of Larry's ability in the hunting field.

Showjumping was another favourite pastime of Larry and again he excelled. He could also do a very nice dressage test, but like shows, he thought they were boring. He was definitely an "Action Man".

Larry was admired by many people, be it in the Show Ring, Hunting, Dressage or Showjumping, he was eye catching, and he is a huge loss to our Breed as an ambassador.

"LARRIGAN" APSB BEST CONNEMARA GELDING EXHIBIT