

TRIBUTE TO AGRA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE 2014

'TELL YOU WHY'

By Dennis Wyndham

I only became involved in the world of greyhounds in 1960/1961 and while I did not see 'Tell You Why' race, I was aware of his track achievements and his famed pedigree.

He raced as a 73lb brindle and white greyhound with an attractive and sound confirmation.

In the future years involving 1967-68, my greyhound transactions and eventual close friendship with Harold Shugart allowed me to acquire even more knowledge about 'Tell You Why' as Harold had purchased him after he won the Bi-Annual Classic over 500 yards at Harold Park on April 4th 1959. A major feature on the Australia Calendar in those days he won by a length from Vivid's Daughter and La Strada in 27.36.



GBOTA Director Ted Hampton, Secretary Vic Peters and Owner-Trainer-Breeder Joe Kelly with Tell You Why (Pic Courtesy Greyhound Recorder)

Harold Shugart's purchase negotiations were carried out with the famed breeder, Joe Kelly from Orange.

'Tell You Why' was one of nine offspring from the March 1957 litter by 'Rocket Jet' from 'Gorgeous Babe'. This mating was the second of three consecutive litters involving this sire and dam in the years of 1955, 1957 and 1958, involving 29 total offspring.

As a result of the sale of Australian stud dogs and brood matrons to Harold in 1967-68, I was invited to visit and stay with Harold and his wife Grace for almost 5 weeks.

'Tell You Why' was the top US stud dog during 1968-69 and when I actually saw him in 1968, he was standing for a stud fee of US\$300.00 per service – the top price for a stud fee at that time. After Harold sold 'Tell You Why' to Bob Black and Joseph La-Croix, he was standing at B&B kennels at Chanute, Kansas.

'Tell You Why' passed away the following year in 1969, his entire breeding achievements had long since been faithfully recorded by Mr. Gary Guccione, who is accurately considered by so many greyhound people throughout the world (and I agree), as the greatest authority on world wide greyhound breeding.

Gary began as a young boy helping his father who was a greyhound owner. At the age of 16, he kept all manner of stud and breeding records that have resulted in the most accurate and informative 2 series books of 'Great Names in Greyhound Pedigrees'. He has held the position of NGA secretary/treasurer for 27 years.

To quote Mr. Gary Guccione 'Tell You Why' is credited by nine out of 10 USA greyhound breeders as having been the most influential USA sire in the latter half of the last century. This is more than confirmed when the following details are considered as defined by Gary Guccione's findings from 'Tell You Why's' 444 offspring.

His most illustrious sons and daughters are as follows –

Cactus Lonesome	Westy Whizzer	Bill Pete
Moon Gossip	Miss Gorgeous	Westy Colonel
Tell Tom	Royal Topper	Crack Ruler
Mickey's Spread	Westy Wacket	Scatty
Spec Harmony	Agreed Upon	

The bloodlines of 'Tell You Why' can be prominently found in the top stars of the 1990's such as Downing, Understood, Perceive, Dutch Bawarma, Unruly, Oshkosh Racy, Rooster C, Sandman and many others.

Regarding 'Sandman' he was whelped in 1973 and 'Tell You Why' was the sire of his dam 'Miss Gorgeous'.

This small white (some black), 64 lb dog is credited with being the US sire with the greatest influence on Irish breeding.

At this stage of proceedings it would be fair to say that Australian breeders could be forgiven for believing that they had been deprived by Harold Shugart when he bought 'Tell You Why' to stand at stud in the USA instead of having him stay in Australia to breed.

It should really be a case of no regrets, when I relate the following details. The sire of 'Tell You Why' was of course 'Rocket Jet' and the dam 'Gorgeous Babe', as previously mentioned. Had it not been for the famous greyhound personalities of the past such as Joe Kelly, Jack Millerd and Cliff Abraham (in addition to so many other men and women and their greyhounds before those years of the 1950's and 1960's), present day greyhound enthusiasts, owners, trainers and breeders would have every reason to be 'crying tears of blood' in order to express their regret.

Such regret has not been necessary, as a result of Joe Kelly deciding to breed from the distemper/blinded matron 'Daisy Rock' with the great champion 'Chief Havoc' owned by Jack Millerd and Cliff Abraham who selected the sire 'Menang' to mate with the matron 'Proposed' that produced 'Tumble Bug'. When mated with 'Marnaleen', this matron produced 'Rocket Jet'.

In the absence of this combination on Australia's greyhound breeding scene, we would be without our world wide accepted greyhound breeding success story that has prevailed for many, many years and is still continuing.

With the exception of those wonderful greyhound imports from Ireland such as (just to mention a few for now) 'Which Chariot', 'Tivoli Dreamer', 'Waverly Supreme' most of today's greyhounds in Australia (and a lot from overseas), go back to the 'Tumble Bug' bloodlines, including of course, 'Tell You Why'.



The great Tell You Why

This also includes the first Australian stud dog I sold to Harold Shugart. 'Keen Jet' had a double cross of 'Tumble Bug' and 'Chief Havoc' within five removes.

'Keen Jet's' dominance in breeding is well evidenced, not only in the USA, but more importantly in Australia, where before going to America he had five matings and a total of 15 offspring, so is exceedingly present in today's racing and breeding greyhounds in both countries.

Some five years after 'Keen Jet' left for the USA, came the birth of 'Temlee', the son of 'Tivoli Chief' from the dam 'Temora Lee' who goes back to 'Tumble Bug' through a double cross of 'Magic Babe'. 'Temlee' is seen by me and many others, as our greatest sire, when considering the great flow on breeding success through male and female offspring that include the fabulous 'Brett Lee' and 'Brother Fox'.

The latter stud dog and racing phenomenon is already in our Hall of Fame, as is 'Temlee'.

It is no wonder to me that 'Tumble Bug' as well as 'Tell You Why' have both been in the US greyhound Hall of Fame since the late 70's and mid 80's, along with Harold Shugart.

On our current greyhound scene, there is the famous 'Miata' and the sire of her pups 'Barcia Bale', which both go back to 'Tumble Bug' through 'Keen Jet' in no more than 10 and 11 removes.

This also applies to 'Shakey Jakey' who goes back to 'Tumble Bug' through 'Keen Jet' in 10 removes, through 'Collision' and 11 removes through his dam 'Kiacatoo Pearl', 'Go Wild Teddy' and the dam 'Spider Web'. 'Shakey Jakey's' Wentworth Park run of 29.07 is best described as true, but unbelievably fantastic.

If you truly believe, as I do, that the past is a positive guide to the future, may I respectfully suggest the following to any and all greyhound enthusiasts, breeders, trainers and owners:

Avail yourselves of all the very informative and revealing racing and breeding facts, waiting to be revealed to anyone by way of your computer and the greyhound data it contains.

For as long as my life persists, I will always be extremely grateful to all the people whose participation and effort, helped to bring fame not only to 'Tell You Why and so many many others, but lesser known but nevertheless famous greyhounds of the long gone past.

When (and hopefully not if) you elect to seek greyhound information from your computer greyhound data, the information acquired will allow you to make your own greyhound racing and breeding decisions, in the absence of necessarily needing other people to advise you or 'TELL YOU WHY'!!!



Dennis Wyndham accepting Tell You Why's induction into the AGRA Hall of Fame at the Esplanade Hotel Fremantle Western Australia on Friday the 22nd of August 2014.