

CAL CUP II: THEN & NOW

by DEBRA GINSBURG

Teresa Mc

California Cup Matron 1991

Two fillies with similar sounding names entered the inaugural California Cup Juvenile Fillies in 1990. One of them, Theresa's Pleasure, won the race to keep her undefeated record intact. The other, Teresa Mc, was a well-beaten also-ran. Her day in the sun would come just a year later.

The latter gave then CTBA President John Harris his first Cal Cup victory in a race that wasn't even part of the original plan. Following the Cal Cup's inaugural running the previous year, discussion arose regarding a possible expansion of the events races to include a Distaff Starter Handicap and a Matron Handicap on the main oval. While Harris was in favor of adding the two races, he did not feel strongly either way about the Matron nor did he think he had a horse suited for the 1 1/16-mile dirt race. Both Harris and trainer Greg Gilchrist believed Teresa Mc was going to be better on the grass.

Sired by Harris Farms stallion Moscow Ballet, Teresa Mc was the first foal from Shayne McGuire and named for Harris' mother, Teresa McManus, who died in 1983.

"It's always risky to name a horse for someone because it might not turn out," Harris said at the time. "But I took a shot with this one, and it worked out."

Teresa Mc won one race from five starts at two, breaking her maiden in her second try at Hollywood Park. In the Juvenile Fillies, her first attempt at 1 1/16 miles, she never fired and finished sixth behind Theresa's Pleasure, Number's Game and Spirited Susan. The next year, at three, Teresa Mc turned the tables on the latter two fillies in the Matron.

She launched her 1991 campaign in January at Santa Anita, but was given time off after two unplaced efforts. She

returned in the spring in the Northern part of the state with a completely different attitude.

Following a scintillating six-length victory in a Golden Gate allowance race, Teresa Mc scored a front-running five-length romp in the 1 1/16 mile Moraga Handicap. She then won two more stakes, placed in three others, and headed back to Santa Anita for the first running of the Cal Cup Matron.

The Moscow Ballet filly was sent away as the 5-1 third choice under Pat Valenzuela, who had already won a pair of Cal Cup races that afternoon with Bountiful Native and Ebonair. Sitting just off the pace of longshot Effusive Bounty, Teresa Mc took command at the half-mile pole and won by two lengths in 1:44.

While the filly provided Valenzuela with his third of four Cal Cup wins that day, hers has surprisingly been the only victory in the series so far for Harris as an owner. Harris Farms was also the breeder of 1996 Cal Cup Starter Handicap winner Reality Changes, a Cutlass Reality half-brother to their homebred champion Moscow Changes.

Shayne McGuire, whom Harris bought for \$30,000 at the 1986 Keeneland November Sale, has proven quite a bargain at that price. She has produced three more winners since Teresa Mc, all by

Moscow Ballet and named for members of Harris' family. Mr. Thrifty, her other stakes winner, was given the nickname Senator Ken Maddy had bestowed on Harris. That runner earned \$243,743 and ran third behind Cavonnier in the 1995 Cal Cup Juvenile.

Teresa Mc closed out her 1991 campaign with a victory in the grade III La Brea Stakes and with it the title of California's champion 3-year-old filly. She retired with eight wins from 24 starts and earnings of \$302,945. Among her foals to reach the races, the Flying Continental filly Cleared to Land has four wins and about \$81,000 in earnings. She dropped a Smoke Glacken colt at Harris Farms in 2000, an In Excess (Ire) colt this year and is now in-foal to Cee's Tizzy.



Nov. 9, 1991—Cal Cup Matron—Teresa Mc 1st (right)