were sure enough not going to be far behind. If anyone ought to know what was going on in Poland and Russia, we figured it would be Armand Hammer. I learned how to say "help" in Polish.

Fittingly, our fifth generation baby from *Bachanta and fourth generation from Bay Abi++ and *Naganka, was foaled. In 1961, the grey mares *Bachanta and *Naganka had arrived at Varian Arabians. Now, five generations and 20 years later, we had come from two grey mares to a black filly. Sired by Huckleberry Bey++, she was an inspiration. We added the "V" for Varian, included Sweet, and we had a lifetime in Sweet Inspiration V. The only thing better than one Sweet Inspiration V is two. We named her little sister Sweet Illusion V, and showed both of these mares to many championships including a U.S. reserve national champion futurity filly and Canadian national top ten mare award, as well as an IARR English pleasure futurity championship. Sweet Inspiration V and Sweet Illusion V will live their lives out here at Varian Arabians, as did the five generations of mares ahead of them.

1982 — The Arabian business, though exciting, has never been easy for me. It’s been painfully slow to get the improvements on the ranch. It has seemed many times like the horses were easy, if they just didn’t have to support this ranch.

It became obvious that I alone was not managing adequately Bay Abi++ Bay-El-Bey++ and a youngster with the potential of Huckleberry Bey++ — one of the stallions always seemed to get left out.

Don Severa, with a clear, concise mind, broke the silence and helped me solve my dilemma: we are going to syndicate Huckleberry Bey++. People know you will continue to stand behind Huckleberry Bey++. He’s your third generation. They receive a great horse, and you receive some of Huckleberry’s breeding fees now, and their continuing enthusiasm and support. It will be your family.

1983 — so Don and I took what we called our “dog and pony show” across the country, and syndicated Huckleberry Bey++. It was a marriage; we promised to do our very best, they promised to support.

1984 — It was hard to look ahead in 1984. The last of my family passed away, or so it seemed to me — Rontez died at age 28 in 1984. It was thought she was my mother or father — she had raised me. Well, now I could see the inevitable happening. My wonderful mares and Bay Abi++ were getting old. They made it to old age, bless their
hearts, but it was a terrible year, with the loss of "Ostroga, 28; "Bachanka, 27; and the start of my program, Bay Abi++, 27. All my roots, it seemed, were gone. The staff held my hand, Marnie Sperry cried with me, and Don whispered in my year, "They can knock us down, Sheila, but they can't eat us."

Poland was doing very well, introducing blood into their horses of a different type. Always looking for the outcrossed stallion, I made the decision to purchase a colt that was a total outcross—tall, long-legged, beautiful head, Saqlawi in type. I could take the youngsters sired by him and breed the fillies back into my horses and add another step.

"Sanadik El Shaklan was a yearling—well-bred, but with a pedigree totally outcrossed from my horses. A winner of the Salon du Cheval as a weanling, he was very interesting. As a 2-year-old, we bred him for the first time. We thought a mating to Sweet Inspiration V was the appropriate beginning—Sweet Sanadika V was the result, a filly who I am eager to breed back to Huckleberry Bey++ next year, for the seventh generation.

1985 — Don and I went into partnership on a beautiful bay mare, Daraska (Dar x Holly Bask). She has only one-quarter Bask++, but looked like an own daughter of Bask++ — very interesting to me! Don said, let's breed her to Huckleberry Bey++ immediately.

1986 — Daraska dropped a gorgeous black-bay colt. I told Don, we've got a breeding stallion. People asked us, "Is this Huckleberry Bey++'s replacement?" No, there is no replacement for Huckleberry Bey++, just as Huck does not replace Bay-El-Bey++, or Bay-El-Bey++ replace Bay Abi++. Desperado V is as different from Huckleberry Bey++ as Huck is different from Bay-El-Bey++, and Bay-El-Bey++ from Bay Abi++. Each generation is unique to themselves, and yet each stallion carried the quality of the generation before them. Don looked at this beautiful colt and immediately named him Desperado, and already had his theme music and jacket designed in his mind. I got to add the "V" for Varian.

Desperado V has been the leading sire in number of registered foals of his age group in the stud books since he started breeding at the tender age of 2.

He is an extremely dominant breeding stallion, even to the point that he will only sire the colors bay, black and grey. He will not produce a chestnut. Already a winner at Scottsdale as a yearling, at his first show under saddle, Scottsdale, Desperado V won his junior western pleasure class. Desperado V has collected a crowd wherever he has gone.

Three of the reasons why he is creating so much enthusiasm are his daughters Morning Star V, Lillie Langtore and Tamarin V.

1988 — we hauled three Huckleberry Bey++ offspring to Canada and won three national championships: 1988 Canadian National Champion Mare with Keepsake V; 1988 Canadian National Champion Half-Arabian Mare with Hicks Prowletta V; and 1988 Canadian National Native Costume Champion with HA Huckster++.

Tim and Marty Shea were becoming good friends and falling in love with the Huckleberry Bey++ horses. While accomplished experts in their own right, they were really helping us cover the country with winning Huck horses. Bey Aperatif V and Huckleberry Berry+ both became national champions, with a number of youngsters winning top tens and regional championships. Lou and Andra Krutoy entered two at a time or another the first Huckleberry Bey++ national champions Keepsake V, Aperatif V, Huckleberry Berry++ and HA Huckster++.

1989 — Huckleberry Bey++, Bey Shah++ and Barbary+++ were cleaning up from coast to coast in everything. Bey
hearts, but it was a terrible year, with the loss of *Ostroga, 28; *Bachantika, 27; and the start of my program, Bay Abi++, 27. All my roots, it seemed, were gone. The staff held my hand, Marnie Sperry cried with me, and Don whispered in my ear, “They can knock us down, Sheila, but they can’t eat us.”

Poland was doing very well, introducing blood into their horses of a different type. Always looking for the outcrossed stallion, I made the decision to purchase a colt that was a total outcross — tall, long-legged, beautiful head, Saqlawi in type. I could take the youngsters sired by him and breed the fillies back into my horses and add another step.

*Sanadi El Shaklan was a yearling — well-bred, but with a pedigree totally outcrossed from my horses. A winner of the Salon du Cheval as a weanling, he was very interesting. As a 2-year-old, we bred him for the first time. We thought a mating to Sweet Inspiration V was the appropriate beginning — Sweet Sanadika V was the result, a filly who I am eager to breed back to Huckleberry Bey++ next year, for the seventh generation.

1985 — Don and I went into partnership on a beautiful bay mare, Daraska *(Dar x Holly Bask).* She has only one-quarter *Bask++ blood, but looked like an own daughter of *Bask++ — very interesting to me! Don said, let’s breed her to Huckleberry Bey++ immediately.

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replace Bay Abi++. Desperado V is as different from Huckleberry Bey++ as Huck is different from Bay-El-Bey++, and Bay-El-Bey++ from Bay Abi++. Each generation is unique to themselves, and yet each stallion carried the quality of the generation before them. Don looked at this beautiful colt and immediately named him Desperado, and already had his theme music and jacket designed in his mind. I got to add the “V” for Varian.

Desperado V has been the leading sire in number of registered foals of his age group in the stud books since he started breeding at the tender age of 2. He is an extremely dominant breeding stallion, even to the point that he will only sire the colors bay, black and grey. He will not produce a chestnut. Already a winner at Scottsdale as a yearling, at his first show under saddle, Scottsdale, Desperado V won his junior western pleasure class. Desperado V has collected a crowd wherever he has gone. Three of the reasons why he is creating so much enthusiasm are his daughters Morning Star V, Lillie Langtre and Tamarin V.

1988 — we hauled three Huckleberry Bey++ offspring to Canada and won three national championships: 1988 Canadian National Champion Mare with Keepsake V; 1988 Canadian National Champion Half-Arabian Mare with Hucks Prowletta V; and 1988 Canadian National Native Costume Champion with HA Huckster+.

Tim and Marty Shea were becoming good friends and falling in love with the Huckleberry Bey++ horses. While accomplished experts in their own right, they were really helping us cover the country with winning Huck horses. Bey Aperratif V and Huckleberry Berry plus became national champions, with a number of youngsters winning top tens and regional championships. Lou and Andra Kruton owned at one time or another the first Huckleberry Bey++ national champions Keepsake V, Aperratif V, Huckleberry Berry+ and HA Huckster+.

1989 — Huckleberry Bey++, Bey Shah+ and Barbary+++ were cleaning up from coast to coast in everything. Bey
Shah++ dominated the halter ring. Huck spread his wings with the most winners in halter and performance, and Barbary++ putting on the ground youngster after youngster that could trot. People were looking at Varian Arabians like maybe that vision so many years ago wasn’t a foolish pipe dream — this farm that yearned for the beautiful athletes. Many farms were going out of business as the Arabian world took a big breath and with a gigantic upheaval, threw off the shroud of an “investment business” and got back to what we have always been, from the first time an Arabian horse was ridden across the deserts in Arabia to rest by his master’s bed in the tent — lovers, protectors and keepers of this most ancient of breeds.

It’s a new day with new horizons. The foals have been exceptional, mares regularly producing outstanding individuals. Don has put his magic touch to the farm, and it’s now beautiful. He designed the clock barn from an old dairy barn, and made it elegant. He looks at life passionately, and makes every moment count. Don is all things — name it and he can do it. You say you want to do the impossible — see Don about how to do it.

1990 — Comment+ returned to competition at age 21. He had won the U.S. national championship in English pleasure and had twice been awarded the reserve national park horse championship. Comment+/ had been in retirement for five years until he met up with Geraldine Towle, and delighted us all with his energy and zest to be back in the ring. Geraldine rode him proudly. They were a great pair. Comment+/ passed away quietly here at the ranch last fall. He is remembered with affection by all that knew him, and many that didn’t.

Bay-El-Bey+++, Huckleberry Bey+++ and Desperado V carry on generation after generation for Bay Abi++. New youngsters arrive each year who thrill me with anticipation of what place they will have in the history of Varian Arabians. My wonderful mares will live their lives out here at Varian Arabian, as have their mothers and their mothers before them. I get deep pleasure from having the depth of quality in our horses that allows me each year at our Super September Weekend to offer Collection sale horses I know are as good as can be purchased anywhere in the world.

It’s been 30 years since I rode Ron-teza at the Cow Palace and showed Bay Abi++ at Estes Park, 22 years ago that I watched Bay-El-Bey++ take his first breath, 15 years ago I knew Huckleberry Bey+++ was one in a million, five years ago I told Don, “you’ve got a breeding stallion in Desperado.”

Bay Abi++, our first generation, is missing now, but the second, third and fourth generations of stallions here are setting their own standards for our breed.

There is much to come in the years ahead of us. We are all looking forward with enthusiasm to the future.

We’ve been here a long time on this land. Each horse has been precious, and has been treated as such. The people that have cared for them have come and gone, but they tell me a part of these horses always stays with them, and so do they with us all. Lovely, gentle, willing and kind — these horses have made indelible marks on hundreds, and possibly thousands, of people. I am very proud of them.