

## NANCY GOWER



Born in 1921 at Naracoorte.

Parents: Stirling Limbert and Muriel Limbert (nee Needham) were married in 1920.

Two brothers: Bob (deceased) and Jim who lives near Coffs Harbour on the north coast of NSW.

The family moved a number of times when the children were young. When Nancy was about seven years old they were living at Nurragi near Milang. She drove a pony about 10 kms to school each day in Milang.

Later the Limberts lived between Millicent and Tantanoola in the south east of the state. Nancy did not continue school after finishing primary school and worked at home helping milk cows amongst other farm work. It was very hard during the depression and many children stayed at home to help their parents instead of going to school.

Nancy was always an animal lover and was a particularly keen horse woman. In the late 1930s, with a friend she rode from Millicent to Adelaide.

In 1943 she married Jack Gower who lived about six kilometres south of Tantanoola on his parents' sheep and cattle farm "Cloverly". They took over the farm and continued living there until 1969. They had one son Peter who was born in 1945.

Throughout this time Nancy continued her interest in horses and competed at many shows held in the district. On a number of occasions before being able to afford a horse float, she rode to Mt Gambier show, which was held over three days. This was a distance of about 45 km.

During the 1950s she started teaching riding on the farm about once a month to local children. An annual gymkhana was held there for a number of years. She also instructed at Mt Gambier Pony Club when it was formed in the 1960s. Whenever visiting riding instructors from interstate or overseas came to Mt Gambier, Nancy took part in their schools to learn as much as possible.

After selling the south east farm in 1969, Jack and Nancy moved to "Woodlands" at Echunga in the Adelaide Hills. Jack continued breeding Poll shorthorn cattle and Nancy began horse riding instruction on a regular basis. Most weekends of the year riding students came from all over the Adelaide Hills and suburban areas. The property became a horse agistment centre along with the riding instruction. Being near to the Mt Bold forest it became a very popular destination on weekends, when riders took their agisted horses for a ride.

When the Australian Stock Horse Society started in SA in 1974, Nancy became one of the classifiers who travelled around the state inspecting horses which owners wanted registered with the new society.

She had always been a keen sidesaddle rider amongst her many horse activities and so had a hand in starting the Side Saddle Association of SA of which she was recently given life membership.

As if this wasn't enough she also called the first meeting to start the Adelaide Hills Dressage Club, now a very active club attracting hundreds of entrants to it's competitions.

She was also a long time supporter of the Mylor Valley Pony Club.

Jack died in 2003, and although slowing up Nancy still took an interest in horse events, particularly those held by the groups she helped establish.

Having learnt to be self sufficient as a child Nancy taught herself to sew and make many of her own clothes. She became skilled at various forms of needle work and in recent years was a member of a small needle work group in Macclesfield, where she lived for about the last 10 years of her life.

Although she never took up painting seriously she was very interested in all forms of art, and often visited the Stationmasters Gallery at Strathalbyn and made a point of visiting the annual Victor Harbor Art Exhibition.

During her years at Macclesfield she also spent a lot of time enjoying her garden. When her legs didn't work as well, she used a ride on mower to get around to feed her small number of retired horses.

Through her love of horses and riding Nancy touched the lives of thousands of people. Her love of animals and horses in particular was obvious from the way it was reciprocated by them.