

= Bazy Tankersley =

Ruth " Bazy " Tankersley ( March 7 , 1921 ? February 5 , 2013 ) was an American breeder of Arabian horses and a newspaper publisher . She was a daughter of Senator Joseph Medill McCormick . Her mother was progressive Republican Congresswoman Ruth Hanna McCormick , making Tankersley a granddaughter of the late Senator Mark Hanna of Ohio . Although Tankersley was involved with conservative Republican causes as a young woman , including a friendship with Senator Joseph McCarthy , her progressive roots reemerged in later years ; by the 21st century , she had become a strong supporter of environmental causes and backed Barack Obama for president in 2008 .

Tankersley 's father died when she was a child . When her mother remarried , the family moved to the southwestern United States where Tankersley spent considerable time riding horses . She became particularly enamored of the Arabian breed after she was given a part @-@ Arabian to ride . At 18 she began working as a reporter for a newspaper published by her mother . She later ran a newspaper in Illinois with her first husband , Peter Miller , and then in 1949 she became the publisher of the conservative Washington Times @-@ Herald . That paper was owned by her uncle , the childless Robert McCormick , who viewed Tankersley as his heir until the two had a falling out over editorial control of the newspaper and her relationship with Garvin Tankersley , who became her second husband . After The Washington Post absorbed the Times @-@ Herald , she shifted to full @-@ time horse breeding .

Tankersley purchased her first purebred Arabian when she was 19 , and began her horse breeding operation , Al @-@ Marah Arabians , in Tucson , Arizona , in 1941 . As she moved across the US for her newspaper career , her horses and farm name went with her . She purchased her foundation sire Indraff in 1947 , while living in Illinois . Upon her move to Washington , DC , her Al @-@ Marah operation relocated to Montgomery County , Maryland , where it became the largest Arabian farm in the United States by 1957 . Tankersley returned to Tucson in the 1970s , where in addition to horse breeding , she created an apprenticeship program at Al @-@ Marah to train young people for jobs in the horse industry . She set up a second horse operation , the Hat Ranch , near Flagstaff , Arizona . Over her career she bred over 2 @, @ 800 registered Arabians and was one of the largest importers of horses from the Crabbet Arabian Stud in England .

Tankersley was a patron of many charities . Upon her death from Parkinson 's disease in 2013 she bequeathed the Tucson ranch to the University of Arizona and placed the Hat Ranch in a conservation trust . In her final years , she downsized her breeding operation to about 150 horses , and most remaining stock went to her son , Mark Miller , who moved the Al @-@ Marah Arabian farm name and horse operation to his home base near Clermont , Florida .

= = Background and personal life = =

Tankersley was described as having " inherited a love of politics and horses , not necessarily in that order . " She was born in Chicago , Illinois , on March 7 , 1921 . Her nickname " Bazy " came from how she pronounced the word " baby " when she was a toddler . Her father was Joseph Medill McCormick , part @-@ owner of the Chicago Tribune and a Senator for Illinois . Her mother , Ruth Hanna McCormick , was a daughter of Senator Mark Hanna of Ohio , and Ruth was a member of the United States House of Representatives from Illinois , serving in the 71st Congress from 1929 to 1931 as a progressive Republican . Bazy was the youngest of three children ; her siblings were Katherine ( " Katrina " ) , ( 1913 ? 2011 ) and John ( 1916 ? 1938 ) .

When Tankersley was four , her father died by suicide , believed to be partly attributed to his defeat for renomination in 1924 . Her mother remarried in 1932 to Albert Gallatin Simms , a congressman from New Mexico , lawyer , and banker . Tankersley spent part of her childhood on her mother 's Rock River dairy farm in Byron , Illinois , and later moved to the Southwest with her mother and stepfather , living at a ranch owned by Simms in Albuquerque , New Mexico , at first , and then moving in 1937 to the Trinchera Ranch , a 250 @, @ 000 @-@ acre ( 100 @, @ 000 ha ) property in Colorado that her mother had purchased . Tankersley attended a boarding school in Virginia and

spent summers in the West . Her love of horses in general and the Arabian horse in particular came from those years : " Right away , my stepfather bought me a cow pony , and I wore it out ... So my mother got me a 3 ? 4 Arabian that I couldn 't wear out . " She also showed horses on the East Coast in the 1930s . Her interest in Arabian horses led her to meet several major breeders of the time , including Jimmie Dean of Traveler 's Rest , Roger Selby , W. R. Brown and Carl Raswan .

Tankersley did not complete high school , and later said , " I virtually had no education . " Nonetheless , she studied genetics at Vermont 's Bennington College between 1939 and 1941 without completing a degree . While there , she gained some notoriety for genetic studies she conducted by raising fruit flies in her dorm room . In 2004 , she was awarded an honorary doctorate in Humane Letters from the University of Arizona .

Tankersley married Maxwell Peter Miller , Jr. in 1941 . She and Miller lived in Tucson for two years , where she developed a deep love for Arizona . They then moved to Chicago for a time , and subsequently to her mother 's Trinchera Ranch , which Bazy ran . Her mother died of pancreatitis on December 31 , 1944 , two months after a serious riding accident . The couple moved back to Illinois prior to relocating to Washington , DC .

Tankersley divorced Miller in 1951 to marry Garvin E. " Tank " Tankersley , an editor at the Washington Times @-@ Herald ten years older than she was . Garvin Tankersley had started his news career as a photographer . He was the managing editor when he left the paper in 1952 . The couple met while Bazy was running the Times @-@ Herald , but Robert McCormick , Bazy 's uncle and owner of the newspaper , considered Garvin Tankersley to be of unsuitable social status for Bazy because " Tank " was from a poor Lynchburg , Virginia , family . McCormick also disapproved of her divorce . Bazy saw the latter stance as hypocritical , given McCormick 's own complicated personal life . McCormick 's attempts to end the relationship ultimately prompted the couple to elope , and the Tankersleys were married for 45 years until Garvin 's death in 1997 .

Tankersley also dabbled in campaign politics . In 1948 she organized " Twenties for Taft " clubs to support the 1948 Presidential campaign of Robert A. Taft . She followed in the footsteps of her mother Ruth , who was the first woman to manage a presidential campaign , the 1940 and 1944 efforts of Thomas E. Dewey . Tankersley later described herself as a friend of Senator Joseph McCarthy , and in 1952 she advocated for the removal of Guy Gabrielson as chair of the Republican National Committee . Tankersley 's politics shifted dramatically during her life . Noting her earlier strong affiliation with the Republican party and conservative politics , The Washington Post reported that in 2008 she voted for Barack Obama . She also supported Democratic Arizona Representative Gabrielle Giffords .

From her two marriages , Tankersley had three biological children : a son , Mark Miller , born in 1947 , and two daughters , Kristie Miller ( born 1944 ) and Tiffany Tankersley ( 1970 ? 2012 ) . She also had two stepchildren , Anne Tankersley Sturm and Garvin Tankersley , Jr . At the time of her death , she had six grandchildren and two great @-@ grandchildren .

= = Newspaper career = =

At 18 , Tankersley began working as a reporter for the Rockford Star , published by her mother . She gained experience running a newspaper in 1946 when she and Peter Miller purchased the LaSalle Post @-@ Tribune in LaSalle , Illinois , and the Peru News @-@ Herald , in Peru , Illinois , merging the papers to create the Daily News @-@ Tribune . In 1949 , her uncle , " Colonel " Robert R. McCormick , appointed her as the publisher of the family @-@ owned Washington Times @-@ Herald , an " isolationist and archconservative " paper known for sensationalism . McCormick had purchased it following the 1948 death of Eleanor Medill " Cissy " Patterson , his first cousin , and wanted Bazy to use the paper to create " an outpost of American principles " . Robert McCormick had no children of his own , " doted " on Bazy , and considered her the heir to his newspaper company . Tankersley was 28 at the time and was given the title of Vice @-@ President .

During Tankersley 's tenure as publisher of the Times @-@ Herald , the paper was embroiled in two controversies related to McCarthy , one involving attacks intended to help unseat Democratic Senator Millard E. Tydings in 1950 , and the other a lawsuit brought by Drew Pearson in 1951 over

what Pearson viewed as a " conspiracy to smear his reputation " . In the Tydings case , a composite photograph created by Garvin made Tydings appear to be meeting with a communist party leader and was a factor in Tydings losing his race . It also brought Tankersley and her paper to the attention of the United States Senate , where the paper 's treatment of Tydings was viewed by a bipartisan Senate panel as a violation of " simple decency and honesty " and " a shocking abuse of the spirit and intent of the First Amendment of the Constitution " . The lawsuit was a \$ 5 @. @ 1 million cause filed by Pearson against multiple defendants , including McCarthy and the Times @-@ Herald , Westbrook Pegler and Fulton Lewis , alleging they had " contrived ... to hold plaintiff up to public scorn and ridicule " . Pearson frequently criticized McCarthy , McCarthy criticized Pearson in a speech on the floor of the Senate , and the two men had even been in a physical altercation in December 1950 . The Times @-@ Herald ran articles critical of Pearson and in one case described Pearson as a " New Deal communist " , though it was asserted to have been a typographical error that should have read " columnist " .

Tankersley was publisher of the newspaper for only 19 months . By April 1951 , McCormick and Tankersley developed differences of opinions over both the newspaper and her relationship with Garvin Tankersley . " I understood when I went to the Times @-@ Herald I was to have full control . That control was not given me ... There is some difference in our political beliefs . I have broader Republican views than [ McCormick ] has . I am for the same people as the colonel , but I am for some more people . " McCormick also told her to decide between Garvin Tankersley and the Tribune Company . As a result , she resigned from the Times @-@ Herald . McCormick tried to run the paper himself , but lost money on the venture , and sold the Times @-@ Herald to The Washington Post in 1954 . When he announced the sale , one of the paper 's board members insisted that Tankersley be given a chance to purchase it , so McCormick gave her 48 hours to match the \$ 10 million asking price . She could not raise the money do so . Upon the purchase of the Times @-@ Herald , the Post consolidated its market position by discontinuing the rival paper . Though estranged for many years , Bazy and McCormick reconciled prior to his death .

After the sale , Tankersley continued to write a newspaper column for the Post , but also began to raise Arabian horses as a full @-@ time occupation .

= = Horse breeding career = =

In her 70 @-@ year career as a horse breeder , Tankersley emphasized athleticism and disposition in her Arabians . She is recorded as the breeder of over 2 @, @ 800 registered Arabian foals in her lifetime , making her possibly the largest Arabian horse breeder in the world . At 19 , she purchased her first Arabian horse , a mare named Curfa , using money from the sale of another horse she had ridden while at boarding school in Virginia . She founded the Al @-@ Marah Arabian Horse Farm in 1941 on a 40 acres ( 16 ha ) property when she first lived in Tucson . Mark Miller stated that the name Al @-@ Marah was selected by Carl Raswan , who said it was Arabic for " a verdant garden oasis " .

Throughout her newspaper career , she moved the Al @-@ Marah farm name with her , to Illinois from 1944 to 1949 , and outside of Washington , DC , in Maryland , where she lived from 1949 to 1975 . Thereafter , she returned to Tucson permanently . She consistently used bloodlines from the Crabbet Arabian Stud , both via horses descended from early American importations as well as her own purchases from the estate of Lady Wentworth in the late 1950s . This unbroken line gives rise to Miller 's assertion that the Al @-@ Marah herd is the " oldest continuously @-@ bred , privately @-@ owned band of Arabians in the world " .

= = Illinois = =

While she lived in Illinois , in 1947 Tankersley purchased a stallion named Indraff for \$ 10 @, @ 000 . Indraff was bred by Roger Selby of Ohio , and was a son of the Crabbet @-@ bred stallion \* Raffles . He became her foundation herd sire , and sired 254 purebred Arabians over his lifetime . Tankersley 's first foundation mare , Selfra , was also of Crabbet bloodlines . By the time she left

Illinois in 1949 , Tankersley owned 45 Arabians .

= = = Maryland = = =

Upon arrival in the Washington , DC , area , Tankersley recreated Al @-@ Marah Arabians in Montgomery County , near Washington . The Al @-@ Marah property in Potomac , Maryland , consisted of 1 @, @ 500 acres ( 610 ha ) , and for a time the Tankersleys also raised cattle there . The farm later moved to Barnesville , Maryland . Al @-@ Marah was not only a horse breeding facility ; the Tankersleys also hosted a number of political and social events . By 1957 , Al @-@ Marah was the largest Arabian horse farm in the United States . In that year , Lady Wentworth , owner of the Crabbet Arabian Stud , died and a number of horses were made available for sale . Tankersley bought 32 horses , the largest importation of Crabbet bloodstock to the United States in history . Lady Gladys Yule of the Hanstead Stud died within a few weeks of Lady Wentworth , and more top @-@ quality Arabians bred in the UK were put on the market . Tankersley purchased 14 Hanstead horses , the largest group from that estate sold to a single buyer . The arrival of the English horses was , in Tankersley 's view , an opportunity to preserve the core bloodlines tracing back to the horses originally gathered by Abbas Pasha .

Following these importations , Tankersley began to build her breeding program around two Crabbet sire lines , which she called the Double R cross . The first " R " stallion bloodline was that of \* Raffles via his son Indraff , and the other " R " bloodline was that of Rissalix , a Crabbet @-@ bred stallion owned by Hanstead , and sire of three Crabbet mares Tankersley imported . The two stallion lines shared a common female line to Rissla ; she was the maternal granddam of Raffles and dam of Rissalix . In 1958 , Tankersley added to her Double R program when she leased and imported the Rissalix son \* Count Dorsaz , a Hanstead @-@ bred horse . She owned him outright by 1959 . She later added another Rissalix son from Hanstead , \* Ranix . In 1962 , she imported another Crabbet @-@ bred stallion , \* Silver Vanity . She used her knowledge of genetics to institute a program of selectively inbreeding horses of bloodlines she considered of excellent quality . In her early years , she also looked for " golden crosses " , such as breeding offspring of Indraff to progeny of the Maynesboro @-@ bred stallion Gulastra .

= = = Arizona = = =

Tankersley missed Arizona and wanted to return . " I would read Arizona Highways and cry , " she said . The Tankersleys moved back to Tucson and settled there permanently in 1975 . She designed many of the buildings on her Tucson property herself . She added new stallions to her herd with Dreamazon in the 1980s , and a \* Silver Vanity descendant , SDA Silver Legend , in 2001 . Later in the 2000s , continuing her pattern of seeking " golden crosses " , she imported the stallion \* Bremervale Andronicus from Australia , an outcross for her intensely Crabbet @-@ based bloodlines . He became the 2006 National Champion Arabian Sport Horse , with the reserve champion AM Power Raid , a stallion from within her program .

Ultimately Tankersley operated two facilities in Arizona , her Al @-@ Marah Arabian Farm , a 110 @-@ acre ( 45 ha ) facility , and the Hat Ranch in Williams , near Flagstaff . The ranch property she purchased was the former Quarter Circle Double X Ranch and had been owned by Isabella Greenway , who had hosted Eleanor and Franklin Delano Roosevelt there . Tankersley , though identified as a Republican , displayed a photo of FDR at the ranch . The Hat Ranch was home to her young stock , allowing them to live free in an open range setting for two years before beginning training . It also served as the location for an annual think tank meeting for leaders of the Arabian Horse Association . The ranch also hosted the Straw Bale Forums where politicians , conservation leaders and academics could meet and discuss major issues . In 2003 , Tankersley was given the Arabian Breeder 's Association Lifetime Breeder 's Award .

= = = Apprenticeship program = = =

In 1973 , Tankersley created an apprenticeship program to train people both for work as employees at her ranch and for positions elsewhere in the horse industry . It grew into an intensive two @-@ year course that covered all aspects of the horse industry , provided participants college credit through Pima Community College , and was licensed by the US Department of Labor . She also donated horses to an Arabian breeding program at Michigan State University . Tankersley was noted throughout her career for her support of youth involvement with Arabian horses .

= = = Death and bequests = = =

Tankersley died on February 5 , 2013 . She had Parkinson 's disease . As she aged , Tankersley downsized her horse breeding operation from 350 horses to under 150 just prior to her death . Her son , Mark Miller , inherited many of her remaining horses and moved the Al @-@ Marah Arabian farm name and the horse operation to his home base near Clermont , Florida . Miller had run an entertainment venue called Arabian Nights , in Kissimmee , Florida , near Disney World , from 1988 until 2013 . He used Al @-@ Marah @-@ bred horses to present a 90 @-@ minute dinner show performance every night of the year that featured 50 Arabian horses . He closed the program in December 2013 to focus on the transplanted Al @-@ Marah herd on his Florida property .

The Tucson Al @-@ Marah Ranch , consisting of 85 acres ( 34 ha ) with an estimated worth of \$ 30 million , was donated to the University of Arizona 's College of Agriculture as a working ranch . The Hat Ranch had a conservation easement with rights to more than 1 @,@ 500 acres ( 610 ha ) given to the Grand Canyon Trust to prevent further development . Tankersley 's longtime employee , Jerry Hamilton , will continue to manage the Hat Ranch for Miller as a home for young horses bred by Al @-@ Marah .

= = Legacy = =

Tankersley once stated , " I come from that old @-@ fashioned background of noblesse oblige : If you 're born with money , you have an obligation to do good works for others . " She was also noted for a strong personality , as her friend , Hermann Bleibtreu of the University of Arizona explained : " If she was in any position of leadership or power , she was dominant . " She became a strong environmentalist , donating to conservation , environmental , and aquaculture research . She supported renewable energy , smart growth , and water conservation , and promoted reform of state land management . She also helped Defenders of Wildlife preserve the Aravaipa Canyon . Carl Hodges , of the University of Arizona 's Environmental Research Lab , stated , " she was as fine and intellectually competent an environmentalist as anybody I 'd ever known . "

Her financial support also went to charities for disabled children and assorted cultural activities . While in Maryland , she was involved in the creation of two private schools , the Primary Day School in Bethesda and the Barnesville School . In Tucson in 1980 she founded the St. Gregory College Preparatory School , now called The Gregory School .

Tankersley was a consistent advocate of the Arabian breed as a performance horse . In addition to the show ring and endurance riding , where she sometimes rode her own horses , she also tested her horses on the race track . In endurance , one of her horses won the Tevis Cup , and many others earned national championships over the course of her career . She was a major promoter of the Arabian Horse Association Sport Horse Nationals , and her horses acquired many championships at that competition . Further supporting Tankersley 's interest in sport horse disciplines , two of her horses , Al Marah Xanthium and Al @-@ Marah Quebec , were the first Arabians accepted into the American Trakehner Registry .

Tankersley founded the Arabian Horse Owners Foundation ( AHOF ) in 1963 as a charity to fund the needs of the Arabian horse community . As of 2013 the most recent project of the foundation was to develop the Arabian section of the International Museum of the Horse at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington , Kentucky : the Al @-@ Marah Arabian Horse Galleries . Housed there are the collections of the AHOF and the Arabian Horse Trust . During the 2010 World Equestrian Games , which were held at the Kentucky Horse Park , the foundation sponsored and funded the exhibit " Gift

of the Desert : The Art , History and Culture of the Arabian Horse " , bringing publicity to the Arabian breed during a major international equestrian competition .