

Memorial
Bronte'
1992-2008

Bronte' with Burtai

Today I had the sad duty to put down Bronte' due to complications of pigeon fever. This elegant and charismatic mare had had such a tragic life. I do not know her whole story. She was bred by Cindy Taylor Smith, in Montana. Bronte's sire was *Shandor, and her dam was the Hungarian Bravo daughter, Bravita. As a young mare Bronte' was purchased by a Friesian breeder. It is my understanding this person was experimenting with suitable outcrosses to correct some genetic problems in the Friesian breed. The last of Bronte's half Friesians is a filly named Twixt, now owned by Toni Jones of Prineville, Oregon. Sometime before Toni bought Bronte', she was in a trailer accident that resulted in the loss of vision in one eye. Not long after I bought her from Toni, Bronte' somehow injured her good eye, and was completely blind. Bronte' was so trusting and willing; she would do anything I asked, even loading in a trailer without hesitation. My lovely Sjonja became Bronte's companion and "eyes", so Sjonja's recent demise was another loss for my sweet Bronte'.

Bronte's first foal for me was a big colt that was born very windswept, and did not survive. I debated breeding her again, but she was such an exceptional mare I had to try again. She gave me a gorgeous filly I named Burtai, in honor of the wife of Genghis Khan. She was once more in foal to Bold Bravo when she developed this fatal infection.

Bronte' had a big, powerful trot that would take your breath away, and an impressive elegance. Yet it was her kind, quiet personality that I especially cherished. I buried her next to her dear friend, Sjonja. I loved them both.

By Nancy Skakel, November 2008

