

An interview with...

Henry Metz

by Joe Ferriss
 photos by Polly Knoll,
 Gigi Grasso, Richard T. Bryant

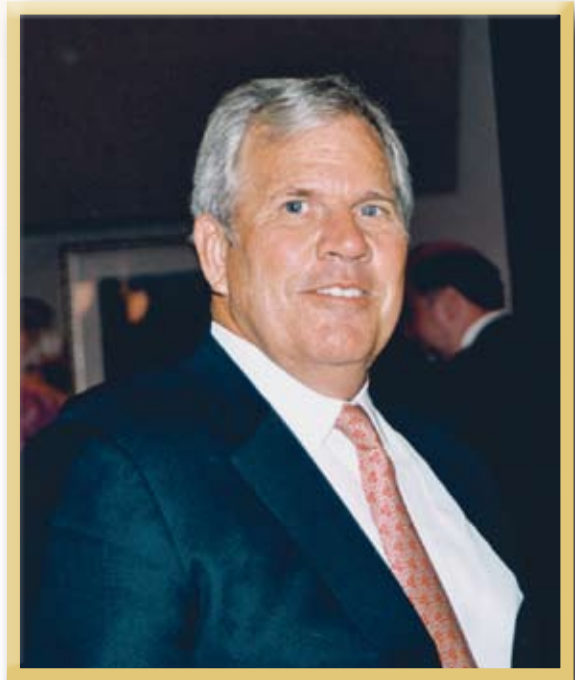
Those who have met Henry Metz are immediately struck by his friendly comfortable demeanor with warm smile and great sense of humor. Henry is a productive man with volumes of enthusiasm, energy, as well as being a keen listener—all qualities that are ideal for someone in the position to guide The Pyramid Society into its 40th anniversary.

He grew up in Iowa. His family began a baking business in 1921, and Henry followed the family line of succession and became the head of the business. He attended the University of Nebraska where he met and married his charming bride, Christie. They established a family of 3 children. Christie became an interior designer. The busy family grew and prospered. In 1988 Christie was invited by a nearby Egyptian Arabian breeder, Judi Jones to go horseback riding. Christie was taken by the therapeutic quality of going horseback riding in the countryside on these beautiful Arabians. She encouraged Henry to go riding with them and this soon led to the purchase of their first Arabian, a gelding named Taj Mo Ali (Ruminaja Ali x Moynese), followed soon by their first mare, an El Hilal daughter in foal to Ruminaja Ali. The newborn foal sparked the creation of Silver Maple Farm and a splendid journey with the Egyptian horse. Christie became involved with The Pyramid Society as a board member for over a decade and then Henry joined the board in 2002 and later became President.

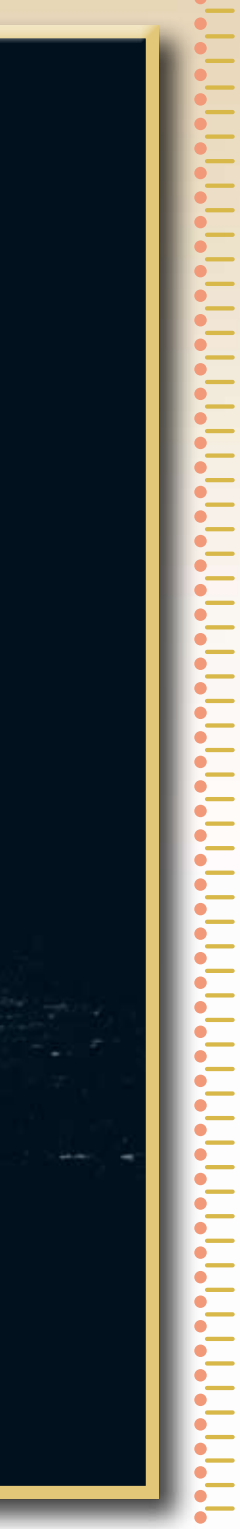
Joe Ferriss: You must be proud to be President of The Pyramid Society at this moment in history when the organization celebrates its 40th anniversary since its beginning in 1969. Give us some of your thoughts on the meaning of such an anniversary.

Henry Metz: Being a part of The Pyramid Society has

been especially rewarding and an experience like no other. Unlike other boards that I had served on, there was a common bond for the horse—people who really loved the straight Egyptian horse and were passionate about the preservation and promotion of these horses. It was not just about the show or this stallion or that stallion; it was purely about the horse first. The Pyramid Society is an organization that, when it needs to change, can effect change efficiently without the inefficiencies of larger organizations for the horse. The peo-

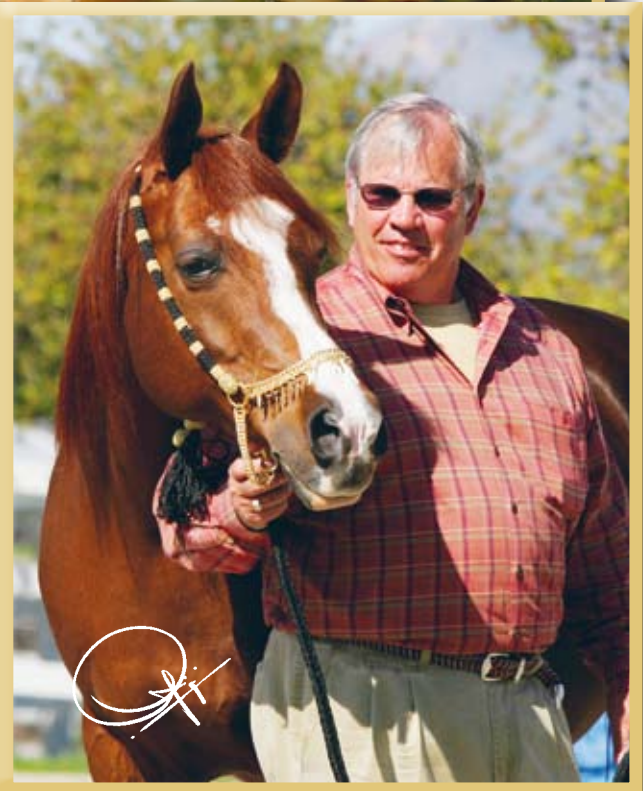


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 President
 of The Pyramid Society
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Henry Metz and his wife Christie





J.F.: What does such an anniversary mean to the supporting owners and breeders of the Egyptian horse in North America and internationally?

H.M.: From an historical standpoint, if you take a look at what began here with the bloodlines of the Forbises, the Marshalls, the Klines and others who started this organization, and then take a look at the straight Egyptian Arabians of today here and also in

Europe and the Gulf states, you see a world wide renaissance in the Egyptian horse. It covers the span of four decades in two centuries, and geographically the globe. Breeders today enjoy this international enthusiasm for the Egyptian horse to a great extent because of the hard work and dedication of The Pyramid Society members and breeders. The

willingness of founding breeders and their successors to share their knowledge, experience and bloodlines as well as encouraging new breeders is something that is rare in most organizations I have seen. The fellowship

ple who founded this organization did a good job establishing a mission and a framework to achieve its vision. People in the organization function in a respectful manner and this facilitates getting things done. They feel they are participating for the right reasons. The fact that The Pyramid Society has maintained this quality for four decades is the reason why it has done so much for the Egyptian horse and makes celebrating the 40th anniversary something to be proud of.





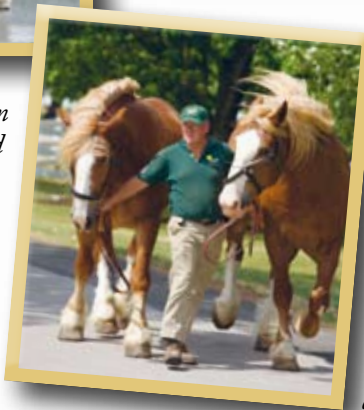
tian Events. This will be displayed periodically on the large screen in the show arena.

The Annual Evening Gala this year is 1001 Arabian Nights which will be a unique and dramatic affair. This year there will be, not one, but two afternoons devoted to barn parties which are always an enjoyable gatherings. There will be a social held on the concourse of the main arena.

and the camaraderie are also reasons that I am certainly proud to be a part of The Pyramid Society. So the 40th anniversary of The Pyramid Society has a deep significance for all of its members as well as the breed in general.

J.F.: What are some of the anniversary plans slated for this year's U.S. Egyptian Event?

H.M.: Aside from the popular horse show and stallion showcases, there will be many special events. In celebration of the anniversary there will be a pictorial history of the past 40 years of events focusing on the Egyptian horse including past Egyp-



Several great seminars are planned on topics ranging from breed conformation to historical perspectives including one on the history of the Egyptian Arabian in the U.S.

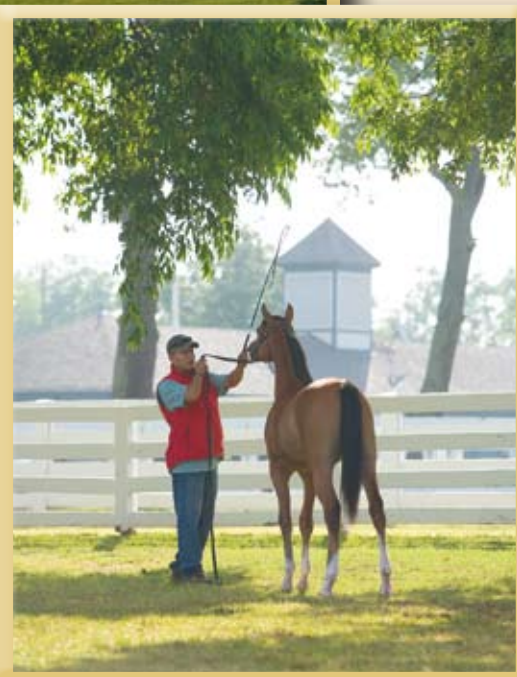
The new Volume 1 in a series of Anthologies of Articles on the Straight Egyptian horse will be available at the Egyptian Event and there are other surprises in store as well so this promises to be one of the greatest Egyptian Events.



reliable source of true Arabian type and character. So The Pyramid Society will continue to educate and encourage preservation and promotion of the Egyptian horse for many more decades. □

J.F.: What do you foresee as the future of The Pyramid Society and the Egyptian Arabian in the next 40 years?

H.M.: If you look at what has progressed in the last 5 years and you look at the mission statement of The Pyramid Society to preserve and promote the straight Egyptian horse, and you look at the championships at Aachen, at Paris, and Championships in the Middle East, you see the resurgence the Egyptian horse in the pedigrees of nearly all Arabian horses. Even in Poland current straight Egyptian breeding has been introduced into their programs. It is clear that there will continue to be a great opportunity for the straight Egyptian horse now and in the future. It continues to be a



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