

## **Agave** by *Marty Felix*

Agave, Margarita's yearling filly, was born in late April of 2017. At the time of her birth, she was sorrel, but within a few months, she began to turn gray like her sire Rojito.

The first time I saw Agave, she was a month old. Her band was on a grassy bench above a 180 acre field that had been roller-chopped and reseeded in 2003 by the BLM to provide more forage for the mustangs. This field in the North Soda section of the range is a popular place for the horses, and we often refer to it as "the pasture."

As my two friends and I approached Rojito's band that cool, cloudy, windy day in May, they were dropping down from the bench to the pasture to join three other bands who were already grazing there. When they paraded by us, single file, we took some great photos of each horse with magnificent scenery behind them. Margarita and curious little Agave were the only ones who stopped to pose for us. We followed the band down into the field via the well-worn horse trail and spent close to two hours in a photographer's heaven, wandering around from band to band, clicking pictures of foals nursing, bachelor stallions fighting, and just about everything else horses do.

When ominous black storm clouds started rolling in from the northwest, we knew we had better head home, because driving on the Dry Fork road when it's muddy is not only dangerous but sometimes impossible. While we were making our ascent up and out of the pasture, we paused to catch our breath. We looked back down on the horses, and we saw that Rango had left his mares and was walking slowly toward Rojito's band. We thought maybe he was going to try and steal a mare, and we would get to watch the two stallions fight. Nope. Rango stopped a few yards away in the shade of a lone juniper tree and merely stared. All of the horses in Rojito's band were so engrossed in munching grass, they didn't even notice Rango. Except for Agave. She slipped away from her band and meandered over toward the big black stallion. A couple of minutes later, she was standing by Rango, and we wondered what he was thinking. Perhaps it was, "Who is this little brat?" My friends and I were wondering, "Why don't Agave's parents look up and see where she is?!" Right about then, Rojito *did* look up, and he immediately raced over to the tree and told his foal, "GET BACK OVER THERE TO YOUR MOTHER!" Agave hightailed it back to Mom, and Rango and Rojito had a brief confrontation, after which they both returned to their respective bands.

Little did we know that the most entertaining part of our already wonderful morning would come at the very end. We laughed all the way home about Agave and her antics.

Agave will be available for adoption in November, and I hope someone adopts this cute yearling, who is quite the character!