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Article . . .

MPHA 2001

Stallion Directory

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Annual Christmas Dinner

and Awards Program 7

*Kentucky's
Heritage*



Mountain Pleasure Horses



Choco Doc

Owned by Paula Morgan, Montague, California

Cover Photo... Choco Dock

The MPHA stallion Choco Dock has become one of the most beloved and well-known Mountain Horses to emerge since the establishment of the breed registries.

Choco Dock is one of the few Mountain Horses to have the distinction of becoming a Grand Champion in the World/International competitions of two breed registries. Choco Dock became MPHA Grand Champion at a relatively young age, and since then he has continued an unusually long and successful show career, earning four World/International Grand Championships over a 10 year period of time. Choco Dock is unmistakable in the show ring, with a charisma and style in his flawless performances that have become legendary.

Choco Dock would not be a great stallion however, if his progeny did not bear his stamp and the ability to match his success. This they have done to an amazing degree, establishing Choco Dock as an unusually prepotent stallion. Choco Dock offspring typically show strong gaits, and tend to inherit their sire's stylish head and neck carriage, perfect ear set, and show ring charisma.

In recent years, Choco Dock has increasingly become a much-loved ambassador for the Mountain Horse breeds. He makes numerous demonstration appearances each year at horse fairs, expos and year-end shows of other breeds. His most recent appearance was by invitation to the prestigious Royal Winter Fair in Toronto, Canada. His ability to calmly and willingly stand for hours to be admired, petted and ridden by hundreds of people of every age and level of ability in the manner of the most docile back yard pet, and then to transform himself into an exciting performer, have won hundreds of converts to the breed.

Choco Dock was owned and campaigned to his early championships by E.R. and Tom Davis of Horseplay Farms, Kentucky. In January of 1999, Choco Dock was purchased by Bert and Paula Morgan of Triple S Ranch, and his winning performances have continued with Derick Tipton of Van Bert Farms, Stanton, Kentucky, where he now stands at public stud. The Morgans welcome the opportunity to breed Choco Dock to Mountain Pleasure mares, and give special consideration to mares with show records or successful show offspring.

For more information, contact: Van Bert Farms, 800 Derickson Lane, Stanton, KY 40380, 606-663-9437 (Barn), 606-663-4464 (Home), Web: www.vanbertfarms.com, or Triple S Ranch, 27838 Quail Lane, Montague, CA 96064, 530-459-3530, Email: triplesranch@snowcrest.net, Web: www.triple-s-ranch.com.

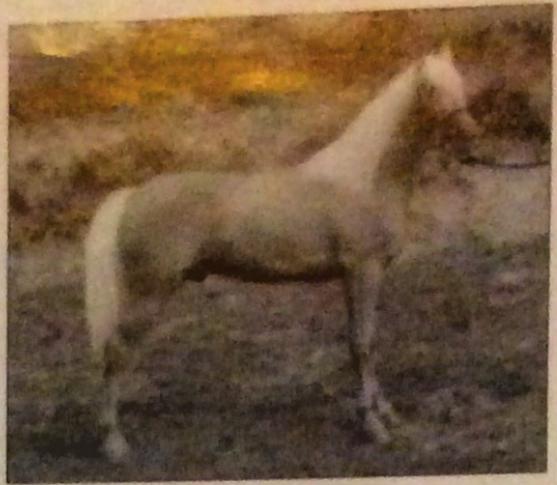
Christmas Parade 2000

On December 2, 2000 members of the Mountain Pleasure Horse Association came out for the Christmas Parade 2000, which was one of the largest in Lexington, Kentucky's history.

Through snow, ice, and bitter winds, several dedicated members rode their horses along the parade route. Gordon Rife, Sarah Nickell, Lowell & Mary May, Janet Mayabb, Cydney Blakeslee, Judy Denino, Sue Stewart, Nora Deaton, Trampus Miller and Scott Coldiron proudly represented the M.P.H.A.

We are looking forward to the 2001 parade season and would like to invite anyone interested in joining our parade group contact Nora Deaton at 606-663-0928. They plan on attending the Ohio Equine Affair April 9-12, 2001.

(See Photos on Pages 8 and 9)



Trantula

Grandson of Wilson's Buck

Standing at stud at

Pence's Chandler Gap Farm

Owner: Carl & Garnett Pence 606-668-6426

Campton, KY 41301

E-mail: cgapfarm@mrtc.com

I found this in a junk shop on a calendar dated 1939; it is a tribute to Will Rogers.

He Made The World A Better Place To Live In

It was natural that Will Rogers loved horses, and that horses loved him.

When God made this world he gave each animal characteristics of its own. To some he gave beauty. To some he gave strength. Still others he endowed with speed. A few, by way of contrast, he made ugly and stealthy and mean.

Then, looking over his handiwork, he decided to give man a perfect companion. So he took the best from each of the other animals and created the horse. He gave the horse beauty of line, fleetness of foot, and superlative strength. Then he topped off all of these physical characteristics with the finest gift it was within his power to bestow. He gave to the horse NOBILITY OF CHARACTER.

There is a kinship in the animal world that extends even to mankind. We expect a prize fighter to choose as his animal friend a lion cub or a bull dog. We expect an opera singer to have as her animal companion a gentle Pekinese. We expect a sailor to have as his pet a talking parrot.

And so, on the theory that "like seeds like" we should expect to find Will Rogers, nobleman that he was, finding comfort and solace and companionship in the friendship of his favorite horse.

It was this kindness, this humaneness, this breath of understanding embracing, as it did, even the four-footed folk he knew so well, that made Will Rogers the most universally beloved man of this day - man who really made this old world of ours a better place to live in.

Editor's Note: Thanks to Lee Schweighancht for sharing this.

First Annual Downtown Lexington Trailride

On Saturday, November 4, 2000, eight members of the Mountain Pleasure Horse Association participated in the First Annual Downtown Lexington Trailride. This was held in part to celebrate the closing of "Horse Mania" in Lexington, Kentucky. The parade started at the Cox Street parking lot and wound its way around and finally down Main Street, Lexington.

The parade included the Lexington Mounted Patrol, the Mountain Pleasure Horse Association, the Mustang Troop from the Kentucky Horse Park, the Royal Riders 4-H Club of Lexington, and individual riders of all ages. The Lexington Herald Leader took photographs and did interviews with several members and we received a nice write-up in the Sunday paper.

We rode behind the Lexington Mounted Patrol at the front of the parade and proudly carried the United States flag (*Goldfinger's Star*), the Kentucky State flag (*Crown Royal*), and the new Mountain Pleasure Horse Association flag (*Fireball One*).

All MPHHA members wore their red MPHHA jackets and received many wonderful comments and inquiries about our "gaited" horses. Our mounts were on their very best behavior, as usual, but were especially impressive considering one rider was only 14 years old (Jenna Ratliff), and four of the eight horses had never even been near a parade before



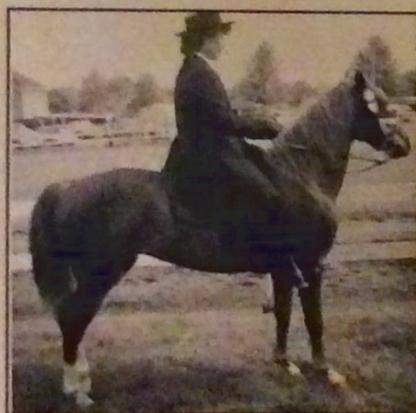
Left to Right: Milyne Potter, Vicky Stacy, Sarah Nickell, Janet Mayabb, Jenna Ratliff, Robin Ratliff, Trina Conway, Gordon Rife.

that day!

Many thanks to Nora Deaton who organized and arranged for us to be included in this event and took care of everything - Thanks, Nora!

Overcoming the Fear to Ride

"How is this 1/2-inch piece of leather in my hand going to keep me on this horse," I thought as I tightly gripped the reins with my fingers. I was scared! A year earlier I had an unwelcome experience on my two year old bay filly, who showed me I couldn't ride quite as good as I thought I could. With her sudden invitation, I left the saddle involuntarily three times the same day, being dragged a short distance on one



of the travels. The ground is unforgiving and hard as a rock; but I was lucky receiving only bumps and bruises. I put my horse out to pasture and walked back to the house to await my husband's return from work. I had a story to tell him, but I was all right, so I thought. I didn't know my real injury was mental and emotional. As I ran this incident through my mind over and over again, the accident became worse and worse becoming building blocks to fear. Fear is a slavery that overtakes and controls. Fear is also a

choice. I had wanted horses all my life and now as an adult I was able to have my dream of being a horse owner. Gale, my husband, and I had greatly enjoyed riding and I had no plans of having this time stolen from me. At the same time, I didn't want anyone to know I was afraid, so I tried to laugh it off, but it had become too real.

It is now several years later since this accident and I'm riding almost every day and loving it. How did I get to this point? With the help of the good Lord and a strong choice that with His help I was going to overcome this. I prayed a lot, often in the barn beside my horse as I brushed and handled her. We talked often. I adopted Proverbs 1:33 and worded it to fit the situation, "But he who listens to Me will ride secure, will ride with ease, without dread of evil." OK, Lord, I'm listening, now help the mount." I then repeated this scripture over and over again on the back of my horse. I sat stiff, my hands sweated, and I got off thankful the ride was over. This was going to take some time; but I knew my focus had become right.

As in all situations, there are negatives and positives. I had dwelled on the negative too long. I would now focus on the positive.

I would like to make some suggestions on being an over comer.

1. Pick a horse you feel you can become confident with. The Mountain Pleasure, Rocky Mountain and Kentucky Saddle Horse are known for their calm, relaxed disposition. Choose an older horse, not a green broke colt. You

want to put all aspects in your favor.

2. Seek help in improving your riding. In my case it wasn't all the horse's fault I came off. I had made mistakes. I chose to take lessons from a professional. You'll find it helps to have an encouraging individual observing. A ground person can see you riding from a different perspective than you see yourself. Video taping your ride will also help you evaluate yourself.

3. Don't look down! When you're in the saddle look forward where you are going. This is important. When you look down you think down and this alone can get you off balance. Don't do it!

4. Use proper equipment. I was dragged because I wasn't wearing the proper footwear. You need a heel on your boot so your foot doesn't slip too far into the stirrup. I wear a safety helmet. I have not needed it, but it is comforting to know it's there if I do, especially since I ride paved roads. Also make sure your stirrups are of correct length so that you can ride with your heels down. A way to check this as you are in the saddle with your foot out of the stirrup, the bottom of the stirrup should be even with the arch of your foot.

5. Don't push yourself. If you feel comfortable at the walk, then do that until you are ready for the next gait. There is no hurry. You are going to be riding the rest of your life. Starting in a smaller area before going into a 100-acre field is also wise.

6. Envision yourself riding your horse and having a wonderful time. You've run that injury rerun through your mind too many times already. It is over and behind you. Move forward, there is power in positive thinking.

7. Pat yourself on the back for each ride you take. I was very blessed to have an encouraging, caring family that gave me strength. As a mother, I had tried to teach my children you do not give up just because a task has become hard. How could I really teach this if I didn't walk my talk? Remind yourself you can do this even in the times you feel you cannot. Yes, you can!

In some ways I'm glad the accident occurred. It has taught me much and I continue to learn. Now all fear isn't bad. I wouldn't join a rodeo and ride bucking horses to prove a point, nor do I want to ride high-spirited horses. I chose my mounts. Remember that I am doing this to have a good time.

It will happen. One day you will be riding and you will suddenly realize "this is fun!" It happened by surprise to me and my emotion so overtook me tears ran down my face as I gaited around the ring. I had become an over comer. I had won; the enemy of fear had lost. I was really riding my horse.

I give special praise to a great God for His help and to my family and friends for their loving support.

Karen Billhimer
12195 Hollar School Rd.
Litville, VA 22834



Christmas Lexington, KY Parade 2000



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*Kentucky's
Heritage*



Mountain Pleasure Horses



Moon One More Time Silver Kings Ranger

Rebels Run Ranch

2 Rising Stars

Story on page 7

Owned by Lenny and Tracy Pozayt

How I Use My Mountain Pleasure Horse

This section, featured in this magazine, is from our website.

I am fortunate to live in a wonderful part of the country for horseback riding - Colorado. So for fun/conditioning I ride in the mountains and foothills close to my home (near the Air Force Academy). During the ride season (April-October), you will find me and my Mountain Pleasure Horse, Kokopelli Moon, competing in Competitive Trail Rides sponsored by the North American Trail Riding Conference (NATRC). A Competitive Trail Ride is a road rally on horseback. You arrive and check in on a Friday afternoon. You get to camp with your horse for the weekend and ride a marked trail approximately 25 miles on Saturday and 20 miles on Sunday. There is a veterinarian who judges the horse for soundness, conditioning, and manners and a horsemanship judge who is evaluating the rider for safety, care of the horse, and trail equitation. Both horse and rider start out with 100 points and lose points for various things. It is not a race - in fact, you can lose points for arriving at a point too soon. The object is to pace your horse at a relatively steady pace (about 4 MPH which is a fast walk). This competition has been dominated by Arabians until recently but with an aging population of riders looking for a smoother horse, the gaited breeds (especially foxtrotters) have been showing up more and more at Competitive Trail Rides - and have been doing very well!! For several years in my Region I was the only person riding one of the Kentucky breeds (Rocky Mountain, MPHA, or Kentucky Mountain Saddle Horse), but I have convinced a number of other owners to ride their Kentucky breeds and we are all doing well and having fun!

Last year I leased Kokopelli Moon from Harry and Patty Overcash of Hudson, CO. Harry and Patty had done a fabulous job of training her so with barely a month of conditioning, Koko entered the first of four rides for the season. She and I took ribbons at every ride and placed both regionally and nationally. Pretty great for a four year old new to the sport. MPHA gave us a beautiful poster and plaque in recognition of our accomplishments.

NATRC is a national organization with rides held all over the country. If you have an interest in this kind of riding, check out their website at www.natrc.org, contact them at their mailing address, or contact me.

Susan Peters	NATRC
17215 Saddlewood Road	PO Box 224
Monument, CO 80132	Sedalia, CO 80135
719-488-2267	303-688-1677

NATRC Competitive Trail Riding

If you enjoy trail riding, experiencing new trails, and making new friends, then you should consider trying competitive trail riding.

Participants get the chance to improve their riding skills by competing in the friendly and fun atmosphere of NATRC. They may also get the opportunity to ride where only once a year private landowners open up their trails to share with their NATRC friends.

Competitive trail riding's emphasis is on teaching riders how to improve their horsemanship skills. Riders are judged on their horsemanship as it applies to trail riding. Trail courtesy and safety are key elements, as is the ability to care for a horse during and after a long day on the trail.

There are three levels of competition beginning with those just learning the sport up to the expert competitor. The horsemanship judges are themselves successful competitors.

A competitive trail ride is in part an equine athletic event. All horses receive a soundness exam before allowed to start the ride, usually on the Friday of the weekend of the ride. They are monitored through the ride for any metabolic or soundness changes.

Competitive trail riding is not about pedigrees or fancy tack - rather, it addresses the question of covering long distances safely and comfortably with good manners on the part of the horse and rider.

It is also about having fun on wonderful trails with a willing equine partner to keep going down the trail. Learning how to camp safely with your equine partner is a big part of the experience.

Getting started is easy. You don't have to be a member of NATRC to go on a rider.

There are three divisions available to riders. The Novice Division is for new riders and/or horse new to competitive trail riding. The Competitive Pleasure Division is for riders who are more experienced than novice competitors, but who prefer the distance and pace of the Novice Division. The Novice and CP competitors

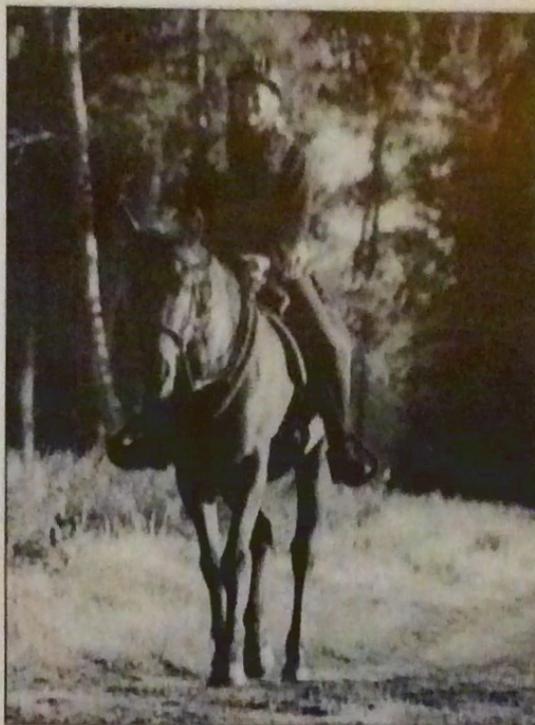
ride approximately 40 miles on a 2 day ride. The first day they will travel 15-24 miles at a 3.5-5 MPH pace. The second day is usually a short distance. Open competitors on a 2 day ride will cover 50-60 miles to a quicker pace of 4-6 miles per hour. Competitors are given a measured time to complete the ride, and if they finish too quickly or past the maximum time allowed they receive penalty points.

Both horses and riders receive scorecards at the end of the ride rating their performance by veterinary and horsemanship judges. Awards and ribbons are given for the horses and the riders in all of the divisions. Reviewing the scorecards to see what the judges were observing helps competitors improve their riding and horsemanship skills for the next ride.

Judges are very approachable. They are willing to explain how they scored the horses and riders and what a rider can do to work obtaining a perfect score of 100 with plenty of plus marks on the card.

The competition can be fun - but many riders just enjoy the camaraderie of riding with their friends, riding new trails, and racking up mileage awards with their favorite trail horse.

The North American Trail Ride Conference sanctions rides in its six regions ranging from Hawaii to Maine, and from Canada to Mexico. You can find an updated schedule of sanctioned rides and clinics as well as contact information for each region, and the NATRC Rule Book on the web site (www.natrc.org) or contact NATRC at PO Box 224, Sedalia, CO 80135, 303-688-1677.



Front Cover Article . . .

Silver Kings Ranger and Moon One More Time

It was in the early 1990's that my girlfriend (my best friend of many years) and I were on one of our many trail rides in our homeland of Wisconsin. She had asked several times in the past if I had wanted to try her "gaited" horse? Being from Wisconsin, gaited horses were not something you ran across much. I was used to riding my quarter horses and pretty much said "no thanks".....until that particular ride. For some reason, this ride, I said "o.k..... I'll try it". We went down a path and I had this unusual sensation in the saddle.....like nothing I had ever felt before. As I returned to the group, I was yelling "I have to have one of these!" I went home and put my non-gaited horses up for sale and my search began along with a new life I never knew existed.

We talked to several people regarding Mountain Pleasure Horses and decided to take a trip to Kentucky. As we got closer and closer, the weather got nicer and nicer. (We were still in the cold, damp, wet part of Wisconsin winter which seemed to last for 8-9 months of the year!) The daffodils were blooming on the sides of the roads and the rolling hills of green were a breathtaking site. We got to a little town called Mt. Sterling and found a motel to stay at. The person we were suppose to meet had forgotten that we had an appointment with him and he went out of state. A worker of his showed us a few horses, but I was not able to find the "horse of my dreams".....I was devastated! I had traveled so far, and now was going home with an empty trailer.

We called the gentleman out of state and told him that the horses we looked at were beautiful, but the horse we were looking for just wasn't in the group. He was very friendly and helpful and said he didn't want us to go home without a horse. He called a friend of his, Paul Stamper. Paul came and met us in Mt. Sterling. He was this extremely friendly, young southern gentleman. We started on a search and Paul took us to see horses all day until late at night. The funny thing is.....the first horse that Paul showed us was a pretty black mare named "Josie". I rode her and fell in love! I told him, "I'll take her!" He told me that I needed to ride several and then make a decision. We went to many farms and were introduced to many people and horses. It seemed like we drove forever, going further and further up into the hills. We decided it had been quite the long day and it was time to go back to the motel. Paul wouldn't hear of it. He drove us to get our things and stay at his home for the rest of the week. Being from the city, not to mention living up north, we weren't used to such friendly outgoing people. We had our first lesson in "Southern Hospitality".

Josie was to be the first of many Mountain Pleasure horses to be bought. We later decided to buy a stallion and asked Paul who he felt we should buy. I wanted a horse that would not be intimidating to me, as this would be my first "stallion". Paul told me he had the perfect horse for me. He told me to come and visit.....and "Bring a Ham" (which got to be what he would say for many visits to come!) We were greeted with hugs and started what was to be, a lifetime friendship. We were introduced to a wonderful stud horse by the name of "Moon". A gentle giant whom I was given the honor to own for a short time. Moon was taken to Wisconsin and was able to be promoted in Vet Seminars, school exhibits and open houses to show the "northern population" such a wonderful representation of the breeds temperament. Moon wowed the crowds with his tricks of laying down, sitting like a dog, shaking hands (or should I say hooves!) My kids who were young at the time would go out in the pasture while he grazed and get on him just so they could slide off his butt. Moon had a sixth sense about him and knew they were children.....you couldn't find a better babysitter. My favorite thing to do with Moon though was to brush his neck and have him put his head on my chest and fall asleep. Never will I feel a bond like I did with him again. My ownership of him was brief, as I was in the process of divorce and had moved to a small farm where Moon had to stay in a stall and seemed so unhappy. It was a difficult decision, but one made of love, to return Moon to the hills where he was born and had been so very happy.

I was to meet someone absolutely wonderful- someone who loved horses as much as I did. This would be Lenny- my soulmate and best friend. I started bringing Lenny to Kentucky and introducing him to the Mt. Pleasure horses. Lenny had Tennessee Walkers, so he was already

familiar with "gaited horses". What he had not expected though, was the easy going temperaments these horses would have.

Many more trips to Kentucky and staying with the Stamper family were to come. We had the pleasure of getting to know Marion (Paul's dad) and Paul's brothers and sisters. At times, we were coming to Kentucky every other weekend and couldn't wait to return each time! Paul had made a suggestion to us that would change the rest of our lives forever. Paul said that since we were in Kentucky so much.....we should consider buying a place here. We thought about it and decided that since Lenny and I were trying to start a new life together... what better way to do it than to move to Kentucky! Paul showed us different farms for sale and we bought a gorgeous farm just down the road from him. The years we lived there, Paul took us under his wing and taught us so much about the Mt. horses- we will never be able to repay him for that. Our herd of horses increased to the 20's while we lived there.

We had to make another move in 1998, but this move was to be only an hour away due to my job.

We have lived in Owingsville Ky, now for 4 years. Ironically, we now live almost across the street from Paul's brother, Vernon.

Our herd of horses has increased into the 70's. We have a large training, breeding facility and raise and train our horses by ourselves. We started showing Mt. Pleasure horses in 2001 and took 2001 Trail Pleasure Champion at the Classic with "Silver Kings Ranger" a sweet natured grey stallion sired by Silver King and a blue roan mare by the name of "Brown Eyes Blue". In 2002, we were able to introduce a young chocolate stallion to the show ring. It was his first show for this pretty colt with 4 white socks and a blaze with flaxen mane and tail. He took 2002 2 yr. old Under Saddle Champion and the 2 yr. old Halter Champion classes. This horse's name is "Moon One More Time" (we'll give you 3 guesses who his daddy is!!!)

Lenny remains on the board of MPHA and has a deep love for the breed. We both desire to keep the breed pure and promote it to its fullest. Its very important to us to protect this breed to the best of our ability. After getting to know the history of these horses and all that has been done to get the Mountain Pleasure Horse to where it is today. We are honored to be a part of its history as well as its future.

Enjoying the Blue Ridge Mountains



Justin Stewart, 13, shown here riding Gabbard's Moon, a two year old bought from Don Gabbard last year. Jason loves to ride his Mountain Pleasure horse on the Blue Ridge Mountain Trails.

In Loving Memory



Squirrel
1972 - March 2002
Sire: Tobe
Dam: Goodpaster's Maude
Owner: E. R. Davis of Paris, Kentucky

Squirrel was a black stallion, 14.2 hands tall, and a direct son of Tobe. He was registered MPHA and Rocky Mountain.

Squirrel got his name from climbing an extremely steep hill (straight up) one day while on a trail ride. The late Kelly Martin of Montgomery County, Kentucky was on the trail ride along with his brother, Kirby Martin. Kirby was riding the black stallion. At the bottom of the hill, riders started to dismount and lead their horses. Kirby stated that he wasn't going to lead a horse up a hill; he was going to ride it. And ride he did. After the black stallion pawed and clawed its way to the top of the hill, Kelly Martin named him Squirrel - he climbed that hill just like a squirrel climbing a tree.

E. R. Davis bought Squirrel in 1986 when he was 14 years old from Lawrence Maples who lived in Powell County, Kentucky. He liked Squirrel because he was a good kind horse to everyone. Anyone could ride him including kids, E.R. recalls seeing as many as 5 grandkids on his back at one time.

In the sixteen years E.R. owned Squirrel, he never showed him. He was mainly used to breed to his own mares. Squirrel wasn't a very popular stallion to outside people when he was

young. He threw mostly palomino, buckskin and a few chocolate foals. Squirrel's foals usually made bigger horses than him. When he became old, E.R. bred Squirrel for free to a few outside mares. People became interested in breeding to him after they saw the quality of his prodigy.

Squirrel began showing his age around 27. At that time, his teeth became bad and he began to lose flesh. E.R. bought special feed for older horses and ground up Squirrel's hay. Squirrel died in March of 2002. E.R. found him dead in the lot behind the barn. It looked like he had just dropped off his feet, no sign of a struggle.

Squirrel had not been sick, and other than being thin had been up and about. E.R. bred him up until a day or two before he died. His death was unexpected.

E.R. owns about a half a dozen foals sired by Squirrel. He has sold the rest. The Davis family currently stands two stallions sired by Squirrel. They are "Something Special" a chocolate stallion and "Squirrel Too" a black stallion who looks an awful lot like his sire.

Report From The Harrisburg Expo

by Joyce Doonan

We set out Thursday for the HARRISBURG EXPO in a blizzard which, unfortunately, was also headed north. On one interstate bridge, solid ice covered the pavement. We were just starting to cross when the trailer began to come up along side the truck. The truck itself was starting to face the guard rail. All the while, we continued our forward motion across the bridge. I prayed all the way. Will held the wheel steady. As the bridge ended, the wheels caught traction and the truck straightened. "Hold on boys!" Will called to the horses as the trailer snapped into place behind the truck. Will, a former truck driver took it all in stride. I found it hard to catch my breath.

The storm continued with us, turning the whole world white. The day ended, but night had a hard time turning all that

white to dark. At last, only the lights of the traffic were visible in the swirling snow. The most welcome were the flashers on the sand trucks. We could follow them in the freshly plowed and salted lane they left in their wake. However, they traveled slowly. Inevitably, we had to pass the sander. Every few miles there were hazard flashers and flares from the trucks and cars that skidded off the road. One tractor trailer had gone through the guard rail and smashed into a grove of trees. The cab was doubled back against the trailer. I said a prayer for the driver. Tow trucks with bright orange flashers were everywhere. Police cars flashed red and blue, but the most ominous lights were those of the ambulances. A six hour drive took nine! We were grateful to see the lights of Harrisburg appear!

The facility was new, clean and spacious. I set up the booth while Will got the horses settled in. Directly across from us was the Rocky Mountain booth with a sign that explained their stallion was not coming due to the weather.

Not too many people on Friday, yet there was always a cluster of people at our booth watching the MPHA video on the monitor and marveling at the calmness of our stallion on display. Saturday was so crowded, there was barely space to walk. Cyd Blakeslee and several other MPHA members came

with cards and photos of their horses for sale.

I was thrilled to see Joe Bunk and Kitty Pullen arrive. Since they bought a Mountain Pleasure gelding from us, they have become great friends and MPHA promoters. They helped with the booth and kept Sundancer clean and shining. Joe stood

with the stall door open, letting folk walk in to greet Sundancer. He would lower his head for the kids to pet him. Further down Stallion Row was another mountain horse. They too, opened the stall to let their horse interact with the crowd. Only the two mountain horses could do that.

The breeder demonstrations were pretty simple, just Will on Sundancer gliding around the arena. Yet the crowd was impressed as neither the applause nor the pops of the



flash bulbs bothered Sundancer. They couldn't understand why Will didn't bounce. That is such a powerful draw! People kept coming by our booth to ask there was no bounce! The gelding we brought for sale had never been inside before. The only place for a test drive was the long corridor between the arenas and the barn. There were fork lifts, golf carts, soda machines, people, other horses, announcements - all sorts of confusion. He bravely gaited down the hall and up the hall without missing a lick. People started asking, "What kind of horse is that?" One man wanted to buy him, but he had already won the hearts of the family who was test riding him. We accepted their deposit. The public loves these horses! All we have to do to promote them is to find places where they can interact with people. To be able to pet a breeding stallion, or put your child on his back, or be a stranger and pick up a hoof. To see a frightened horse gamely gait down a crowded noisy corridor, never missing a beat makes people say, "I want a horse like that!"

The acoustics were terrible, but the same conditions which made the announcer painfully loud amplified our Mountain Pleasure Horse's gait until that marvelous rhythm sang out along the hallway. The public loves to watch the flashy breeds, but they want to RIDE a safe horse, a sane horse, a FUN horse.

Equine Affaire

The Mountain Pleasure Horse Association was well represented in Columbus, Ohio. I would like to thank each and every one that helped at the expo. The members that attended were Jerry Allen Murphy, his wife and son; Don Gabbard; James Murrell; Richard Terry; Karl Schnider (Sr. and Jr.); Rob and Cyd Blakeslee; Ron McLaughlin, and his wife; and Gwen Smith, and her husband; and Gordon Rife.

Our booth was staffed all day by members answering questions and passing out booklets of information on the MPHA.

I would like to thank Pollyanna Shouse on the hard work she did on putting together a new information booklet on the MPHA. Everyone that picked one up and read it said how nice

it was. We had enough horses on hand that no horse had to stay in the breed stall no more than two hours a day.

Our breed demo was Saturday, April 12 at 9:45 a.m. Again, we were well represented, six horses under saddle and one in hand. There was a fairly large crowd on hand and we were well received.

I would like to let all members know the dates for next year's Equine Affaire will be March 25-28, 2004. We need everyone to get involved and help in any way that you can.

Again, I would like to personally thank each and everyone that helped at Equine Affaire 2003. Without member participation the expo would not have been the success it was.



The Love of Horses Through Paintings



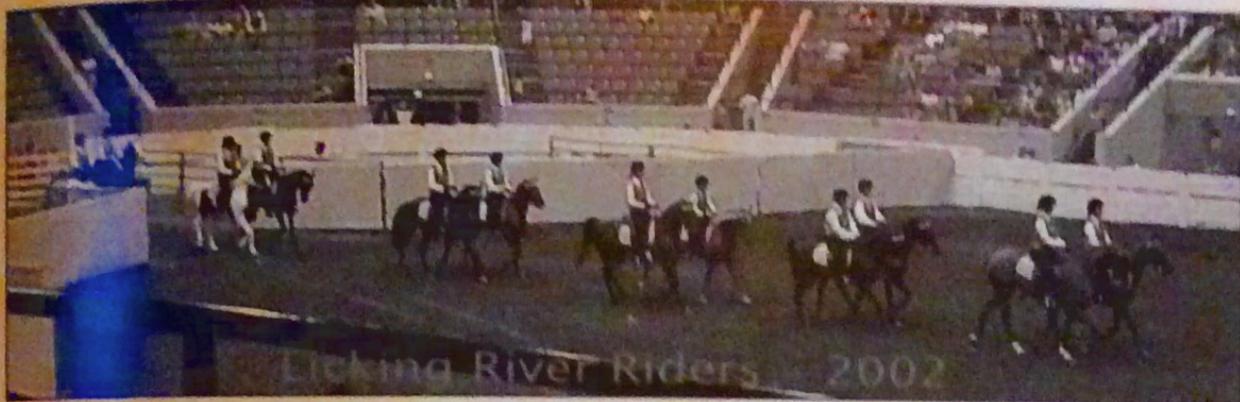
Joyce Doonan of Woodwind Farms likes to paint horses as well as ride them. She painted the mural on the side of her barn at Woodwind Farms located in Wytheville, Virginia. Her REAL horses stand next to it, as if they were part of the herd.



Joyce also paints horses on her husband's (Will Ferguson) race car. These are pictures of a couple of hoods she has painted for his car. The models for the hoods are some of Woodwind's horses.

Licking River Riders Drill Team

by Robin Ratliff



The Licking River Riders, 4-H precision mounted drill team, is getting ready for the 2003 season. They have begun practicing and have already completed one demo at the UMH Spring Classic in Morehead on 3/29/03 to a very enthusiastic crowd of on-lookers.

The squad consists of all gaited horses and includes 5 registered Mountain Pleasure Horses. They are the only all gaited juvenile 4-H team in Kentucky and routinely competes with non-gaited performance horses.

The group performed demonstrations for the UMH World Show, Edgewood Estates (aka Menifee Co. Nursing Home), J&E Charity Horse Show and the Mountain Pleasure Horse Association Fall Classic last year. They placed 4th overall at State 4-H competition in Louisville last July. They also participated in local parades.

The team was greeted enthusiastically at every event, and would like to sincerely thank everyone who supported them in 2002 and donated money for the raffle saddle. The lucky winner of the Steele plantation saddle, generously donated by Custom Saddle Co., was Maye Carter of Florida. The drawing was held 9/7/02 at the MPHA Fall Classic.

The all juvenile squad consists of team members: Sam Simpson (co-captain) and Ricky Estee (Bath Co.), Jenna Ratliff (captain), Christy James, Jessica Oakley, Tiffiney Smith and Coty Back (Menifee Co.), Andie Rogers, Chelsea and Ty Amburgey, Sarah Pierce and Ashley Taulbee (Montgomery Co.), and Emily Beibenhouser (Rowan Co.). There are four associate members. Matt Jackson (Montg. Co.), Ashleigh Willis (Bath Co.) and Mary Kelley Tucker (Clark Co.).

If anyone would like to request a demonstration for their 2003 event or wishes to support the Drill team, please contact Coach Robert Simpson (606)768-6902 or e-mail kymbartus@yahoo.com.

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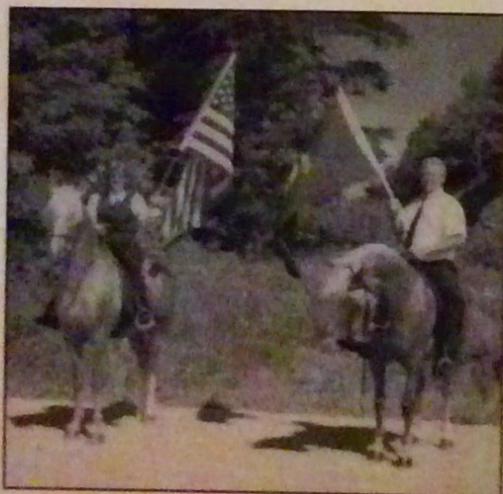
My Love of Horses



Hello, my name is Ladyhorse/Mary. The most important things in my life are GOD, because of his love. I have my family, friends, and my HORSE (Lady). I've loved horses since I can remember. The first one the Pegus...when I was wee little. The second was my friend Brenda's. That horse seemed so huge to me and bigger after it stepped on my foot, causing me great pain, but I never stopped loving and admiring those wonderful animals. Then I became a grown woman with a family, and we got our first horse, Thunder (an old mountain horse from Eastern Kentucky). Well, Thunder was old, blind in one eye and retired. We loved him and rode him often, BUT we had a friend get on him first, because he always threw the first one on. Well time came and went and we found a new horse and her name is "Coal Miners Daughter". We called her "Lady". She's 15.3", 5 years old and I love her so. Although she's shy around her head, and I have no real

experience with horses, I believe this is going to be a friendship that will last forever. Lady is a big horse (to me) and I'm so gentle to her. Then a friend told me, yes, always love your horse, but she needs to know who is in charge. Well, I thought I was, then I realized after being taught that a hand movement or certain moves tells a horse more than kisses do, although they never hurt. You can teach a horse a lot, but IT'S GREAT that we are learning together. I've had her since January of this year and worked with her. One of those times a friend I'd meet told me that a horse has manners just like people. They can be good or bad, depends on who or what they are taught. Well, that was news to me. I also didn't know you could stop them from being spooked. I am always amazed at all I don't know about these wonderful animals. In closing, I liked to add thanks to my family, Paula the lady I bought Lady from, and my friend Richard.

Mountain Pleasure Horses Lead The Way!!



Sarah Rose Nickell riding Goldfingers Star and Wheeler Vance riding Rocky Point Q. lead the way in the Wolfe Co. John Swift Silver Mine Festival Parade 2002.

The Magazine Committee would like to invite our members to be a part of what goes in this magazine.

If you would like to do an article, submit pictures, have positive comments, would like to place an ad for your farm or your horse, or tell others what you are doing with your Mountain Pleasure Horses, please contact:

Pollyanna Shouse

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E-mail: pshouse@mrtc.com

Your input is greatly appreciated!

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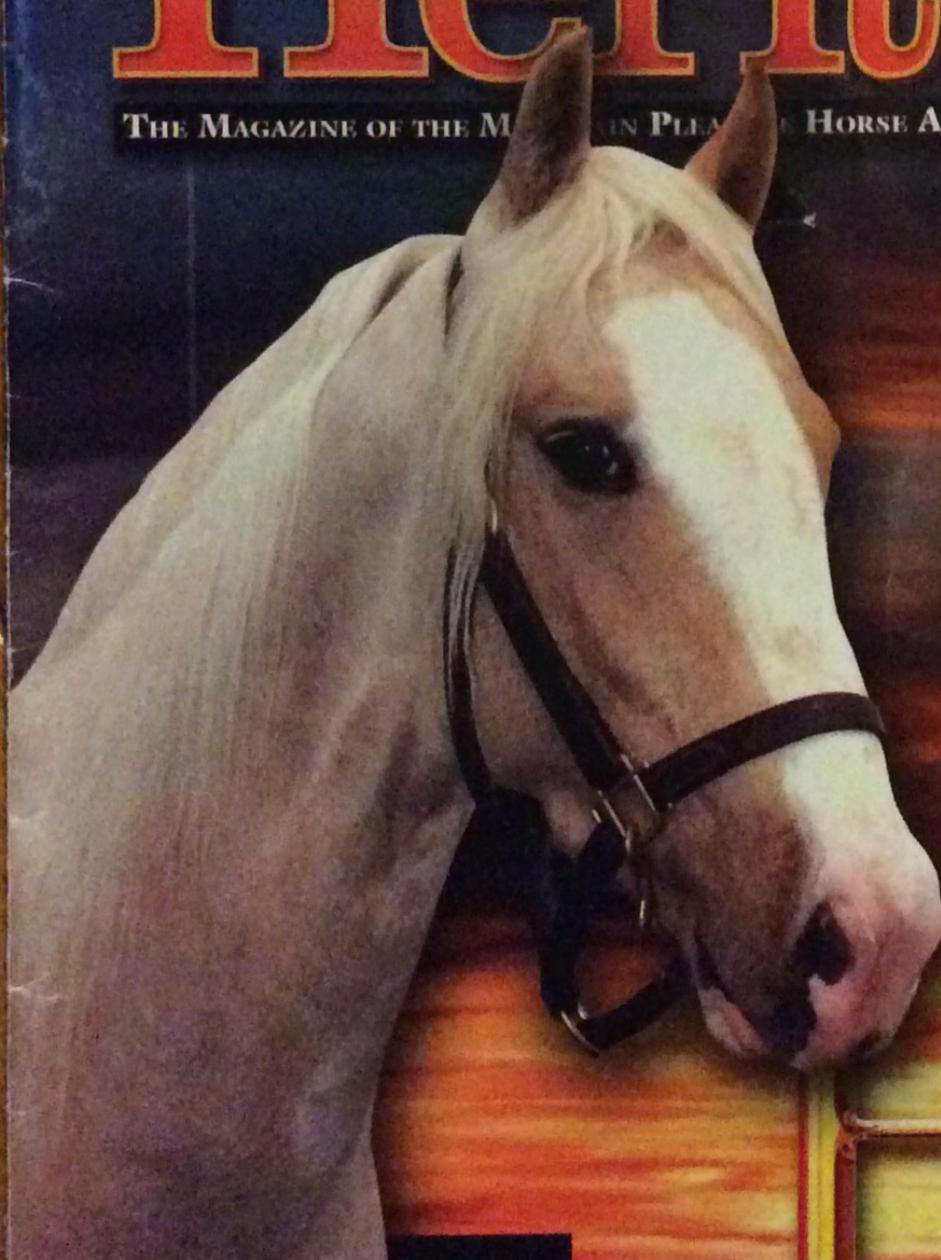
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THE MAGAZINE OF THE MOUNTAIN PLEASURE HORSE ASSOCIATION

Vol. 8 #3



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Phantom Foal at MorningStar Farm

You've got a mare in foal and the due date is approaching. What other event on the farm triggers more anticipation and excitement? Nothing that I can think of - and those feelings intensify with each sleep-deprived night that you spend keeping an eye on your mare.

We were expecting this foal the third week in March and by late winter I was wishing we had bred our mare, Rusty Lady, for April or even May. March in the snow belt of Pennsylvania

often bears no resemblance whatsoever to spring. By the middle of the month, we were still clutched in the grip of an exceptionally cold and snowy winter.

We were more than a little thankful for a handy bit of technology we had invested in a couple years ago: an inexpensive security camera that, mounted above our foaling stall, transmits a clear video to a small monitor that sits on my dresser. We had set it up a couple weeks before the due date,

making sure the camera angle and lighting were just right. With this surveillance system in place, we can observe the mare's activities from our warm bed without having to pull insulated Carhart's over pajamas for nightly trips to the barn. Of course, you don't learn a thing from those personal visits anyway, unless you happen to walk in just as your mare lays down to foal. Being a light sleeper, I figured I would get to know Rusty's night-time routine

and have a pretty good idea when she was getting ready to deliver. And the monitor gave me some "Reality TV" to watch on those nights when I tended toward insomnia.

Now, Rusty had presented us with a nice colt a couple years earlier. I spotted it, dry and numbing her udder, on a sunny June morning. She had met me at the gate earlier that morning, thumping her bucket hungrily. While she munched her grain, I had given her a

quick once-over, took the situation of impending birth and went back indoors to do some house cleaning. Five more times I looked out, and two hours later Rusty was a new mama. So I wasn't surprised when I lifted my head off the pillow and staring around 3 a.m. spotted at the monitor and saw her standing proudly with a brand new foal at her side.

I poked my husband awake saying, "Well there it is, she's got a little black baby! We both peered with sleepy eyes at Rusty and her tall, leggy foal. It stood straight and erect and had pretty little ears with tips that curved inward. Our strong, healthy foal had arrived and it was solid black, just what I had hoped for. Working to focus my sleepy eyes, I noticed the foal was standing still as a statue, not moving at all. That did not seem strange because Rusty was also standing motionless.

The reality check came as I awakened fully. I realized that what I was seeing was not a foal at all. The light I had mounted above the stall was making perfect miniature shadows of Rusty's legs. Another shadow playing against her side made the body and head of the black foal standing beside her. It was incredible that the combination of shadows had created the silhouette of a perfect foal with long legs and such a perfectly shaped little head that Hob and I both believed we were looking at a real foal. We marveled briefly at the phenomenon and as I drifted back to sleep I wondered if, some morning, we would even remember that we had seen this phantom foal.

We did remember, and had a good laugh about it.

Rusty continued to shape up for foaling and the weather continued to be wintery. On March 21 at about 9:30 p.m., a couple hours after the white-out squalls and 40 mph winds of a late-winter blizzard had finally subsided, Rusty laid down and got up a couple times. Hob and I were watching the PBR and the barn camera. We pulled on our insulated coveralls and Hob headed for the barn while I grabbed my camera and bucket of foaling

supplies. I arrived just as Rusty Lady delivered a new colt with a white blaze. He was up and standing in no time, but as he trotted to the 10-gallon bucket in the barn was truly in danger. We stayed with him for a couple hours, waiting until the colt seemed that he was plumbin' worked and that Rusty delivered the placenta.

When this colt arrived, the white blaze was just what I needed for the colt. I was so happy to have a white blaze on the colt that I called him "White Blaze". He was a white blaze foal, drifting off to sleep.

By the way, the colt was named "White Blaze". He was a white blaze foal, drifting off to sleep.

Coming Events

July 4 Weekend

Owingsville Horse Show

September 11

World Show in Owingsville

The World Show in Owingsville will coincide with an agricultural fair this year.

The Mail Bag

I have recently lost my beloved horse and am looking for a replacement, after plenty of research for the right breed, the mountain pleasure horse ticks all the right boxes. The only problem is, is that I live in the UK. Are these fantastic horses only bred in America? Would they be suitable for the UK and is there anywhere in Britain I can take a look at this horse? If you can answer any of these questions I have or point me in the right direction I would be grateful. Thank you for your time in this matter.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs. Julia Barr

Helin,
I am creating a Equine related web directory - <http://www.the-sports-arena.com/Equine/> - and I would like to include your website <http://www.mtn-pleasure-horse.org/>.

You can submit your site's information here: <http://www.the-sports-arena.com/Equine/Form.html>.

A reciprocal link from your site would be appreciated. This is my linking code: `Equine` - Equine - `Equine` - directory of Equine related websites </code>

Thank you,
Thomas Lowe,
webmaster@the-sports-arena.com

On The Web

Visit the Mountain Pleasure Horse Association Website at:

www.mtn-pleasure-horse.org

Kentucky's
Heritage



At our website you will find contact information for the breeders of this fine breed, Association bylaws and registration information, trail ride photos from members, event schedules, online horse registry, and lots of other great links to information about the Mountain Pleasure Horse.

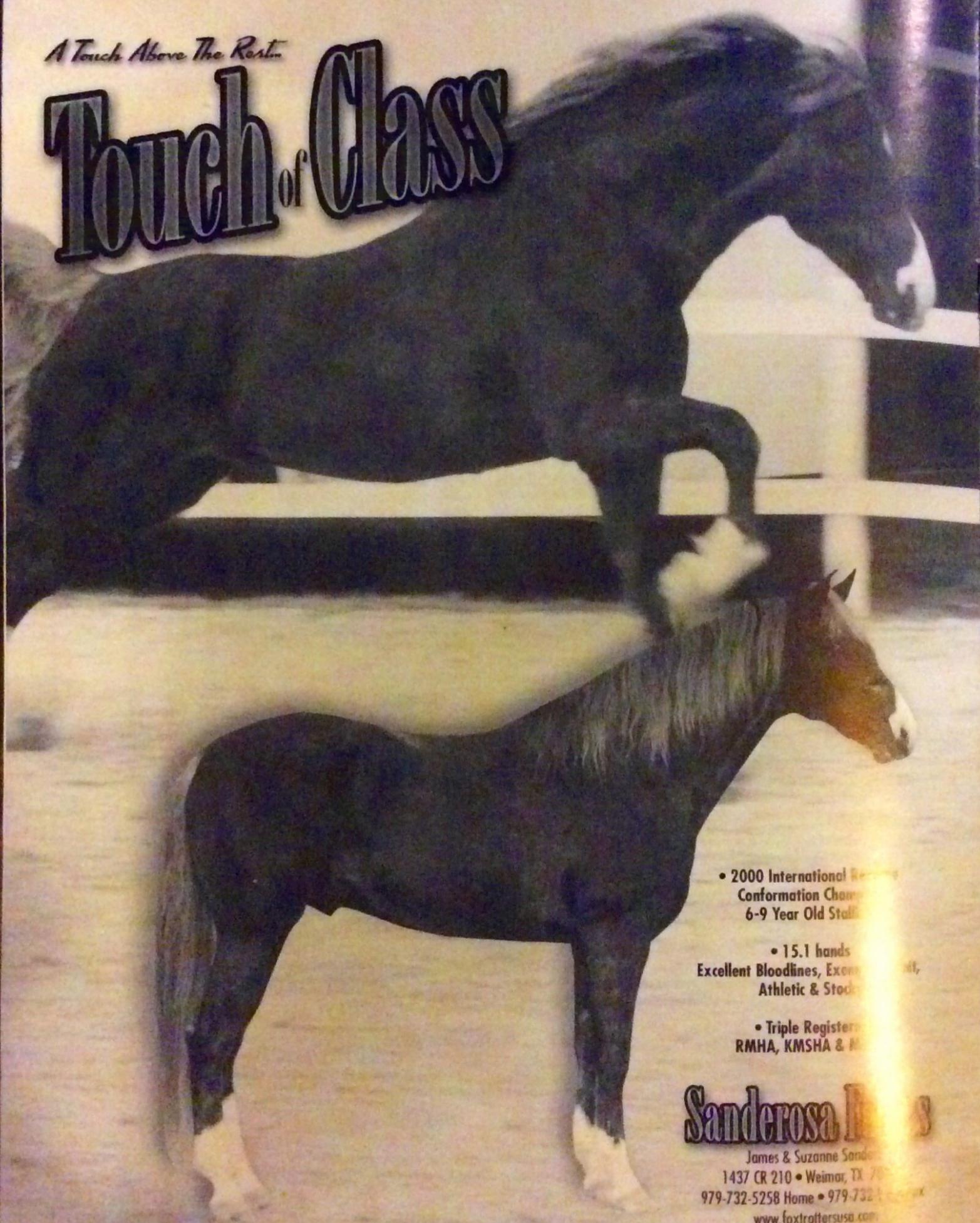
For direct inquires into the website or for information about how to advertise on the Mountain Pleasure Site contact the board or our webmaster at Richardroe@mls.net

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Mountain Pleasure Horse Association - a link will see all website pages

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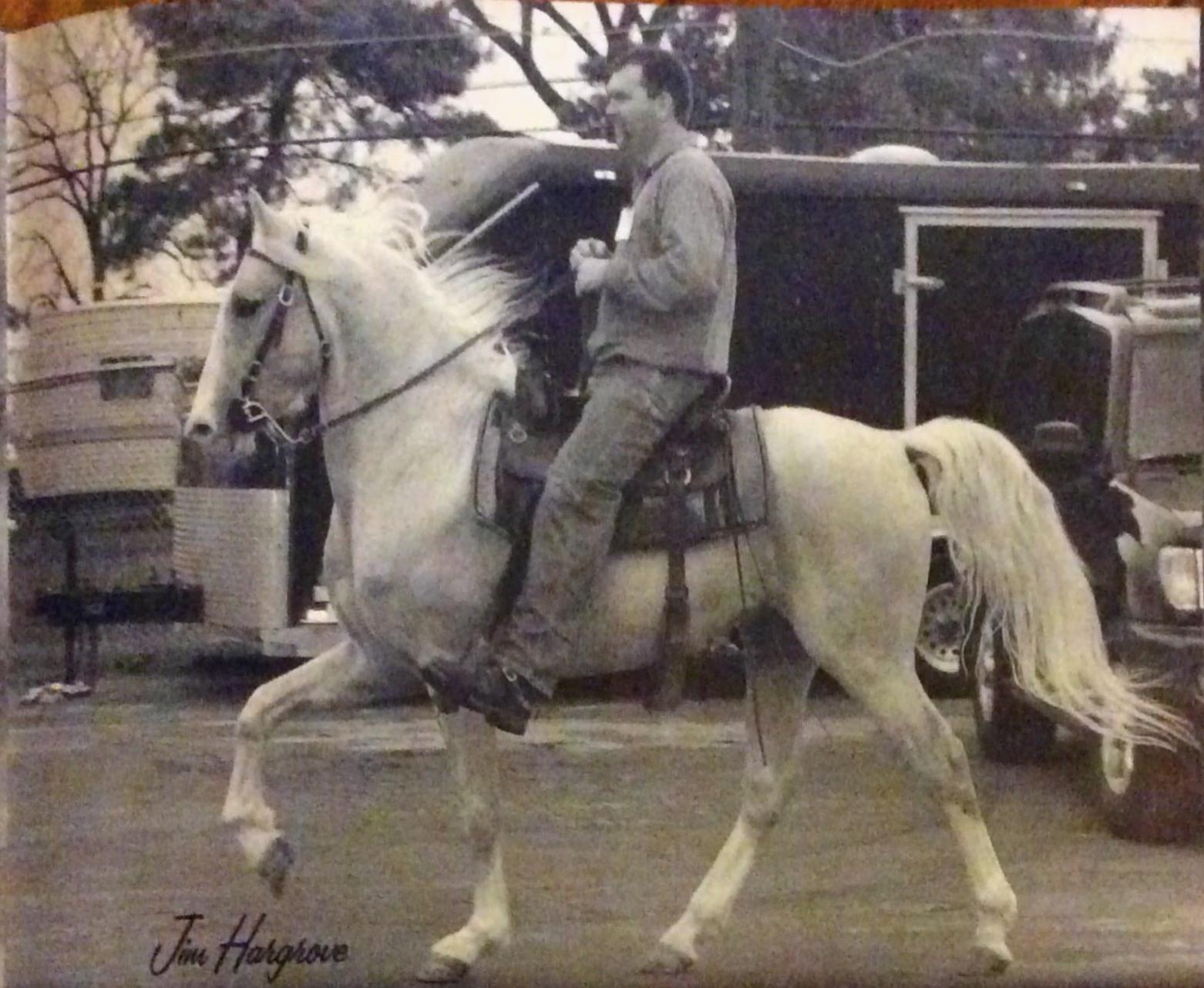
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Jim Hargrove

Mike Spradlin rides Hot Gold outside the Gilligan Building in Columbus, Ohio.

MPHA at Equine Affaire

On March 25, people of all ages, horse lovers, horse owners, and a lot of want-to-be horse owners attended the Equine Affaire in Columbus, OH. On March 26, people were swarming. By March 27, the grounds at the Ohio Expo center were packed. People had traveled from everywhere to witness what was billed as the nation's premiere equine exposition and equestrian gathering. Total attendance was 117,000. The event was filled with all types of horse related items. There were representatives from most all retailers and suppliers of tack, boots, clothes, barns, and some other more eccentric items.

This was the first year for the breed pavillion to be in the Voinovich Building. The breed pavillion was set aside to educate the people about some of the different breeds. The Mountain Pleasure Horse was well represented in the breed pavillion with a booth, packed with information, magazines, and brochures. There was a stall located beside the booth where the horses were rotated, so that people were able to see the beauty of each individual horse, and also the beauty of the breed. We had four horses to represent the Mountain Pleasure Horse. They were Gobles's General, Tom Thumb,

and 3-C's Stone Cold, all owned by Gary Cambell, and Hot Gold owned by Mike Spradlin. These horses performed great in the breed demonstration on Friday morning. We had a very good crowd, and the announcer did a stand up job of reading the script about the Mountain Pleasure Horse. The breed demonstration created an immediate rush at the breed booth.

The association was very well recieved by all the visitors that stopped by. We passed out boxes and boxes of magazines, and brochures, and talked about the Mountain Pleasure Horse to so many people. Some who already knew about the Mountain Pleasure Horse, and some who were amazed at their new discovery.

It is my goal for next year, April 7-10, that the Mountain Pleasure Horse has a much larger participation in the number of horses and owners. If we begin planning now, I think we can show the world about the Mountain Pleasure Horse. Anyone who is interested in participating in the Equine Affaire or other events can contact Mike Spradlin or Gordon Riffe.



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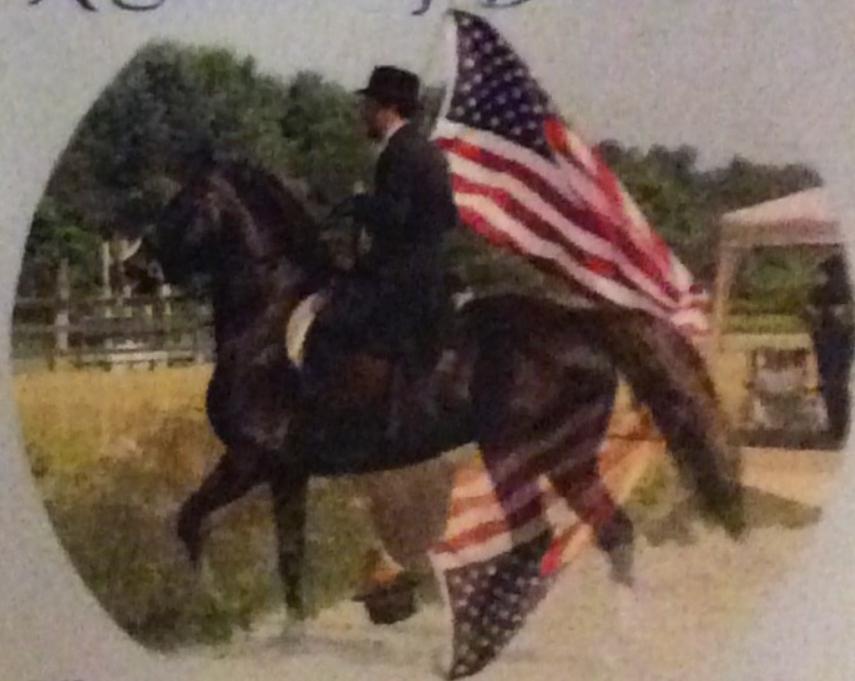
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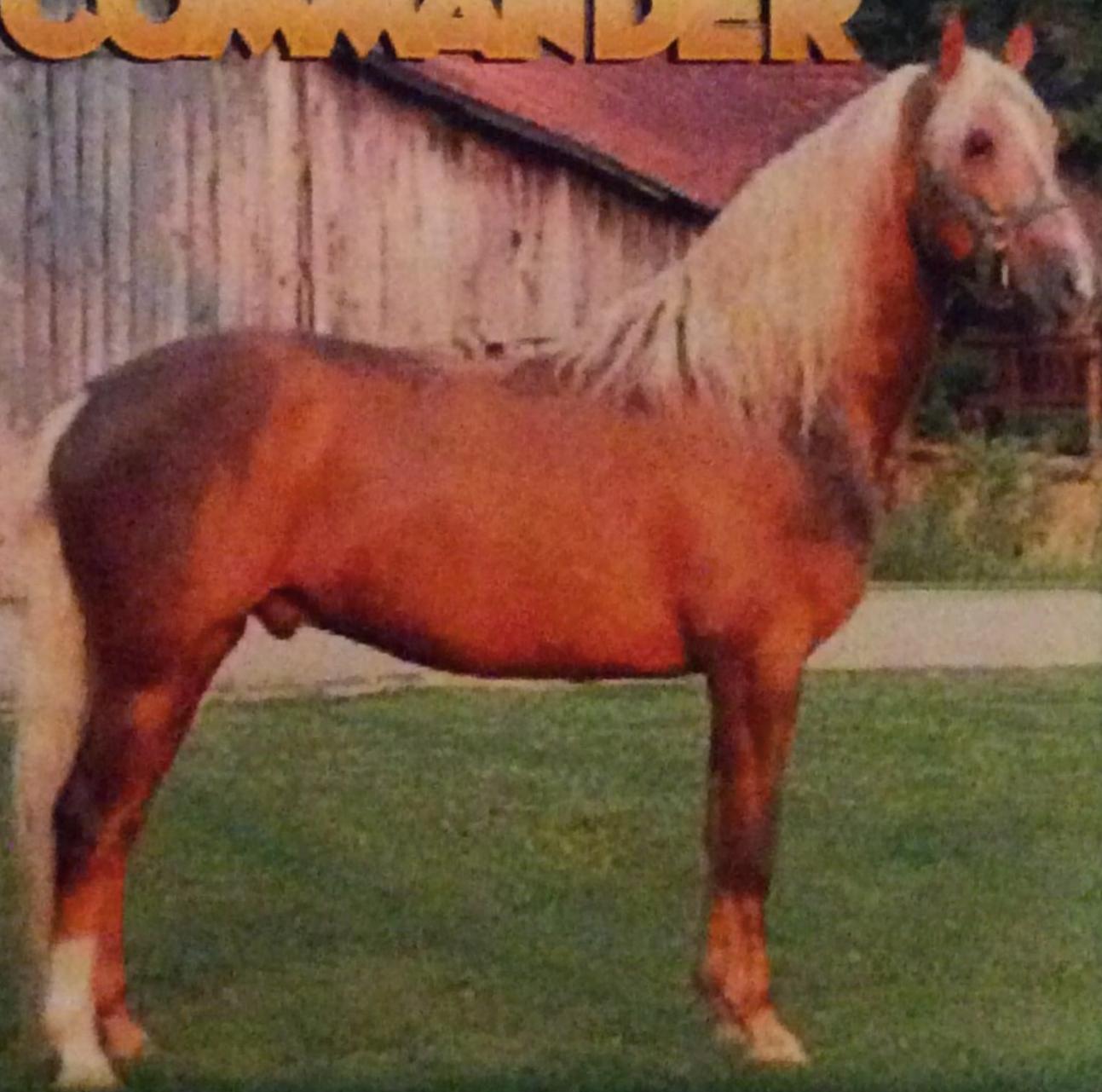
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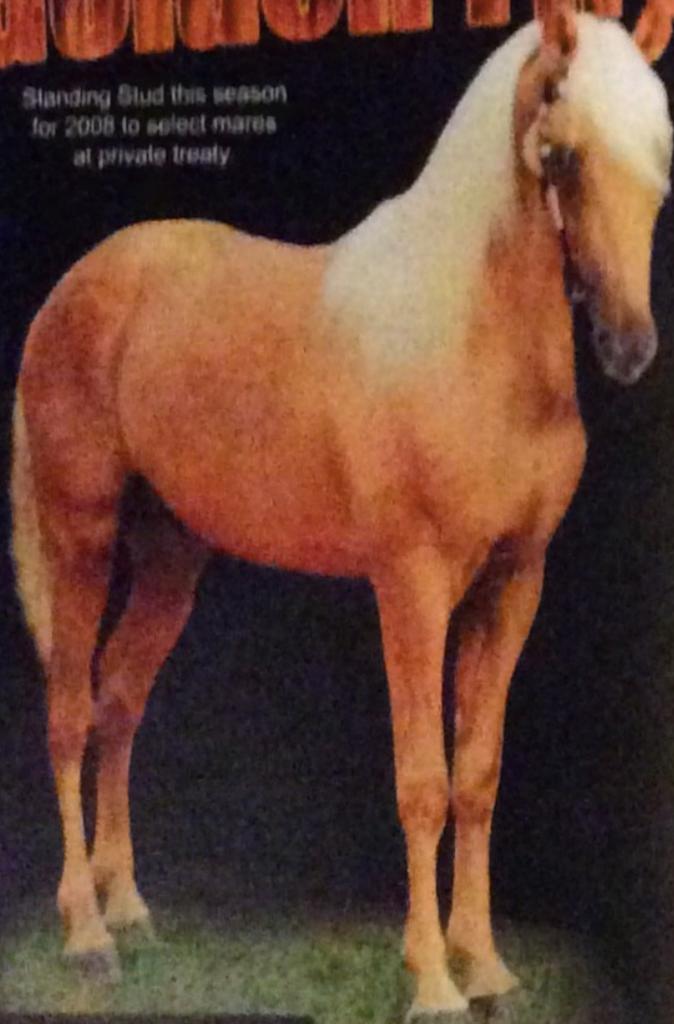
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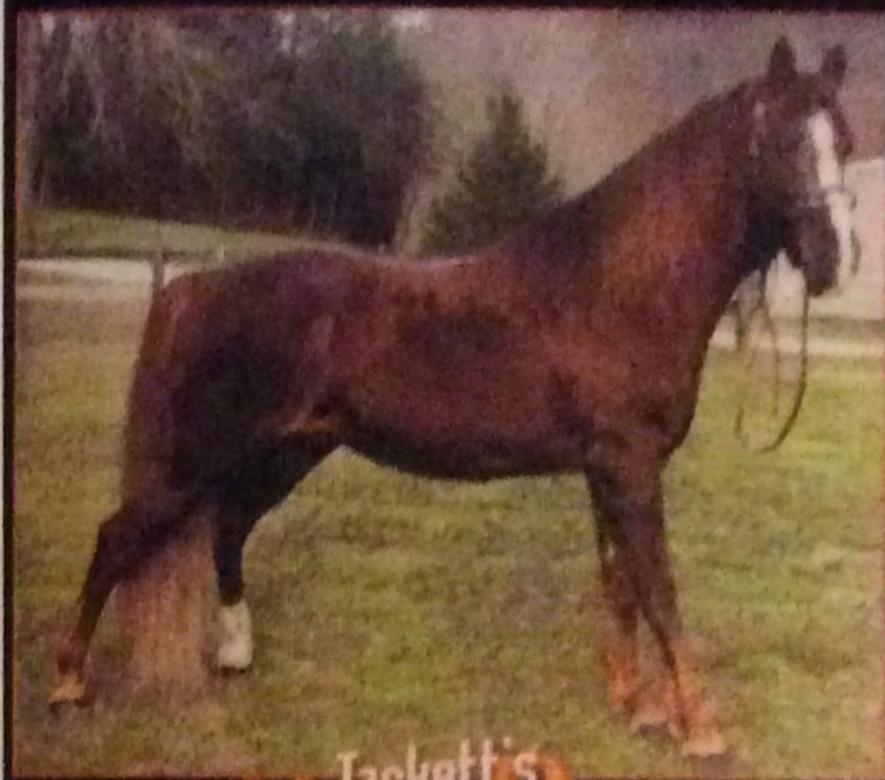
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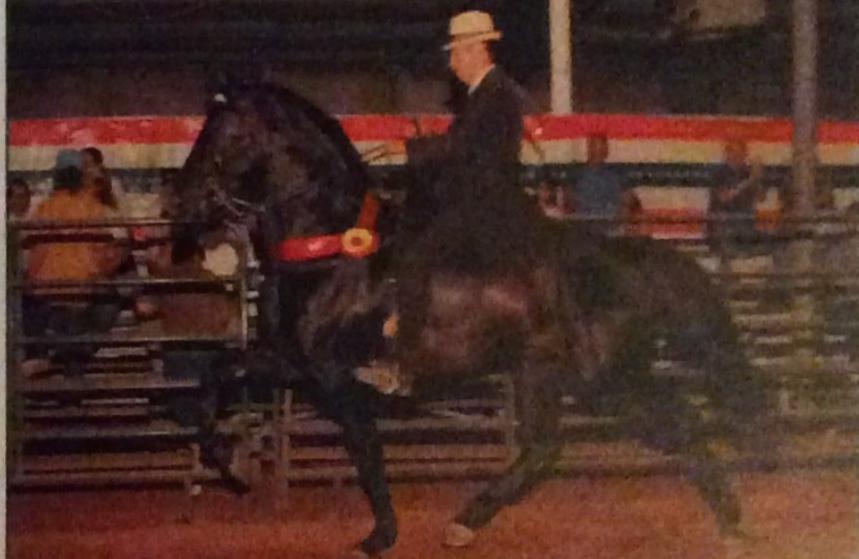
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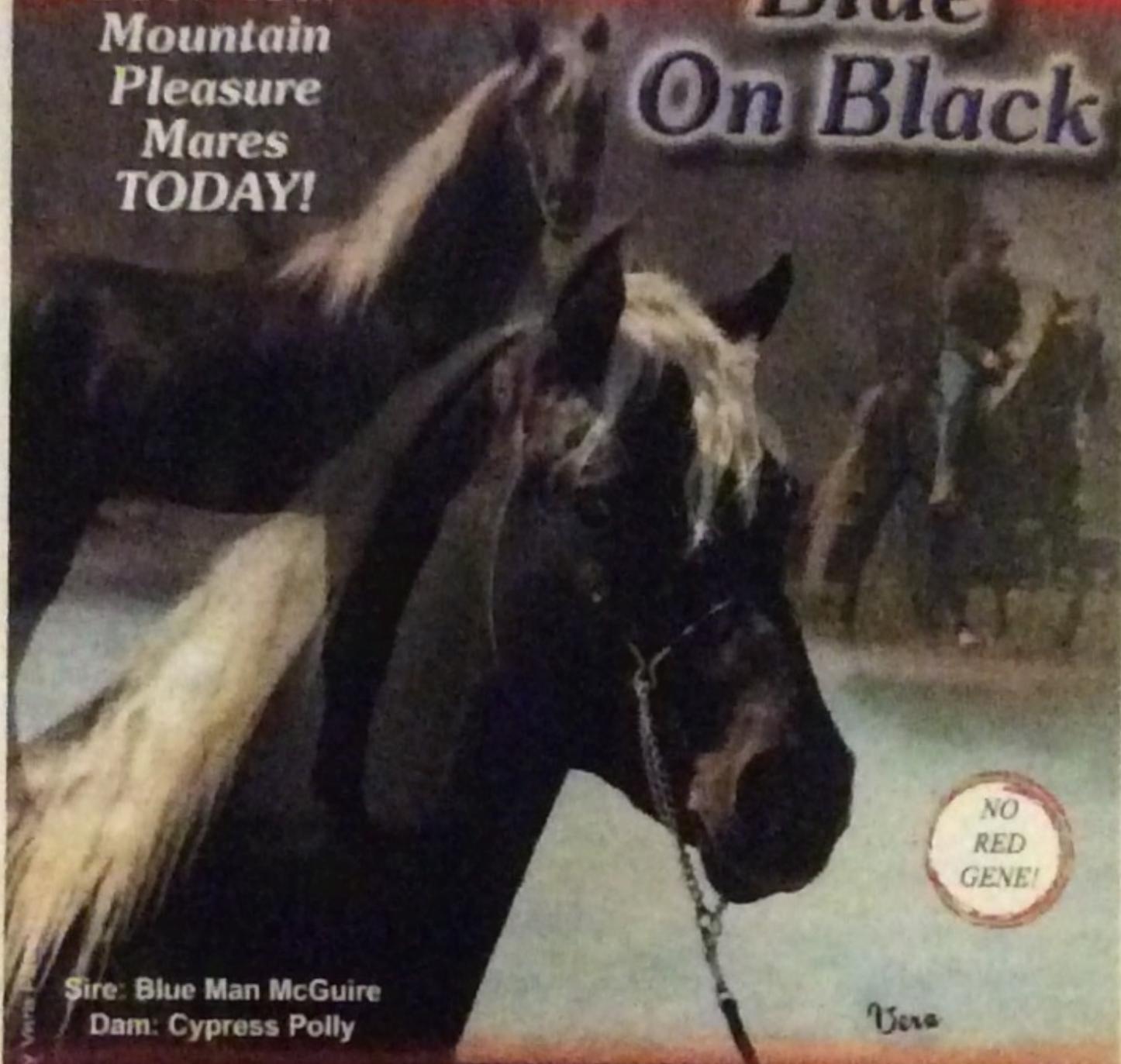
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