

MPHA Senior Salute

Yankee Ragtime • Foaled: 1971

Owner: Jennifer Bush of Jacob, Illinois

Yankee, also known as Yankee Ragtime, is the last remaining son of Tobe, the progenitor of the Rocky Mountain Horse Breed. He is also the last stallion that Mr. Sam Tuttle personally stood as stud. Yankee was born and raised on Mr. Tuttle's farm in Spout Springs, Kentucky in Estill County.

At age 32, Yankee now resides on Jennifer Bush's Fair Chance Farm in St. Jacob, Illinois. She has owned him since 1991. Yankee is 15.2 hands tall and is a chocolate chestnut (which resembles bay except the legs are not black, merely darker brown) with some flax in his mane. Yankee is triple registered with the KMSHA, MPHA, and RMHA organizations.

A little about Yankee's history!

In 1974, Cecil McCall bought Yankee from Sam Tuttle as a horse for his 13-year-old daughter, Diane. Diane named this 3-year-old colt Yankee Ragtime. According to Diane, she and her father broke Yankee to ride in less than one week. On the McCall farm, Yankee remained a breeding stallion as well as being Diane's favorite riding horse. Diane says that she often rode him with just a halter and bailing twine for reins.

After Tobe's death, Yankee was sold back to Mr. Tuttle to be used as Mr. Tuttle's breeding stallion. Mr. Tuttle simply called Yankee "The Stud Horse" as he had difficulty adjusting to a name other than Tobe. Mr. Tuttle was so proud of the offspring of his stallions that he often bred local mares for no cost, just so their owners could have horses with this pleasant temperament and smooth gait. Yankee, as all of Mr. Tuttle's horses, was trained to "hop" into the cattle truck when Mr. Tuttle wanted to move the horses. Mr. Tuttle used Yankee a lot as a breeding stallion because of Yankee's good size, gentle temperament, proud head carriage and smooth "way of going".

Mr. Tuttle was very proud of Yankee. So proud in fact, that in a 1982 newspaper article in the *Estill County Citizen Voice Times* about Mr. Tuttle and his famous Spout Springs farm, Mr. Tuttle and his wife, Laura, are photographed in their yard with Mr. Tuttle's stallion, Yankee. Even though the article focused on the historic significance of the Spout Springs, later in the article, there is another photo of Mr. Tuttle playing with Yankee. The article exemplifies the gentle nature of Yankee -- "Sam, a very active 80-year-old, still gets his stallion, Yankee out every day and walks him to the Springs for a drink."

As Mr. Tuttle's health began to fail, he was no longer able to keep a stallion, so in the mid 1980's he moved Yankee to the Estill County Fairgrounds. There Yankee was cared for by others and came to be known as "The Fairground Horse". Before Mr. Tuttle died, he sold Yankee back to Diane McCall, who leased the stallion to E. R. Davis of Paris, Kentucky for several years.

In 1987, Jennifer Bush bought her first gaited horse, a mare named CHANCEY. Chancey, a daughter of Yankee, is a big chocolate mare with stunning white mane and tail. Jennifer and Chancey competed at all the MPHA and RMHA classes in Ohio, Indiana

and Kentucky. At that time, stallions, mares and geldings were all shown in one big class -- usually with 15-25 entrants. Even against stallions, Chancey almost always placed in the top four ribbons. The only other mare with this kind of success is SUNSHINE LADY, a Yankee daughter owned by Larry and Brenda Blakemore of Winchester, Kentucky. Sunshine Lady still showed at the grand old age of 17 and won!

Jennifer was so in love with this Yankee daughter, Chancey, that she wanted more mares by Yankee, but there were none to be had. It seemed that everyone wanted to keep the Yankee mares and fillies. Because Jennifer was so determined to have the Yankee line in her breeding operation, she went to E. R. Davis to see if there was a chance that he would part with Yankee. E. R. Davis made the necessary calls to Diane. (He had promised her that if he ever sold Yankee, that Diane could have him back.) Fortunately for Jennifer, Diane was in the process of moving and allowed E. R. to sell Yankee to Jennifer, because he assured Diane that Yankee would have a wonderful home. In 1990, Yankee was acquired by Jennifer Bush to be used as her primary breeding stallion preserving some of the finest of the TOBE bloodlines.

At the 3rd Annual International RMHA Show, Yankee was the Champion Aged Conformation Stallion and placed third in Aged Stallions Under Saddle. Yankee's offspring also do very well in the show ring.

Nearly 60% of the registered Yankee offspring are chocolate with flaxen mane and tail. Even more important than color, Yankee descendants are among the best natured of the Mountain Horses. They are very friendly and willing to please their people.

Sadly in 2002, Yankee was diagnosed with EPM. Although he recovered, his rear was so weakened that he is no longer able to breed. His last foal was born in 2002. Yankee still has a shiny coat and bright loving eyes. When he moves across the field, it's almost always in that famous 4-beat Mountain Horse gait. This beautiful stallion will always have a special home at Fair Chance Farm. He still oversees the daily operations of the farm from his shaded pasture along the driveway.





Licking River Riders Return With Championship From State 4-H Drill Team Competition

The Licking River Riders 4-H mounted drill team competed on July 9th 2003, at Broadbent Arena in Louisville for State Drill team honors. This was the third year for the all gaited horse drill squad. There were 10 juvenile riders and two alternates, which comprised the team. Squad members range in age from 10-18 years of age and include juveniles from Bath, Clark, Menifee, Montgomery and Rowan Counties. All three Mountain horse breeds (Mountain Pleasure, Rocky Mountain, and Ky. Mountain Saddle) were represented.

Each member of the team received a blue ribbon and belt buckle individually and placed 1st overall out of 8 excellent squads. The squad competed in the Division II category for Drill Teams (12 and under members). They exceed their goal of placing in the top three.

The squad consists of members Sam Simpson (co-captain) (Bath Co.), Mary Kelley Tucker (Clark Co.), Jenna Ratliff (Captain), Christy James, Tiffiney Smith and Coty Back (alternate) (Menifee Co.), Chelsea and Ty Amburgey, Sarah Pierce, Andie Rogers, and Ashley Taulbee (alternate) (Montg. Co.) and Emily Biebigouser (Rowan Co.).

The Licking River Riders put on a very well received demonstration of gaited horse athletic and precision abilities during their 10-minute routine, which was accompanied by lively bluegrass music.

The drill team provides demonstrations at local horse shows and parades, recently placing first in the equine division at the Mtn. Memories parade in Frenchburg. They will be performing at various horse shows and equine events this fall.

If anyone is interested in joining or supporting the LRR drill team, please contact Coach Robert Simpson

(606)768-6902, Robin Ratliff at 859-499-0545 or Michele Catlett at 859-498-0123.

We would like to congratulate these young riders on their achievements in 2003 and look forward to next year!

2003 Team Members:

Jenna Ratliff (*Captain*) riding "Rockin' R Ebony Angel", MPHA black mare

Christy James riding "Keeper" MPHA sorrel mare

Tiffiney Smith riding "Excaliber", MPHA sorrel gelding

Sam Simpson (*co-captain*) riding "Dusty", KMSH/TWH black mare

Mary Kelley Tucker riding "Star", KMSH black gelding

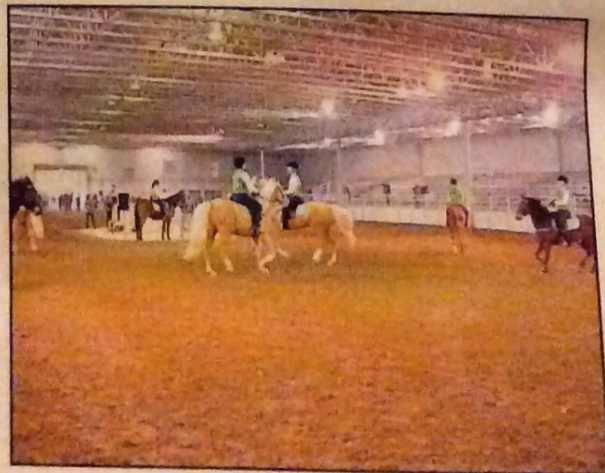
Chelsea Amburgey riding "Shaq", RMHA choc. gelding

Ty Amburgey riding "Goldfinger's Bud", MPHA palomino gelding

Sarah Pierce riding "Rowdy", KMSH black gelding

Andie Rogers riding "Dixie", KMSH bay mare

Emily Biebigouser riding "Bailey", KMSH bay gelding



Mountain Pleasure Goes to the Prom!

Mountain Pleasure horses have performed a wide variety of purposes for their owners over the years, and 2003 was no exception. On a warm, overcast night in late May, "Goldfinger's Bud", a just-turned 3 year old gelding owned by the Rockin' R farm, proudly, calmly, and safely carried his 17 years old rider to the Menifee County Prom.

Jenna Ratliff, (2000, 2001 & 2002 high point MPHA juvenile rider) rode "Bud" into her Junior Prom. To make it even more impressive, she rode into the room on an antique sidesaddle, which had been recently redone just for this occasion.

Jenna and her date, Wayne Purdue, wore matching black ensembles with zebra print trimmings. The horses wore zebra headbands and leg wraps to match. The couple won the top honor of "best entrance" to the prom, and entertained a large group of onlookers. The horses behaved perfectly even with all the excitement, noise, loud engines, mule drawn wagons and an explosion of flashbulbs. Just another example of what our MPHA horses can do!!



Jenna Ratliff on "Goldfinger's Bud"

Salute to Sires

By Rhonda Hart Poe

Without hesitation, Paul Stamper answers with absolute certainty. "It has to be disposition," he says. "Moon's most important contribution to the breed is disposition. He passes it on."

The gentle stallion was foaled June 14, 1980, representing generations of his line having been bred and raised by the Stamper family since at least the 1830s. When the Mountain Pleasure Horse registry was formed in 1989, he was registered simply as MOON, #800003. At 25 he is still overseeing his harem and pasture-breeding mares. He is 15.2 hands tall and a brilliant, red-chestnut.

Paul continues, "Well, of course he's got the gait too, that's probably the second thing he passes on". But this red horse also bestows something else to his get that some might find surprising - rich, deep, glowing, golden color. "He produces a high percentage of golden palominos with four stockings and a blaze," Paul adds. "The highest percentage of chrome of any living horse in the breed."

"But," Paul stresses, "you gotta have a brain to begin with. A lot of horses - a lot of bloodlines - don't relax until they're about ten. But these, about anybody can ride 'em. The easiest horse I've got to

break is that line right now. All they need is to get bridle-wise and you're set. Most riders are inexperienced, and you need something really, really laid back..."

Gait is good, but when you've got beautiful without brains, what have you got?

Paul Stamper

Sired by Roy Coffee's, MAJOR, MOON goes back to Roe Collin's DYNAMITE and BUCKY on his sire's side. MOON's dam is GOLDIE II, (the source of that golden color) who is by SILVER, owned by Harlan Porter, and a Nelson Francis mare.

With 129 MPHA registered foals to his credit, MOON currently has the largest number of registered offspring. However, his actual offspring may be several times that number as many of the mares he was bred to were never registered. "The offspring of these foals would be an astounding number," comments Mike Spradlin, MPHA President. And though MOON is still actively breeding, Paul has had the foresight to have the old stallion's semen collected and frozen, both with an eye towards the future and to make breedings available to mares that live too far away for live cover.

"Moon offspring have continuously



been in the winner's circle for years and always will be due to that easy flowing gait and excellent carriage," states Mike Spradlin. He owns HOT GOLD, a MOON grandson, who won the 2004 World Champion Male Halter honors, as well as his age division in halter, the buggy class (with Paul Stamper at the reins) and reserve World Champion Performance. GOLDACIOUS, a MOON son, is another up and coming young stallion. One of Paul's favorites at this time is a young stallion with the characteristic four stockings and blaze, named DON JUAN. He also has several yearlings and two-year-olds coming along.

With obvious pride, Paul goes on to reflect that Moon's most important foals have been the mares that carry on his traits. "Moon's a better producer of mares," he says, which explains why he still owns some 26 or 27 of them. "His daughters are great producers," Paul continues, "they cross well with WILSON'S BUCK, GOLDFINGER, ROMEO..." And the list goes on.

And what about the poses MOON models here? They not only showcase that amazing disposition, which seems to be made of equal parts willingness and intelligence, but Paul's long time experience in the horse business. While strolling through the pasture, with no fanfare or practice, Paul impishly grinned and asked his visitors, "You want to see something a little different?" Before we could think twice, Paul and Moon went through a litany of tricks. Duly impressed, we had to know more.

"I taught him tricks," Paul says. "I've taught hundreds of horses tricks. My father and oldest brothers did it this way." But more than for just the sake of family tradition, the reason was more pragmatic. "I'm a seventh son of a seventh son," Paul continues. "Growing up with (horse) trading, we taught horses to lay down, sit, shake hands, and all, just as a drawing card. This all started back when a good horse would bring \$100-125 and one trained to do some tricks might bring another \$150. I've always used colts, because colts bring more in the first place and a trained stud would bring the most. Plus," he grins, "I just love working with a smart horse."



Estes' Mountain Horse Farm

The and Joyce Estes - Ball Ground, Georgia

We own a small hobby farm located just outside of a rural town in North Georgia called Ball Ground. It is just a mile from 7475 and approximately 30 miles north of Atlanta. We purchased the land from my great-uncle in 1988 with the help and

I've owned gelded horses ever since! Ted, Toney, Troy (Ted's brother) and I have together owned TWB's and grown gelded horses for several years before we discovered the MPE. You see, although gelded horses are very popu-

the Estes' family. Not long after we acquired a MPEA stallion, naturally we needed we would need a MPEA mare to breed him to our girl! The summer of 2000 our search then began for that perfect mare. Since we were still very green to

KY in a good stallion. We had one of a few stallions in the area. His production was so high that she had a very nice show horse with a lot of 'Goidfinger' traits. I was so



second generation and the horses left it in April 2004. Ted and I both graduated from North Georgia College and then University in Dalton, GA. Ted received a 5th grade Georgia history at James M. Smith School located in Thomas County. He has been teaching for 8 years. I have been a System Planning Engineer at Southern Electric Membership Corporation located in Columbus, GA for 4 years.

Ted and I started in 1988 and have had a dream of owning our own land with a barn and pasture for our horses. That dream was realized when we scored here last year. Being that our place is all very new, we still are in the process of getting the pasture better established and more feeding built.

Our great up with horses. My father, Toney, has always been a lover of gelded horses. He raised Ted and his two brothers several horses. They occasionally did their own thing and bred horses. They owned both registered and grade horses over the years. Since last spring been a large part of Ted's life.

Since my family didn't own horses, I was with a truly dream of them as a child. It didn't just be great when I worked as nearby stationer little in my job. When I was 14 years old, my parents bought me my first horse. He was a 10-year-old brown TWB stallion. That year, I had not experienced the joy of riding a gelded horse. The stationer worked and rode at our local, unregistered, horse.

in Georgia, the MPE is almost non-existent in this area. Our first MPE was our stallion, Meadow Creek Farm. He is the son of Crown's Revolution Gold and Miracle. We call him, "Boss." Ted sold his last TWB in search of a similar gelded mare, something gelded horse that what we could find in the more common gelded breeds. Ted's uncle, Jerry Stewart, had been involved with the Mountain Horse for several years. At the time, he owned Boss who was going on 2 years old. We were very impressed with the dark chestnut, worky-bred young gelded that was broken to work and ride.

Not only was he very gelded, he was the most sensible young gelded we'd ever been around. The purchase of Boss was the beginning of a MPE trend for

the MPEs, we had to find someone who knew first hand about the bloodlines and history of them. Ted and Toney took a couple of days to drive around KY to find our mare. You can say that we "struck gold" when they came up on S&W Station in St. Sterling, KY. Not only did they introduce us to the horses



Goidfinger bloodline, they shared with us many first-hand stories on the history of the MPE. I'll never forget the night Ted called me from

started talking about her twin brother. We had kept in contact with the Wattenbergers at S&W and knew they still had Goidfinger's Andy on their farm. The one reason we didn't buy him with Annie is that we thought we didn't need another stallion and were would hate to geld a son of Goidfinger. Nature took care of that for us when it was discovered that he was a naturally born gelding, most likely a defect of being a twin. So in March 2004, back to KY we went to get Andy.

Now, we have 2 registered and certified MPEA horses. We prize all of them very much. Our stallion, Meadow Creek Boss, will be 4 years old in May. He is a very sensible, easy to handle stallion both in breeding and riding. We use him extensively for trail riding. He is consistently

riding. He is consistently ridden with both mares and geldings and has never presented to us a problem with them. We love our stallion for the gentle, perfectly gained, smart and beautiful horse that he is.

The Goidfinger twins will be 4 years old in June. Good Lord willing we will finally be able to breed Boss to Annie this season as we had planned when we started our endeavor. We HIGHLY anticipate this fall! With Boss's excellent temperament and Annie's incredibly smooth gait and class, we cannot wait to see the foal from this breeding. Andy is the gentle, sweet, instinctive trail horse that we look for in a gelding. We feel very, very fortunate to own these rare twins. They are both truly prizes to ride, own and just look at!

Ted and I both love training our horses ourselves. When time and weather permits, you will find one or both of us either on the back of a horse or ground working one. We spend many hours on the trails nearby and even some not so nearby. Ted primarily does our showing as well.

In addition to training, shoeing and taking care of the horses, Ted has taken up saddle making. He has completed 2 beautiful western saddles and countless breast collars, saddlebags, and bridles. Right now, he is working on making a parade saddle for me.

In addition to the MPEA horses, we still own one TWB mare and her weanling filly. As for the rest of the Estes' family, Toney owns a palomino weanling colt by Short's Gold Mine. Troy now owns a 3-year-old palomino mare by the legendary Moon.

Ted and I share a common goal to spread the word of the MPE to the people of Georgia. Good gelded trail horses are very popular in Georgia. We hope more and more people will realize the outstanding, versatile gelded horse called the Mountain Pleasure Horse. Since our farm is only a hobby farm, we do not publicly advertise our stallion at stud. We primarily use him for breeding to our mares. However, anyone interested in breeding to him can feel free to contact us for more information. We gladly welcome anyone to come down and visit us or stop in if you are in the area!

We can be reached at:
Ted and Joyce Estes
5008 Conns Creek Road
Ball Ground, GA 30107
(770) 840-1201
tjestes@tds.net





Mountain Pleasure Horses Hit the Expo Trail

Mountain Pleasure Horses Do Harrisburg!

Harrisburg, PA isn't usually a great destination in February. Typically, winter throws one last blast right about then. But when Rob and I learned that there would be a chance for Mountain Pleasure Horses to put on daily breed demos at this year's Horse World Expo, nothing about a major road clogging blizzard would have kept us from traveling "over the mountain" to the eastern side of our home state to help promote our breed. This opportunity has been a long time coming and we weren't about to miss it.

Will Ferguson and Joyce Doonan have represented Woodwind Farm and MPHA at this expo for several years. Their stallion, Sundancer, has always been a popular attraction on stallion row. But more horses are needed to get on the schedule for daily breed demos, and the horses and riders coming up from KY were going to help make that possible.

So we sent in our paperwork, made our reservations and on February 24, we loaded

our mare and set out early, hoping to reach Harrisburg before the predicted snow storm hit. We beat it by only a few minutes! I have to commend Will and Joyce, of Wytheville, VA, and MPHA president, Mike and his wife, April, and Jon Smith of South Shore, KY who traveled THROUGH the storm, over treacherous highways with precious horses in tow.

The expo was packed, as always, and the MPHA breed booth was a popular spot. Sundancer and Mountain Romeo each took their turns on Stallion Row, the MPHA video played non-stop and those of us who brought horses, along with Joe and Kitty Bunk visited with the steady stream of visitors, answering lots of questions about our breed of horses. Kids lined up to pet the gentle stallions. We gave out hundreds of copies of "Heritage" and the brand new MPHA brochures.

At this expo, the breeds have an opportunity to put on a demo each day. Representing the MPHA were Will Doonan riding Sundancer, Mike Spradlin riding Mr. Cody's Color of Gold, April Spradlin riding Rastus, Jon Smith riding Mountain Romeo and Rob Blakeslee riding

Rusty Lady Will and Sundancer thrilled a number of children as he strolled along the arena rail, stopping to invite the kids to lean over and pet the gentle stallion.

There was also an unexpected opportunity to promote the MPH when Lis Graves asked me to ride our mare, Rusty Lady in one of her clinics. I jumped at this chance, even though it meant Rusty would have to miss the final breed demo. Lis draws a good crowd and we felt it would be beneficial to have her there, not to mention fun for me, too. We shared the arena with several fine Tennessee Walkers, Spotted Saddle Horses and a Faso Fino. When Ms. Graves invited me into the center of the arena to demonstrate Rusty Lady's gait, she announced to the audience that this mare was an excellent example of a mountain horse moving out in the gait they were bred to perform.

It was very satisfying to head for home knowing the MPH had finally had their time in the spotlight at the Horse World Expo. I've always been grateful that Will and Joyce promoted the MPHA along with their farm, but this year was even better with a group of horses to demonstrate and lots of materials to hand out. Thanks to ALL who participated.

On To Equine Affaire

Somehow, before we left Harrisburg, Mike Spradlin secured a promise from Rob that we would bring our mare to Equine Affaire too, so on April 6th, we loaded up once again and headed for Columbus, Ohio for 4 more days of MPHA promotion.

The 4 horses representing MPHA at Equine Affaire were Hot Gold, Mountain Romeo, Royal Commander, and Rusty Lady. Each horse was exhibited for several hours daily and a number of volunteers took turns at the booth, talking with people who are new to the breed as well as swapping stories with the MPH owners from around the region who stopped by to say hello. I was always disappointed to find out who I had missed talking to whenever I was away from the booth.

Helping out at the booth were Mike Spradlin, Jon Smith, Jerry Murphy, Rob and Cyd Blakeslee, Sharon Haught, David Spradlin, Ron & Patty McLaughlin, Lowell & Marilyn Peterson and Randy & Becky Beal.

Of course, the question that's asked over and over is, "How are these horses different from the Rocky Mountain and Kentucky Mountain Saddle Horse?" People ask this question in all sincerity and are genuinely pleased when they get a response that makes sense - that these are the horses that were in the region before the RMH was developed and that KMSHA is a registry for mountain horses and other gaited horses. Once the uniqueness of the MPH is understood, and the visitor sees the beauty and gentleness of the horse on display, the appreciation for the MPH really takes hold.

When visitors asked where they could buy one of these horses, they were handed a copy of "Heritage", opened to the Breeder's List, along with the new brochure.

Along with the official breed demo that was held on Friday, impromptu demos were given whenever people were nearby and a MPH happened to be under saddle. That might be anywhere on the grounds at any time. One day, a group of women stopped by, admiring the horse that was on display.



One of them asked, "What kind of gait do these horses do?" Since the booth was right next to the exit, Rob simply put his saddle on Rusty Lady, led her out the door and rode her back and forth for several minutes, answering questions all the while.

One of the nicest times to be at Equine Affaire is after the crowds leave. Each night, the MPHA bunch saddled up and rode around the grounds, riding for a while in each of the arenas, right up the stairs to the entrance of the Bricket Building and even up the ramp to the roof of the Gilligan Complex to take in the

city lights. Up there the viaduct is at eye level, but none of the horses even flinched when the night train came screeching by.

That pretty much sums up our expo experiences. In closing, I would like to encourage everyone to take any and all opportunities to promote this breed that come their way. Promotional materials are available to anyone. Just call or email MPHA and put in your request. We're headed to Crooked Creek Horse Park next, to exhibit our horses at the Gaited Breeds Awareness Clinic.



**2003 World Championship
Female Halter Winner**



Stonewalls Dixie Chick
with Dean Toller



**2003 World Championship
Male Halter Winner**



Jacobs Classic Rythm
with Kellie Bretthauer



2003 World Championship Show



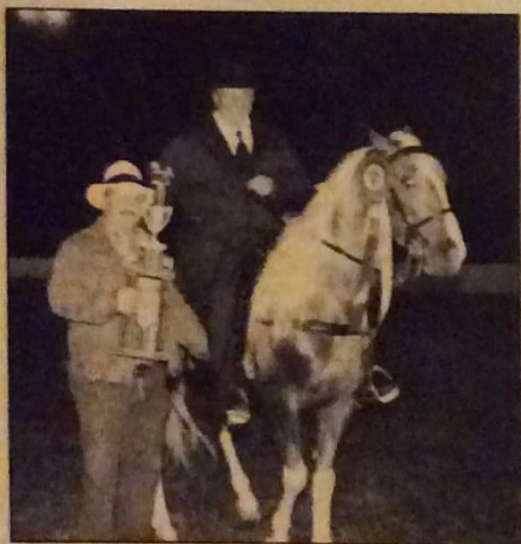
Sterling Nickell in lead line.



Sarah Rose Nickell and Goldfinger's Star present the American flag.



Board Member and Ringmaster, Gordon Rife with Board Member and Trophy Presenter, Pollyanna Shouse.



Paul E. Stamper, board member, presents a Memorial Trophy in Alfred Prewitt's memory to Mister Chromalox and James Murrell.



The Judges ... Larry Byrd, Bryan Coleman, Janet Coleman and Ottis Jean Lane.



MPHA is very proud of the "Licking River Rider" Drill Team. "Uncle Bill" Duncan presented the team with belt buckles.



2003 World Championship Mare



Blue China Rain

with Madison Collett

Congratulations!

CHAMPION FEMALE HALTER



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LADY**



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Hot Gold is a 15.2 palomino stallion with few white markings blaze, and a snow white mane and tail. He displays outstanding gait, temperament, and conformation along with old time mountain bloodlines. Now accepting a limited number of mares for the 2005 season. He is BPERA and KWANA.

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Congratulations!
Champion Male Halter

A Living History

By David Spradlin

An interview with Mr. K.H. Kizer, taken at his home near West Liberty, KY on Jan. 11, 2005.

Mr. Kizer and his family are some of the pioneers of the Mountain Pleasure Horse History. He has been involved in the breeding and training of many great horses, past and present. There is no way to measure the impact that people like he and his father have had on the Mountain Pleasure Horse. I thank him for inviting me into his home and sharing some of his knowledge with me.

DS- Mr. Kizer, have you always lived in this area?

KHR- Yes, I was raised in Wolfe County and Morgan County. I was born in 1945.

DS- Have you been around horses all your life?

KHR- Yes, Dad bought me a (Jasper Jones) Bucky Horse when I was 6 years old in 1951 and I've not been out since.

DS- Was your father a horseman?

KHR- Yes, of course he grew up in the time where they used them, not to play with like we do now. He was a horseman. He loved horses and cattle. About a year before he died, someone stole the last mare he had. She was a mare you could put anyone on, it once a storm one night and somebody stole her.

DS- Was he a farmer?

KHR- Yeah, he farmed a lot. He also taught schools and was principal of schools.

DS- Did he trade horses a lot in those days?

KHR- No, dad didn't trade a lot. He usually just found a horse that suited him or if he raised it he had a tendency to keep it. He never owned a lot of horses. He usually kept from 5-10. A lot of the time if it was a good horse he would keep it for a good period of time.

DS- How did you use your

horses back then?

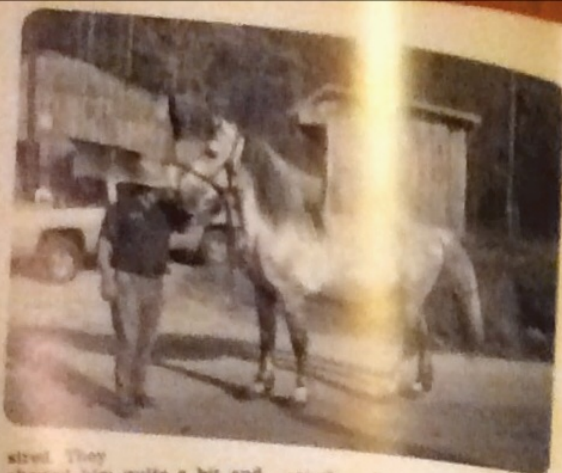
KHR- We showed quite a bit and we trail rode a lot too. We rode all the time. We worked them and did a lot of farm work with them. I turned ground with them, disc ground with them, mowed hills, mowed hay, raked hay, cultivated gardens, tobacco, ya know we did it all with horses. I was young and we didn't have a tractor and we did a lot of riding.

DS- So the old Mountain horses had a lot of versatility?

KHR- Yeah, they still do. I broke a colt this year. He'll be two in May. I broke him to ride. I rode him two or three times, and just took him and hooked him. He just walked off like an old mule that had been worked 10 years. Worked him four or five times, put him in a cart and he just was a beautiful workhorse. When you work him now, he is a beautiful workhorse.

DS- What are some of the older horses that you saw when you were growing up, and does any of them stand out?

KHR- Well, I guess the horse that stands out more than any horse was the horse that Merle McGuire had that he called Rocky. He was by the Bucky horse that they call Jones' Bucky. Rocky was the horse that sired Goldfinger and Little's Silver. He was about 15 hands, a dark palomino and had daps on him. Beautiful arched neck, beautiful tail carriage and he had a real natural running walk. Merle rode him in the running walk all the time and showed him a great deal and won a whole lot on him. Probably of all the mountain horses if I could just go back and pick out one I would probably pick the Rocky horse. Another horse that was very outstanding was the Silver horse that was the brother to Goldfinger that Rocky



sired. They showed him quite a bit and won a great deal on. He was excellent, now he did the run walk too. Those horses didn't rack they showed them in the running walk. Head shaking horses and they just glided with them and did it natural.

DS- Did Merle McGuire use or show Rocky a lot?

KHR- He showed him at West Liberty. He lived at Malone, which was close to West Liberty and just about every show we had at West Liberty, he would be there with him. The other shows I went to, I didn't see him too much. So I don't know if Merle showed him anywhere else or just took him there because it was local.

DS- His sire the Jones Bucky horse, was he raised around here?

KHR- He was foaled at Frosen Creek in Breathitt County. A man by the name of Bill Dunn owned him. My father bought Bucky when he was 9 months old and brought him into Morgan County, over next to Magoffin County where my father lived. He kept him and broke him to ride and broke him to work. We did all kinds of work with him. He kept him a while and then sold him to one of my uncles. He then sold him to another one of my uncles and then dad bought him back. He eventually sold him to Jasper Jones and Jasper kept him until he passed away. He kept him until, I think he was almost 31 when he passed away.

An interesting point about Bucky was when he was a three year old, daddy bred him to 85 mares in six weeks. I went through the old book and he bred him to five mares in one day, the most he'd ever bred him. He

stood for 29 years, the oldest stallion in our area. They brought mares from Elliott, Rowan, Magoffin, Breathitt, Wolfe counties, everywhere over to Adale to breed to him. He had a big impact on the mountain pleasure horses.

DS- What kind of stud fee did they charge?

KHR- When dad had him, he bred him for \$5.

DS- Did anyone keep track of the conception rate on him?

KHR- Well, the only comment I ever heard dad say was the day he bred him to 5 mares. He said the last mare he bred him to had a beautiful golden palomino filly. He didn't say anything about the others, he just said that about the last mare he bred.

DS- What color was Bucky?

KHR- When he was young, now of course I am taking my father's word for this because he had already sold the horse when I saw him, Bucky was a golden palomino. My mother said he was just like a piece of gold with a snow white mane and tail at a 2 and 3 year old. Then he turned in to a real dark rattlemake body color and his mane and tail got really dark. Now some of these old horses like the old Moon horse of Paul's, he turned chestnut. Bucky didn't do that, he went to deep rattlemake color and still had daps all over him and his mane and tail had a lot of black in it.

DS- It's odd they turn colors like that isn't it?

KHR- Yeah, but a lot them do.

DS- Did people breed for color back then?

KHR- They bred for the horse because they were us-



But they also bred for color because I know when I was a little boy when someone would have a fold they would use different terminology to describe the color than we use today. They would say that they've got a yellow colt and the first question would be, does it have a black mane and tail or white mane and tail. They called both the buckskin and the palomino horse yellow. At that time they wanted them to have a white mane and tail. So they did breed a lot for color.

DS- How big was he?

KHR- Bucky was 15 hands and when he was real fat he would have weighed close to 1200 pounds.

DS- Was he a good workhorse?

KHR- Excellent work horse. Dad broke him when he was a two year old, broke him with another two year old stallion, a blue roan horse. He broke him turning ground over on Wheel Rim. They've got some pretty nice bottoms over there and he just put the two young studs together and went to turning ground and he did about 30 acres with them. That's the way he broke them both. And dad said he never put the harness on a better workhorse.

Bucky was, just as I said when fat he weighed 1200 lbs. and just 15 hands, so that gives you an idea that he was a long bodied horse and he was pretty wide. But he didn't have a big foot or he wasn't big boned. He was a small boned and small-footed horse. He had a humpous neck. Daddy said when he put him in the wagon, they hauled coal and stuff through the mud and he said his neck and shoulders were so strong that he was just an excellent wagon horse. But he said he was good for anything. And I've heard my mother tell different times about carrying eggs to the store on Bucky during breeding season and meeting people along the road on horses and he would act just like he was a gelding. Said he never broke an egg. That's a

ing them. him about 15 miles each way.

A Living History

DS- So what do you think is one of the best qualities of the Mountain Pleasure Horse?

KHR- Well, to me the usability of the Mountain Horse. If you want to ride them, if you want to work them, if you want to put a child on them, you can. They are the simplest things on earth to break. You don't have to spend any time breaking them. Several of my horses that I have now, the first time I ride them, I would take them to the woods and ride them and then come back and ride them up and down the black top road for the first time. So, I would say their nature and usability is their best quality.

DS- How do you like to start a young horse?

KHR- I handle my young horses before they are old enough to ride. By the time they get old enough to ride, I have already driven them several times. I have them to where you can rein them. I teach them to start and stop before I ever get on them. By the time they get old enough to ride, I generally ease the saddle on them, step up on them and go to riding. I've never had one to back. I never had one to rear and I've never had one to try to run away with me. I fool with them from the time they are young. I have a colt now that is eight months old and if he is laying out in the barn or anywhere I can go straddle him and he won't get up. Well, it obvious that when he is old enough to ride he is not going

pretty good horse.

DS- Did your mother used him by herself?

KHR- Oh, yeah, that was her riding horse when she had him. That was the horse she used. My mother and father both were school teachers and mother and she rode him to the school where she taught for one year and she would put him in a stall in a barn near the school. In the evening, she would catch him up, put the saddle on him and ride him back home. She would ride

to do any damage to you. I think you break your horses by breaking them naturally. To me, that's where you do your breaking, when you do your breaking if they are bred the right way you won't have much trouble when you start training them. If there isn't I don't care how you go about training them, you will have some problems.

DS- Any particular situations that you like better than others?

KHR- Yes. Yes no share it. I like the old Bucky stock, the old Jasper Jones stock. I try to get as close to that as I can possibly get. I like their past. I like their conformation and most of all, I like their intelligence.

Another unusual thing about Bucky, which distinguishes him from any other stallion that I've known, is that they bred him to a lot of work stock mares, trotting mares. Dad guaranteed the colt to saddle or he gave the stud fee back. He said he hardly ever had to give a stud fee back. One of the best saddle horses I ever owned was by Bucky and out of a trotting mare. Excellent workhorse and one of the best saddle horses I ever put a saddle on.

Of course his mother could not do anything but trot. She had it bred by Bucky and every one of them was real good saddle horses. I've never known another horse that could do that to that degree. Bred a trotting mare to Bucky and 90 times out of 100 you would get a saddle horse.

DS- He passed it on didn't he?

KHR- Yes. He did.

DS- What line of horses do they cross well with?

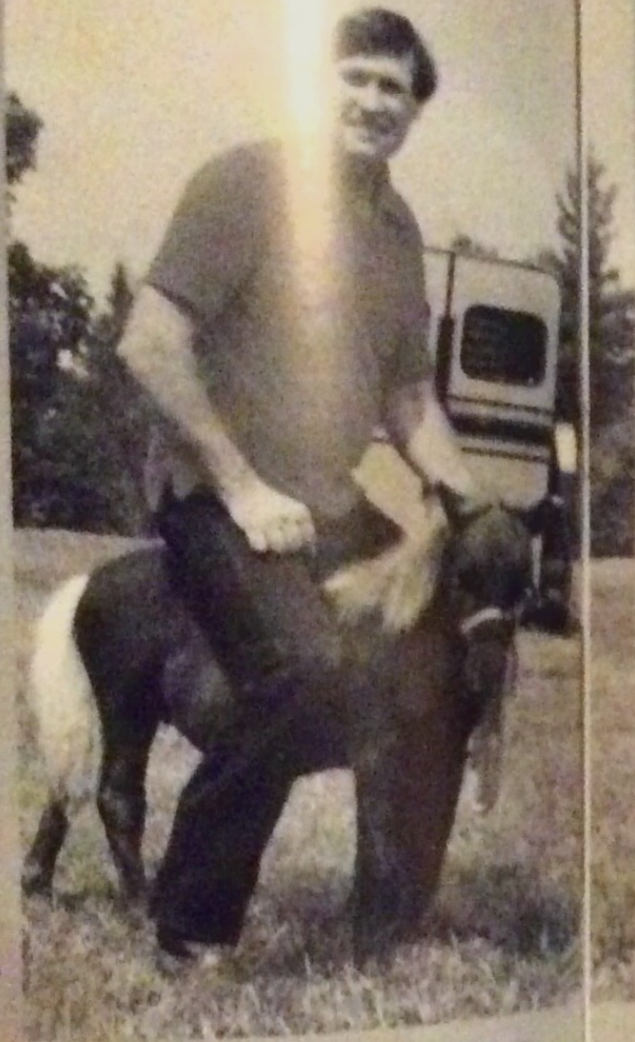
KHR- I have had four of that stock of horses that I crossed on the Cable Rex stock. The Cable Rex tends to put more size on his horse, more legs under them and a little bit more of an elegant looking horse. I like that cross.

DS- You said the Bucky horse came from Breathitt Co. originally, do you know anything about his background?

KHR- He was by a palomino horse they called the Hub Spencer horse. Now every one of us old horse people know of him, he was a big time horse trader. He was a big game man but he would come up in the mountains. He would buy hundreds of horses and ship them to middle Tennessee and everywhere. He had a palomino horse at that time, this was in the 30's and dad just referred to him as the Hub Spencer horse and I never heard him referred to him as anything else. Bucky was by him and out of a bay mare that they had over in Breathitt Co. Daddy said she was a heavy set mare, a real good running walk mare. He rode her. Bucky took his conformation more from his mother. He said the Hub Spencer horse was round bodied and higher headed, you know a different type horse than Bucky.

DS- Then Hub could have possibly got that horse right here in the mountains.

KHR- Yeah, That's where he bought most of his horses. He sold a lot of mountain horses to other places, Hub



Family Man

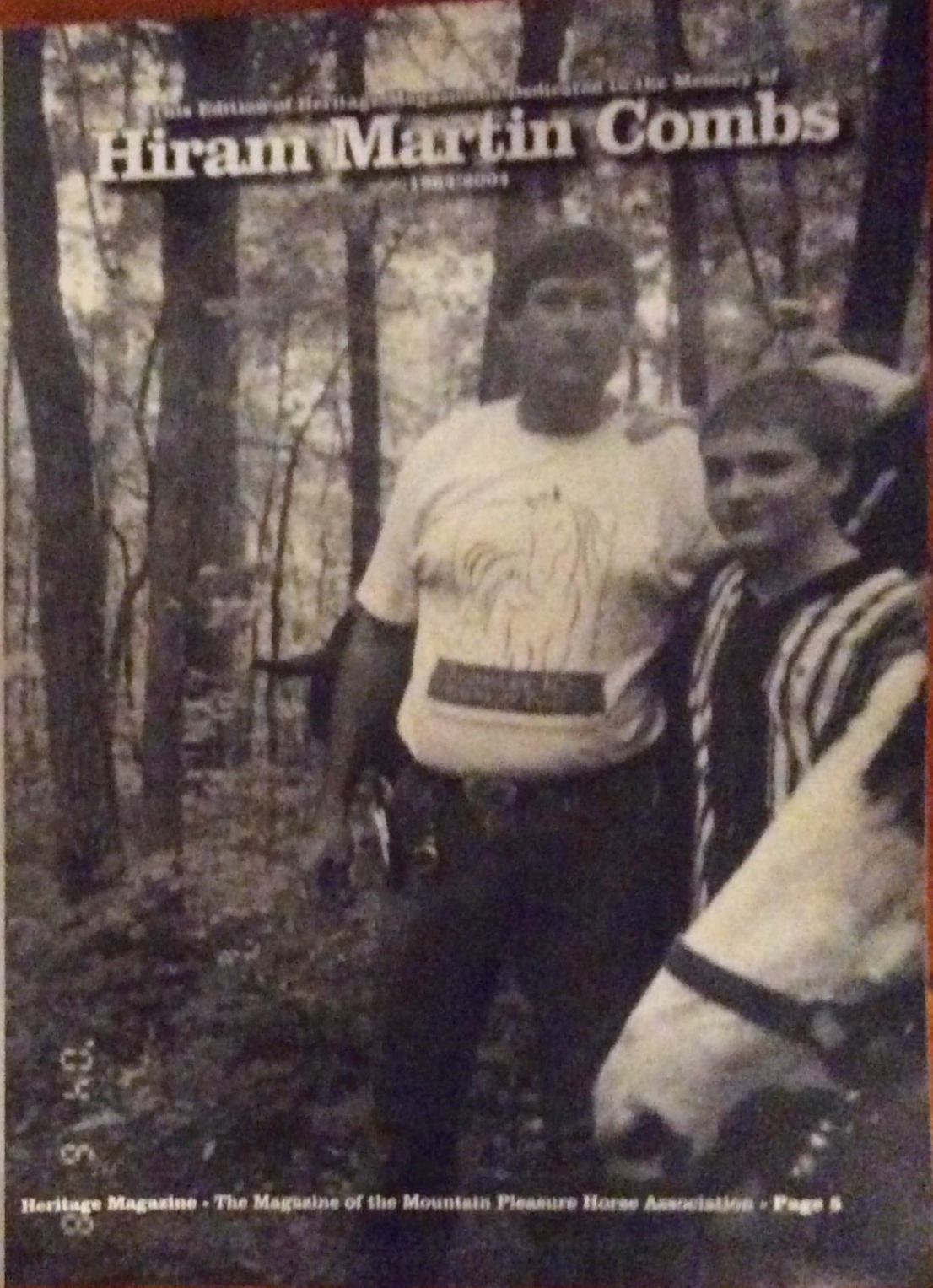
Horseman

Friend

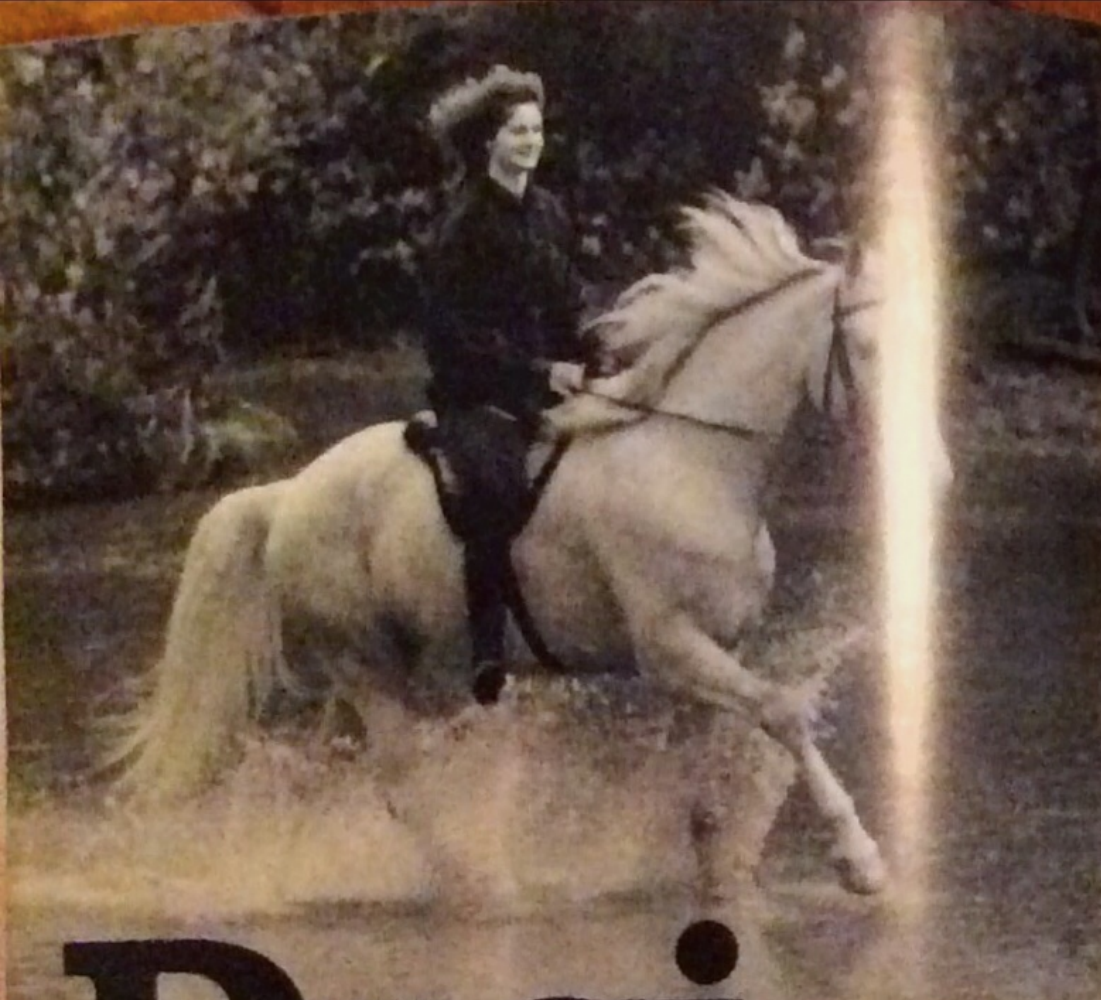


The Mountain Pleasure Horse Association - Page 4

This Edition of Heritage Magazine is Dedicated to the Memory of
Hiram Martin Combs
1902-2004



Heritage Magazine - The Magazine of the Mountain Pleasure Horse Association - Page 5



Desi

& Me

By Nancy Garrison

Like most other equine enthusiasts my love of horses started at a very young age, and our stories all seem to start that same way, don't they? However, my early experiences with horses, or should I say with one particular stubborn

pony named "Cockle," would have given the timid and less passionate rider enough cause to steer clear of the beast and to quit the sport altogether. You see, my best friend's family owned a couple of horses and ponies, and because I was a very young and inexperienced rider I always had to ride the pony. Now you tell me the logic in that! The only thing I can say about that

feisty, bucking pony is that I had a short distance to fall, and I learned how to stay on through those less-desirable episodes... oh, and I guess I pretty much loved him because he was the only mount available to me. Now that I recall, when my best friend and her family moved to Colorado many years later, I even tried to talk my parents into letting me have him. I kept saying, "But he's

FREEDOM!

Well, times change, and by the time I was bold enough to take the plunge and enter into the world of horse ownership, I no longer wanted to gallop wildly across open fields, too ignorant to realize that an ill-placed gopher hole could be disastrous for me and my steed. Chronic back and neck discomfort had me searching for one of those smooth-gaited, non-trotting horses that I thought existed. Someone mentioned Peruvian Paso's, but I found that the few horses around here were too expensive. I'm sure that I was aware of Tennessee Walking Horses because, in



Wisconsin, they were one of the more popular, gaited horse breeds. Also, at that time, Mountain Horses were virtually non-existent here or so unknown that I would never have found one had my younger sister not boarded her dressage horse, a gorgeous Hanoverian gelding, at a stable where the owner had one Mountain Pleasure Horse mare and that mare's first foal, a palomino yearling that I instantly fell in love with and had to own. Hence, I broke the cardinal rule of first-horse-purchasing: Buy a middle-aged, dead-broke, trail horse!

Fortunately, my 11-year-old, MPH gelding, K+B's



Secret Desire ("Desi"), out of Dreamwind Sun Tresser and by Son of Choco, has been a joy to train and to own. I've joined the ranks of those who can take their horse anywhere and do anything with him. When Desi was green-broke, I received a plaque at an American Heart Association benefit ride for

going on the ride with the youngest horse. Shortly after that, I decided to go on a campout to meet people from a riding club that I had recently joined. I gathered up the things I was told I would need for the weekend, and my horse and I headed out. Now to trailering a horse and the whole horse

camping experience, I just figured that if Desi wouldn't behave on a pickup day, I'd end up going home in the middle of the night. Well, we never looked back. I participated with three other club members in an all-horse parade, the West Hills Western Days Parade. I thought that Desi, still a young horse at the time, might get a bit excited about all of the horses, carts, and wagons, but I never imagined that our group would be behind a band! Years later, I decided to demonstrate the MPH breed at the Midwest Horse Fair which is held every spring in Madison, Wisconsin. For years, the HNSHA and the HNSHA had been represented, but the MPH was seldom seen at the fair. I decided to represent the MPH by riding Desi in the Parade of Breeds that year because I was already asked to ride with the Palomino Exhibitors' Association of Wisconsin (Affiliate of Palomino Horse Breeders of America). That association wanted the crowd to see a gaited palomino in their group, along with a wide assortment of breeds. After the demonstration, a girl found her way to Desi's stall to tell me that, out of that huge group of palomino

Continued On Page 14



Living History

An interview with Mr. Ronald Little, taken at his home in Painesville, Ky. on July 12, 2004.

MPHA: When and where were you born?
R.L.: Painesville, Ky. January 8, 1904.

MPHA: Have you always lived around this area?

R.L.: 68 years, except the 2 years spent with Uncle Sam.

MPHA: When did your family settle here?

R.L.: Early 1800's.

MPHA: Did you come from a large family?

R.L.: No, just had one brother.

R.L.: My dad did, there was 11 in his family.

MPHA: Did you do a lot of farming as a boy growing up?

R.L.: Yeah, raised right here on a farm. Dad had a country store and a post office.

MPHA: How did you get all of your farming done with just you two boys?

R.L.: We didn't, my brother was 8 years older than me and he didn't like to farm. We were farming with mules. Daddy had to get some help from some week hands back then. We tended tobacco with the mules and horses. Up until tractor time.

MPHA: The horses were a important part of farming?

R.L.: It was the only way up until about 50's or later. That was the only way we had. No body had tractors up until the 50's.

MPHA: Did your family keep records of the horses that they raised?

R.L.: No, my daddy kept them in his head and I've



that was in the store, they would be working the mules and buggies and wagon and riding them and looking the colts follow. I could pick out the colts he liked and when people would sell them, so they could have money to buy what they needed for the farm or what have you, he would buy quite a few of them as yearlings or coming two year olds and break them out. And he had an outlet he'd sell them to after they were broke.

MPHA: Did he sell them out of state?

R.L.: Some of them out of State, some of them in State. Palomino's mostly he would sell to Hub Spenser. Old man Hub was a horse trader that lived out in Winchester. He sold one horse in '47, a palomino horse to this fellow in Springboro, OH, Bob Eaton. Daddy sold him for a \$1,000.00, that was a pretty good price back then. That horse sire was the first palomino I had ever seen. Here is a copy of the advertisement for

stud for him. He was owned by a Mr. Ratliff, his nephew sent me this paper. (See next page)

MPHA: About what year was he in this country?

R.L.: Mr. Will Ratliff owned that horse and he was foaled in 1939, and Mr. Ratliff sold him in 1945. The

tried to keep some of mine down.

MPHA: Did he have a good memory about all of them?

R.L.: Oh Yeah, perfect good memory right up until he died.

MPHA: Your dad, did he raise horses to sell and trade or just for your own use?

R.L.: Both, some of the stallions around the country were good stallions and he would watch the people

horse's eyes were getting a little bad, and he went to Winchester. He sold him for a thousand in 1948, and then my dad sold this one colt by him that we had in 1947. He was the one went to Bob Eaton, Springboro, OH.

MPHA: Was this Ratliff palomino horse raised in this country, or from somewhere else?

R.L.: Yes, just over the hill here. He was by a bay mare that old man Ratliff had, and she was by a black horse, and out of a sorrel mare. The sire was the Bob Nichols horse up above Hazel Green. I think, he was a buxskin or something with a black mane and tail.

MPHA: Did a lot of people breed to this horse when he was standing?

R.L.: Lots of people. He had a lot of foals around the country. Mr. Ratliff was never married, all he had was his horses and mules. But that is the first palomino around here, and I've asked other people and they said that was the first palomino stallion they ever saw around in this whole territory here. Big lot of the horses were black or bay, these old saddle horses.

MPHA: When did you realize that the Mt. Pleasure horses were different from other horses?

R.L.: I didn't realize they were any different back then. We always kept mountain pleasure horses and after I got out of the service in the mid 50's I got Tennessee Walking Horses and showed them for a while and raised them but I always kept the Mountain Pleasure Horses too. So when I faded out of the Tennessee horses I just kept Mountain Pleasure stallions. Kept one of them until ole Goldfinger died.

MPHA: What was your most favorite horse?

R.L.: Probably Goldfinger. He was the best going, I had a full brother to him, Sterling Silver that was 11 years older than Goldfinger. They looked a lot alike and had the same temperament, you could do anything you wanted to do with them. They passed the trait on.

MPHA: Did you raise Goldfinger?

R.L.: No, I bought him from Charlie Short when he was a 4 year old. Before Goldfinger

I bought Dolly and Silver from Charlie, they were a full brother and sister to Goldfinger only older. Their sire was Rocky by old Rocky and their mother was old Lisa. I also bought her from Charlie and then when she got older gave her back to Charlie's daughter, that's when they bred her back to old Rocky and got Goldfinger.

MPHA: Was Bea a good saddle mare?

R.L.: The best. You could put the kids on her or put her in the tobacco patch or the garden and plow her or put her in a mowing machine.

MPHA: Did you trail ride the horses a lot?

R.L.: Yes.

MPHA: Were they broke to work?

R.L.: Goldfinger was, Silver I don't think was. Charlie would plow his garden with Goldfinger.

MPHA: How did Goldfinger get his name?

R.L.: There was a 2 yr old dark palomino Tennessee stallion that won the championship the year Goldfinger was born. My nephew was working down there at the time and he wanted to name him after that horse.

MPHA: Did you ever have any trouble selling Goldfinger colts?

R.L.: Wasn't any trouble I never had trouble selling them. There's not

been about the MPHA?
R.L.: I can't remember when it started, but I was pretty much in from the beginning. I didn't register any thing for a while. Paul started and then these Present members.

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R.L.:

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T h e E n d

DUTCH



A yellow Stallion with white mane and tail, 15 1/2 hands high, and weighing 1,000 pounds. —sired by the Bob Sallie horse.

This fine Saddle Stallion will make the season of 1939 at my barn at Denniston, Ky.

TERMS: \$8.00 to insure a living colt; \$2.00 in hand paid at time of service, and balance when colt is foaled. Money due if mare is parted with or bred to other stock without my consent.

Care will be taken to prevent accidents, but I will not be responsible should any occur.

WILL RATLIFF

Breeder and Owner, Denniston, Ky.

many of them left. There's a lot of them gone out of the country.
MPHA: When did you first

David B. Spradlin
david@spradlinrealstat.com



Heritage Magazine Farm Profile

Ancient Oaks Farm

Palm City, Florida

Scott Wells got involved with gaited horses when his great-grandfather gave him one at just 3 years old. The Kentucky native immediately realized that these horses would be a way of life for him as they were for many generations of his family before him.

The gentle disposition of these gaited horses proved them unmatched for pleasure as well as work and transportation. Through the years Scott has had many beloved Mountain Horses, when he moved to Florida he continued to love these wonderful horses and in fact passed that on to his wife Karyn, and together they now have more than twenty Mountain Horses on their farm in Palm City, Florida.

On a trip to Kentucky in 1995 Scott bought Karyn a Goldfinger filly and from there they went on to purchase five other horses out of that superior bloodline as well as others, and their farm continued to grow. The Wells truly treasure the Goldfinger



bloodline. Their stallion "Goldfingers Legend" is a beautiful dark dapple palomino with a snow white mane and tail and four stockings he stands 16hh and is coming three year old. Also standing at stud is "Geronimo" an amazingly gentle three-year-old strawberry roan stallion.

At Ancient Oaks Farm we take pride in offering quality horses from the old tried and true bloodlines, everything from weanlings to well-schooled show and trail horses. Our experience with this breed of horse added with our friends in the horse industry and low overhead make Ancient Oaks Farm the right choice for next quality gaited Mountain Horse. Visit our website at www.ancientoaksfarm.com or call us at 561-722-1472 or email us at ancientoaksfarm@hotmail.com.