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Article  
*Goldfinger*

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*Kentucky's  
Heritage*



**Mountain Pleasure Horses**



**GOLDFINGER**

Owner: Ronnie Little



# Goldfinger

*Pictured on Front Cover*

Goldfinger is a 26 year old 15.1 Hand, Golden Palomino Stallion, sired by McGuire's Rocky, by Jone's Bucky.

He has the old Mountain Pleasure Horse bloodline on the sire and dam's side, with no other bloodlines.

He has been broken to harness, to show, and taken many miles on trail rides.

He passes his gait, condition and temperament on to his foals.

He has many foals that have won and placed in many shows.

Goldfinger's foals are scattered throughout the USA, and we are extremely proud to be a part of helping improve and make the future better for the oldest and best saddle horse breed, The Mountain Pleasure Horse.

The cover photo is a recent picture of Goldfinger at age 26

The owner is Ronnie Little of Pomeroyten, Kentucky 40387. His phone number is 606-768-2488. Visitors are always welcome.



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## To The Horse Lover

by: Teresa K. Wiggins, Manager - Research, Investigations & Rescue Dept., People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)

Perhaps by now you've heard about the unnecessary suffering and slaughter of tens of thousands of mares and their foals every year to produce the hormone-replacement-therapy (HRT) drugs Premarin, Prempro, and Premphase, manufactured by Wyeth-Ayerst. Many physicians and women taking these pills remain unaware that the drugs are derived from animal waste, at great cost to the horses. We are writing to ask for your help in spreading the word.

Premarin, Prempro, and Premphase are the only HRTs made from pregnant mares' urine. To produce these drugs, each year approximately 75,000 pregnant mares are tethered for six months in stalls - some measuring just 3 1/2 to 5 feet wide and 8 feet long. Due to the short chains, urine-collection bags, and harnesses strapping them to the ceiling of the barns, the mares are usually unable to take more than a step or two in any direction, turn around, or even lie down comfortably. They are fitted with rubber urine-collection bags that sometimes chafe their legs and cause painful sores, are virtually never exercised, and are denied free access to water. The U.S. Department of Agriculture found some PMU mares lame from their long ordeal, others with untreated in-

juries oozing pus (antibiotics are withheld so farmers don't have to discard the urine), and a routine denial of free access to water, causing mares to fight and struggle at water distribution time.

Foals born to PMU mares are an unwanted product. Kept with their mothers for a mere 2-3 months, foals not used as replacements for worn-out mares are sent to feedlots to be fattened and slaughtered for European and Japanese markets.

**Please let your members know how these drugs are produced** so they can share this information with family, friends, and physicians. Many other effective HRTs are available. Made from plant sources or synthetics, they more closely mimic the estrogens found in the human ovary. We are happy to supply information on alternatives and their sources and, if you or people you know would be interested in tabling at horse shows or other events, we can provide information.

Please call me at 757-622-7382, ext. 618, if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you for helping to make a difference in the lives of thousands of horses and foals.



# Scotland Stables



## SARGE

- 10 Years Old
- 15.2 Hands
- Golden Palomino
- Son of Goldfinger
- 1996 3-9 Yr. Old Under Saddle

*Champion MPHA Stallion*

- Yearling and 2 Year Old Offspring For Sale

Stud Fee • Private Treaty

## Scotland Stables

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# Another M.P.H. Lover

*by: Ellen S. Ravis and husband, Paul Offermann, Misty Hollow Farm*

We first became interested in the Mountain Pleasure Horses three years ago when we saw them represented at the Lexington Horse Festival in Virginia. We were so impressed with the natural gait and the wonderful disposition of the horses. We couldn't wait to own one! So off to Kentucky we went, and after a day of visiting, we met Shirley and Hiram Combs and Bo Diddy. Bo is the perfect horse for an inexperienced rider (me) and a great companion for the horse I already owned.

The following year we decided we'd like to expand our family, and we again went to Kentucky. This time to Loch Lea Farm. We brought home Bobby Jo (in foal) and her bay filly. We also decided on Loch Lea Rusty, a red roan two-year old. At first, I was concerned that I might not have time or patience to care as much for more than just two horses, but was I ever wrong!

Apollo Sunrise was the first foal I had ever experienced. She is now 27 months old and she is so dear to me. We also have two more fillies out of Bobby Jo, and she is the most gentle and trusting mare I've ever known. Misty Hollow Shadow is 15 months old and our newest addition is Misty Hollow Morning Star, just 2 months old. Both fillies are chocolate, and Star has a light mane and tail.

You can tell how attached I have become to these horses, and how I love working with the young ones. Unfortunately, our family has now outgrown our barn and so we will be selling the two youngest. This year, however, we plan to breed Bobby Jo to Rusty, and we will be anxiously awaiting the new arrival!

If you are visiting Virginia, give us a call. We'd love to introduce you to our wonderful Mountain Pleasure Horses.



*Bobby Jo & Misty Hollow Morning Star*



*Apollo Sunrise*



## Kids Are Great!!!!

### The "Little" Legacy

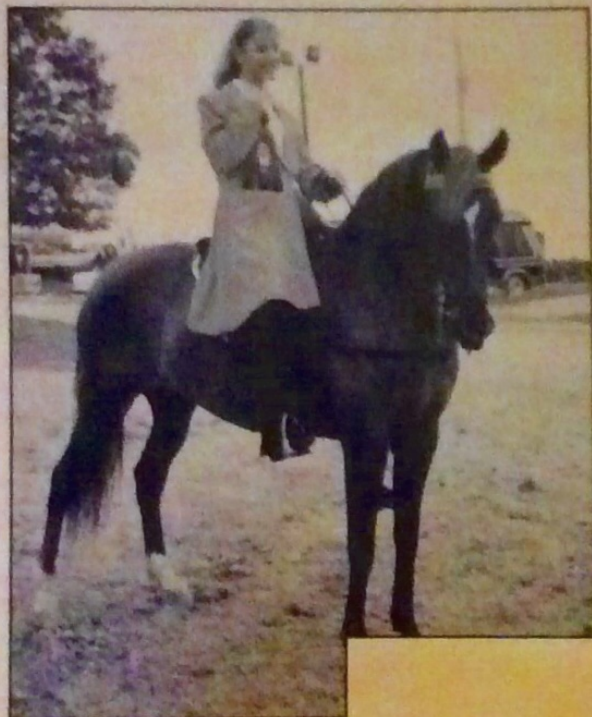
by: Robin "Little" Ratliff, 3rd generation, Mt. Pleasure owner  
Rockin' R Farm, Jeffersonville, KY 40337, (606) 499-0545

For 90+ years, the Little family has bred, raised, trained and shown Mountain Pleasure horses. It began with Reece T. Little of Pomeroyton who has kept a palomino stallion in the Little barn for over 60 years (currently "Goldfinger" stands at stud). Reece, now 94 years old, showed in his last horseshow at the age of 85.

This avid love for the mountain breed has since passed through three more generations. The current (4th) generation consists of three great-granddaughters, all of whom ride and show this wonderful breed. Reesha Oakley, 14 years, Jessica Duncan, 12 years, and Jenna Ratliff, 12 years, are all super honor roll students at Menifee County School. They are also the granddaughters of Ronnie Little, Treasurer of the Mountain Pleasure Horse Association.

These three girls have been trail riding and showing Mt. Pleasure horses since they were old enough to sit astride one. Together they have collected well over 100 trophies and ribbons and have many more years of riding enjoyment ahead of them.

They say the future of every organization lies with it's youth. Where the Mt. Pleasure horse is concerned, it looks like the "Little Legacy" lives on.



Jessica Duncan



Reesha Oakley



Jenna Ratliff



# Paquita Pines Ranch

Standing:

## Loch Lea Chief

*1991 MPHA Stallion*

*Dark Liver Chestnut*

*15.1 Hands*

*Stud Fee: \$500 LFG*

*Will Ship Semen*

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"Chief is beautiful in both conformation and disposition . . . Both our mares received conscientious and personal care." - Mary - Parker, CO



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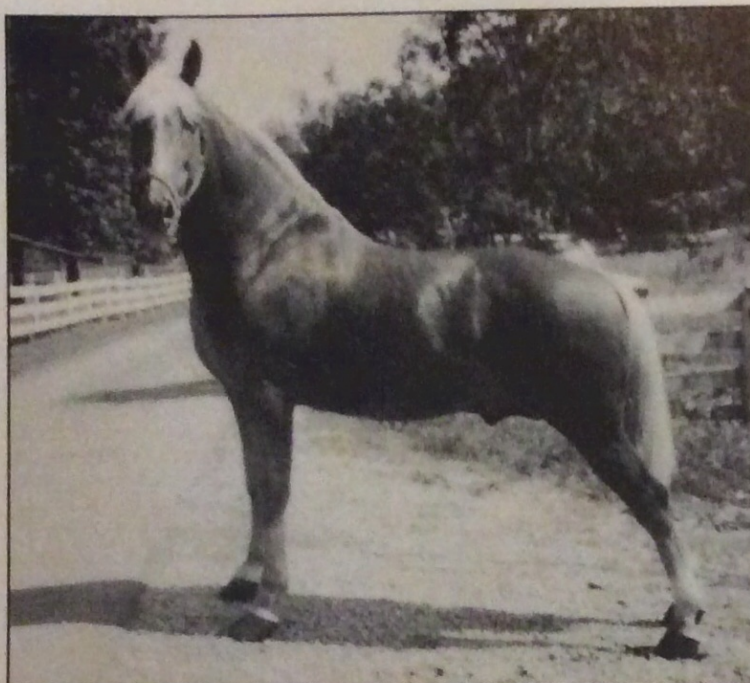


Mountain Pleasure Horses

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# "Goldfinger's Delight"

— Son of Goldfinger —



Reg. MPHA 1993 • 15-1 Hand, Golden Palomino Stallion

1996 MPHA Classic 3 year old Futurity

Conformation and Performance Champion

1997 MPHA 3-8 year old Champion Stallion and

1997 MPHA Grand Champion Stallion

— Stud Fee by Private Treaty —

Contact:

**Charles Short**

**4160 Kiddville Road • Mt. Sterling, KY 40353**

**606-498-0458**



*Kentucky's  
Heritage*



## **Mountain Pleasure Horses**



# **EMERALD FIRE**

Owner: Lowell May



# Emerald Fire

*Pictured on Front Cover*

Emerald Fire is an eleven year old, 15.1 hand, chestnut stallion sired by Smith's Ginger. He stands at the farm of Lowell S. May of Salyersville, Kentucky. Emerald began his highly successful show career at the 1992 MPHA fall classic where he and his previous owner, Ralph Pollard, won both Grand Championships in the performance and conformation classes. That same year, they also won the trail class. Since Lowell acquired him, he has shown and won the 1995 and 1996 MPHA Conformation Grand Championships and finished near the top in his other classes. In 1997 they placed 1st in the older stallion class, 1st in the harness class, and 3rd in the overall performance Grand Championship with Lowell riding. He has been exhibited at numerous other shows where he usually places at or near the top.

In addition to his show success, he has been popular at many parades and festivals. At many of these, he has been in harness and has prompted people to take note of his excellent gait, temperament, and overall eye appeal. People always ask "What breed of horse is he?" Many are surprised to learn that such a wonderful breed was developed in the hills of Eastern Kentucky. Emerald also excels as a trail horse and has been an outstanding ambassador for Mountain Pleasure Horses wherever he appears.

For more information concerning this outstanding versatile stallion, Lowell can be reached at 606-349-3323. He has a few Emerald sired colts and fillies for sale, stands Emerald at stud, and visitors are always welcome.



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# Mountain Pleasure Horse in the Valley

*by: David Yarber and Hiram Combs*

News release from the Virginia Horse Festival: "We are so glad to have the Mountain Pleasure Horse at our Festival for the fourth straight year. These horses are some of the finest animals that have ever been exhibited at this festival. Their grace, beauty and wonderful temperament have made them a hit year after year. It is truly a pleasure to have these wonderful Mountain horses in the Shenandoah Valley." These were the remarks from an unnamed official of the Virginia Horse Festival.

The Virginia Horse Festival was held April 17-19 at the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington, Virginia. The Mountain Pleasure Horse Association sponsored 10 horses and riders to demonstrate the Mountain Pleasure Horse and its various abilities and uses. The theme of the demonstration was the history of the horse and how it was used

today. The audience viewed the horse as a trail and multi-user horse, a quality show horse and a horse that was capable of pulling the buggy with sheer elegance. While the weather was somewhat dreary, cool and rainy, the reception of the horse was warm and enthusiastic.

A special thanks to the people who were able to bring their horses for demonstration and help with the promotional booth: Hiram Combs - Lakota; Shirley Combs - Nero; JoEllen Yarber - Blue Ridge Dollface; Lavon Russell - High Test; Mame Miller - Gypsy Gem; and David Yarber - Blue Ridge Neon Moon.

Others taking part (but failed to get the horses names) were: Libby Kile, Morgan Horn, Mary Ellen & Steve Flack, Joyce Doonan, and Will Ferguson.



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## Board Profile

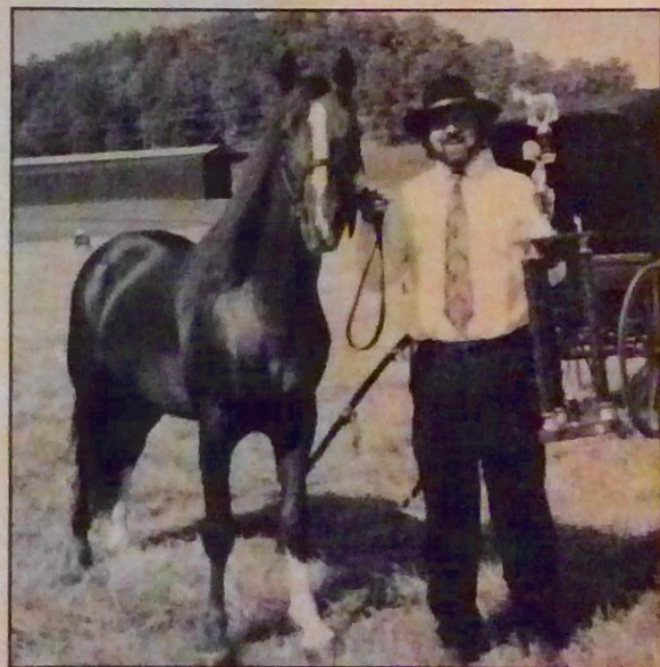
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I feel very honored that I was asked to introduce myself in this all new Mountain Pleasure Horse magazine. I am proud to be affiliated with the wonderful people and their outstanding horses that comprise the MPHA.

My wife, Vicci, and our sons, Josh and Jonathan, live near Falcon, Kentucky, where I have been postmaster for the last 15 years. Falcon, in eastern Magoffin County, lies in the heart of the Appalachian region where Mountain Pleasure Horses have been part of our lives since the area was first settled. Since childhood I have been interested in my Appalachian heritage and learning about how our ancestors lived. My hobbies, collecting antiques, building log cabins, hunting and using Mountain Pleasure Horses, all go together nicely. In addition to trail riding and showing, I have used my horses in harness to pull logs to use in building log structures. I've also cultivated tobacco using Mountain Pleasure horsepower. I currently own Three antique buggies and an Amish sleigh. In addition, I've used my 9 year old Mountain Pleasure Horse mare to go into the woods deer hunting in lieu of a "4-wheeler". I presently own five Mountain Pleasure Horses, and I shoe and break my own.

By doing these things I have attempted to acquire a sense of what life was like for the early settlers of this rugged mountainous region. I have great admiration for the tremendous effort our ancestors put forth in order to settle this foreboding land before roads, cars, farm tractors, and other 20th century inventions that we take for granted today came along. My great-grandfather kept several of these horses which he rode extensively during his term as Magoffin Co. sheriff. My grandfather (B1893, D1982) rode everywhere he traveled until he bought a car when he was 36 years old.

I have owned Mountain Pleasure type horses for 25 years. By experiencing firsthand their versatility, smooth gait, and willing disposition, I feel I have gained a unique perspective of just how essential these wonderful horses have been to the people of our area. I would like to see horse lovers the world over made aware of what a terrific breed my ancestors helped nurture and develop. These are some of the reasons I take great pride in the MPHA and strive to promote the breed at every given opportunity. Everyone that rides needs a MOUNTAIN PLEASURE HORSE!!



David May



# LAZY-S FARM

*Standing  
at  
Lazy-S  
Farm*

*Futurity  
Stallion •*



Photo by Tom Cannon

*Stud Fee  
by  
Private  
Treaty*

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He is very well balanced, with a beautiful & stylish gait.

*If you have ever desired the Yankee bloodline, now is your chance!!!!*

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# The Mountain Pleasure Horse

The Official Publication of the Mountain Pleasure Horse Association

May/June 1997

Volume 1 Number 4

## MPHA Spring Classic



### Inside this issue

Results of the MPHA Spring Classic  
Membership Survey Responses  
MPHA Bylaws  
MPHA Officers' Reports

DUPLICATE  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
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## The Mountain Pleasure Horse Association Explains

# What is the Difference...

Our goal is first to preserve the bloodlines of the Mountain Pleasure Horse, then to build the population of Mountain Pleasure Horses. We issue registration papers not to sell these horses, but to certify they meet the stringent criteria if the Mountain Pleasure Horse Association (MPHA) and to encourage the breeding of Mountain Pleasure Horses.

Those are our goals and so we do not consider ourselves to be in "competition" with any other gaited horse breed. However, some of our horses are double registered with the Rocky Mountain Horse Association, so, naturally, we are asked the difference between the Rocky Mountain Horse and the Mountain Pleasure Horse.

Quite simply, the Mountain Pleasure Horse breed existed some 100 years before the existence of the Rocky Mountain Horse. In fact, Kentucky Governor Breckton Jones, in September of 1994 recognized in his official proclamation, (1) "The Horsemen of Eastern Kentucky developed a type of horse, known as the Mountain Pleasure Horse, to be smooth of gait, gentle of disposition, willing to work and surefooted as necessary for mountain terrain; and (2) this Mountain Pleasure Horse has been carefully and closely bred for over 160 traceable years along the original Kentucky mountain bloodlines; and (3) Bloodtyping research by the University of Kentucky has shown the Mountain Pleasure Horse to be the parent stock of American gaited horse breeds," including the Rocky Mountain Horse and Tennessee Walking Horse.

On the other hand, some 40 to 45 years ago, Sam Tuttle tapped into the Mountain Horse Heritage, crossing the native Mountain Pleasure stock with Tobe, a stallion carrying an unusual chocolate color, and his descendants, spawning (eventually) the Rocky Mountain Horse Association breed registry.

The key difference between the two

registries is genetic foundation. Fewer than 17 percent of the foundation horses of the Mountain Pleasure Horse Association carry any trace of "Tobe" bloodlines and those combine Tobe with the native Mountain Pleasure bloodlines.

In the MPHA, color is not a criteria of quality. In the RMHA, the chocolate color is generally preferred. Besides the chocolate color there are, to those who study closely, various physical characteristics and slight variations in gait among horses descended from Tobe bloodlines that generally are not present in the Mountain Pleasure Horses.

The MPHA registration books are now closed and only offspring of a registered stallion and a registered mare can be submitted for registration. We have no provisions for "grade mares."

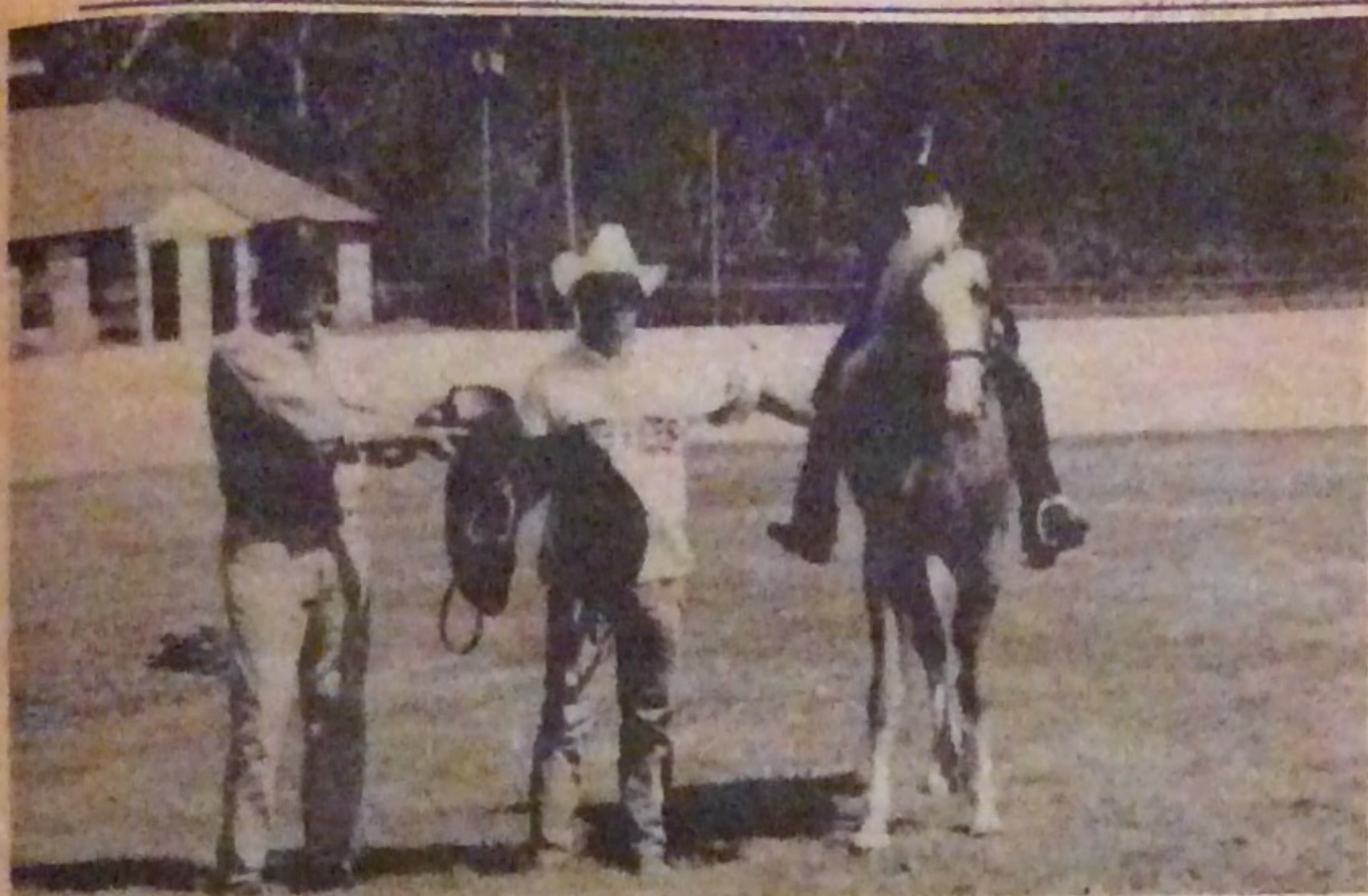
The MPHA registration process requires that all horses submitted for permanent registration be videotaped demonstrating gait and the Board of Directors of the MPHA must approve each horse.

The MPHA requires that all its horses be bloodtyped by the University of Kentucky for absolute identification of parentage before papers are issued.

Generally speaking, our horses tend to be a bit larger (taller), longer bodied and cover more ground with their gait than the horses from the Tobe/Tuttle bloodlines.

We are proud of the Mountain Pleasure Horse genetic heritage that helped produce the horses of the Tobe/Tuttle bloodlines. We realize that some people may prefer the results and color of the Tobe/Tuttle influenced horse. But for those who want the old-fashioned smooth ride and wonderful disposition of over 150 years of Kentucky heritage, backed by the integrity of bloodtyping and stringent scrutiny by the MPHA breed registry, we offer The Mountain Pleasure Horse.





Above, Don Sexton, MPHA President presents Lonnie Potter, owner of the Spring Classic Champion, Gevedon's Trigger a cutback saddle. Gevedon's Trigger is being ridden by Tracy Elam. Below, Leshia Harris rides Ned in the Western Pleasure class. Leshia and Ned won the class and were named Reserve Champion for the show. Ned is owned by Lawrence Rose.



Below, Sue Stewart aboard Peggy Sue in the Ladies Pleasure class at the Spring Classic.





# **GOLDFINGER'S DELIGHT**



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**1993 15 Hand Golden Palomino Stallion ·  
Registered Mountain Pleasure Horse**

**1996 Mountain Pleasure Horse Classic Champion  
3 Yr Old Futurity Conformation and Performance**

---

**STUD FEE: PRIVATE TREATY**

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Emerald Fire X Stamper's Coloa  
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**MOUNTAIN FIRE X6-23-96**

Emerald Fire X Baby Doll  
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Very Stylish

**LADY MOONBOW 5-4-96**

Chestnut Filly  
Beautiful Conformation

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# Scotland Stables



## **SARGE**

- 10 yr old
- 15.2 hands
- Golden Palomino
- Son of Goldfinger
- 1996 3-9 Yr Old  
Champion MPHA Stallion
- Yearling and 2 Year  
Old Offspring For Sale

**Stud Fee:**  
**Private Treaty**

## **ROCKY DANDY**

- 7 yr old
- 15.3 hands
- Chocolate
- Yearling and 2 Year  
Old Offspring For Sale

**Stud Fee: Private Treaty**

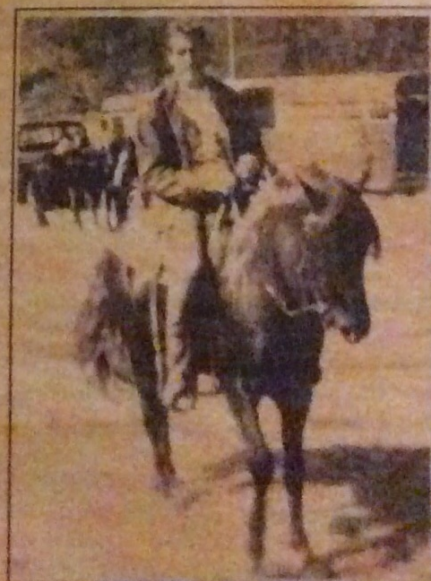
## **SCOTTLAND STABLES**

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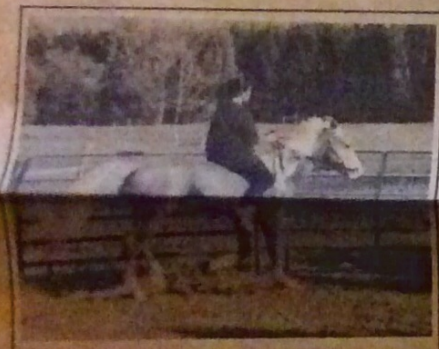


GAITWAY FARM PROUDLY STANDING  
The Golden Prince Himself

**"GOBLE"**

*The Ultimate Mountain Pleasure Stallion*

He Sits Up & Takes Notice  
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For Temperament, Temperament & More Temperament.  
Not to mention his awesome glide ride, natural gait, great  
conformation & gorgeous dark palomino color with  
a snowy white mane & tail.



1995 MPHA CLASSIC  
RESERVE STALLION  
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CHAMPION

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# The Pleasures at Northgait

By Don Crippen  
Northgait Farm

It all started on a blustering November day while I was perusing the "Horses and Livestock" columns of the local Buyers Guide (classified ad magazine). Having dabbled in buying and selling horses for a few years, I was looking for any 'bargain horses'. Whereupon I encountered this ad: "For Sale: Mountain Pleasure Horse, Gelding, 12 yrs." and tacked on to the end of the ad was this ridiculous price which I audibly laughed at.

Sometime later that same wintery day, I mused to myself, "who would be gullible enough to pay that kind of money for some kind of a mountain horse and he's only about fourteen hands?"

A day or two later I was still wondering about the strange nature of the ad, so I proceeded to retrieve it from the 'paper recycling bin' - also known as the garbage can, and reread it.

*In so doing, I again became aware*

capitalized. Previously I had made the assumption that it was obviously a type-o. And yet, could it actually have been intentional? Mountain Pleasure Horse. Hmmm.

What if it had really been the seller's intent? Could there really be such a breed of horse? Certainly, I would be the last resident on this planet to say that I had heard of all equine breeds in existence, even though I had already gone to my *World Book Encyclopedia* and found no 'Mountain Pleasure Horse' there. (Actually, there are many of the breeds missing under *Horse* in the *World Book*). Consequently, to satisfy my curiosity, I was to venture a call to the ad maker, whereby he was to assure me it (Mountain Pleasure Horse) was in fact a bona fide breed of horse. Well now, this I had to see.

Later in that same day, my eldest son, Mike and I headed in that general direction to get some ammunition that was on sale at a store some eight to ten miles from this Mountain Pleasure Horse.

Now if you have ever been in Michigan during November, you know that

our rifle deer season is one huge annual event. Some 750,000 or more of us, don our 'blaze orange' and head for the woods.

There is always a considerable amount of preparation for this grandiose event, and as with most other things in our lives, there always seems to be a short fall of time. "But he's only eight or so miles from here, lets at least see what a Mountain Pleasure Horse looks like," I said to Mike.

When we got there, much to my amazement, this little guy, this 14H equine, looked just about like any real horse, all 700 or 800 pounds of him.

"That much money for such a small package?" And the seller retorted with, "He'll carry you all day." I looked at him as if to say, "How many head blows have you taken lately?" (From those of you who know me, they will confirm I am no 'fly weight.' I'm somewhat beyond 'heavyweight' and do occasionally refer to myself as weighing a certain fraction of a

This seller is evidently reading my mind, (which probably isn't any great feat in itself. As you too may discover, my mind can be astonishingly shallow when it comes to some of my horse dealings. This, by the way, is definitely not a self assessment. My loving wife, Kathy, is repeatedly making this observation) because he is insisting upon saddling this, this 'Equine Powerhouse' and having me ride him.

Although time was at a premium, I agreed to wait while he tacked up this little guy. When he was finished, I had talked Mike into riding him instead of loading him down with my eighth of a ton. Mike is a big man but doesn't begin to tip the scales like I do.

Well, after a few short runs across the sellers' yard, Mike insisted I ride Dan (we had been there long enough already to be calling him by name).

"You gotta try it Dad", Mike argued, "he's entirely different than any of your horses."

I had noticed Mike wasn't doing his usual equine bunny hop so, even

See NORTHGAIT on page 8