

**SADDLEBREDS WITH SECOND CAREERS:
AN ALBUM OF ATHLETIC HORSES WITH HAPPY OWNERS**

by Deb Bennett, Ph.D.
First Edition -- October, 2024
SECTION TWO: F-L

Please see Preface in Section One for information and suggestions concerning ground schooling, re-training and reconditioning, and see List of Resources for more information

Saddlebred owner photos and stories continue on next page

Faulkner, Erica and Callaway's Quick Fix (Rudi), 14 year old gelding. No available pedigree.



The cameras embedded in today's cellular telephones are really not suitable for taking a good conformation photo, because most of them impose a great deal of "fisheye" distortion. I have tools in Photoshop which can remove some of this but the result is sometimes (as in this case) less than perfect, leaving us to guess at the horse's true proportionality. Nonetheless, there's no problem with seeing the substantial bone structure here and the smooth muscling. The pelvis is long enough, the stifles are low, the gaskins short, and the shoulder is lovely. I especially appreciate the deep shoulder-bed (the shoulder-bed is the sloping surface along the front of the shoulder blade,

formed because the shoulders stand noticeably wider than the neck).

I wish that this horse's pedigree had been posted online -- Callaway breeding usually means lots of old blood in the tail-female, and I am always excited to see names such as Montrose, Rex McDonald, Black Hawk 1833 (Morgan), Sir Archy (Thoroughbred), or Khasnadger (Arabian) brought up to the present day by broodmares which carry these strains. Many people think that non-Saddlebred blood in the tail female means the animal isn't a purebred, but this is erroneous; all breeds originated by crossbreeding.



I am always pleased to see people using their horses in non-competitive contexts -- in other words, just enjoying them. These are smiling people who have a safe, confident horse.

Above: Erica's daughter having a good time learning to ride on Rudi. Right: A photo from Erica's wedding. We received several photos from people who got married on horseback.



Field, Rebecca and A Royal Opportunity

13 year old gelding by He's Brn to Royalty (Wing Commander). He out of Princess Nora B.R. by Sultan's Royalty (Supreme Sultan/Valley View Supreme). A Royal Opportunity is out of A Photo Opportunity (her pedigree, and thus the tail-female, are not posted online).



I debated whether to include this image. Rebecca is certainly having a good time riding her horse in beautiful Acadia National Park. But -- this is a trailride, not a horse show. I'm certain the ride lasted several hours. Can we not under those circumstances dispense with the head-setting equipment? Is it not reasonable to suppose that hours of constraint by the side reins will induce cramped neck and back muscles as fatigue sets in?

Many people feel that it is necessary to show their horse's supposed "breed characteristics" at all times. Not so. If you look at the whole content of this document, you'll see that we're not having any difficulty at all telling that each and every

horse is an American Saddlebred -- in the simplest biting and also at liberty.

Many people do not understand collection. They think that the head and neck need to be "set". But a "set" head and neck is nothing more than a stiff head and neck. Beautiful carriage of the neck cannot be made by tying the head up or back or down. It is not made in dressage by "rollkür". It is not made in Western Pleasure by "riding the horse deep" (i.e. below the bridle). Collection starts from, and is always primarily the product of, coiling of the loins; continues as this raises the freespan of the back; and is completed when the horse raises the BASE of its neck.

Finney, Virginia and Gold Slipper (no pedigree available).



Virginia sent us no usable photo other than the conformation shot of Gold Slipper at left. The grey horse below is another Saddlebred gelding sent to me by Virginia Finney many years ago. I don't have pedigree info on either horse but if they are not related, they are certainly similar in having a build unusual for Saddlebreds: short on the leg with a heavier neck and huge butt. In this respect, these animals hark after the Quarter Horses to which Saddlebreds are related "way back there" in time, and also to Morgans. The Morgan and the Saddlebred are closely-related sister breeds.



This sturdier type of Saddlebred makes for a comfortable yet rather high-class ride. The conformation is suitable for stock and ranch work but also for pleasure driving. Of the two, I would prefer Gold Slipper because he is not built "downhill" and because

he presents more bone. The gray's best feature is his head, of a type that I always term "noble". Both horses have very wide, strong backs and excellent couplings and would be suitable for packing a heavier rider.

Fuseth, Heidi and Midnight Star Gazer

Gelding by Rolling Dice by Modern Kalarama (Rex Peavine/Rex McDonald). He out of Alexis of Almarada by The Golden Parader (Stonewall King). Midnight Star Gazer is out of Magic's Mystic Dawn by Buster's Black Magic (Anacacho Shamrock/Edna May's King). She out of Buster's Copper Miss by Susanna's Buster (Anacacho Shamrock/Edna May's King). Tail female: Easter Cloud, Rex McDonald, Stonewall King, Bourbon King, Bourbon Chief, Artist, Varnon's Roebuck (note quite a bit of old blood in this tail-female).

Heidi's head is missing from the dressage photo, but it otherwise shows very nice work. Her gelding is well conformed all around and I am always interested in a pedigree that harks back to foundational blood. Varnon's Roebuck is a Quarter Horse as well as a Saddlebred ancestor, and Artist was a very famous all-around ride in his day.





Gaidos, Joan and Revelation's First Prophet (Will).

Gelding by Winsdown Hi Octane (Ridgefield's Genius, King's Genius). He out of Jammin' the Blues by Admiral's Windjammer (Wing Commander). Revelation's First Prophet is out of Pandora's Melody and Blues by Splendid Dictator (Wing Commander). She out of Pandora's Majestic Beauty by Reba's Highland Fling (Kalarama Rex, Rex Peavine/Rex McDonald). Tail female: Rex Peavine/ Rex McDonald, Bourbon King, Stonewall King, Montrose.



There's quite a bit of value in learning to lighten up and just do "goofy" things with a horse which is in the process of becoming the rider's best friend. Joan's gelding Will is well conformed, his only flaw being the somewhat upright pasterns (noticeably improved from the "before" photo above to the "after" photo below, by getting the hoofs into proper antero-posterior balance). The pasterns are more than made up for by the tremendous loin coupling, huge hindquarters, lovely topline and excellent hocks.



Joan has spent time schooling Will in a lesson context (left) and, once again here as in the previous case, we see good work at the all-important walk. Joan's trainer Wanja Gerlach (below) has taken Will to fourth level competition in dressage, and the photo clearly shows what a hard worker the horse is and how capable of intense focus - as well as his considerable athleticism.





My favorite of her submissions, however, is the photo above. A skeleton in pink gloves riding a horse wearing a Hawaiian lei attempting to put a ring on the bull's tail with a stick. Sure! Why not! See how straight the horse is moving in a slow canter on the right lead. This is great, but what really amuses me is his expression: horses apparently sometimes think their people are totally nuts – but they typically go along with it so long as they think their job is to take care of their person. That's that relationship "thing" again – more important than anything else.



Galbreath, John and a Saddlebred mare (no horse name or pedigree available).

The Galbreath family operates a cattle ranch in the Western half of the U.S. and the sort of horse they want is durable and sensible. When introduced to them, Saddlebreds quickly get interested in cattle and enjoy bossing them around. The longeing photo below shows the mare correctly bent at a relaxed trot, and paying attention to the handler.





Gelding by Master Class by Oak Hills Dear Sir (Wing Commander). He out of Reedan's Nighty-Night (Supreme Sultan/Valley View Supreme). Into the Light is out of The Light O'Love by Attache's Thunderbolt (Wing Commander). She out of My Prom Night by Periaptor (Wing Commander). Tail female: Wing Commander, Edna May's King, King's Genius, Artist, King William, Blackburn's Whip (Quarter Horse ancestor).

This gelding's neck is so long that it makes his hindquarters look short. They aren't, however; by measurement the pelvic length equals 30.3% of the body length as measured from point of buttock to point of breast. There will therefore be no problem about this horse having enough power for sporthorse use. The knees and hocks are just tremendous, there is a long forearm, and you could not ask for a prettier shoulder. The coupling is not as wide or strong as in some examples presented here, but is as good as in many Warmbloods or Thoroughbreds. Further, schooling for either jumping or dressage will strengthen the back.

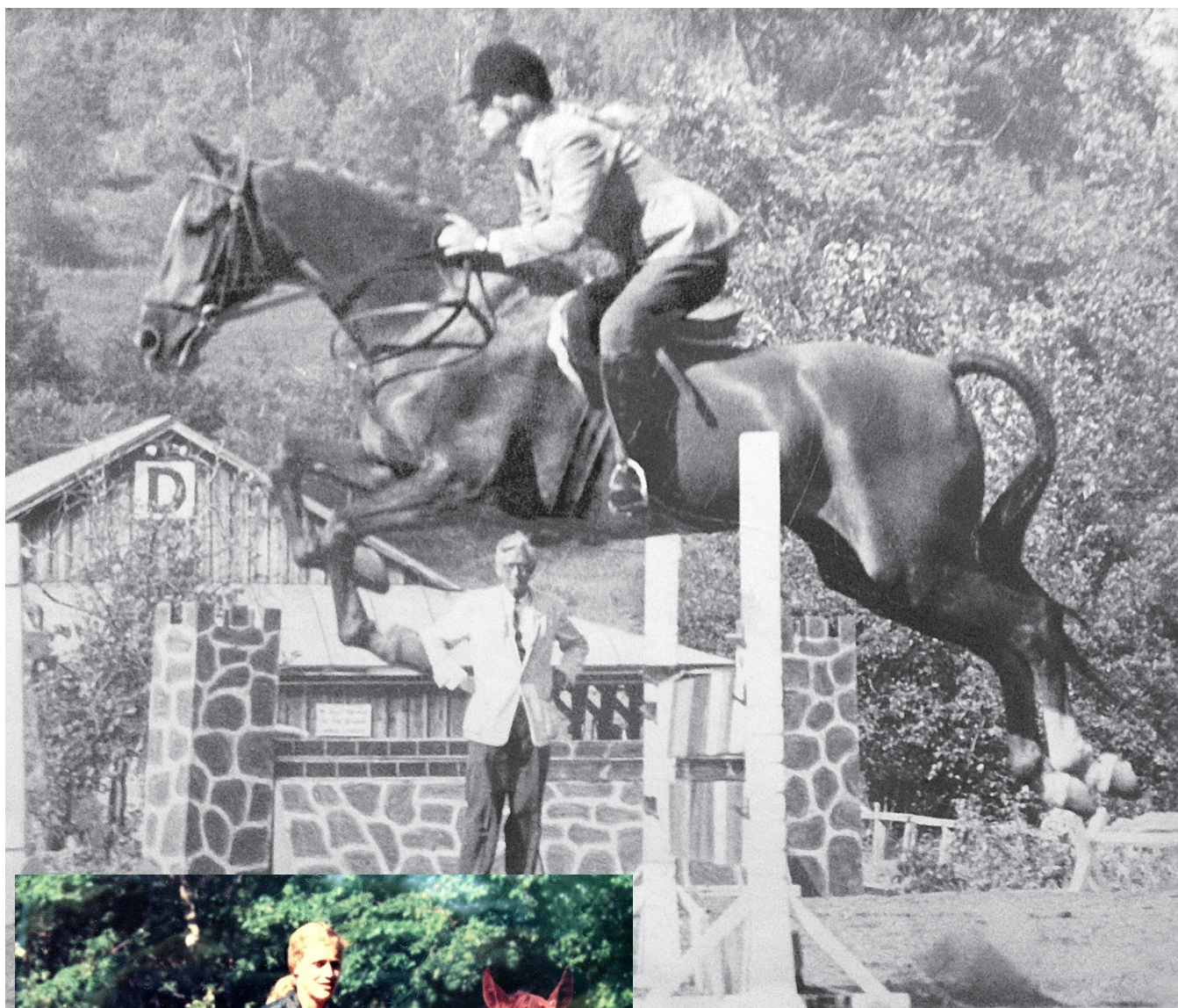
From the horse's underline, which rises from the breastbone to the sheath, I take it that he's still working on "up" and "down" transitions and that if he's in dressage he has not yet passed Training Level. As fitness of the "core" muscles increases, the rectus abdominis that forms the underline will thicken. Less important than the change this makes in the horse's appearance is the change that it makes in his way of going. It will become very easy for the horse to coil the loins, which brings the hind limbs further forward beneath the body, in turn lightening the forehand and increasing maneuverability.

Grace, Lydia and Aura's Make Mine Champagne



Gelding by Aura of Excellence (Montrose). He out of Don's Blaze of Glory (Stonewall King). Aura's Make Mine Champagne is out of Champagne's Fancy Sunset by Sky Limit's Gold Champagne (Supreme Sultan/Valley View Supreme). She is out of Sky Limit's Joyous Sunset (Stonewall King). Tail Female: Edna May's King, Stonewall King, Rex McDonald. This horse is unusual in having Montrose fairly close up as a sire-line ancestor.

Overall this horse has excellent conformation; not a flew to be picked and not a single point about him that I would change. I love the level body balance (from core of loins to palpable base of the neck), wide body, short back, strong coupling, and lovely shoulder with well-defined shoulder-bed. This sort of horse can do just about any type of work, from roping cattle on a ranch to Enduro to jumping to dressage. Lydia is lucky to own him.



Hanks, Diana and Copper Cadence.

Photo at left shows the gelding at age 13 in 1973. Pedigree not available but registered name thought to be Kalarama Royal Red. Above: Copper and Diana clearing a vertical set at 4 ft. 6 in.

Diana was one of the first to send in these photos, taken when she was a teenager and during intercollegiate competition. Note the horse's great coupling and powerful hindquarters. This is a classic story of a horse who can be someone's best friend and do a little winning, too.

Hoskins, Trena and Tiger Down



Gelding by Tiger Woods by Chubasco (Wing Commander). He out of Night Dancer (Valley View Supreme). Tiger Down is out of Boogie Night Blues by Hot August Nite (Valley View Supreme). She out of Boogie Woogie Blues by Start Up the Band (Wing Commander). Tail Female: Wing Commander, Supreme Sultan, Valley View Supreme, Chester Dare, Montrose, Indian Chief/Black Hawk 1833 (Morgan).

This horse's pedigree is an example of inbreeding, since almost all his lines go back either to Wing Commander or Valley View Supreme. The tail female however, contains some great old stuff including Chester Dare, Montrose and Indian Chief.

Trena is another heavyweight rider but she has chosen this horse thoughtfully for his broad body and wide, strong coupling which are the crucial factors for weight carrying ability. He has a well-carried neck and a long, well-angled shoulder.

There is a little less bone substance here and less width to knee and hock than in some of the other horses reviewed in this document, but they are nonetheless sufficient. The hocks are a bit high, and the hind angles give the hind limbs a "Z" or so-called "sickle hocked" appearance. This is often considered a fault but is actually helpful if the horse is five-gaited. To the degree seen here, it will not interfere with Trena's preferred activities which revolve around hunt-seat and western classes at conventional shows. See next page for the pair in performance.



Left: Trena and Tiger in a Western Pleasure class at a jog-trot. Note that the jog-trot, as usually shown, is not really a trot since there is no period of suspension. The horse instead merely steps from one diagonal pair to the other, as this photo shows.

Right: Trena and Tiger in a hunter-on-the-flat class at a Saddlebred show. Trena is doing the horse the courtesy of riding in three-point contact so as to relieve his loins. He accordingly produces a forward-going and well-suspended canter. The photo catches him in the first phase of a canter on the left lead.



Jackson, Nina McKee and Yellow Submarine



Gelding by Fire's Supreme Sunrise (Valley View Supreme), he out of Golden Lady of Riverview Farms by Perfecto's Golden Chief (Montrose). Yellow Submarine is out of Stonewall's Purity Supreme (Stonewall King), she out of Elsie's Stonewall (Stonewall King). Tail female: Forest King, Rex Peavine/Rex McDonald, King William, Steel Dust (Quarter Horse ancestor).

By contrast to the preceding horse, Nina and her gelding actually do intend to negotiate some fences. The horse has flawless conformation, but my absolute favorite thing about him is the expression of bemused curiosity -- intelligence and self-awareness. This is a superb match-up of compatible "personalities" and I expect they will have a long history together.



Jimenez, Cynthia Kirby and Oh I'll Show You

16:3 hand gelding by Dorian Warrior's Song by Dorian Wild Temper (King's Genius). He out of Vida Undine's Universe by Mr. USA (Stonewall King). Oh I'll Show You is out of Show the World by Show Me Too (Wing Commander). She out of The Dream World by Buck and Wing (Wing Commander). Tail female: Anacacho Denmark, King's Genius, Stonewall King, Rex Peavine/Rex McDonald.



The conformation photo above has been extracted from a trailride panorama showing this horse snoozing on a picket-line with a group of other horses. They are somewhere high up in the Sierra Nevada among the Ponderosa pines. This horse is bred for five-gaited show performance and he's a big fellow who is more regularly ridden by Cynthia's six-foot-one inch husband. It's their wedding day in the photo at left and the gentleman is on the horse.

The gelding has excellent bone structure and good hocks, knees, and substance but needs to have the hoofs attended to, especially to get the right fore into better antero-posterior balance. This will cause the abnormally upright pasterns to normalize.

Topline development has not happened with this horse because he has not been exercised at arena figures. He is very fit, bespeaking lots of trail mileage in steep country. However, suppling exercises would make him a better and more balanced ride, and will also cause the saddle to fit better. Arena work is not "for show people only" or "for advanced riders only", but is basic to all forms of ridden work.

Johnson, Caroline and Stonewall's Gift of Genius



Gelding by Stonewall's Highland Genius (Stonewall King). He out of Stonewall's Nancy Highland by Highland's Golden Genius (King's Genius). She out of Stonewall's Classic Vintage by Stonewall's Golden Farewell (Stonewall King). Tail female: King's Genius, Anacacho Shamrock, Edna May's King, Peavine, Mambrino Chief, Grey Eagle (Grey Eagle, a Thoroughbred-Morgan cross, was the sire of Robert E. Lee's famous Traveller).

Another Saddlebred very well conformed for sport-horse use. The coupling is the epitome of perfection and the viewer should study this photo to get a solid idea of what a perfect loin coupling looks like. The shoulder, withers, neck, and head are typical of Stonewall breeding. Caroline uses this horse for just about everything, including mounted archery (at right). Boy, that looks like a





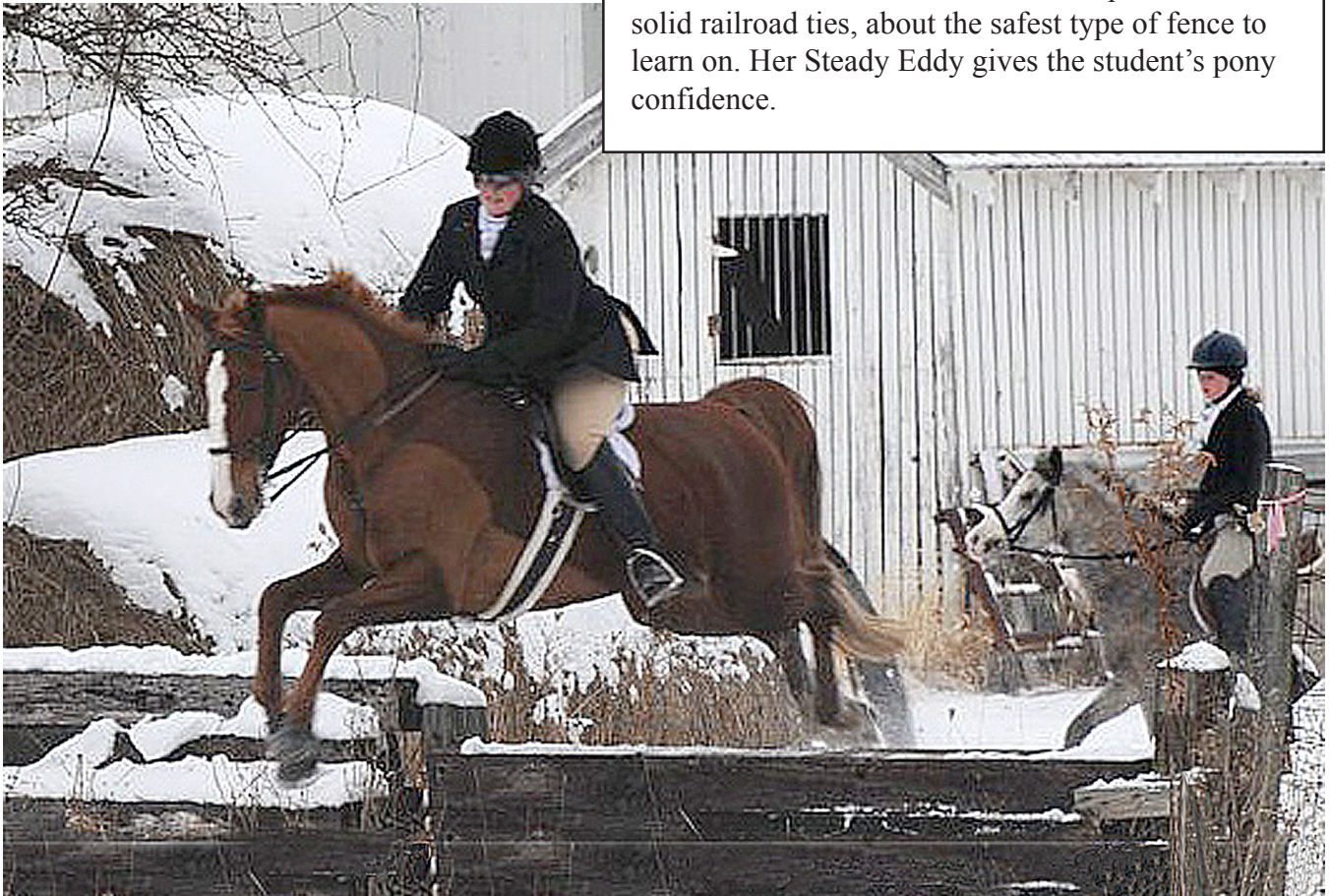
Caroline and Gift of Genius clear the triangular trap in the cross-country phase of an eventing competition.

lot of fun! But check the next couple of pages too, to see very good form over fences and spectacular power over big jumps. If ever there were a horse to prove my oft-repeated point -- that the right kind of Saddlebred can make an excellent sporthorse -- this would be the one.



This is an absolutely huge fence, over five feet high and probably close to eight feet in spread. Horses that can do this are candidates for the Olympic team and International-level competition. Why do we see so few American horses on the American equestrian teams?

Here Caroline leads a student over a spread made of solid railroad ties, about the safest type of fence to learn on. Her Steady Eddy gives the student's pony confidence.



Karche, Chelsea and Pickle



This 19 year old gelding stands 15:3 hands. His pedigree is unavailable because he was adopted from a rescue farm, but DNA testing indicates that he is probably American Saddlebred (and by his conformation, this is accurate).

The happy moment at left is the best conformation shot sent to us by Chelsea, but the reader can evaluate his bone substance in the jumping shot below.



Pickle is beautifully conformed and I am very glad that someone who loves him has purchased him (all rescues are purchases, whether they are called that up-front or not).

This horse has more athletic capability than I think Chelsea realizes. He looks to me to be one of those for whom jumping is so easy that when he is asked to cross a low obstacle, Pickle kind of sleeps through it. Raise the fence and he will perk up considerably and start to snap the knees. On the other hand, I love to see a horse taking care of his rider, as he is certainly doing in the photo at left.



Of all the photos in this album of Saddlebreds, this is one of my top favorites. Life should be fun, and riding should be fun -- for all parties. If riding ever becomes not-fun -- the bloody spur lesson, the coach yelling or screaming, the rider in tears, the horse tense or with multiple whip welts -- then we need to stop and ask what we were in this game for in the first place. Athletic achievement? Sure.

A satisfying day at a horse show? Certainly. But these are founded on something greater and deeper and vastly more important, and that is the human's understanding of, and empathy for, what is taking place on the inside of the horse. The rider needs to see through the horse's eyes. Then the horse will "come from the other side to help the rider out." And pull a happy kid on a sled into the bargain.

Krussel, Leslie and Ace High Duke (Gordon)

Gelding by Anacacho Ace High (Edna May's King). He out of High Comedy by Kalarama Command (Rex Peavine/Rex McDonald). Ace High Duke is out of Silly Sara by Fancy Decision (Edna May's King). She out of Exotic Princess by Society Kalarama (Rex Peavine/Rex McDonald). Tail female: Rex Peavine/Rex McDonald, Bourbon Chief, Diamond Denmark, Kentucky Whip.



Leslie's son winning a Western Pleasure class at a Saddlebred show (Photo by Macklin)



This extremely handsome and powerful horse has been a champion in showing "western" classes but would be perfectly capable of doing real ranch work, too. The conformation is excellent. Note especially the wonderful loin coupling, broad knees and hocks, and beautiful neck, shoulder, and head.

Tess LaSalle and Sammy (registered name and pedigree not available).



Tess's photos reveal how well an older horse can take care of little kids. A very important person is up on this horse's back and he knows it. I'd love to see further pictures from Tess demonstrating gains in conditioning, with a fuller and less angular topline. The bone structure is all there, just waiting. I don't know the gelding's age but if he is not too old, he could become this child's ride into her teenage years.



Leifheit, Darryl and Savannah Day (Trooper) (Pedigree not available)



The “before” shot of Trooper (above) was taken within minutes of his arrival at Darryl’s farm, and the horse did what all new stable residents do -- go sniff noses with the other horses. Not only is this a great conformation photo, it illustrates a horse maximally raising the base of its neck in order to arch it (see EQUUS no. 393, “Raising the Base of the Neck”), a crucially important aspect of the ability to achieve collection. Darryl reports that the horse arrived a few hundred pounds underweight. Note also Trooper’s flat, slightly hollow, hard and shiny back -- telltale signs of stiffness that we have seen throughout this album which are telltale signs of stiffness due to habitually moving hollow-backed and “upside-down”.



The “after” photo (below) was taken three months later. It illustrates two different kinds of change -- weight gain due to more groceries, for one; but also, what



Darryl tandem-driving while riding Trooper, with another Saddlebred trainee (Singsation) out front. Note Trooper's "roundness" -- a huge change from initial hollow-backed carriage. Janeen Jennings photo.

happens when a horse finds himself in the hands of a good horseman who knows how to use riding or driving as means of suppling and conditioning. As we see throughout this Album, some Saddlebreds respond so completely to this riding philosophy that over the course of just a few months they become hardly recognizable as the same horse. What an amazing transformation in the horse's topline, what lovely softness, and what outstanding examples of straight carriage and correct cadence! Both Trooper and Singsation eventually became winners in various forms of competitive driving, but I consider this less important than the help Darryl has been able to give these horses both physically and in terms of their interior life. Anyone who has the skill and knowledge to produce this kind of change in a horse deserves the highest praise.



Lemcke, Rachel and LBF Hopeless Sinner



Gelding by Revival by Sultan's Santana (Supreme Sultan/Valley View Supreme). He out of Amazing Grace by Supreme Spirit (Valley View Supreme). Hopeless Sinner is out of CH Frosty Naranda by Chubasco (Wing Commander). She out of Naranda by Fire Lane (Valley View Supreme). Tail female: King's Genius, Edna May's King, Chester Dare, Montrose.

This horse has all the pedigree bells and whistles that indicate breeding for high performance and sport-horse use. The conformation is excellent, especially through the pelvis, thighs, gaskins, and hocks. The dished hoofs need orthopedic correction; I recommend Gene Ovnicsek's EDSS system for many cases like this. The free trot photo at right shows the horse moving a little bit on the forehand (right fore still in contact with the ground), and a persistently stiff back and neck. Hopefully Rachel will be able to make big improvements through thoughtful use of arena figures and grids of ground poles or low jump gymnastics.



LoMonaco, Michelle and Flaming Reverie (a.k.a. New Years at the Mansion)



Gelding by Sunrise's Happy New Year (Wing Commander). Flaming Reverie out of Call Me Heiress by Gomez (Supreme Sultan/Valley View Supreme). Tail female: Edna May's King, King's Genius, Anacacho Denmark, Montrose, Rex Peavine/Rex McDonald, Washington Denmark, Black Hawk 1833 (Morgan).

This “before” photo is yet another example of undermuscled topline, slablike neck with hypertrophy of the rhomboideus and brachiocephalicus muscles (which are plainly visible), and general stiffness. But as in most other cases in this Album, there's good bone structure within, although this animal is a little finer-boned than some of the

others. Nonetheless the articulations are correct and the hoofs are in reasonably good shape.

It is not to be expected that any amateur owner can take on a rehabilitation project and not make any mistakes. Everybody, including me, has had to learn by experience and oftentimes, “experience”



equals “mistake”. The right approach is to consider that mistakes are there to be learned from.

A case in point is the recent development of so-called “western dressage.” Most examples that have been sent to me show work so bad that I won’t print them. These of Michelle and Rev are better than most, and I include them here primarily as examples of a tense horse that thinks that before it can take a step forward, it must first brace its neck and body. Tension is evident throughout Michelle’s body in these photos also. That this is not a good way to ride has nothing to do with it being a rider in English boots sitting in a “western” saddle. The problem is not with the tack, but rather with the total misunderstanding of what collection is, and what constitutes rein contact.



The originator of “western dressage” was Mr. Eitan Beth-Halachmy of Grass Valley, California. He has since said that “the idea that I originally had got away from me,” in other words, he is no longer associating himself with western dressage and has made a new start with what he calls cowboy dressage. Mr. Beth-Halachmy is an excellent rider and trainer, and his horses are beautiful to watch - as he says, his program is “where people, trust, and soft



feel come together.” This situation is an exact parallel to what occurred many years ago with reining competition which was started by expert horseman Dale Wilkinson, but later “hijacked” by people who did not have either the skill or the understanding to produce a rollback (i.e. half-pirouette), and this is why we generally see the spin rather than the rollback in reining competition today. If the reader is interested in seeing high-level collection in western tack, I would recommend viewing the maturity and Junior rider competitions sponsored by the National Reined

Cowhorse Association. This represents the best modern understanding of the old California Vaquero and Montana Buckaroo traditions and represents the “grand prix” of Western horsemanship.

In the above photo Michelle has learned and improved in a whole lot of areas, which of course has created vast improvement in her horse’s appearance and way of going. The photo was taken during a schooling session with a coach who seems also to be a good horseman.

DeeDee Ludlam and Rebeloution (Rebel)



8 year old gelding by Bob Bobaloo by Belle Reve's Renaissance Man (Wing Commander). He out of Peavine's Little Lady by Sea Society (Kalarama Rex/Rex Peavine/Rex McDonald). Rebeloution is out of Lady of the Realm by Catalyst (Wing Commander). She out of Deceive by Foxfire's Prophet (Supreme Sultan/Valley View Supreme). Tail female: Supreme Sultan, Edna May's King, Wing Commander, Montrose, Coleman's Eureka, General Knox and Vermont Black Hawk (Morgan). The rider/trainer up in the above photo is Chelsea Kolman.

The only thing not visible in this photo is the pair of Pegasus wings! Wow! What jumping ability! I quote DeeDee's letter below in telling the story of how this bright-red horse came to be a successful eventer:

"Rebel started training in a traditional manner for a Saddlebred; I sent him as a young horse to [a

professional trainer] who taught him to ride and drive. As his training progressed I assessed Rebel to be an ideal candidate for the relatively new hunter division which is gaining popularity at the Saddlebred shows. Enter COVID, with the trainer's barn needing to be closed. I brought Rebel home, along with a school horse to have something to ride. While enjoying their turnout



Left: Rebel and his rider/trainer Chelsea Kolman clear the wide log jump during the Cross Country phase of an Event.

Below: Rebel and Chelsea during the Stadium phase.

one day the school horse -- who loved to pick on Rebel a bit -- got him running and up and over the fence Rebel went! My fence is over five feet high, and I thought -- surely this horse is trying to tell me something. I was not sure what to do with the information as I was out of my element in the jumping/eventing world, so I started looking around to find him a place to change his vocation. By sheer luck, one day I saw a post online about a Saddlebred competing in a field trial in Ocala. I contacted the trainer -- and the rest is history.

Rebel loves to jump! He is fearless, learns everything very quickly, and yet he has a puppy-dog personality. He started this path in April of 2021. In a little over a year he is already competing in Open Novice, excelling at his jumping. We are expecting soon to start taking him out at Training Level at some schooling shows. This is a fairly rapid progression through the levels of eventing competition. Just his ability to advance at such a rate exemplifies his trainability.

Our biggest obstacle in having him compete in the eventing world is the preconception common



among eventing exhibitors that Saddlebreds are too hot, too wild, too crazy to be any good at. And it's not just the exhibitors, but also the trainers and the people judging as well. But hopefully a horse like Rebel, who still has a lot to learn, will continue to move forward [and his success] will help to educate and sway the minds of those who would write him off because of his breed.