



A SLICE OF HEAVEN

Here On Earth

RAND

BY BOB FUNKHOUSER

On a glorious spring day in York, Maine, customers from near and far gathered at the picturesque, 20-acre Sheaffer Farm belonging to David Rand and Jason Douglass where an array of champion Morgans (and a Saddlebred or two) are trained and developed. Also inhabiting the pastures of this beautiful property are the likes of llamas, peacocks, burrows, and goats, all to the delight of their sons, Parker and Presley Rand. They rent an additional 50 acres adjoining the farm to accommodate everything.

They spent several years on this property, which was originally developed by the Ramsey family before moving farther north to some property they were able to buy. When this location became available, Rand and Douglass tried every way in the world to make it happen and things finally fell into place, making way for their return. After a sizable investment and lots of love and elbow grease, the facility has returned to the grandeur of old, giving the family an amazing place for David to perfect his craft and customers enjoy their horses, while giving the boys one of the biggest and best playgrounds they could possibly imagine. Life is indeed good for the foursome, but with that life comes many hours dedicated to their four and two-legged friends.

The Norman Rockwell setting of York, Maine, has a nostalgic and relaxing feel to it and the Rand training facility fits right into the scenario. On this particular Saturday as everyone was preparing for the upcoming UPHA 14 Spring Premiere, customers spread out on the hillside overlooking the outdoor arena as David and Jason brought out one horse after another. A large number of junior exhibitors ran and played with Parker and Presley as they all waited their turn in the spotlight on this dress rehearsal day.

Families who have been with David forever were there as were the newer faces with their junior exhibitors. All were getting the Rand polish.

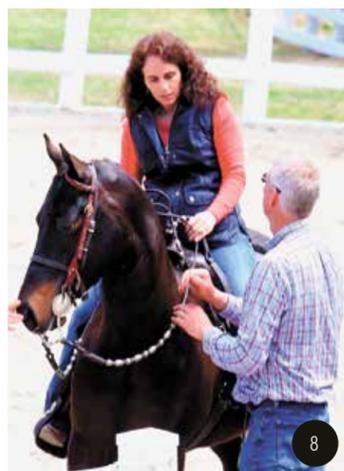
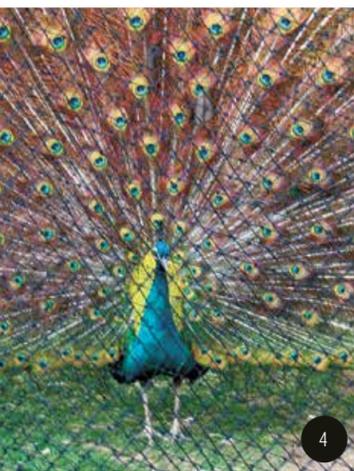
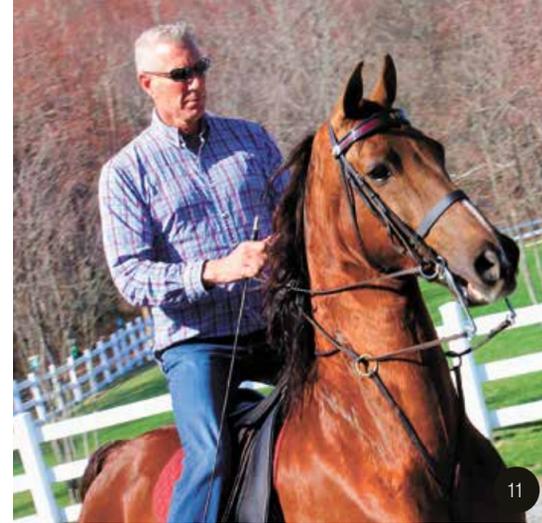
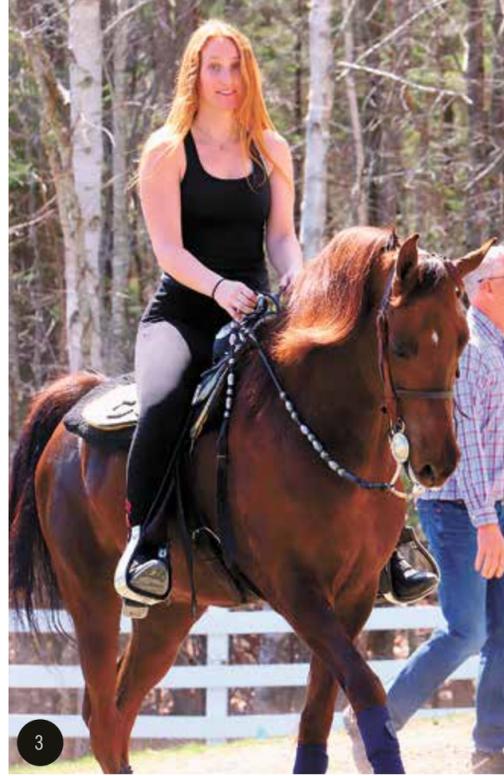
Much like the customer base, the horses included everything from newborn foals to 21-year-old Cherrydale Acapella GCH, teaching the ropes of horsemanship to yet another young rider. A few select broodmares are being crossed to the farm's noted stallions of the show ring: 2020 World Champion Park Saddle Four-Year-Old Ledgefield's Jagged Edge (Get Busy x Queen's No Mercy) and 2020 World Champion English Pleasure Three-Year-Old and 2019 World Champion Stallion Queen's Sebastian CH.

The Rand crew, headed by farm manager Bernie Flores, kept champion after champion coming all day with David and the customers moving from Western pleasure to a two-year-old to a park veteran to a world titled hunter. The Rand customers cheered on one another and offered words of encouragement as the promise of the in-gate opening at W. Springfield, Massachusetts for UPHA 14 was getting very close. It was a family atmosphere that goes hand in hand with all things positive about the sport of showing horses.

The pride that David, Jason, and all the customers had in their steeds was beaming. From breeders who had their prayers answered with healthy, promising youngsters, to parents whose faces lit up as they saw their children making great strides under David's firm, yet encouraging teaching, to the seasoned amateurs who knew it was time to step up their games, it was an afternoon to remember.



Jason Douglass, Presley, David, and Parker Rand make their home at this beautiful property in York, Maine, where the Rand champions are developed.



1. At the end of the day it was time to bring the llamas in, an activity the boys love.
 2. The four-year-old hunter, Captain Cool (Cool Whip x WVS Forever Tina), had a world of expression with Courtney Carrara. This will be their debut season for Moon Brook Morgans LLC.
 3. Hannah Kelley was there for a couple of rides, including her mom's Western champion, VL Todd Michael. The ECP Anchor Man son will debut with both Hannah and Leslie Kelley this year.
 4. Several peacocks brighten up the farm and add to the animal preserve-like atmosphere.

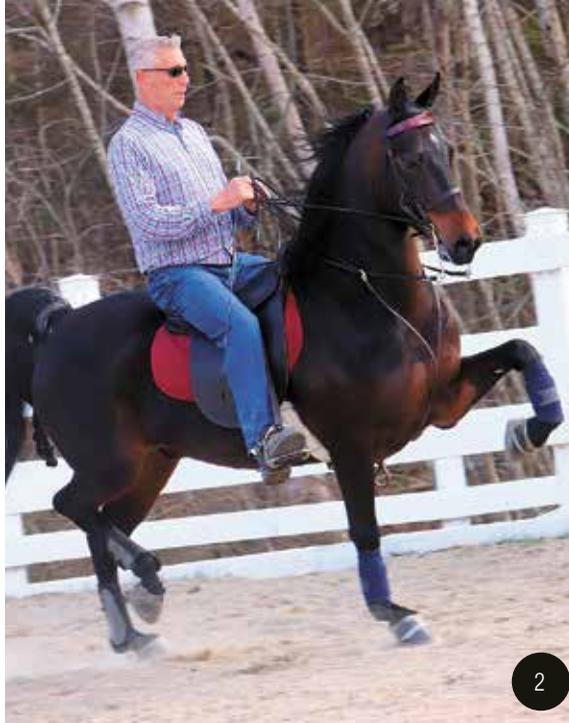
5. The 2020 World Champion English Pleasure titleholder with Cindy Mugnier, Sensationalist is now owned by Danny Kelley's Victory Lane. There is no let down to this Spiceoflife Present Tense GCH son, whether under saddle or in harness.
 6. Amanda NiCastro and her mom Liz Hedlund-Poirier were there for the day. Among their stars is Queen's Jim Dandy GCH who was Reserve World Champion Ladies Pleasure Driving with Amanda in 2019.
 7. Reserve world champions in the World Futurity Hunter Pleasure Three-Year-Old event last year, Nicole Bennett and Come Get It had their game faces on in preparation for the Spring Premiere.

8. The Tassinari family was out for a visit and David put Jill aboard Gradell's Home Run, winner of the Grand National Three-Year-Old Pleasure Saddle class last year. Owned by Casey McDonald Douglass, Home Run is making a nice transition to the Western division.
 9. Bernie Flores has been David's right hand man for some time now. As farm manager, Bernie is quite proud of the showcase barn and the stock that it houses.
 10. Casey McDonald Douglass was thrilled with her three-year-old named KGA Pura Vida. The Graycliff Tony GCH prospect put on a horse show in the long lines.

11. Versatile certainly applies to David and his training barn. This year, he will direct Rachael Winograd through her final year of equitation. He was aboard her Hylee's Lock N Load on this day, going through some straight line work.
 12. Going back to his roots, David is developing this talented Arrowhead's Bateleur filly for Dana Ball who has gotten back into horse ownership. She could bounce off of both ends.
 13. With her Rand family cheering her on, Heidi DeRusso piloted CBFM Cease Fire GCH around the arena as Heidi prepared for her walk/trot debut. Gus was the perfect teammate for Heidi.

14. This three-day old Ledgefield's Jagged Edge foal was enjoying the outside with a romp in the ring, totally ignoring his mother, a Queen's Glory Days/Queen's Proud Mary daughter named Queen's Baby Doll.
 15. Last year's Two-Year-Old Pleasure Driving World Champion with Shanna Gish, Indian Creek Highland Park (Indian Creek Highlander x Cache') is Cindy Mugnier's replacement for Sensationalist. He was a sight under saddle on this beautiful day.
 16. Winner of the 2020 Grand National Champion Walk/Trot Hunt Seat Equitation 8 & Under title, Stella Carrara and National Treasure CH were gearing up for another successful season. This will be just her second year out of Leadline.

17. A third generation member of the McDonald family to be a part of the Rand family, Avery Douglass is teamed with the one of the all-time greats, Cherrydale Accapella GCH for the walk/trot pleasure division. They made five victory passes last year and Top 3 in the Walk/Trot English Pleasure 11 & Under World Championship.
 18. A horse with much energy, personality, and athletic ability, Queen's Sebastian CH put on a spectacular show for the Rand audience. It was hard to tell who was having more fun, the Erin Kelley-owned world champion or David.



1. The man himself! Defending Four-Year-Old Park Saddle World Champion Ledgefield's Jagged Edge looked ready for more in the coming season with David riding for Dr. Grace Steere.

2. West coast resident Kathleen Kabel wasn't at the farm on this day, however, her 2020 Ladies Amateur English Pleasure World Champion Queen's Castle Hill CH was. David had him in top order in preparation for her next ride.

3. Queen's No Mercy, a Mizrahi daughter and also the dam of world champion Ledgefield's Jagged Edge, had a beautiful baby by Queen's Sebastian CH. Both mom and son had loads of quality and presence.

4. A birthday present from Pete to Sandy Hendrick, Queen's Dream Girl is a beautiful four-year-old Futurity French Command daughter that David is preparing for Sandy.

5. Back from Florida, Lynn Plourde was there to knock the rust off. David had her LMP Bring It Home in top order as Lynn picked up right where she left off. They made two victory passes from their only two horse shows last season.

6. Owned by Liz Hedlund-Poirier, this exceptional two-year-old filly is by Dragonsmeade Sea Dragon out of TTMF French Enchantress, the dam of world champion Blurred Lines CH and Queen's Castle Hill CH.

