

THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE

The People's Choice Two-Year Old Fine Harness – Awesome At This
The People's Choice Four-Year Old Harness Pony – Heartland Dixie Dancer
The People's Choice Reserve Four-Year Old Road Pony – Heartland Inspired

By Jenny Grey



Heartland Dixie Dancer, who reminds Faydelle Schott of a miniature fine harness horse, won the Junior Harness Pony Reserve World's Championship last year with Alicia Schuckert at whip.

An enthusiastic, successful and positive force in the show ring for over 60 years, Faydelle Schott is recognized with People's Choice awards for three talented young equine stars who shone brightly last year -- Awesome At This, the People's Choice Two-Year-Old Fine Harness Champion; Heartland Dixie Dancer the People's Choice Four-Year-Old Harness Pony Champion and Heartland Inspired, the People's Choice Four-Year-Old Road Pony Reserve Champion. Motivated and energized by her much-loved horses and ponies, Faydelle enjoyed an outstanding 2016 show season.

Well remembered for the standing ovation she received after a second consecutive world's championship win with Heartland Fortune Maker in 2013, Faydelle continues her long career on an upward trajectory. Now almost 90 years old, she was a child of the Depression who remembers feeling fortunate to get enough to eat, let alone pursue her love of horses and ponies. She was thirty years old before she bought her first horse and has been making up for lost time ever since.

Jim Lowry, one of the outstanding trainers who has worked with Faydelle over the years, became interested in Awesome At This (At Night x Desert's Awesome Lover), after seeing him win the

ASB Yearling Breeder's Cup in 2015. When Jim took Faydelle over to see him, she remembers, "When he trotted around, he got a buzz on and threw his tail over his back. I knew he had the 'x-factor' and he's huge!" She bought him right away. Having owned three from the same bloodlines, she was confident he would be a great show horse and she was right. This is what he is born for.

"He's so upheaded and lofty, he barely needs an overcheck," Faydelle told us, still excited about his results as a two-year-old. Jim Lowry agreed, describing him as the perfect fine harness horse. "He's so mature and athletic," said Jim, "The more you worked him, the better he got. He's maybe as good as anything else I've had. He's game but not pushy – all show horse!"

Winning the Two-Year-Old Fine Harness at Lexington Junior League the first time Jim Lowry showed him, Awesome At This was already beginning to attract attention. This fancy chestnut followed with a Reserve World's Championship win in the ASR Kentucky Futurity Two-Year-Old Fine Harness; first place in the Indiana Futurity Two-Year Old Fine Harness at the All American Classic and first in Two-Year Old Fine Harness at the prestigious American Royal. An outstanding show season established him



Awesome At This won the Two-Year-Old Fine Harness at Lexington Junior League the first time Jim Lowry showed him. He followed up with the Reserve World's Championship in the ASR Kentucky Two-Year-Old Fine Harness then ended the year taking first place in Two-Year-Old Fine Harness at the American Royal. Jim described him as the perfect fine harness horse.



Matt Schuckert captured the UPHA Road Pony Classic Reserve Grand Champion's title in Kansas City last year showing Heartland Inspired in his first year of competition.



Faydelle Schott's most famous pony of all, Heartland Fortune Maker, was the World's Champion of Champions Amateur Hackney Pony in both 2012 and 2013. Her smile says it all!

firmly as a rising star with a great future, earning your votes as the People's Choice Two-Year-Old Fine Harness Champion.

Faydelle loves to watch her horses work at home so when Jim Lowry moved to High Spirits Farm this year, it was impossible for her to drive the long distance to Missouri. Jim had done a wonderful job but she needed a trainer closer to her home in Akron, Ohio. Faydelle knew her Saddlebreds would be in great hands with Jenny and Jim Taylor at Memory Lane Farm, only 45 minutes away. Also outstanding trainers and wonderful people, they will give Awesome At This the best possible opportunity to mature and grow into his considerable talent. "I feel so blessed with the great trainers I've had," Faydelle reflected. "They have given me the best of everything!" At Memory Lane Farm, she has the added advantage of having known Jenny Taylor for over 30 years. Now that Jim and Jenny have had an opportunity to work with this exceptional colt, they whole-heartedly agree with Jim Lowry that Awesome's name fits him perfectly. Ideally suited to the fine harness division, his performance seems effortless. "We loved him when we saw him last year," said Jenny. "We are very excited to have him in our show string...he's so naturally athletic and has a great attitude!" Awesome At This will make his three-year-old debut with Memory Lane Farm at the River Ridge show this year.

Faydelle has been showing her ponies under the Debonaire Stables banner with Matt and Alicia Schuckert for the last two years. They knew Faydelle for several years from attending the same shows and visiting back and forth. It happened that Jim Stachowski was training Heartland Crimson Rose for Faydelle and recommended she send the mare to Matt for training. The pony was shown at Lexington Junior League, was Reserve Ladies Harness Pony Champion and later purchased by Beth Jones. When Faydelle buys a pony, there are usually more to follow. She loves them so much she can rarely bear to part with them. "I do this for the love of the horse," she explained.

While still at Junior League, Matt suggested she look at another pony. Meeting with Darrel Kolkman of Heartland Hackney Farm, they watched Heartland Night Music work. Having a great eye for a horse, Faydelle rarely second guesses herself and she is usually right. Following her instincts, she bought him that day. Now with six ponies in training at Debonaire Farm including Heartland Dixie Dancer and Heartland Inspired, five Saddlebreds at Memory Lane Farm and a few



Faydelle Schott was joined by trainer Jim Lowry and Stachowski Farms assistant trainer Mike Clark (l) for a picture at the party to celebrate her 89th birthday during the show.



Faydelle Schott and Heartland Fortune Maker

more with Jim Stachowski, she is likely to have a big contingent at the River Ridge show this year. "I'm going to have so many I'm going to have to start cleaning stalls," she said, laughing. "I love Matt and Alicia," she added. "They do a great job with the ponies and they're so enthusiastic."

Captivated by Heartland Dixie Dancer (Heartland Head of the Class x Heartland Dixie) who won the 2015 Three-Year-Old Harness Pony World Championship with Darrel Kolkman on the lines, Faydelle asked Darrel if she was for sale. At first the answer was 'no' but she received a call sometime later and Dixie Dancer quickly became a member of Faydelle's show string. She describes this pretty bay mare as "Very fine, like a deer; she reminds me of a miniature fine harness horse – so natural!" After winning the UPHA Harness Pony Classic at Indianapolis Charity and the Ohio State Fair last year, this lovely pony earned the Junior Harness Pony Reserve World's Championship at Louisville with Alicia Schuckert at whip, then followed with a win in Junior/Limit Harness Pony before ending a great show season at the American Royal as the UPHA Harness Pony Classic Grand Champion with Alicia on the lines. Heartland Dixie Dancer earned your well-deserved votes as the Four-Year Old Harness Pony People's Choice Champion.

Also a gifted pony, Heartland Inspired (Heartland Rain or Shine x Heartland Summer Romance) began his career as a four-year-old last year. Athletic and game, he had a great show season, winning the UPHA Road Pony Classic at both Indianapolis Charity and the Ohio State Fair, a unanimous win at St. Louis National Charity as the UPHA Roadster Pony Classic Champion with Matt Schuckert at whip; then ending the year winning the UPHA Road Pony Classic Reserve Grand Championship. In just his first year in the show ring, this super pony earned the People's Choice award as the Reserve Four-Year-Old Road Pony Champion. Asked about her plans for these great ponies in 2017, Faydelle answered, "We'll have to see – they are going to have to play with the big boys this year!"

Faydelle Schott's horses and ponies are her life. They are what inspire her to get up in the morning. "You have to have something to look forward to," she wisely observed. "I've been blessed with good health and I've made wonderful friends through the horses." A warm and generous spirit, Faydelle's enthusiasm and zest for life are contagious. Welcoming 2017 as a new chapter, she reminds us that age is just a number and it is what we do with our time that counts. We salute Faydelle Schott and her trainers for a job well done and we share her excitement for a year filled with endless possibilities.



Heartland Dixie Dancer and Alicia Schuckert



Alicia and Matt Schuckert