

RETIREMENT

CH Callaway's Forty-Niner

Editor's Note: The following was read at the 2016 Connecticut Summer Classic Horse Show for the retirement of CH Callaway's Forty-Niner.

CH Callaway's Forty-Niner was born on March 26, 2000 at Callaway Hills Stables. He has shown successfully all over the country. At the age of five, he began his show career with Melissa Moore and they made a trip to the winner's circle. From that moment on "Jerry" has remained a top competitor in any class that he showed in. Over the course of his career, Jerry has made a total of 34 trips to the winner's circle. He received his Champion status in the year 2010. Many great trainers have worked with this incredible horse such as John Warner, Melissa Moore, Chris Reiser, Janet Crampton, Ed Crockriel, Clark Clouse, Bret Day, Rob Turner, and Jon Douglas.

Alice Nunley purchased Callaway's Forty-Niner as a two year old. The memory of that day is still clear to her today: "I will never forget the first day I ever saw him. My family had flown out to Missouri to look at a few prospects, mainly looking for two year olds coming three. The day ended up very successful as we were able to find four total and get them sent home to Kingsport, TN. Callaway Hills was a booming place at this time and this was in the fall of 2002. During this visit I kept walking by one stall with this horse who had a beautiful blonde, almost white, mane and sharp ears. He kept nickering and coming to the front of his stall for me. This youngster had not been taken out for us to see...yet. But I kept going by his corner; he was just so different looking. Bob Brison who was there at this time along with many others was busy telling about some of the other stock we had looked at. My friend Rick Berry was also there working and I remember a little conversation between the two of us. I finally just said, 'We have not been shown this one, is he for sale?' 'Oh do you like his look?' Of course I did!!! I also remember saying how unusual he looked and asked could he possibly be by the 'Gold Rush' horse. As a matter of fact, I was correct. I had been privileged to be around that wonderful stallion when he spent training time at Tom Moore's. He had the most wonderful manner and I always loved Gold Rush. As this turned out, that day I knew that "Niner" aka Jerry would be coming to TN. They did bring him out and line him for us, but they really would not have had to. I fell in love with him from seeing that face and ears behind the wire of his stall. He was still a lanky, weedy looking little guy but I knew this would all change. It sure did! I enjoyed this horse over the next five years and enjoyed many great



rides and ribbons. He truly was a special 'kid' and his personality remained just like a big 'kid.' I can also remember how happy I was that I could watch his next owner a very small girl (Alexa Flint) show him so beautifully and also enjoy him. It made me proud. I was more than thrilled when I found that he had his current home, and forever home with Jackie and her folks. I could tell that she loved him and cherished him and that was good enough for me! Now he will have the best life ever and one that he truly deserves. Love to you Jackie and Jerry!" ~ Alice Nunley 7/24/2016

Jackie Maynard shares "I was blessed to meet CH Callaway's Forty-Niner when Jon Douglas had suggested to go try him out at Turner Stables. It was love at first sight. I remember that my father had made a point to tell me I had to ride more than one horse before I picked one, but I knew as soon as I saw Rob Turner warm Jerry up; he was the horse of my dreams. He had such a unique, regal look that you could not help do anything other than watch him in complete awe. Every day since then, I still find myself in awe of the fact that I have the blessing of riding such a magnificent horse.

"Jerry made many of my dreams come true in the five short years I have known him. First off he has given me the opportunity to ride a performance horse, one who gives every ride 110%. It was often humorous, but Jerry would flag himself any chance he got. One time during the Big E, Jerry flagged himself while I was showing him. We had a time out to allow me to regain com-



posure and he let out a loud snort of excitement while standing in the middle of the ring. It was very comical and one of my favorite stories to share about him because it really sums up Jerry's personality. He is a true look at me, go-getter who knows he is amazing. Another dream come true was riding at Freedom Hall. Jerry and I showed at Kentucky State Fair in 2013, something all riders dream about and I am so thankful I was able to show there. Jerry made it onto two judge's cards receiving a 6th place and 9th place vote. In my final junior exhibitor year, Jerry was also named the National High Point Champion for the Jr. Exhibitor Park Division. This was a huge surprise the day the award arrived in the mail, I just couldn't believe it was a reality.

"Jerry has truly been a blessing in my life and I am grateful for every ride I get on him. This last ride in the show ring is bittersweet, but I know Jerry deserves to be pampered through retirement. I would like to thank Jon Douglas for always being there to help Jerry and I work together as a team, even though it was not always the easiest task. Also I would like to thank Sharon Stoltz for being Jerry's number one fan and always believing in us. Jerry and I are very lucky to call Wildwood home, thank you for allowing us to be a part of your wonderful family."

Please join us in celebrating Jerry's Career on Friday evening at CT Summer Classic horseshow with his final appearance in the show ring. There will be dessert and refreshments served at the end of the evening session.