



A Force Behind The Scenes



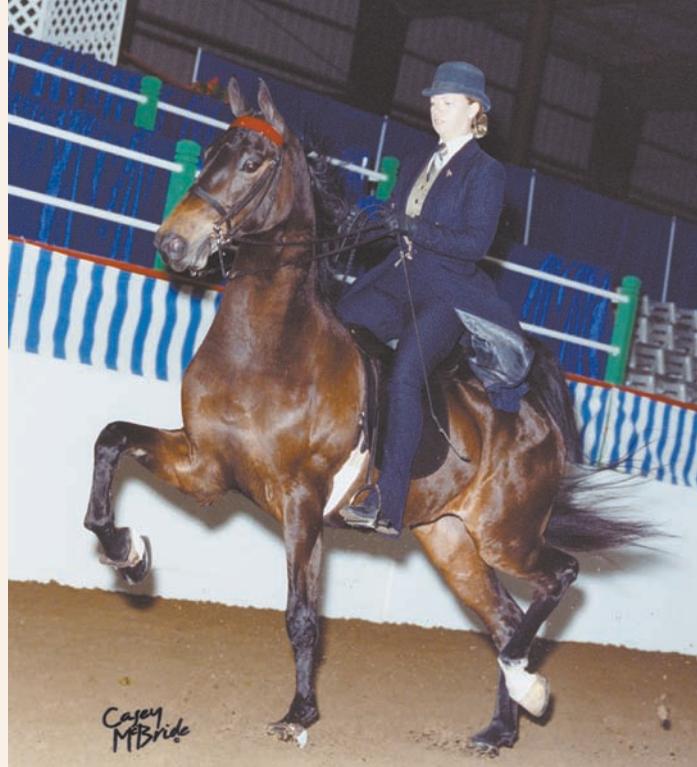
EDMUND A.
PERWNIEN

BY BOB FUNKHOUSER

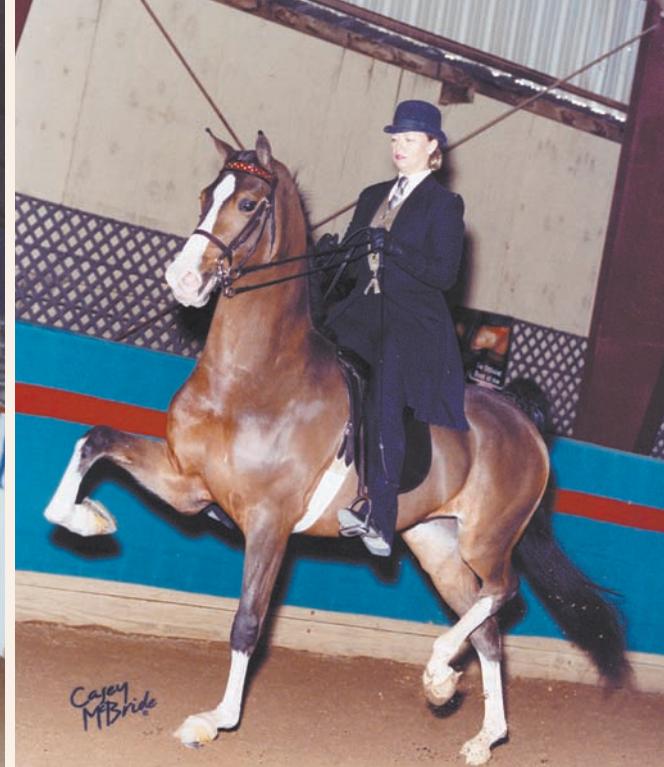
photos by Sandra Hall • unretouched & Howie Schatzberg



Bebop Lady was a reserve world's champion raised and shown by Bluebonnet Farm.



Sandy Currier won several titles with the homebred CH Global Scene, shown here winning the Junior Five-Gaited Stake at Pin Oak.



CH Uncut Jewel was a most entertaining youngster bred, raised and developed at Bluebonnet Farm.

“He was always quietly working behind the scenes. He didn’t need to have a seat in the front row,” remembered Sandy Currier about her boss of 25 years, Edmund A. Perwien, also lovingly referred to as Mr. P.

A great family man and breeder of American Saddlebreds, Perwien left his mark on the show horse industry in the Southwest and nationally with his vision of the family’s Bluebonnet Farm and his work with the Pin Oak Charity Horse Show and the Texas American Saddlebred Horse Association (TASHA). He passed away peacefully on July 16 at the age of 94.

Born in St. Paul, Minnesota, he found his way to Texas after first serving his country in the Army during World War II and later attending the University of Minnesota where he met the best thing to ever happen to him, his future wife, Ada.

Along with Robert Bernstein, Perwien created one of the nation’s leading hand tool import and manufacturing businesses and that later became a national commercial real estate development company.

In 1966, he and the family moved to the Houston area and thirty-five years ago he established Bluebonnet Farm in Bellville, Texas, where he enjoyed the business of breeding and raising American Saddlebreds as well as competing with them as a family hobby. It all began with daughter Elly’s first horse who used to escape from the backyard and roam the neighborhood. However, it wasn’t long before she was showing her first gaited horse. Mr. P took great joy in watching Elly show the likes of noted champions Star Scene and CH Gamin with Don Roby.

After establishing Bluebonnet Farm, the focus switched to the family’s homebreds.

“He loved his horses,” said Currier. “He could have gone out and bought anything but had much more joy in the horses we raised here. He loved his family and he especially took great delight in his grandson Kevin driving the road pony (Al Kaponey).

“He took a chance on hiring me. I hadn’t done much nationally at that time but we worked together for 25 years and accomplished a lot. We had a meeting every Friday afternoon and sometimes we had the same ideas and sometimes we didn’t. I’m going to really miss his leadership.”

The breeding program at Bluebonnet included the homebred Luv Ya Blue as well as Harlem Globemaster and CH Shoobop Shoobop. Several world’s and national champions have come from Bluebonnet Farm but among Mr. P’s favorites were Carmen Miranda TM, CH Xuxa and his all-time favorite Ipod.

As he did with everything he touched, Mr. P gave back greatly to the American Saddlebred community. A recipient of the American Saddlebred Horse Association Meritorious Service Award and the ASHA Gillenwater Family Award, he and his bride Ada provided great support for that organization as well as the United Professional Horsemen’s Association Associate Membership and locally, the Pin Oak Charity Horse Show and TASHA.

His legacy will live on with Bluebonnet Farm continuing under the direction of Elly Berman and longtime trainer Sandy Currier. Generations of show horse families have been developed and will proudly carry Mr. P’s commitment well into the future.

He survived by his wife of 68 years, Ada, as well as children: Mark and wife Laurie Goodman, Diane and husband Greg Thelen, Richard and wife Tica, Elly and husband Dr. Philip Berman, as well as eight grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

“Growing up, it was great being able to share a passion,” said Elly Berman. “I have lots of fond memories that will last me a lifetime and keep his legacy going. Dad loved seeing the young horses grow up and I think the customers at the barn kept him young. Both the horses and the customers gave him something to focus on.”

1 Accompanied by Sandy Currier, Mr. P was honored by the American Saddlebred Association in 2018 with the Meritorious Service Award.

2 Pictured with daughter Elly, wife Ada, and trainer Sandy Currier, Ed Perwien enjoyed his time with family and extended family at the Southwest horse shows.

3 CH Xuxa was one of the driving stars he showed over the years.



Ipod (Unlisted x Selena’s Song by CH Shoobop Shoobop), with grandson Kevin Berman, was Mr. P’s favorite of the Bluebonnet homegrowns. Mr. P’s last show ring appearance at the age of 92 was with Ipod.