

# The 2015 Year In Review Is Dedicated to *CH Heartland Expectation*

BY LEEANN MIONE



*If it hadn't been for Karen Frickey's brother David Swezey purchasing CH Heartland Expectation from Tamra Arndt in 2014, the fairytale ending of Karen and Expectation's Freedom Hall career wouldn't have been possible.*



*Ed Frickey only showed Expectation at one show, Lexington Junior League in 2004. They won the Amateur Harness Pony class.*

CH Heartland Expectation was destined to exceed expectations from the very beginning. Foaled in May of 1999 at Heartland Hackney Farm the beautiful bay colt sired by Dun-Haven Awesome Creation and out of Heartland Beauty was one of more than 40 Heartland-prefixed ponies registered that year.

Expectation made his show ring debut as a three-year-old with Beth [Campbell at the time] at the All American Horse Classic where they won the UPHA Harness Pony Classic. The late Ed Frickey headed to the Heartland Hackney Farm stalls after the class and purchased the pony on the spot. Rich Campbell was the trainer at Heartland at the time and he told Frickey Farms trainer Randy Harper "He's very game and go forward so don't touch him with a whip or you'll be at the other end of the arena before you can blink an eye."

Randy began working the three-year-old and showed him to his second career win when they were named the UPHA Harness Pony Classic Grand Champions at Kansas City to close out the pony's first show season.

The following season kicked off at Indianapolis Charity and Harper again guided the now four-year-old to the blue ribbon win when they were named the champions in the UPHA Harness Pony Classic. At Lexington they were reserve in the classic and then at Louisville Expectation earned his first world's title; the Four-Year-Old Harness Pony Reserve World's Champion. Expectation closed out that season as the UPHA Harness Pony Classic Reserve Grand Champion at Kansas City.

Karen Frickey began showing Expectation in 2004 and they kicked off the season at River Ridge with the win in the Open Harness Pony class. Then it was on to Indianapolis Charity where they took the blue in the amateur class.

When it came time to go to Lexington Junior League, the pony was already entered but Karen had to stay home and take care of her father who was in the hospital so the job was turned over to

husband Ed. He teamed Expectation to the win in the amateur class. When they came back in the championship Ed got a little cocky and ahead of himself and they ended up in third place. It was the last time Ed ever showed the grand pony.

Unable to show at Louisville because Randy was judging, Karen was back in the buggy for All American Horse Classic in September. They had a great show, taking the blue in the ladies class before coming back to win the Harness Pony Championship.

The following year was also a great season for Karen and Expectation. In addition to wins at Indy Charity and reserves at Lexington, they would earn their first world's title together; the Amateur Harness Pony World's Champion of Champions and Amateur Ladies Harness Pony Reserve World's Champion. They closed out that season with the amateur blue ribbon at All American Horse Classic.

The next season would be full of highlights and also a terrible tragedy. Karen and Expectation earned another world's championship together as well as the reserve world's grand championship and wins or reserves at Rock Creek, Lexington, All American Classic, Kentucky State Championship and the UPHA/American Royal.

It was at Kansas City that Ed died unexpectedly of a heart attack on Saturday night. He had shown CH Classical Dancer to win the Amateur Hackney Pony Class and the Amateur Hackney Pony Reserve Grand Championship. Karen and Expectation were on a roll with the blue ribbon win in the Open Harness Pony class.

Expectation now became even more important to Karen. He represented the past, present and future of Frickey Farms, a future that had been changed forever.

One thing that didn't change however, was Expectation's ability to make it to the winner's circle at Louisville. In addition

to the win in the Harness Pony Championship at Indy Spring with Randy, Expectation won the open class and championship at Lexington with Karen before they headed to the green shavings of Freedom Hall. They finished as the reserve world's champions in the stallion/gelding class and then put on a great show in the Harness Pony World's Grand Championship to take the flowers and the tricolor.

The following year, 2008, would be more of the same and they arrived at Louisville to defend their title from the year before having already earned wins at Rock Creek and Lexington. Once again Karen and Expectation exited Freedom Hall with the stallion/gelding reserve world's title and then, for the second year in a row, they took the victory pass in the Harness Pony World's Grand Championship.

Karen went on to show and win in the open class at All American and Randy won in the open class at Kentucky Fall Classic to close out their season. It was at this point that Karen decided the time had come to share Expectation. They didn't have anything else to prove or accomplish together and she knew that he could make someone else's dreams come true.

Lynda and Andy Freseth, of Hollow Haven Farm, came calling on behalf of longtime customers Priscilla and Mary Gise for the 2009 show season. Lynda showed him to win the open class and reserve in the open championship at Bonnie Blue and then teamed him to both wins at Asheville Lions Club.

He was ready for Mary to sit behind him and they were unstoppable. They debuted at Midwest and won the ladies class and then came back to take the tricolor in the Harness Pony Championship. They won the amateur class and amateur championship at Blue Ridge before heading to Louisville for the first time together.

They faced a great amateur class and came out with the title of Amateur Harness Pony World's Champions.

"Rex, as he was affectionately known, was a blast to drive and had a work ethic second to none," said Freseth. "I learned that standing in the lineup wasn't his claim to fame, so when Mary won the qualifier at Louisville, Rex and I stood all over the fairgrounds between the qualifier and the championship. He stood like a Trojan horse on that Friday night." Indeed the practice paid off and Mary and Expectation were named the 2009 Amateur Harness Pony World's Champion of Champions.



Karen Frickey and Expectation wore the blanket of flowers after winning the 2005 Amateur Harness Pony World's Champion of Champions title. They went on to win the 2007, 2008, and 2015 world's grand championships as well.

They went on to win the open class and championship at Wisconsin Futurity, the reserve amateur title at Kentucky Fall Classic and then the open blue ribbon and national championship in the Open Harness Pony Championship at the American Royal.

The next season, after successfully defending his titles at Bonnie Blue and Asheville, he and Mary Gise won at Midwest and Blue Ridge.

Mary drove to earn the Amateur Ladies Harness Pony Reserve World's Championship but she was also showing her roadster pony Romeo's Kristy Lee LF and their championship was after the amateur harness pony championship on the schedule. Gise was having back issues and didn't feel like she was up to showing both ponies back in the same night so the decision was made that she would show Kristy Lee and Lynda would show Expectation in the Harness Pony World's Grand Championship Saturday night.

That decision was a great one for everybody. Freseth won the title for the first time and Expectation wore the blanket of flowers for the third time as the world's grand champion.

"He is a majestic pony," said Mary Gise. "That's why we call him Rex. It was a thrill to drive him every single time. He loved to show and would suddenly be twice the pony in the show ring. He was a gentleman in the stall and downright polite about treats. After some careful thought he decided he liked Wheat Thins as a treat better than peppermints and would enjoy a few one at a time. He would often bow down to stretch out after being hitched. He once bowed down while waiting in the lineup of a class in Springfield, [Ill.] and got an extra round of applause from the audience. I feel honored to have been part of his career - he is truly one of the great ones."

Gise and Rex closed out their career together winning the Amateur Harness Pony National Championship before he moved on to another chapter in his storied career.

"I had admired him for many years, he was so athletic and four-cornered. We bought him at Kansas City. I just asked and he was for sale," said Kim Cowart of West Wind Stables.

CH Heartland Expectation now belonged to Tamra Arndt to show under the West Wind banner and they kicked off their first season together by winning the open class and championship at J.D. Massey Classic in 2011. Kim Cowart showed him to win the Open Harness Pony class at Asheville Lions Club and they came back to finish in reserve in the Harness Pony Championship.



Mary Gise showed Expectation to win the 2009 Amateur Harness Pony World's Champion of Champions tricolor and floral blanket under the direction of Andy and Lynda Freseth.



Showing for owner Tamra Arndt, West Wind trainer Kim Cowart drove Expectation to be named the 2011 Harness Pony Reserve World's Grand Champion.



Karen Frickey and CH Heartland Expectation closed out their Louisville career by winning their third Harness Pony World's Grand Championship together. The win marked Expectation's fourth time to win that tricolor and title.



Denessa and Randy Harper trained Expectation to all of his world's titles with Karen Frickey in their 23 year partnership at Frickey Farms, Inc. They proudly held the flowers and ribbons Karen and her beloved pony earned Saturday night at Louisville.

Arndt sat behind him to win both classes in the open division at Roanoke before he was named Lexington Junior League's Harness Pony Reserve Grand Champion with Kim Cowart showing. She would go on to show him at Louisville where they were named the Harness Pony Reserve World's Grand Champions.

Tamra went two for two to close out the season with wins at North Carolina State Championship Charity. They returned to Raleigh to begin the 2012 season and won the Harness Pony Championship and open class at Raleigh Spring Premier. A great season continued at shows including Clemson, Asheville, Roanoke, Louisville and North Carolina State Championship.

"He's a little peculiar, a little different," said Kim Cowart. She [Tamra] did a great job of learning his quirks and driving him and it's really a testament to Randy [Harper]. Expectation is an old-fashioned kind of pony; sturdily built and he just has no quit. He is so game."

In 2013, Tamra decided to put Expectation back in training with Randy and Denessa Harper at Frickey Farms. Randy showed him to a reserve at Shelby County Fair and then had him in top form to win the Harness Pony Grand Championship and open class at Lexington Junior League.

At Louisville, Randy drove him to the reserve world's championship in the stallion/gelding stake and a top ribbon in the world's grand championship. Tamra's niece Megan McClure then took over and showed him at the Alltech National Horse Show at the Kentucky Horse Park where they were reserve in the amateur stake.

Meanwhile, Karen Frickey was thrilled that her beloved pony was back in her barn where she could see him every day.

Randy and Tamra soon realized as the 2014 show season loomed near that Expectation wasn't going to work out to be the exact pony she needed. Arndt decided to sell the two-time world's grand champion. Randy and Karen's brother David Swezey came up with a plan unbeknownst to Karen to give her the surprise of her life.

David's passions in life are archeology, travel and volunteering. He volunteers for several different organizations and travels all over the world; he also has a passion for family and for doing anything he can for his sister Karen. He purchased CH Heartland Expectation in April 2014, making the pony a confirmed lifelong resident of Frickey Farms, Inc. Karen's once-in-a-lifetime pony was now back home forever.

Expectation was now 15 years old. He was a three-time world's grand champion and an amateur world's champion of champions and holder of numerous world's and reserve world's titles. Could he win at Louisville again?

Karen had to get back in the swing of things and in their season debut at the Kentucky Horse Park for Kentucky Spring Premier, they were reserve in the open class. At Rock Creek they were fourth

and then at Shelby County Fair they took the amateur victory pass. Their reserve then at Mercer County Fair was their last stop before Louisville where they were the Kentucky County Fair Harness Pony Reserve Grand Champions. It wasn't time to count anybody out yet however. CH Heartland Expectation, to quote Kim Cowart, "He wasn't done yet. He just needed a change of scenery."

The 2015 season started with the open class win at Kentucky Spring with Karen, followed by their open class win at KASPHA May Classic before a top three finish at Rock Creek (the only time he would be beaten all season).

They won at Harrodsburg in their last stop before Louisville and Expectation was working better than ever. Denessa Harper had worked him for months while Randy recuperated from heart surgery and she was one of the first to claim he was ready to win the "big one" again.

He didn't come in to the 2015 World's Championship Horse Show as the odds on favorite to anyone but his owner and trainers who all had a good feeling about his chances on the green shavings.

Wednesday night, Karen was all smiles as she drove out of Freedom Hall with the blue ribbon and his third world's championship as the stallion/gelding winner. Karen and CH Heartland Expectation hit that blast of cold air as they entered Freedom Hall Saturday night for the Harness Pony World's Grand Championship, 10 years after he won his first world's champion of champions title, and they never looked back.

This pony that never had a bad day and had never taken a bad step marched down the rail like the champion he knew he was and Karen did everything right. Nobody expected it but when her number was called out as the World's Grand Champions the cheers from the crowd were deafening.

"I've been very fortunate and I've had a lot of great ponies to train, but he's the best pony I've ever worked in my life. He came in like Clark Kent and went out like Superman," said Randy.

Karen paid tribute by adding, "What can I say about Expectation, the pony that was purchased as a three-year-old to replace Ballet; he has exceeded my expectations. As a show pony, he is so focused, powerful and game and in the stall he is personable, playful and kind. Selling this grand pony was one of the hardest things that I ever experienced, but getting him back was one of my greatest joys. He makes me smile! "Exie" is truly my once in a lifetime pony."

And so their career in Freedom Hall came to a close. Karen and her second "Once-in-a-lifetime" pony earned their third world's grand championship victory pass together, his ninth Louisville win, 17th world's title and a place in the history books.