

AMERICAN CREAM NEWS

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MEMORIES

Editor's Note: The following is a story about Paul Cummings, who was formally vice president of the American Cream Horse Association in 1951. Mr. Cummings did a lot to get the American Cream some notoriety. Most of the pictures are before 1950, which is when the breed was recognized by the state of Iowa. This story was written by Paula Ann Mollenhauer, daughter of Paul Cummings.



Paul Cummings holding Golden Boy Billy (American Saddle Bred).

Christmas Time: a time for caroling and sleighrides—a time for gatherings and friendship—a time for families and love—and, traditionally, a time for reminiscence.

So, dear horse lovers, take time to join me as I act the part of the Ghost of Christmas Past and tell you about some American Creams in the late forties.

I am, now, at an age where I can tell of



Grandstand performance at Decorah, Iowa. Paul Cummings's six horse hitch of American Creams with Paula Ann on Golden Boy Billy in front.

the "good old days" filled with horses, hitches, shows, and parades.

The Paula Ann Stables (named after me of course) came into existence about 1943. It was the wonderful creation of my father, Paul Cummings, and me. It started with our love of horses and, perhaps, my father's heritage which was comprised of horses and teams and a father who always won the Gentleman's Ice Race with his pacing mare, Ginger.

My love for horses must have started before I could walk. This love became a reality with my first horse named Tony.

He was a paint of many moons.

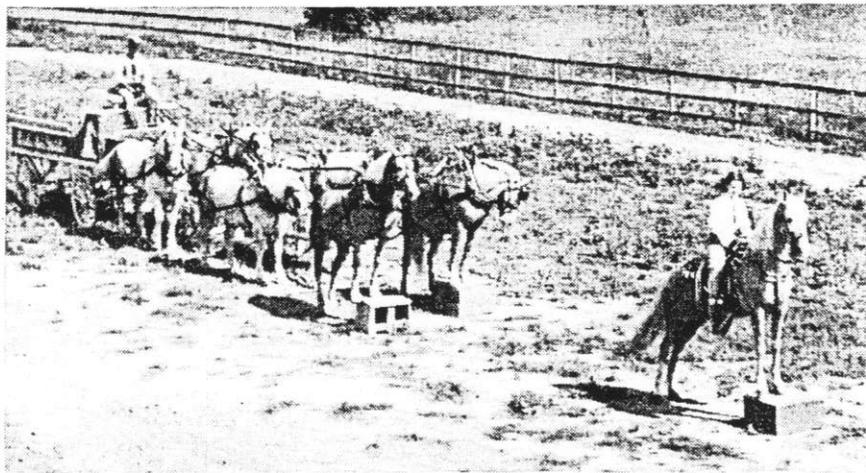
We kept increasing the numbers of horses and before we realized it the Paula Ann Stables was an actuality. In 1944 we started showing American Saddlebreds at the local horse shows. I remember: Blossom Time, my walk-trot mare, Brasons Country Gentleman and Brasons Corporal, both five-gaited geldings, Candid Gold, my Tennessee Walker, and Golden Boy Billy, my palomino.

My father and I purchased two stallions in Kentucky: Dares Easter Cloud (five-gaited) and McDonald Red Chief (fine-harness). Among the colts we raised

PAULA ANN

AND
with

GOLDEN BOY BILLY



THE ONLY SIX-HORSE HITCH
REGISTERED AMERICAN CREAM MARES

PAULA ANN STABLES
PARMOAKS

AUSTIN

--

MINNESOTA

were Paula's Lucky Piece (fine-harness) and Paula's Pride and Paula's Joy.

At Parmoaks, just outside of Austin, MN, My father built a training barn with a 100 foot long alleyway. He later built a house and eventually we all moved to the farm.

We graduated to needing help. Dad hired Earl Carpenter, a local farmer to take care of the horses. Carp suggested to Dad that we needed a team of draft horses. The first team was a pair of Belgian geldings. By chance, my father found a Cream mare, Lady. After much searching, her teammate, Queen, was purchased. Then Carp began training the teams and the first exhibition was of these four horses conveying Santa to the Austin Courthouse lawn at Christmas time.

Becoming enamored with his cream mares, my father met C. T. Rierson, (see Vol. 1, No. 2, Winter 1991) and together they found more mares. The result was the only six horse hitch of American Cream Draft mares in the world: Lady and Queen (lead team), Judy and Jean (swing team) and Mary and Jane (wheel team). For publicity, my father sometimes gave them all stage names beginning with "J".

The Paula Ann stables' colors were chosen for the American Saddlebreds. Maroon and cream colors were very appropriate for the Cream mares, too. The colors were used on wagons, trucks, and show tackroom equipment. I even painted a two-foot high statue of a draft horse cream

colored. It rode in honor in a special window place above the cab of one of the trucks. Our logo was a cream horse against a maroon background.

The hitch was shown in many parades in the years from 1946 to 1950. I rode my palomino in front of the hitch. We were a popular and very showy entry. For parades we painted the horses hooves with gold-

leaf paint. The harness was specially chrome-plated which was very high class in those days.

We gave grandstand performances at many fairs. The horses were very well trained by Carp. They cut figure eights, backed through gates with a two-inch clearance, wound turn into themselves and back out again, and posed with the lead mares and Billy standing on boxes. Of course, the finale was a dead run past the grandstand.

For Kiddies' Days at the fairs, Golden Boy Billy counted, said yes and no, shook hands, stood on a box, teeter-tottered, slow-gaited, waltzed sideways, and bowed.

An early parade appearance was for the St. Paul, MN, Rodeo in 1947. We had our picture on the front page of the St. Paul Dispatch while Gene Autry had a small picture on an inside page. After the rodeo we gave an exhibition.

We had many funny, and, also, frightening times while we waited in the 'wings' for our turn to exhibit. The mares and Billy were great showoffs and were hard to hold as they waited to go before the crowd. At the Coliseum in Chicago a bagpipe band marched loudly around us. None of us, horses or humans, had ever seen a live bagpipe band.

I'll never forget waiting to go into the St. Paul Rodeo ring. We had come down a cement ramp to the lower level of an exhibition building. Practically under Billy's nose, the angry bareback bulls were released into a small temporary enclosure made of two-by-fours. As they proceeded to fight each other, I thought Billy and I



The six horse hitch of American Creams getting ready to go in the ring at the Chicago International Horse Show, 1948.

would shake apart. As usual, Carp yelled at me, "Paulann, keep him quiet."

In 1948 we exhibited at the afternoon and evening grandstand shows for the fair at Austin, MN. The fourth day of the fair was Thrill Day. We showed before the stock car racers drove. They did tricks, crashed into each other, and drove over explosives set in the infield.

Carp had decided to do something different for the afternoon show. I rode Billy in front of our three-horse tandem hitch. Lady was in the lead with Queen second and Judy (swing team mare) in the thills. None of the mares was very pleased with this hookup. The harness broke, leaving Carp in front of the grandstand with a balking Judy. Carp was hollering at both Judy and me. Billy and I barely got out of the way as Lady and Queen broke loose, ran together past the grandstand and across the mined infield to be stopped at the gate at the end of the race track. For some reason, the crowd thought it was a runaway that was especially planned for Thrill Day. Even though we didn't repeat it for the evening performance, we got quite a writeup in the Austin newspaper.

We were hired by a band from Starbuck, MN to show in the St. Paul Auquaternial Parade in 1950. They had

restored and gold-leafed an old Cole Bros. circus wagon. We paraded through the downtown district and passed the judges stand at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. Naturally, we won the grand prize for the best overall entry. Then, as we were returning to the outskirts of the Twin Cities where we had parked the trucks, the rain came. We were drenched before we could shelter under an overhead bridge. The thunderstorm stopped, the sun came out, the band members dumped the water out of their horns, and we had our own private loud parade through a residential district.

We showed at parades, fairs, and horse shows in Minnesota and northern Iowa; the Twin Cities, Wilmar, Redwing, Preston, Rochester, Austin, Decorah, Northwood, Mason City, and many more. Of course, the Waterloo Dairy Cattle Congress was on our itinerary.

Getting ready to go to a show was an exciting time. We trimmed ears, whiskers, and fetlocks, painted hooves and wrapped legs. We packed and loaded trunks, tack, harness, blankets, feed, tackroom hangings, uniforms and wagons into the trucks. A fan and heater were never forgotten no matter what the weather.

The mares and Billy knew the routine and practically loaded themselves into the

truck. In those days there were no shots to prevent shipping fever so we slapped pinetar on the horses' tongues. The horses never got sick. I don't know if the pinetar was effective or if the horses were just very healthy.

In 1947 I showed Princess Eugenia in the five-gaited mare stake at the Chicago International Horse Show. We placed 10th competing against 20 male professional trainers from very well known stables. Heady stuff for a 17-year-old girl.

The following year in 1948 we showed the hitch at the Chicago International Horse Show. We were very proud of our mares as they competed with other famous hitches. Horsedom politics being what they were then we couldn't win over the "biggies". We did out class them and outshow them. The driver of the Anheuser Busch team just herded his horses around the show ring. Our mares were well trained, beautiful, showy, and 'up on the bit'.

The mares were all show and they were all work. They did all the work on our 160 acre farm. They were driven six days a week either in the field, on the exercise track, or line-driven in the barn alleyway. I believe this is why they were such an outstanding show hitch.

In 1949 my father purchased an old horse powered grain separator. We put on old fashioned Threshing Days for the public. Our lead team, Lady and Queen, were winners at the horse pulls. They got down on their bellies and out pulled them all.

My father purchased the American Cream stallion, Ardmore Bonceur. Shortly after this, my father became ill. Due to his poor health, the Paula Ann Stables had a dispersal sale in 1952. A year later the barn burned down, destroying the wagons, tack, harness, pictures, trophies, and records. The era of the Paula Ann Stables was not long. But the days were glorious.

As the Ghost of Christmas Past I have shared some memories of the American Cream Draft Horses. If there is a Ghost of Christmas Present, it can only tell us that the present is good. American Cream Draft Horses are 'coming into their own.' We need no Ghost of Christmas Future to foretell how great the American Cream Draft Horses will be. We already know.

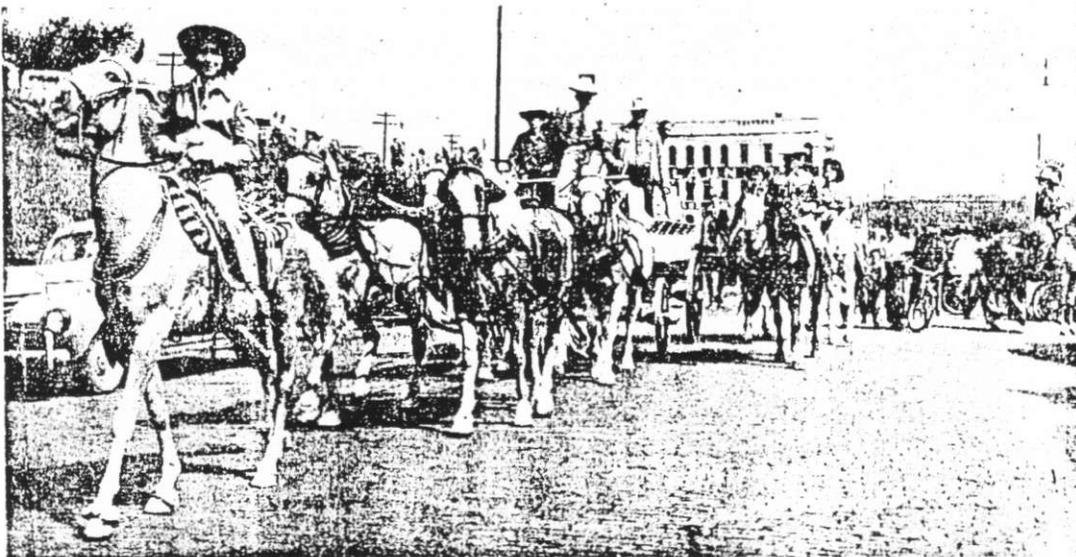
Merry, Merry Christmas.

—Paula Ann Cummings Stier Mollenhauer

St. Paul Dispatch

14 PAGES

ST. PAUL, MINN., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1947



PARADE HERALDS START OF RODEO — A parade through the Loop district today heralded the start of St. Paul's World Championship Rodeo. Cowboys and cowgirls, Palomino horses and Western ponies and local riding groups took part in the parade, main attrac-

tion of which was Gene Autry, radio and motion picture cowboy. Sheriff Tom Gibbons was the marshal. Following the parade, thousands went to the Auditorium arena for the first performance.—Dispatch Photo.

MID-IOWA ANTIQU POWER SHOW

The American Cream Draft Horse was the star of the Antique Power Show in Marshalltown, Iowa, August 5-7, 1994. The ACDH



was the featured horse at the show. The show button features a team of Creams working on a nower. Since the ACDH was the featured horse, they led the parade that was held every day. On Saturday and Sunday, one-half hour before the parade started, the members of the association were given the opportunity to talk about the American Cream Draft Horses and answer questions. The parade started with a team of Creams, Daffy and Dolly, pulling a spring wagon presenting the American flag in front of the reviewing stands while the Star Spangled Banner played. Riding in the spring wagon were guests Kareen Topp Bunker (first Secretary), Betsy Ziebell (present Secretary), Brenda Williams holding the American flag, and Dan Williams driving.

There was a display area inside the horse barn where the ACDHA set up a table to display pictures, hand out brochures, and sell tee shirts and caps. We talked to a lot of people about the Cream horses. We even talked to an associate member or two. A lot of compliments on what beautiful animals the Cream Horses are.

On Sunday, Daffy and Dolly were again asked to pull the spring wagon and carry the American flag, but this time we were followed by a four-horse hitch of American Creams driven by Brad Messersmith. The lead team belongs to Clarence Ziebell and the wheel team belongs to Don Johnson. Brad (Clarence Ziebell's driver) drove the four-up all over the farm, giving rides to as many people as wanted to ride. The show grounds are part of the Marshall County Care Facilities, and we led the parade over and around the buildings where the residents waved and told us we had beautiful horses.

We had 25 draft horses that attended the three day event. Of those 25, seven were American Creams. During the day, the teams hauled oats, ground corn, gave rides, and plowed.

Clarence received the trophy for com-



Saturday Parade, 1994. Dan driving Daffy and Dolly with passengers Betsy, Kareen, and Brenda.

ing the farthest and bringing American Cream horses.

I would like to take this opportunity to give a special thanks to the Don Johnson family and Betsy and Clarence Ziebell for

coming and making this show a great success.

P.S. We also have a snap shop of a six-up, all Creams. Boy 'O Boy, what a thrill!!!

—Dan Williams, *President*

Bits 'n Pieces

We printed the wrong address for the Rural Heritage in our last issue. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused. The Rural Heritage published an article on Creams in the summer, 1994 issue. The correct address is: 281 Dean Ridge Lane, Gainsboro, TN 38562-5039.

■ Breyer, a division of Reeves International, Inc., is coming out with an American Cream Draft Horse model in 1995. It should be in your local stores in February. More details to follow in the next issue.

■ Don and Linda Johnson, our hosts for the 1995 ACDHA meeting in Russell, Iowa, have sent names of three motels so members can plan ahead.

☉ Lake Vista Motel (515) 774-8421
Hwy. 34, Chariton

☉ Royal Rest Motel (515) 774-5961
Hwy. 34, Chariton

☉ Super-8 Motel (515) 774-8888
Hwy. 34, Chariton

Classified

For Sale: 4 year old gelding. Call Frank Splerak (612) 385-0241

For Sale: two 2-year-old colts, 1 filly weanling. Filly could be bred to colts. Contact Darrell Aden (608) 739-3392.

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