



THE HORSE GAZETTE

promoting equine activities, business, and knowledge

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Section A



Knights Jeremy Turner in black and white and Mark Massey in red and yellow stand at attention as challenges are made.

medieval times dinner & tournament

Story and Photos by Lyn Odom-Cherenzia

Me Lords and Ladies, if ye have not yet attended the dinner and show at Medieval Times in Dallas, Texas, ye MUST do so! What a wonderful time. From the moment you walk through the castle doors, you are swept into the renaissance of medieval times. Each spectator is assigned a knights color of arms and crowned. Before the two-hour dinner show in the arena begins, the Master of Ceremonies, Lord Marshall Ralph Prodotti enlightens the spectators of what we are about to witness. The beautiful and authentically reproduced weaponry is explained and demonstrated, then a brief history of the battles, knights and horses is recited and the floor is open for inquiries. Every member of the staff is available for inquiries and many walk throughout the foyer graciously answering questions and posing for photographs. The costumes of the knights are exquisitely detailed and beautifully made and the knights themselves very handsomely look the part. Lord Marshall Prodotti then introduces the Master Falconer, David Von Wormer. Master Von Wormer is the Master Falconer for all of the Medieval Times

Dinner Theatres throughout the United States, and on this night, perched upon his arm, is a lovely two-year-old female falcon. She has passed the rigorous training program and is ready to make her public appearance in the arena on this evening. Master Falconer Von Wormer gives an informative introduction of the art of falconry and also spends time graciously answering questions about these beautiful birds of prey. Next you hear the boom of a deep voice telling all to "Make way! Make way for the King!" As the crowd parts the King of Arms entourage enters the foyer leading the king and his daughter, the princess, to the stage. The King makes introductions and calls forward all of those spectators who are to be knighted for their birthday celebration. Polite applause follows the announcement of each new knight anointed, and then the spectators must "Make way!" as the King and his princess depart for the tournament. Waiting for the tournament to begin, spectators walk throughout the foyer enjoying the gift shop area, bar, and best of all, the horses. Along one wall are stalls where the beauti-

ful white Andalusian horses are being saddled.

Precisely on time, the Lord Marshall calls each knights color and those spectators are led into the arena. There's not

action it is! The Lord Marshall enters the ring on horseback and begins to tell the story that will be beautifully choreographed on horseback and on the ground. As the story opens the wait staff



Knights Jeremy Turner and John Echols put on a spectacular sword fight on horseback.

a bad seat in the house. The seats are tiered in such a way that every spectator has a clear view of the arena. The action takes place anywhere from 20 to 50 feet away from you. And

starts serving the feast. Our bill of fare included a hearty soup, roasted chicken, spare rib, potato, pastry and a beverage, all

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paint of a different color

Story and Photos by Lyn Odom-Cherenzia

For a woman who started breeding paints just a few short years ago, Alynette Farley of Leander, Texas, has certainly educated herself. Owner/operator of Paint of a Different Color, Al, as she likes to be called, has lined her bookshelves with binders full of articles clipped from horse magazines, horse color and genetics books and equine care manuals. "As a small breeder, especially in the horse business, it's important to evaluate your expenditures and analyze your return of investment. This business can cloud your judgment when the purchases are an "emotional" buy, says Al.

Al and her husband Charles moved from suburbia Austin, Texas, to Leander, Texas, in 1998 to get out of the hustle and bustle of the city. "We had no intention of getting into the horse business, or even paints," says Al as she smiles out towards her pen full of colorful foals. She attended the Margarita Classic in Fort Worth in 1998 to lend support to friends who were showing that year, and ended up buying the two year old stud colt, Ima Great Print, a chocolate palomino tobiano with bloodlines going back to Great Pine. Nicknamed Dakota, Ima Great Print

went home with Al and was to grow up and become her breeding stock stallion. In February of 1999 Al took Dakota to the South Texas Paint Horse Club Show in San Antonio, and was thrilled to place 1st in the green horse walk trot 2 year old stallion class. Then in January of 2000 she entered Dakota in the Amateur Western Pleasure Class at Waco in the Texas Paint Club Show and placed 7th. "We were off to a good start and I was so pleased with Dakota's performances." As Dakota grew, Al realized he was going to be too tall to become a reining horse. She decided to pur-



Al Farley riding her Paint gelding Chance as she ponies Dakota, her chocolate and white palomino tobiano gelding.

sue western pleasure and Dakota now works beautifully under saddle. In 2001 Al decided to castrate Dakota after investigating the costs of having a standing stallion at her home. "Why keep a stallion when there

are so many stellar stallions available through the APHA and the Paint Horse Journal? Ima Great Print ain't printin' anymore." She laughs. "Dakota

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Have you ever had to plan a horse show, family reunion, wedding, retreat, conference, or try to find a qualified summer camp for your kids? The next time you're pulling your hair out trying to find someplace that can fit the varied interests of a group of people, look into the Chown C Quarter Circle Ranch of Gainesville, Texas.

This beautiful and unique Texas cattle and horse ranch sits on 502 acres and is owned by Clarence and Mary Jean Chown. The Chown's purchased the ranch property in 1993 with the idea of building a family camp. For 36 years the Chown's owned and operated Rawhide, a children's camp outside of Bonsall, California. With approximately 30,000 riding lessons being given each year, the Chown's are experts on kids horsemanship programs, and were also recognized by the California Board of Education for their 2-year vocational college at Rawhide. The 2-year

program offered classes in Practical Veterinary Medicine, Farm and Ranch Management, Horsemanship, Breeding, and Farm Shop.

The construction of C Quarter Circle Ranch has taken 9 years and still continues. The facilities are right out of a Western movie where you'll find a Carriage House, Rodeo Café, Buffalo Bill Theatre, Pool Side Trophy Room and Library, Pavilion, Horse Show Barn, Pioneer Schoolhouse and Horse Corrals, Settlement Bunkhouses, Lone Oak Church, Star Hotel, Jail and Sheriff's Office, Miss Ellies, Big Oak Lodge and the Cowboy Camp.

The Chown's have planned their guest accommodations to fit a variety of tastes.

The 7 bunkhouses of the ranch sleep 12-18 each for a total of 106+ - perfect for camps, youth retreats or large group events.

The Star Hotel has 11 rooms, all of which are uniquely

designed to honor Western silver screen heroes such as John Wayne, Roy Rogers, and Gene Autry. The hotel also houses a museum of western history and a ballroom that's perfect for shows, dances, or receptions.

Miss Ellies is an exquisitely furnished hotel type room that sleeps 2 and has a kitchenette and a balcony that overlooks the arenas and Cowboy Park.

The Jail and Sheriff's Office is another hotel type room with private bath and sleeps 2.

The Big Oak Lodge has 3 rooms, the Cowboy Room, the Celebrity Room and the Indian Room. All of the rooms in the Big Oak Lodge have kitchenettes and a great fishing pond in front of the Lodge.

The Rodeo Café houses rodeo chutes and over 200 pictures of some of the greatest athletes of rodeo. It's a great tribute to those who have

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THE HORSE GAZETTE
6395 Mondean Street
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