



Ray's Golden Girl (Sissy), Timex, HnJ's ClarAnn, HnJ's Kitt



"Patience"

HORSE PROGRESS DAYS 2010

by Mike McBride

Horse Progress Days on July 1st, 2nd, and 3rd was a special day for me, the ACDHA and especially my working American Cream Draft Horses.

Thursday, July 1st: We hauled out in the morning and headed for Topeka, Indiana to get my horses situated for the next 2 days activities. I received my instructions and was told to have my Creams harnessed and ready to demonstrate a 12 foot spike tooth drag early on Friday morning.

Friday, July 2nd: We were ready before the demonstrations started at 8:30 AM and in place out in the field. We stood just inside the corner field entrance for 2 ½ hours before demonstrating the drag. All the while the Creams put on a show for many curious and interesting people seeking information about the breed. Nancy and I told them about the origin of the Creams in Iowa and how their development compares to other draft breeds. Comments we heard, "I have heard of the Creams but had never seen any"; "They are a lot bigger than I expected"; "The color is beautiful". From one Amish man who was in disbelief that our horses could hold up doing field work as well as their horses, was soon corrected by an Amish friend of mine that they will. He had seen they work many times amongst their Amish teams.

Working Creams



Finally finished!





The Hay Tedder



Ray's Golden Girl and HnJ's ClarAnn

An ambulance was 25 feet away from us when they had a call and turned on their sirens. My four horses just stood there as the ambulance took off. I heard another comment, "I cannot believe they have stood through this all this time." Other hitches having from two to twelve horses were moving back and forth from the shrill noise. One man said, "They are truly gentle." I have heard my friend, the late Earl Hammond; say many times "I could have kissed them".

Saturday, July 3rd: The communication between the staff and the teamsters was much improved on Saturday; I was told I would be demonstrating a no-till planter and a 9 foot hay tedder. I was also given times with each assignment and they were pretty much right on. No more waiting for hours until the teams ahead of me were done.

On both days, the 2nd and 3rd, the finale was a parade of breeds. Our breed was chosen to be the first introduced to the crowd since they are the only draft breed that originated in the USA and in conjunction with 4th of July weekend it was appropriate. The announcer spoke with me, used one of our brochures and talked with my three helpers; wife, Nancy, Sue Engel and Sheila Johnson. I ground drove them in four abreast, made a circle and a half around the arena. The announcer was kind to make a special statement for me: "Mike says, "I have working American Cream Drafts not lawn ornaments"" Once again I could have "kissed them" as they were great examples of our Creams and did so well as I showed them to the English and Amish spectators.

I would like to thank Nancy, Sue and Sheila for their help with the horses and the big and little adjustments needed, clearing the crowds as I was coming through with 4 abreast and just being there for support during Horse Progress Days. 😊

Mike picked up a hitch-hiker



Are the mules catching up?





No Till Planter

HORSE PROGRESS DAYS BOOTH 2010



Getting it done

by Sue Engel

Greetings, what a productive 2 days we (Nancy McBride, Sheila Johnson, & I) had educating people about American Cream Draft Horses. We had some genuine inquiries and others who were mostly curious. Most comments heard from people was that they thought our horses were beautiful and a very nice size for hitching. They also were commenting on how calm the four horses were that Mike McBride was demonstrating. Some said they really wanted to get involved with a breed that originated in the USA but when they would try to find Creams available to purchase, they weren't able to locate any. (Most were trying to find horses within a reasonable distance from them.) I explained that because the numbers of horses are low it is more of a challenge to find them but they can find horses for sale on our American Cream Draft Horse Association web page. I also told them to call our Secretary for a listing of members who may have horses for sale.

Some of the people who stopped by were members or associate members. It was good to see Tiffany Corson and her family. A gentleman from Ohio said he is an associate member, but to the life of me I don't remember his name, sorry. My good friend, Pam an associate member and her husband Mark arrived in the area for the summer from Florida. There were people who knew some of our members. A man from Iowa was looking for Wendell Lupkes; a lady with the Clydesdale Association who is a former secretary looking for Nancy Lively. I had the great privilege of meeting our webmaster, Dean Ticks. It was nice to put a face with someone who I have corresponded.

We tried something a little different this year, we had a book drawing. Chances were \$1.00 each, \$4.00 for 5 or \$8 for 10. The book for the drawing was **The Official Horse Breeds Standards Guide: The Complete Guide to the Standards of All North American Equine Breed Associations** by Fran Lynghaug and was won by Dawn Winkel. Congrats, Dawn! I also made some loose coloring pages of a few of our members and horses for the younger Progress Days spectators, there were a few Grandmas who needed a few for their grandchildren who are real horse lovers.

Next year, 2011 will be in Kinzer, Pennsylvania and it would be a good opportunity to come join the fun.

FYI: The Rural Heritage magazine has made a video of the 2010 HPD activities and is available from them for \$25+ shipping. 😊

Adjustments



Showing off

