



George Ford Morris painting of Beau Peavine.

IN 1961, as work on Saddle & Bridle's Annual Sire Rating was being completed, longtime editor Virginia V. Powell said, "One of the greatest failures at stud was Beau Peavine. He had every chance in the world, but he was not a great sire." She had worked on the rating since 1943 when its originator W. Jefferson Harris died.

Were Miss Powell alive today, her perspective would certainly have changed. Every horse on a pedigree is genetically important, an integral piece of the puzzle, and the

name Beau Peavine has become immensely important. It no longer comes as a surprise that when looking at the pedigrees of many of today's top show horses, somewhere on that registration certificate is the name Beau Peavine.

Beau Peavine was bred by Robert F. Simpson of Nicholasville, Kentucky, a breeder of high quality Saddlebreds. He owned some select mares including Spoonbill, which he sold to Kalarama Farm. Bred to Kalarama Rex she became the dam of Society Rex.

The Pride Of Spindletop:

Beau Peavine

Once considered a failure as a sire, a look at today's pedigrees has changed that perspective.

By Lynn Weatherman

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BEAU PEAVINE

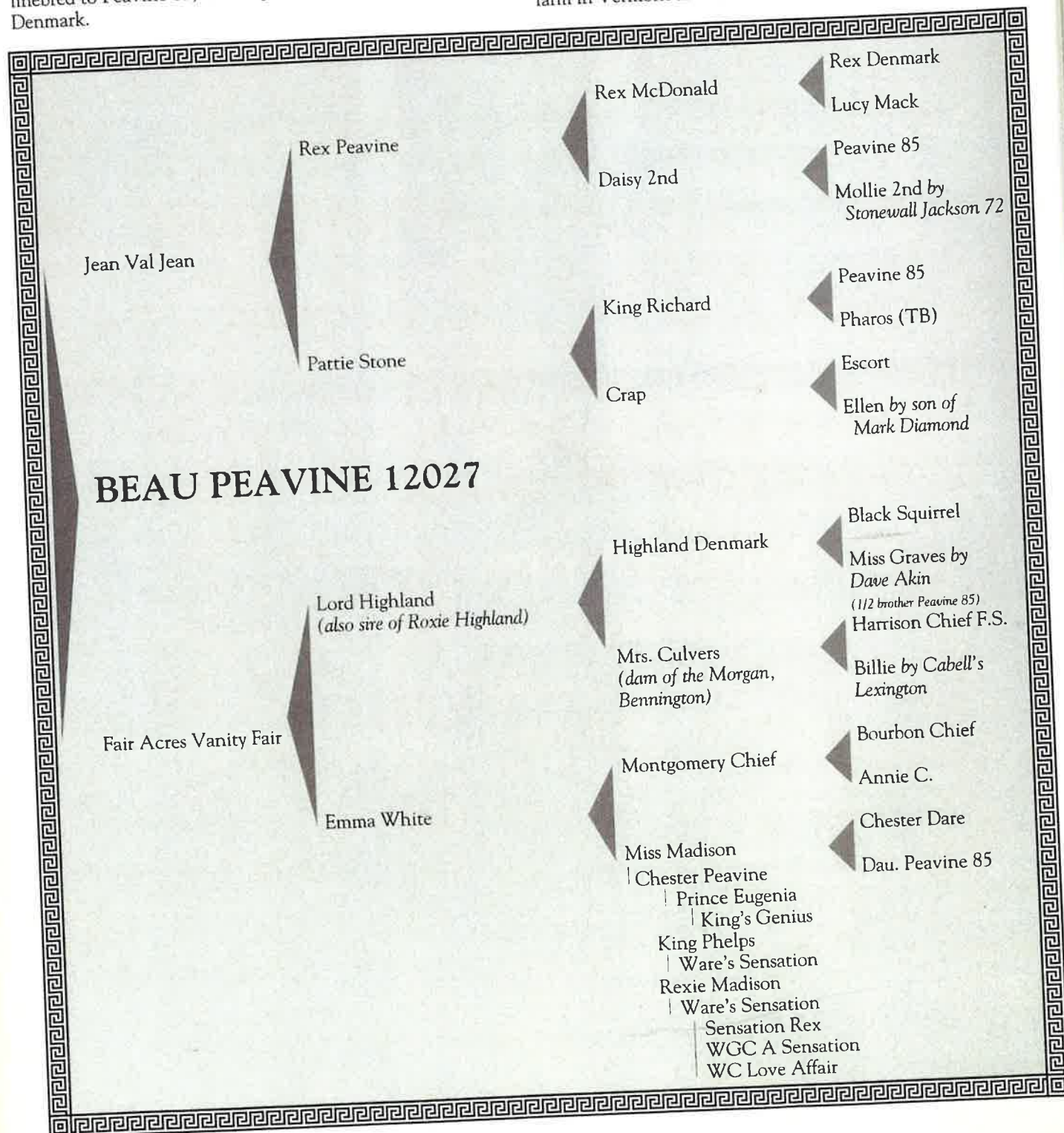
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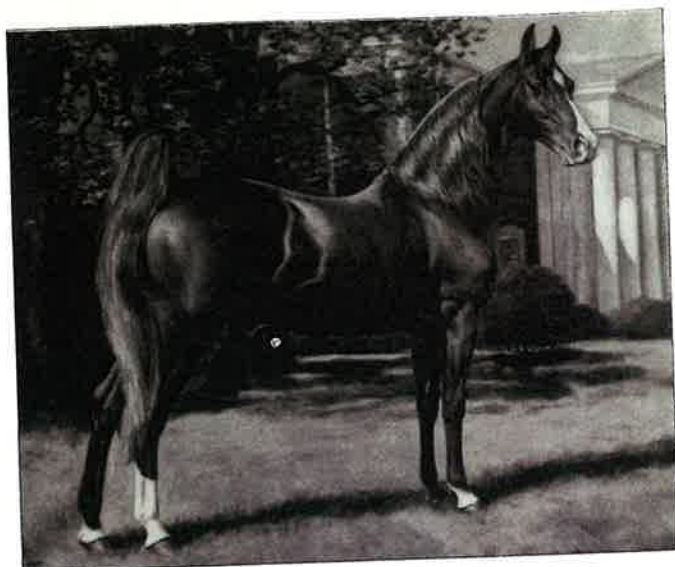
Pedigree of Beau Peavine

Jean Val Jean by Rex Peavine was the sire of Beau Peavine. This stallion was owned by Harry B. Thornton of Bradfordsville, a small town southeast of Springfield, Kentucky. Rex Peavine imparted stout ruggedness to most of his sons, but photos show Jean Val Jean to be one of the finest, if not the finest son of Rex Peavine. Jean Val Jean was linebred to Peavine 85, but his pedigree was predominantly Denmark.

Harry Thornton was a third generation Saddlebred breeder, his grandfather establishing Maple Grove Farm in 1866. His father raised Thornton's Star, an old-time stallion which twice beat the great Rex McDonald and was sold to Chicago's catalogue store magnate Montgomery Ward who owned him when he won the five gaited championship at the Chicago International in 1905.

The dam of Beau Peavine was Fair Acres Vanity Fair by Lord Highland. Lord Highland was a son of Highland Denmark and Mrs. Culvers by Harrison Chief. Mrs. Culvers later made a great impact on the Morgan breed when she was purchased by the U. S. government for its Morgan breeding farm in Vermont and bred to the Morgan horse General





Beau Peavine at Spindletop Hall. This depiction is a painting by Iwan Lotten and based on a photograph by John Horst.



Beau Peavine. Photo by Lester Rounds, 1938.

Gates. The resultant colt was the noted stallion Bennington.

Lord Highland was owned by Dave Matlock, Winchester, Kentucky, the breeder of Fair Acres Vanity Fair and business partner of the famous trainer W. G. "Billy" Shropshire. Lord Highland was later sold to Hamilton Bros., Mexico, Missouri, where he spent the rest of his life and sired the great three gaited champion Roxie Highland.

Emma White, dam of Fair Acres Vanity Fair was a daughter of the Hall of Fame Broodmare Miss Madison by Chester Dare. Miss Madison was also the dam of Chester Peavine who sired Princess Eugenia, the dam of King's Genius, and also both King Phelps and Rexie Madison, sire and dam of Ware's Sensation another Hall of Fame mare. Ware's Sensation produced Sensation Rex, WGC A Sensation, and WC Love Affair.



Jean Val Jean, the sire of Beau Peavine, was an exceptionally fine son of Rex Peavine, whose get tended to be more robust. Jean Val Jean was a character in the Victor Hugo novel Les Miserables.

Herbert Woolf

Beau Peavine was foaled May 29, 1929, but not registered until 1931 and then not by his breeder, Robert Simpson, but by Herbert Woolf of Kansas City, Missouri. Woolf was a wealthy clothier who got into horses in a big way in 1921, making an impact on two breeds. Woolf named all his colts "Beau" and all his fillies "Belle." In the Saddlebred world, three World's Grand Champions, Beau Woolf, Belle Le Rose, and Roxie Highland had been owned by his Woolford Farm. In the Thoroughbred world, he gave the great trainer Ben Jones his first break, and in 1938 jockey Eddie Arcaro his first Kentucky Derby winner, Lawrin.

Trainer W. B. "Doc" Sparks purchased Beau Peavine as a yearling from Simpson on behalf of Herbert Woolf, perhaps at Tattersalls, like the mare Anita Auburn when she was carrying Belle Le Rose.

Beau Peavine's first show came at the 1931 Missouri State Fair, where he won the two-year-old fine harness class with Doc Sparks in the buggy. The next year Sparks drove him to win the three-year-old fine harness at Sedalia and rode him to second in the junior five gaited stake. Beau Peavine was sold late in the year to Orie Ward of Minneapolis, Minnesota, but left at Woolford Farm.

Spindletop Beginnings

Frank Yount, who struck it rich in 1925 when he drilled into the second Spindletop oil gusher near Beaumont, Texas, in 1933, hired trainer W. C. "Cape" Grant to put him into the show horse game in a big way.

Yount gave him a blank check book to buy the best young show prospects he could find and told him upon leaving Beaumont on his quest, "You find 'em, and the barn (not yet under construction) will be ready when you get back." Grant traveled to Missouri, and with the help of George Lee, one of the Lee Bros. from Mexico, Missouri, scoured the Show Me state hunting for the best prospects available.

Beautiful Beau Peavine

At Woolford Farm they found Beau Peavine. He was described as an exceptionally beautiful golden chestnut stallion

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with a star, snip, and three white socks. His heavy red mane and tail were a bit lighter than his body color and in the right light, took on a yellow glow.

Artist Helen Hayse called Beau Peavine, "About the prettiest horse that ever drew breath of life." She said that in the preface, similar to an overture, for the academy award winning 1943 film "Kentucky," starring Walter Brennon, a scene was shot at Spindletop Hall, and Beau Peavine was posed in front of the mansion. "He was absolutely gorgeous," said Hayse, "and the color was beautiful."

Grant purchased Beau Peavine and the old show mare Sweet Kitty Bellairs by Rex Peavine, who had a foal by Beau Peavine at her side.

Just down the road at Raymore, Missouri, he bought a three-year-old five gaited stallion from George B. Lane. This horse was given the name Chief of Spindletop. When the horses arrived in Beaumont, Texas, on June 8, 1933, a magnificent new stable was waiting.

Short Show Career

Cape Grant first tested the waters with Beau Peavine at the Chicago World's Fair in late October 1933 where he was second in the junior five gaited stake; Chief of Spindletop won the three-year-old five gaited class.

The horses were shipped to Kansas City from Chicago. The Younts had returned to Beaumont and just before leaving for the American Royal, Frank Yount died of a heart attack at age 53.

Mrs. Yount was determined to carry on and sent Cape Grant a telegram instructing him to "show Beau and the Chief and ride them to win." The four-year-old Beau Peavine won the stallion stake. He was not shown in the junior stake. Chief of Spindletop was second in the three-year-old class to Lady Jane, shown by Garland Bradshaw for Longview Farm. After that show he was made a gelding.

In 1934, Beau Peavine's biggest year of showing, Mrs. Yount paid the record price of \$27,500 for the Three Gaited World's Grand Champion Roxie Highland, a gift for her daughter Mildred. Spindletop journeyed to Florida that spring and at the Miami show sponsored by the Biltmore Hotel Beau Peavine won the five gaited stallion stake. He won the model class at the 1943 Kentucky State Fair and was fourth in both the stallion stake, won by King's Genius, and was fourth in the World's Grand Championship won by Belle Le Rose, with second to Night Flower and third to King's Genius. Roxie Highland won her third Three Gaited World's Grand Championship with Cape Grant aboard, having been previously shown by Mary Gwyn Fiers to wins in 1930 and 1933. Beau Peavine won the model class and stallion stake at St. Louis, and was second to Belle Le Rose in the championship, beating My Golden Dawn who was third. He topped the stallion stake and the fine harness stake at the American Royal; made a great show in the five gaited championship, but bowed to Delaine Hour with the great Belle Le Rose third.

The next show on Spindletop's busy 1934 schedule was the New York National. Beau Peavine was shown four times, winning the five gaited stake, stallion stake,



(top) Phil Parker is aboard Albelarm Intoxication by Montgomery Mc. Her dam was Marie Bosace by Beau Peavine. Launspach photo.

(bottom) The dam of Indiana Peavine was Rose of Spindletop by Beau Peavine.

and model class, and was second in the fine harness championship.

The show season ended at the Chicago International where Beau Peavine was second in the fine harness stake and winner of the five gaited stallion stake.

Spindletop Farm

The Spindletop horses were not shown in 1935 because the Lexington farm had been purchased and Cape Grant and Mrs. Yount were involved in details of the move of the horse operation from Beaumont.

The only exception was the 1935 New York National, where Roxie Highland was retired amid great pomp and circumstance. Beau Peavine did not accompany the entourage and Chief of Spindletop won the five gaited championship.

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Modern Legacy

A few well-known Saddlebreds tracing to Beau Peavine:

WGC Be Happy
CH Sky Watch
CH Black Irish
CH Colonel Boyle
CH Man On The Town
WGC Gimcrack
WCS Jamestown
CH Superior Odds
CH The Contender
CH Diamond Minx
CH Duke of Daylight

CH First Look
CH In Reality
CH Miss Rockette
CH SLS Roman Spring
SLS Sportin' Life
CH Glenview's Mandala
CH Ronald Reagan
CH Dixie Aristocrat
CH La La Success
CH Natural Rights
CH Broadland's Patrician Lady

Our Mastercharge
Yankees Gal
CH Zeberdee
CH Callaway's New Look
CH Vanity's Showcase
CH Bi Mi Irish Mist
CH Dare You All
CH Perfect Stranger
CH Oh By George
CH The King's Crown
CH The Rabbit

CH Jennifer Logan
CH Lexitalia
CH You Are Love
CH Hot Fudge
CH Mister Christopher
Columbus
CH Polo Town
CH Talent Contest
WCS Truly Stonewall
CH High Expectations

"Destined To Be Great"

Three Beau Peavine daughters are probably destined for the Broodmare Hall of Fame.

Marie Bosace 36064

Marie Bosace was injured in training, bred to a grandson of Jean Val Jean, then to another relatively obscure horse. She was purchased by Bob Boettcher at the Spindletop dispersal. She was shown in the three gaited division and then bred.

Colts

1951 Royal Robin 34587 by Bohemian Richlieu
1959 Stonewall's Beau Peavine 44736 by
Stonewall's Golden Dream
1962 CH Stonewall's Crescendo 44737 by Stonewall Supreme

Fillies

1948 Marie's Sweetheart 47639 by Jean Lafitte
1955 Albelarm Intoxication 65662 by Montgomery Mc
1961 WC Our Anne Marie 63507 by CH Valley View Supreme
1963 Sweet Deception 66313 by Stonewall Supreme
1966 Lifetime Affair 79024 by Genius Bourbon King

Abie's Baby 47302

Abie's Baby was bred to Kalarama Colonel as a three-year-old. She was purchased by Ike Lanier, Grasslands Farm, for \$1,000 and he also bought her filly for \$450.

Colts

1952 Abie's Star 35519 by Lexington Leader
1955 CH Colonel Boyle 37752 by Kalarama Colonel
1956 The Celt 38339 by Kalarama Colonel
1957 Proud Captain 39404 by Kalarama Colonel
1960 WC Broadland's Kilarney 50136 by Kalarama Colonel
1964 Abie's Denmark 47098 by Ridgfields Denmark
1969 Cape Town 54968 by Sporting Stonewall

Fillies

1951 Rudmarvel 52993 by Kalarama Colonel
1954 Colonel's Colleen 55747 by Kalarama Colonel
1958 Grassland's Irish Rose 59200 by Kalarama Colonel
1959 Grassland's Specialty 61073 by Kalarama Colonel
1963 Graystone's Lady of Fame 66521 by Kalarama Colonel
1966 Graystone's Rainbow 71521 by Courageous Peavine
1967 Royal Attention 73229 by Courageous Peavine

Rita Le Rose 35692

Rita Le Rose was a sensational show mare. She was purchased from Spindletop as a yearling, by George Gwinn, who in a short time sold her to Max Biederman, then located at North Middletown, Kentucky, where George and Pete DeAtley were trainers. She was gaited, and as a three-year-old sold to J. L. Younghusband, Valley View Farm, Barrington, Illinois. At the record breaking Valley View sale in the fall of 1946 Beau Fortune was sold for \$40,500 and was resold the next day for \$50,000. Rita Le Rose held the record for about an hour. She was sold to J. Paul Jones, Wichita, Kansas, for \$21,500. He put her in training with Eddie Barham who rode her to win the Junior Five Gaited World's Championship in 1947. Max Biederman eventually bought her back and she became the premier broodmare at High Point Farm, Springfield, Kentucky.

Colts

1960 Society Le Rose 45021 by Society Kalarama
1961 Starheart Peavine 43077 by Starheart Stonewall
1962 Rita's Star 44186 by Starheart Stonewall
1963 Starheart Challenger 45407 by Starheart Stonewall

Fillies

1955 CH Starheart's Black Magic 60493 by Starheart Stonewall
1958 Anita Le Rose 61319 by Society Kalarama
1967 Rita's Delight 72555 by Wing's Fleet Admiral



Miss Dixie Rebel by Beau Peavine and out of Abie's Irish Rose, was unbeaten in futurity competition. The last great hope of Spindletop she topped the dispersal sale. She went to the great horseman Lee Roby and he showed her with success, but they did not get along.

BEAU PEAVINE

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Shortly before she purchased the Kentucky farm, Mrs. Yount sold her oil interests to Standard Oil for \$46 million, the largest cash transaction in Texas history. Translated into today's dollar values the amount would be staggering.

She poured money into the Lexington property, buying another 200 acres so the total acreage would be 36 acres more than nearby 1,000 acre Dixiana Farm. When completed, Spindletop had 11 barns with 108 stalls, 75 separate paddocks, 18 miles of white board fence and ten miles of hard road. Two lakes were built, Lake Mildred and Lake Roxie which contained a horseshoe shaped island. Spindletop Hall, the showplace of the Bluegrass, was completed in 1937.

World's Champion Stallion

In 1936, Beau Peavine became the World's Champion Five Gaited Stallion, his final competitive event, and Chief of Spindletop won the gelding stake. On stake night Beau Peavine was sick, so the gelding was shown back in the championship and he won it. Night Flower with Charlie Dunn aboard was reserve for Dixiana. This win marked a slowdown in Spindletop show activities and a step up in the breeding operation.

Beau Peavine's breeding career had a good start with his first foal, a filly out of Sweet Kitty Bellairs named Queen of Cloverdale. She was sold to Dorothy Sayman of St. Louis and trained by Welch Greenwell and then Ray Kettman. In 1936, Sweet Kitty produced another filly which would become a standout walk-trot, Burma Sapphire.

American Ace

Spindletop Farm acquired American Ace in 1937, and he stood there through 1940. He was apparently a more popular stallion than Beau Peavine and some of the Spindletop mares, Lady Virginia, Bugle Ann, Lucy O., which produced well from the service of Beau Peavine were bred to American Ace.

Great disappointment came to Spindletop in 1937 with the death of Roxie Highland's first foal by Beau Peavine, a colt which contracted pneumonia. The famous mare had a filly in 1939 named Roxie Highland of Spindletop. She survived, but Roxie Highland died and was buried behind Spindletop Hall in a tomb topped with a marble slab and bronze statue, now in the Kentucky Horse Park.

There has long been a question about the true breeding of Edith Fable. The late Welch Greenwell, who bought her from Spindletop as a weanling, maintained she was most likely sired by Beau Peavine. He had trained Queen of Cloverdale and said the two mares were very much alike and both had unusual mottled white feet, a Beau Peavine trait. Lee Roby, who showed Edith Fable to two Three Gaited World's Grand Championships, concurred. Their story was that she was registered as a daughter of American Ace to help him get sold.

American Ace was purchased by Truman Ward, Maryland Farm, Brentwood, Tennessee. Saddlebred breeding waned after World War II began, and the services of Beau Peavine were limited to a small group of Spindletop mares.

Spectacular Last Appearance

Beau Peavine made his last public appearance away from Spindletop Farm at the Lexington Junior League Horse Show in 1944. This is ironic because it was a private comment about Mrs. Yount, by a Junior League member visiting Spindletop sometime in the 1950s, and overheard by the hostess had capped the disappointment of rejection by Lexington society and lead to the sale of the farm. Mrs. Yount had been a generous supporter of the show since its inception in 1937.

The horse magazines reported that the exhibition of Beau Peavine was sensational and the 15-year-old stallion looked as if he would be competitive in the show ring.



Christiana King by Beau Peavine. Helen Hayse painting, 1946.

Strange Breeding Career

The statistics pertaining to Beau Peavine's breeding career raise some important questions. Over his lifetime, Beau Peavine sired only 104 foals, 47 fillies and 57 colts. In the season of 1937 he bred at least 25 mares, but then the numbers drop dramatically.

The farm, in all its magnificence, was not readily accessible. Saddlebred people were generally welcome, but entrance to the farm required an appointment. Despite Mrs. Yount's desire to be accepted into Lexington society, Cape Grant was said to have had an aristocratic air about him.

Robert Boettcher said, "People were in awe of the place. You were let in at the gate. You could drive right into Castleton, were greeted warmly, and the people were friendly. Stallion owners often showed off their horses on Sunday afternoon, but Spindletop was closed. The stud fee on Beau Peavine was high. When most stallions were standing a \$100 or \$200, his fee was \$500, and they didn't care if he got mares."

According to Ellis Waggoner, the Beau Peavine horses were hot, but made wonderful show horses. He said that Spindletop quit advertising the horse at stud, that Cape Grant didn't care whether they bred outside mares or not.

Spindletop Dispersal

The saga of the Spindletop Saddlebreds ended for all intents and purposes in July of 1952 with a dispersal sale. It was said to have been brought about when Cape Grant returned from winter vacation at Beaumont, Texas. The horses, which he had left under the direction of Bill McIlvain, were not up to his standards, and he was said to have been furious.

Abie's Royal Irishman may have been another factor which contributed to the decision to sell out. This son of Beau Peavine and Abie's Irish Rose was a good five gaited horse. Cape Grant and his "neighbor" Earl Teater, across the road at Castleton Farm were not on good terms. Grant was one of the judges and voted for Easter Parade in the five gaited championship at the 1947 Kentucky State Fair, when she became the only horse ever to defeat CH Wing Commander. It was said Grant boasted he was going to beat Wing with Abie's Royal Irishman and apparently could not resist putting on a show each time he worked the horse, eventually knocking him out.

Miss Dixie Rebel topped the sale, purchased by Robert Baskowitz of St. Louis for \$10,000. Sired by Beau Peavine and out of Abie's Irish Rose, she was foaled at Spindletop and sold to Charles F. Williams of Atlanta. She had not been beaten in futurity competition and was shown by Doss Stanton to win the two and the three-year-old fine harness classes at Louisville. Cape Grant bought her back

for Spindletop to head what was to have been the show string of 1952.

Beau Peavine was a great sire of show horses. Over 20 percent of his get were winners at the major shows, an inordinately high number, and just how many others made the show ring one way or another cannot be determined. Some of his best were Queen of Cloverdale, Burma Sapphire, Jean Lee Peavine, WC Gay Gallant, Sophia Van Cleve, Reckless Beau, Beau Royal, Father Crow, Gay Fox, Rita's Beau, WC Carolina Caroline, and Beau of Grandview.

Stallion Sons

It is said the Beau Peavine horses were hot natured and could be difficult to work. A few of his sons were used at stud, their get were similar and they never attained popularity. Beau Le Rose Peavine was the sire of CH Dixie Aristocrat, CH Rose's China Silk, and Fairy Le Rose. Chief of Texas, Hi Tension King, and Bless My Buttons were sired by Beau Yount. Christiana King was the sire of Rosemar Highlander, Christiana Lea, the dam of CH Duke of Daylight, and Lovely Ina who produced CH Superior Odds. Another son, Yekcohs (named for his first owner Franklin Shockey spelled backwards), probably had the most opportunity at stud, but he and his get tended to be lazy. He sired only one top show horse, Lofty Elaine.

Beau Peavine died at Spindletop on August 28, 1957, at the age of 28. He lived five years after the registration of his last foal in 1952. Shortly thereafter Cape Grant and his wife (the former Pansy Yount) moved back to Texas. ■

Daughters of Beau Peavine

While his sons got short shrift, daughters of Beau Peavine made huge contributions to the breed. Some which had notable descendents were:

Star of Spindletop	Mona Kai
Ace's Patrician Lady	Ruth Ann Peavine
Fair Oaks Darling	Peavine's Private Ann
Willie B. Genius	CH Nobody's Business
Viola Ransom	Dancing Spirit
Mighty Ransom	Spirit's Gay Miss LE
Belle of Spindletop	Sophia Van Cleve
Victory's Belle Le Rose	Plainview's Lucky Charm
Grand Command	Plainview's Sophia Van Cleve
Majorie Gay	Kathryn Manion
Wing Commander's King	Spellcaster
Sister Belle	Johnny Three
Belle's Jacque	Mildred Manion
Belle Lafitte	Jean's Artistic King
Belle of Grasslands	Revelry's Princess
Saucy Eve	Miss Dixie Rebel
CH Wind Song	Sultan's Americana
Aries Golden Gift	Grassland's Charm
CH Sky Watch	The Charmed Princess
Rose of Spindletop	CH Callaway's Mr. Republican
Indiana Peavine	Gay Patty (dam of 9 daughters)
Queen of Color	Kentucky Jem
Fair Virginia	Twilight Jem.
Flavor Taste	
CH Lilly Merrill	