

SPECIAL FEATURE:

OUR FIRST FICTIONAL
PIECE!

Savannah's Horses by Luka
Heinrich,

ON PAGE 8



Volume 10
APRIL-JUNE 2014
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

EDITOR: Elizabeth Jones

<http://mepsa1.tripod.com/mepsa.htm>

MEPSA is an educational group for model horse enthusiasts, promoting
the hobby of model horse mail-in photo showing.

The writing contest was a big success! As promised, one fictional piece will appear in the Annual MEPSA Championship Show Book. The other fictional pieces will be published here in the newsletter. MEPSA thanks all the participants in this year's contest. We now have many wonderful articles for the Champ show book on topics such as horse breeds, equine performance, and how to customize models. You will enjoy reading about things that will help you show your models successfully, because, yes, we are coming down to the finish line! This will be your last newsletter before the championship show! The shows listed below are your last chances to qualify this season! Some judges have changed, so please check the listings!

The winner of the writing contest this year was the brilliant writer, our own **Corina Roberts!** Corina elected to donate her prize – a gorgeous Stone Foundation Stock horse with performance photos by Randa Garrett – back to MEPSA. Thank you Corina!

Qualifier schedule for the end of the 2013-2014 Season:

April 5, 2013 - OF Plastic/China Regular Qualifier (A,B,E)

Linda Ransom
1414 S. 102nd Ave.
Shelby, MI 49455
linransom@yahoo.com

April 12, 2014 - Spanish/Gaited Specialty (all divisions)

Jennifer Floyd
142 El Capitan Drive
Chula Vista, CA 91911
shahbazin@aol.com

April 19, 2014 - AR/CM Regular Qualifier (C,D,F)

Elizabeth Jones
10241 Battlefield Dr.
Manassas, VA 20110
ubersu4u@yahoo.com

April 26, 2014 - Foal Specialty (all divisions)

Vicki Griffiths
1290 Bay Dale Drive #133
Arnold, MD 21012
skellington007@aol.com

May 3, 2014 - OF Plastic/China Qualifier (A,B,E)

Laurel Dedes
5193 Coventry Ln.
Barboursville, VA 22923
dserthorse@aol.com

May 10, 2014 - AR/CM Qualifier (C,D,F)

Betty Hook
41 Old Trail Road
Liverpool, PA 17045
eclipse@pa.net

Novice Shows:

APRIL 16, 2014 - Performance

Randa Garrett
5609 W 97th Street
Overland Park, KS 66207
twinspringsstables@yahoo.com

MAY 17, 2014 - Halter

Elizabeth Jones
10241 Battlefield Drive
Manassas, VA 20110

Annual Championship:

June 15, 2014

Judges have been selected for this year's championship! The Special MINI DIVISION returns thanks to our generous donors: Marie Phillips, Vicki Griffiths, and Kay Myers.

Division A Judge: Anne Field
Division B Judge: Cory Hartung
Division C Judge: Jamie Stine
Division D Judge: Randi Brazil
Division E Judge: Jennifer Buxton
Division F Judge: Paula Anderson
Mini Division Judge: Robin Nere
Division Novice Judge: Elena Lemm

Check the website soon <http://mepsa1.tripod.com/champshow.html> for more information on the championship show. Very soon there should be an entry form available. Details of entry fees have yet to be worked out.

We are still seeking donations, especially classic scale models, but also mini or traditional models, tack, props, and other horse related items. Heavy items may not be suitable. Send your donations to:

Carolyn Bailey
971 Trailside Lane
Bartlett, 60103

Donations earn ads in the Annual MEPSA Championship book. A donation with a value of \$100 earns you a full page ad in the full color, widely read Champ show book! In addition we will have a drawing for one of our donors to receive a nice prize! Each donation worth \$15.00 earns a chance in the drawing for you!

Where do I send my donations?

Send cash donations to:
Robin Nere
20610 SW Blanton St.
Aloha Oregon 97007

Send prize donations to:
Carolyn Bailey
971 Trailside Lane
Bartlett, IL 60103

If you are an artist – and would like to donate a paint job to MEPSA, we have bodies on hand and artists ready to prep a body for you! Contact any board member to get started, or contact Marie Phillips for a list of available bodies. You may also request a specific body, and we will try to find one for you.

If you have newer body quality models (Nakota, Salinero, Esprit, etc) or classic “Love” molds, you can send these to:

Marie J. Phillips
93 Franklin Ave
Oakville, CT 06779

We will pair the bodies up with artists willing to paint them. Yet another way to raise funds or obtain nice prizes for MEPSA!

MEPSA needs judges for next season

The regular qualifiers will be reserved for experienced MEPSA judges. If you have judged a MEPSA show before, please volunteer to judge again next year.

MEPSA NEEDS NEW JUDGES. New judges will be asked to start with a specialty show. These are smaller and will be easier to complete on time. We will try to offer some judging opportunities that are halter only. We will try to fill specialties such as mini and foal shows first and fill other specialty judging positions as judges are available. Please contact Linda Ransom (linransom@yahoo.com) if you would like to volunteer to judge. WE NEED TO UPDATE OUR RECORDS. So don't be surprised when you are asked to fill out a judge's application. If you have judged previously for MEPSA, you may use this in place of the references requested. Simply list the most recent dates you judged.

Elections for the Board of Directors

Elections will be held at the end of July. We will need a new donations Coordinator. This is a very important position that has been held by our wonderful LAUREL DEDES! Laurel stayed on last year because no one volunteered to take her place. It is really not fair for us to keep relying on Laurel when she needs to focus on other things. We hope she will return to the board in the future. Laurel has created a wonderful means of bringing in donations by holding contests. I know for me, the contests have consistently inspired me to create and donate items (props, customized models, and tack) to MEPSA. In addition to holding the contests, Laurel has set up the means to vote for our favorites, and sell some of the more valuable items to raise funds. The funds and prizes that result from the activities of the donations coordinator help us to provide wonderful prize packages for champ show participants, as well as rewards for all those who contribute so much to making MEPSA a success, such as judges and board members. Yes there IS someone behind the curtain (quite a few someones actually) that put lots of time and effort into making all this happen.

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING US. If you want to continue the programs Laurel started, Laurel is willing to show you the ropes. If you have your own ideas for fund raising, that's okay too. The board is a wonderful group of hobbyists. We all enjoy working together. Certainly, it gives you a whole new view of MEPSA! Linda Ransom (secretary, linransom@yahoo.com) will be holding elections, so please contact her if you would like to run for a board position.

Current MEPSA Officers:

President	Elizabeth Jones	ubersu@verizon.net
Vice-President	Corina Roberts	redbirds_vision@hotmail.com
Secretary	Linda Ransom	linransom@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Robin Nere	nerebcr@msn.com
Donation Coordinator	Laurel Dedes	dserthorse@aol.com
Judge Coordinator	Linda Ransom	linransom@yahoo.com

Novice Show Coordinator	Marie Phillips	RIAP57@aol.com
Championship Show Coordinator	Carolyn Bailey	foggynote@comcast.net
Championship Show Book	Anne Field	fieldofdolls@gmail.com
Website Coordinator	Jennifer Cole	snyder_1@hotmail.com

First customizing challenge is over!

The 2013 challenge involved the Stone WPH. An early mold, he suffered from some sculpting issues, but he is still a pretty popular performance horse. Six customizers met the deadline and the entrants varied wildly! Each entrant will be getting a prize! Congratulations and thank you to Corina Roberts, Peggy Guinan, Elizabeth Jones, Jennifer Sneed, Janis Whitcomb, and Cassie Black!!! All who requested a body for this contest received one. For those who have not yet returned their customized model, we are still eager to see your challenge result! We would like to include a picture of your customized model with the others in the champ show book. Please contact us to let us know the status of your model. We know some additional exciting models will be coming! If you have a model but simply do not have time to complete it, we ask that you return it to Marie Phillips (93 Franklin Ave, Oakville, CT 06779) and let Laurel know.

Many of you are already working on the 2014 challenge model, Breyer Adios! I look forward to seeing those results at the end of 2014!

MEPSA's first contest of 2014! DEADLINE EXTENDED!

The Entries for the Stablemate Custom Contest are now due April 18, 2014!

MEPSA is holding a Stablemate/Chips scale customization contest as a MEPSA Benefit. This contest is open to ALL. Winner will be decided by popular vote. Voting will be open to ALL. One person = one vote. This is a great way to get your work shown to a large audience, possibly win an award and help MEPSA put on a terrific Championship Show. MEPSA needs mini scale models to award in our Championship show.

Contest Rules

- 1) Artist provides the model to be customized. The model must be Stablemate or Chips scale. Each entrant may enter one or two models.
- 2) Artist may use any technique, any materials and customize the model any way they choose. This contest is open to any equid- not only horses, but donkeys, zebras, fantasy equines, etc.
- 3) All finished models must have a clear digital or scanned photo of each side, sent in to

MEPSA- Laurel Dedes- dserthorse@aol.com. MEPSA can do the photographs for you if needed, when we receive your entry.

4) ALL entered models become property of MEPSA to raise funds or use as Championship Show awards. This is a MEPSA Benefit contest. Artist must send the finished model to MEPSA upon completion- Carolyn Bailey, Bartlett, IL.- foggynote@comcast.net- at their own expense. There is no other fee to enter.

5) **Winner will receive a mini scale unfinished “Merlin” artist resin!**

6) All non-winners will be entered into a 2nd chance drawing from the non-winning contest entrants by MEPSA at the end of the season for a nice prize!

7) The contest will be publicized heavily on the Internet and in model horse groups. Please help spread the word!

8) Deadline for producing your model and entering it is March 8th, 2014. Voting will take place in mid to late March.

Join us on the mepsa-list at yahoogroups!

MEPSA Tackmaking contest- MAY 30th, 2014

WIN AN O-U-DOLL NEW CM GYMKHANA DOLL BY JOAN YOUNT or a SEUNTA U/F RESIN TIED GOAT! ... Winners choice!

MEPSA is holding a model horse tackmaking contest as a MEPSA Benefit. This contest is open to ALL. Winner will be decided by popular vote. Voting will be open to ALL. One person = one vote. Voting will be done on the modelequines blog at <http://modelequines.blogspot.com> You do not have to join any group in order to vote.

This is a great way to get your work shown to a potentially huge audience, win a great award, and help MEPSA put on a terrific Championship show.

Contest Rules

1) All tack must have been made by the entrant. All major parts of any sets must have been made by the entrant. For example, you may not make a saddle pad, and enter someone else's saddle with your saddle pad as an entry. However, if the saddle is your work, a saddle pad made by someone else (and noted) may be included as part of one entry. The tack may be previously made, or made especially for this contest. Your identity, as tackmaker, should be kept under wraps until the voting is over. Please don't tell everyone which entry is yours. Guessing is part of the fun!

2) Tackmaker may enter any type tack (Western, English, Native costume, historical, circus, other) in any scale, and the tack may be anything, ranging from a halter and lead set to a complete set with saddle.

3) All finished tack may have a clear digital or scanned photo of each side, on a model, sent in to MEPSA- Carolyn Bailey- foggynote@yahoo.com or Laurel Dedes- dserthorse@aol.com - and Laurel can do the photographs for you if needed, when we the tack is received.

4) ALL entered tack becomes property of MEPSA to raise funds or use as Championship show awards. This is a MEPSA Benefit contest. Tackmaker must send the finished tack to MEPSA upon completion- Carolyn Bailey, 971 Trailside Ln, Bartlett, IL 60103-5159- or Laurel Dedes, 5193 Coventry Ln., Barboursville, VA 22923-1618- at their own expense. There is no other fee to enter.

5) Winner will be awarded a new custom gymkhana girl doll from the super talented Joan Yount of O-U-Doll Studio, or a wonderful SEUNTA tied resin goat, waiting for your finish. Great prizes for your performance showing! Winner's choice.

6) The contest will be publicized heavily on the Internet and in model horse groups. Please help spread the word!

7) Deadline for producing your tack and entering it is May 30th, 2014. Voting will take place in early June. We will accept entries from now until May 30th.

8) MEPSA appreciates an intent to enter statement as soon as you determine that you will enter, sent to Laurel Dedes- dserthorse@aol.com This is not binding, but will give us an idea how many entries to expect. Thank you! Please help support model horse photo showing by entering!

MEPSA is an open, photo show organization. You do not need to pay any membership fees to show. No registration needed. Just send your models, return envelope and your show fee, and you will be competing with some of the best. Not quite there yet? MEPSA also has a Novice division, designed to help coach new MEPSA showmen to reach the level they need to achieve to be successful in the open division! Contact Marie Phillips (riap57@aol.com) if you have questions about entering novice shows!

Prepaid Show coupons for MEPSA Qualifier entry!

Nervous about sending cash through the mail? For your convenience, you can now send one check or paypal payment to Robin Nere (esteemed treasurer) and receive coupons for show entry! Cash equivalent Coupons will be available in \$2 and \$5 denominations. You may receive your coupons electronically or by mail. Each will have a serial number so they can only be used one time. Simply enclose the value needed in place of cash or check in your entry. For example: for 100 halter photos, enclose two \$2 coupons. No more cash in the mail, no more check fees – entering shows just got easier!

MEPSA 2013/2014 CONTEST SCHEDULE

Here is our contest schedule for this season! MEPSA reserves the right to be somewhat flexible if necessary, and to substitute prizes for something of equal or greater value if necessary. We may, in fact, offer a choice of the prize named here, or an alternative, as we get closer to each contest date. We may offer two divisions of any contest with enough entries, and a second, smaller, prize!

Stablemate Custom contest- deadline April 18th 2014

-Prize, unfinished SM scale AR "Merlin".

Tack/Costume contest (any scale) deadline May 30th 2014

(includes modified OF tack with before & after photos) If we have enough, we will separate into two groups, costume and other tack or small item and large item.

-Prize, main prize- Joan Yount youth gymkhana doll; 2nd prize if used- Seunta AR tied goat.

Prop (any scale) (including modified OF dolls with before & after pictures)- deadline July 31st 2014

-Prize, customized WPH or resin cow from Seunta or C.O.W.S.

Hallowe'en contest!! Deadline October 14th, 2014

Costume, prop or custom for Hallowe'en show!

Prize, candy, natch!

Makeover Challenge Contest- December 2014!

Makeover an Adios any way you want. Get the body soon, so you have plenty of time to work! Please mail Laurel dserthorse@aol.com if you are a proven artist (done MEPSA winners, qualifiers in large classes, other competitive photo show winners or Live show winners or NAN qualifiers) to be added to the list. MEPSA needs bodies to send out, or you can provide your own. -Prize/s, not yet decided

Body Box: MEPSA is maintaining a Body Box. Any body-quality model may be donated. The idea is to encourage artists to donate their work by providing them with a body. If you are interested in donating a body or you are an artist interested in painting one of the bodies that we already have, please contact Marie Phillips riasp57@aol.com. We would love to have some of the newer more realistic molds donated.

Body Box list

MEPSA BODY BOX

STABLEMATES

G1 Arab stallion

G1 ASB

G1 Citation

G1 laying down foal
G1 QH stallion (2)
G1 Native Dancer
G1 Seabiscut
G1 Swaps
G1 Thoroughbred standing foal
G2 galloping Drafter (3)
G2 Morgan (3)
G2 Mule
G2 rearing Arabian (3)
G2 rearing Arabian (partially painted may need stripping)
G2 Cantering Foal
G2 Scrambling foal
G2 Scratching foal
G2 Shetland
G2 Thoroughbred (5)
G2 Warmblood (3)
G3 Rearing Andalusians (2)
G3 Thoroughbred
Grey halfinger? Welsh? G4? Rear leg cracked.
Schleich WB (Littlebit size)
Schleich Shire gelding

LITTLEBIT / STONE PEBBLES

Saddlebred
Warmblood
Schleich Drafter

CLASSIC

Andalusian Foal
Andalusian Mare
Andalusian Stallion
Araian Foal- tail missing
Black Beauty (2)
Flicka
Ginger
Keen (2)
Might Tango
Mustang Foal
Western Pony (Needs sticky paint stripped)

TRADITIONAL

Action Stock Horse Foal (2)
Andalusian (rear leg broken-piece missing.)
Black Beauty (old Mold) rear leg broken have piece.
Breyer Jumper with wall-tail removed

Family Arab Mare (2)
Justin Morgan (3)
Oldenburg-buckskin (tail broken have piece)
Lady Phase
Man O War (old mold)
Phar Lap (2) One is partially etched-be nice if someone finished him! Have pic
Proud Arab Foal
Proud Arab Mare
Proud Arab Stallion
San Domingo - (broken rear leg-have piece)
Silver body
Running Foal
Running Stallion (front leg broken-have piece)
Shetland Pony (4)
Stock Horse Mare
Stud Spider

RESIN

Unknown Morgan/Pony type stallion Three legs broken. Have pieces (Have pic)

Everyone showing performance should be reading

<http://www.positivelyperfectperformance.com/>,

and printing it out for their binders. I'm not saying it's perfect in every way, but it certainly is a lot of good information in one place!! Another site with easy to access information specifically for model performance showing is the IMEHA site:
<http://www.imeha.org/imehaguidebook/imehaguidebook.html>– Laurel.

Website update:

NEW – optional qualifier entry form added to the “Forms” tab on the MEPSA web site.

RESULTS! New this year! Get your results by visiting the “show dates and judges” page. Click on the RESULTS button! If the results are ready (as soon as our webmaster Jennifer gets them) they will pop right up!

Donor record:

Start keeping a list of your donations today! Form available on the website. Record each donation and the value. You can also record shipping you have donated to MEPSA, as well as judges fees donated. Get credit for all you do for MEPSA! Contest entries not included. Submit your donation record at the end of the season (or with your championship entry). This will make record keeping easier for the BOD. All donors receive ad space in the Championship book. Donate \$100 – get a full page, \$50 gets you half a page and \$25 gets you a quarter page ad. Become a patron level sponsor by donating \$150 or more and get your champ show book for free!

Newsletter

The MEPSA newsletter is published quarterly and is available by snail mail upon request. It is edited by Elizabeth Jones and distributed by Marie Phillips. Have a question or contribution for the next newsletter? Email it to Elizabeth Jones at ubersu@verizon.net or mail it to 10241 Battlefield Drive, Manassas, VA 20110.

New! Fiction!

And now for our first fictional installment. I present to you:

Savannah's Horses by Luka Heinrich (age 11)

I patted my big, sturdy horse, Cody. His white blaze glowed neon in the darkening twilight and his conchos on his bridle reflected his liquid brown eye. A cool night breeze blew my hair back and tried to tug my cowboy hat off my head. I loved the mountains of Wyoming. They were my home. Cody snuffled and stamped his foot, eager to be on the move. I knew I should be getting back. My parents were always worried about me since last summer. A cougar had jumped off a high rock killing my favourite horse Palouse. I had leaped off before the cougar had got me but...

I looked at the towering cliffs and the last rays of sunlight bounced off the walls. Then in the twilight I saw some horses. There was a herd of pure white horses loping along the cliff. They were all pretty but the white stallion...well he was beyond pretty. His head was held low and his muscles propelled him along as if he were air. Then he slid to a stop and let out a challenging scream as if serenading the wild night wind. Then with a toss of his head he raced away leaving me with only a glimpse of the horses fluttering tails.

I just sat there for a few minutes. Then deftly turning my head I saw a black horse loping towards me. It was Tex, my father's ranch hand. Tex was always worrying about me. He knew lots about horses though and he was an exceptional rider. He said, "Hey, your parents are worried about you." "What's new!" I replied. I wasn't about to tell him about the horses but I would ask him a few questions. "Are there still wild horses around here?" I asked. "Yep, lots deep in the mountains," Tex replied. "Are there pure white horses?" I asked. "Yep, Albinos, rare color, they're more susceptible to disease though, c'mon let's go home." he said.

I lifted Cody's heavy saddle off led him out to the pasture. I slipped his bridle off his head and he trotted to the end of the field to graze with my dad's mare Apache. I went into our log cabin. The smell of fire place smoke was in the air. I hung my hat on a peg and trudged into the living room. I heard the buzz of our small cable TV. I said to my parents, "I'm back." "Okay, dear," said my mother, "Goodnight". I went upstairs to my tiny room. It was frigid. The fire heat didn't heat my upstairs room. I changed into my pyjamas and crawled under my woollen quilt. My mind was still full of horses. Tomorrow afternoon I would go out again.

The next morning my blaring alarm clock woke me up at six thirty. I ate a breakfast of pancakes and rushed outside to do my chores. I gave Mom's chickens some corn and refilled their water. Then I gave the stabled horses some hay and cleaned their stalls. Then I cleaned, rinsed and refilled the water trough in the pasture. After that I drove the four wheeler to the cattle pasture and refilled the heifer's water and the bull calves' water. Than my dad said, "Load of new beef cattle are coming in today. Saddle up Cody; we need to sort the bulls and heifers."

A big livestock trailer drove into the round pen. The men unloaded the cattle off the trailer. They milled around, bawling nervously. I rode Cody into the round pen. Cody lowered his head separating the bulls and females. He slid on his haunches nipping every cow who challenged him. Over in the other arena my sister Cecilia was jumping her horse Bravo over some poles. She hated ranch life, cows and trail rides. She dreamed of competing in the large show circuits in Kentucky. I couldn't wait to go out and try to see the white horses. I trotted back to the barn and put Cody in his stall. Then I saw a strange desert-brown truck driving up the lane. The man who jumped out had rough blue jeans with a high-powered rifle hanging from his belt!

I swallowed. It was illegal to hunt here. This land was part of a nature reserve. I walked over and said, "Can I help you?" "Ya, heard of any range-rats runnin' round here?" said the man. Range-rats were cattle-man's term for mustangs. They grazed the land for cattle and made grass sparse. This guy made me nervous. There was something about him that well... wasn't right. There was no way I would tell this guy about the white horses so I said, "Not close, deep in the canyons where it's too isolated for humans to go." "Thanks missy," he said, and drove away.

I told my father. He said, "Be careful Savannah, Mustangers have been spotted around here." Mustangers were illegal cowboys that rounded up mustangs and sold them for horsemeat. I noticed it was getting dark. I told my father I was going for a ride. "Take Sassy, Cody is tired." he said. Sassy was an Appaloosa mare with a hot temper. She wasn't my favourite but I could handle her. In a little bit I rode out. Sassy was prancing and shaking her head. I knew she wanted to run, so I decided to let her gallop a little bit to let her work off some steam. Then she came to a dead stop. I flew over her head and I heard her galloping away.

I slowly sat up. I saw Sassy leaping up to the cliff. Then I saw them: pure white horses standing on the cliff. Then I realized Sassy wanted to join them. The stallion reared. Then I saw a man... he leaned forward on his red-bay horse, swinging a stiff brown lasso above his head. I thought he wanted the stallion. I was wrong. The rope landed around Sassy's neck! I yelled, "Let go of her!" He stopped and turned down the cliff towards me. Then he did the unexpected - he pointed a rifle at me and fired. I got out of the way and the speeding bullet hit a tree. Then the man turned around and galloped away, taking Sassy with him.

Then I realized how dark it was because a rider came jogging across the range. I recognized my dad's young horse Solo. I walked toward him and the worry on his face was obvious. I said, "Sassy threw me and this man roped her. Then he fired a rifle at me." I didn't tell him about the white horses. "Savannah, you can't ride by yourself anymore, you have to take either Tex or Salty." said my dad. Salty was my father's ranch manager. "But dad..." I said. Now I was never going to see the white horses. He said nothing. He just turned back to the ranch, and hoisted me up on the back of his saddle.

The next day, my dad was sending some calves to the bull calf auctions. I heard the frightened bawls of the newly weaned calves when a police car drove up. Police cars were rare in the high mountains of Wyoming. Salty was looking concerned at whatever the policeman was saying. When they were done talking I said to Salty, "What did the policeman say?" "Mustangers were spotted on high cliff." he said. The man who shot at me might have been a Mustanger, I thought. I'd have to check and see if the stallion and his band were alright. I'd go out at night and see them. They were more important than ever.

That night when the moon was high, I snuck out of the house and saddled Cody up. He shook his head wondering why he was asked to go out in the dark. I loped him toward high cliff looking out for any sign of Mustangers or horses. Then I heard a truck engine. Mustangers! "Shhh!" I

said to Cody. I dragged him into a huge clump of juniper foliage. I had a view of what was happening. I saw an old dust beaten truck drive up. It was the same truck that had driven into our yard a few days ago! Two men jumped out and started to set up a round pen. Then they unloaded a beaten appaloosa from an old livestock trailer. I shuddered. Then I realized it was Sassy!

I watched in horror as the man unhooked her lead rope and shooed her away. I watched Sassy lope slowly away. She was too sore to gallop. The guys sat on the edge of the coral, joking and laughing. Then in the moonlight I saw Sassy. She was leading the white horses toward the trailer and pen. She was being used as a Judas horse. A horse used to lead the wild ones to captivity. A man opened the gate and shook some grain. Sassy ran in and started eating the grain. The gate closed behind the white horses. The cowboys shook hands and got something from inside the truck.

Then Cody whinnied. I cringed. The cowboys started looking at us. "Dallas, there's a kid over there!" said the other Cowboy. They yanked me and Cody out of the juniper. "How're we gonna make sure this kid don't tell on us Dallas?" "Lock her in the old cattle trailer Ty," said the Dallas guy. Then on second thought he said, "Oh and padlock it." They were dragging me into a dark trailer. Then I saw the doors close on me. The first thought I had was to open the door. The sun was peeking up. I could see from between the crack in the door. I rattled the door. Then I heard Ty say, "Where are the matches?" "In the livestock trailer with the kid." "Heck, why are they there?" Ty grumbled at Dallas' reply.

Matches! I quickly stole a package. Ty came in and took matches. He gave me a look that could kill, and left. Then I heard Dallas yell, "Ty, the stallion leaped the fence!" "Really?" Ty yelled. Then I lost interest in their freak-out over a jumping horse. Then I had an idea: maybe I could melt the padlock with my matches! I used seven matches and I had only one more left. After I used the last match, it worked and I opened the door! Then I made a run for Cody tied up to a fence with a spade bit in his mouth. A spade was a harsh bit that only worked in experienced hands, and these guys were *not* experienced. Then Ty yelled, "The kid is getting away!" I couldn't hear Dallas' reply; Cody was off like a shot!

I held onto Cody's sturdy mane. I gripped with my legs. Then I saw a gorge. I knew this was the fifty foot deep gorge Salty had told me never to go near. I pulled gently on the spade bit. Cody wouldn't stop so I pulled harder and yanked. There was no way you could stop that horse. He leaped over the five foot gorge. I held onto his mane. If he fell, we would both be killed. He landed safely on the other side. Then after I had shakily dismounted I realized Cody's leg was sore. I removed the spade bit and threw it into the gorge. Then I tied Cody up safely and decided to explore to see if there was a way home. There was not. The gorge was long and I could not walk to the end. I sat near Cody's head. Then I saw a white shape on the other side of the gorge.

It was the white stallion! He trotted anxiously around flicking his head into the air. I wondered if he missed the rest of his band. There was no way he'd been over here. No wild stallion would risk his life jumping a cliff. Then he disappeared down the edge of the gorge into the sunset. A whole day had gone by and I obviously was spending the night out here. I knew it would be a very sleepless night. I decided to stay by Cody, that way I could make sure; I didn't go to close to the edge of the gorge by mistake. I tried to sleep but I was sleepless. All I could think of was going home. I would be so happy, if I got home. No, when I get home, I thought. I will get home! Then I drifted into a restless sleep for a few hours. Then I woke up around maybe two or three in the morning. Cody was sleeping with his foot up. I have no idea how he slept.

That morning was foggy. I could not see five feet in front of me. Then I saw a floating shape through the mist. It couldn't be the stallion could it? But it was! I was so happy; there must have been a way over, unless he had been ridiculous enough to jump like Cody. He seemed to want us to follow him. He'd trot away a few yards and then come back and flick his head. I untied Cody and whispered, "You'll be home in your stall soon." I only hoped it could happen. I slowly led him after the stallion. The stallion flung his head as if to say, "Hurry up ya slow pokes!" Then he disappeared into a hole through the cliff. It appeared to go deep into the ground. I did not want to go in but Cody seemed unconcerned and so I decided to risk it.

There was water running through the tunnel so I took it slow so Cody didn't slip. Then I started to get worried. What if we never came out? Every so often I saw the white stallion's flowing white tail disappear around yet another bend. Then I started to see light! Could it be? Even Cody stepped with his feet higher despite his sore foot and held his tail high. Then as we stepped on the bright springy grass I walked towards the stallion. I touched his silky forelock once before he floated away into the mist. Then I said to Cody, "C'mon boy, we got to do this stud a favor." I turned him toward the ranch. When I saw the ranch house come into sight I sighed with relief. My parents came rushing out, pestering me with a bazillion questions.

I told them the whole story. "Let's do this stud a favor and release his mares," said my dad. My dad got rangers in and told them the whole story. We rode on horses (I rode our old cowpony Pokey) to the Mustangers camp. The rangers arrested Dallas and Ty, charging them with horse theft, kidnapping and the illegal practice of rounding up wild mustangs. Then my dad brought a very beaten Sassy back to the ranch, for my mother to care for. Then we loaded the white mares into a trailer and trailered them to the spot where I first saw them. At twilight we let them go, watching them run to the top of the cliff. We sat nervously in the truck cab watching as the mares looked for the stallion. Then there he was rearing in the twilight and then he led his mares away. "Bye, my beauty, I'll never forget you..." I whispered. Then, as if hearing me, he turned, reared once more and then I got the last glimpse of him disappearing over the cliff with the sunlight illuminating a halo-like ring around his neck.

Magic of the Mustang by Luka Heinrich

The magic of the mustang is the magic of the free.

The magic of the mustang captivates me.

The magic of the mustang is a fierce love of land.

The land of which is wild, the land of which is grand.

The magic of the mustang is what people try to take away,

And the magic disappears more so day by day.

The magic of the mustang's spirit, when captured, each little spark,

Slowly day by day burns out of the heart.

But when wild and free to drink from a pond,

And returning to Mother Nature's loving bond,

And running over the grassy plains,
With tossing, tangled, glossy manes,
That's when the magic is at its best!

