

WILLIAM TO STAN...THE WEAVER FAMILY STORY

By Sharee LaRue

“A man’s got to have a code, a creed to live by,” according to John Wayne. The Weavers from Big Sandy, Montana, are just such a family.

The Weaver clan still carries on the prestigious birth-right handed down to them from William and Phoebe Weaver who homesteaded in Montana in 1887. The infamous “A Standing X” brand was recorded one year later by William, a highly respected horse and cattleman that helped shape the Montana and Canadian horse racing community. Little did they know what their legacy would unfold to be.

The Weaver Quarter Horse ranch, at the base of Bears Paw Mountain, owned by Stan and Nancy Weaver, was bought by William’s son Elmer and his wife Vona May (Stan’s grand



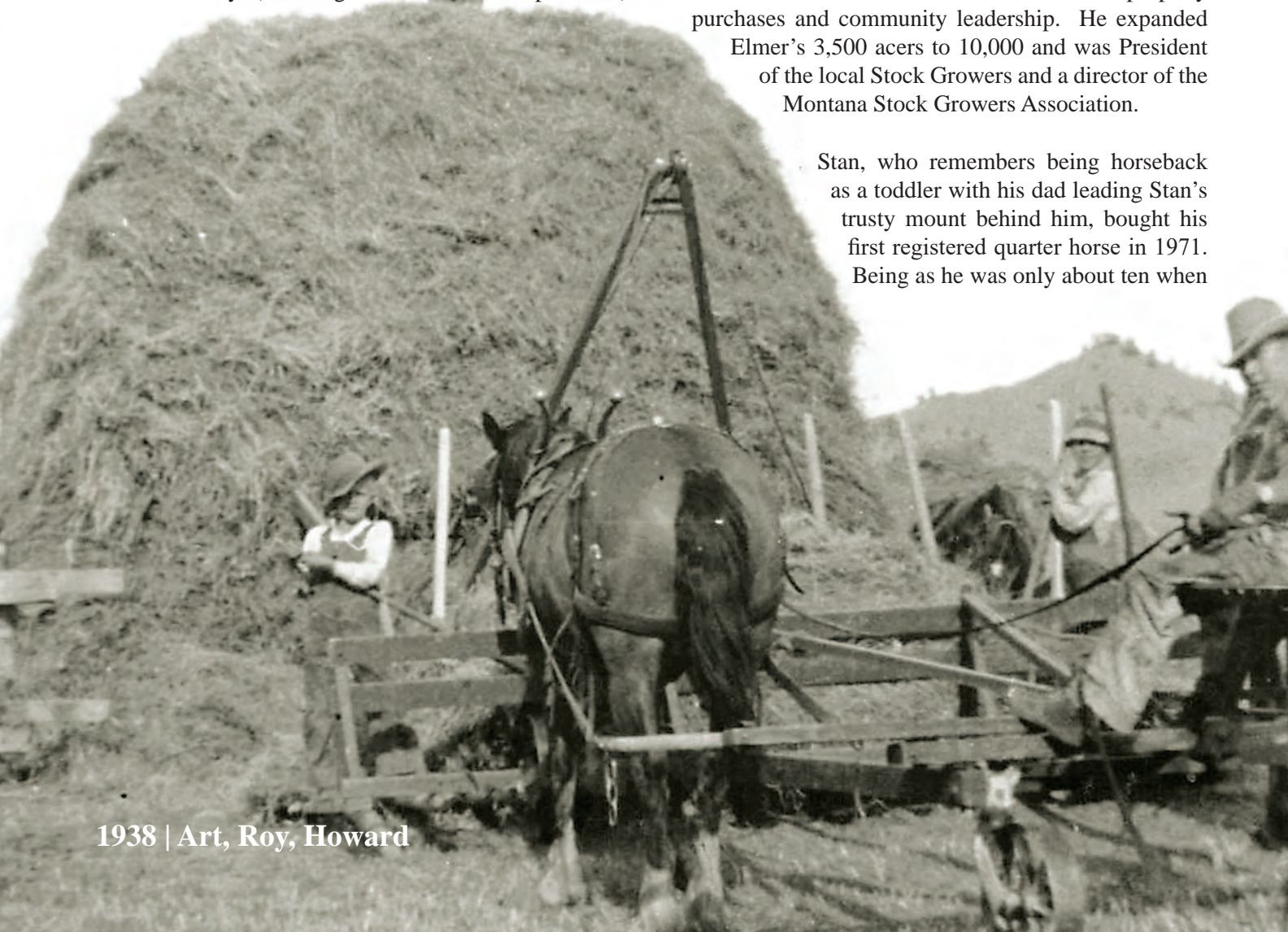
parents)

in 1925. As Elmer carried on his father’s work and morals, he quickly became known as an outstanding horse and cattleman himself, while he continued to buy up homesteads in the area.

In 1952 Elmer passed, leaving his sons, Roy, Howard, Earl and Art, the reins to his life’s work. He had made such a huge impact on the ranch and Montana’s agriculture heritage, that he was inducted into the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage in 2014.

Art and his wife Betty, Stan’s parents, took the lead in the growth of the Weaver name and brand. Even though Art was more of a cattleman than a horseman, he bought the Weaver’s first American Quarter Horse in 1959, a granddaughter of Poco Bueno, setting the wheels in motion to found what Weaver Quarter Horses has become today. He also continued the ritual, set before him, of property purchases and community leadership. He expanded Elmer’s 3,500 acres to 10,000 and was President of the local Stock Growers and a director of the Montana Stock Growers Association.

Stan, who remembers being horseback as a toddler with his dad leading Stan’s trusty mount behind him, bought his first registered quarter horse in 1971. Being as he was only about ten when



he broke his first horse, it was a natural progression and the Weaver way.

The tradition continued after Art's death in 1981, as estate management was turned over to Stan and Nancy, both Gonzaga University alumni. Again, as all that came before him, cattle, horses, farming, morals and true grit led to a life of progression and community service.

As the ranch increased to 15,000 acres, Stan and Nancy also set their sights on building one of the best bands of Quarter Horses the industry has ever seen. It all started in the early 1980's, with a mare named Stormy Dun Dee, who became the grand dam to the 2009 AQHA High Point Horse of the Year, Ima Tuf Missy. As they followed Weaver history, they had no way of knowing what that little mare had laid out for their future.

As we all know, you can't have just one. The Weavers built a rock-solid foundation, just like the ground they are born on, of unsurpassed quality including bone, feet and conformation coupled with a trainable mind set. They then set out to prove the popular saying, "Build it and they will come."

Research, and a listening ear directed at the best in the business, they launched into the competitive arena of cutting and reined cow horse classes. The collection of high quality Quarter Horses took its biggest upward turn when Weaver's purchased Ima Bit of Heaven, a 1996 stallion by Smart Little Lena out of Peppys From Heaven by Peppy San Badger himself. The list of champion titles continued to roll in from every end of the arena spanning rodeo, reining, cutting, to the performance show pen and beyond, while still producing the best ranch horses money can buy.

So, what do you do with a rapidly growing herd of quality horses, you produce a production horse sale, and that is just what they did. The yearly anticipated Weaver Quarter Horse Production Sale launched in 1996 with buyers spanning the World. Not only can they be found in all 50 states, they shine in Canadian, South Africa, Australia, Germany, Mexico, Venezuela and Brazil.



1945 | Elmer, Earl, Howard, Roy, Art, and Vona



1962 | Art and Stan



1920 | William, Phoebe, Elmer, Vona and Roy.

THE WEAVER FAMILY STORY CONTINUED

Stan Weaver Offices | Memberships

- AQHA First Vice President [2018 | 2019]
- AQHA National Director [starting in 2011]
- Rancher's Heritage Council Chairman
- Studbook and Registration, Public Policy, and Hall of Fame Selection committees
- Foundation, Marketing and Ranching councils
- MT Quarter Horse Assoc. past President and Director

Member of

Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame
Montana Land & Mineral Owners Association
National Cattleman's Beef Association
Montana Stockgrowers
Montana Farm Bureau Federation

Nancy Weaver Offices

- Central Montana Medical Center Advisory Board
- Montana Cowboy Poetry Gathering and Western Music Rendezvous Chairwomen
- Western Heritage Center Board of Trustees
- Montana Reined Cowhorse Futurity Board of Trustees
- Montana Winter Fair Vice Chairman

Weaver Family Awards

1997 MT Quarter Horse Assoc. Ranch of the Year
2009 Leading Breeder of Performance Point Earners
2014 Montana State University Family Business of the Year - Weaver Cattle Co.

Weaver Progeny Highlights

2016 AQHA World Champion Amateur Heel Horse
2015 AQHA/PRCA Steer Roping Horse of the Year
2013 National Charro Champion Horse of Mexico
2012 AQHA Res. World Champion Senior Head Horse
2009 AQHA Leading Breeder of Performance Point Earners
2009 AQHA Res. World Champion Junior Head Horse
2009 AQHA High Point Horse of the Year
2009 NRCHA Futurity Amateur 3rd place horse
2004 International Buckskin Horse Association World Champion Cutting Horse
2004 Palomino Assoc. World Champion Head Horse



1916 | Elmer



2000 | Ima Bit of Heaven



2017 | Current progeny

Celebrating 130 years | since 1888

WEAVER

QUARTER HORSES



*Pictured top, left to right - Nancy & Stan | Daniel [son], Stan, and David [son] | Wyatt [grand son]
Bottom, left to right - Kellyann [daughter] & Avery [grand daughter] | Wyatt, Hailey, and Avery [grand children]*

THE WEAVER FAMILY STORY CONTINUED

Sires

Genuinely Busy

Tuf N Busy x Genuine Leigh Wright

Ima Tuf Lena

Tuf N Busy x Smart Bo Lena

Originally Smooth

A Smooth Guy x The Original Sin

Perkster

Dash For Perks x PC Miss Boon Wood

Smart Topaz

WR This Cats Smart x Paddys Topaz

Streakn N Moven

A Streak of Fling x Peppy Easy Move

Reference Sires

Cowboys Frenchman

Frenchmans Guy x Snippys Pumkin

Gems and Starlight

Grays Starlight x Gems Emerald

Ima Bit of Heaven

Smart Little Lena x Peppys From Heaven

Merada Ima Boonsmal

Peptoboonsmal x Merada Site

Poco Ima Doc

Poco Bueno 2 x Doc Tilly

Maternal Bloodlines

Blackburn

Bueno Chex

Cee Booger Red

Colonel Freckles

Doc Bar

Doc O'Dynamite

Doc's Hickory

Driftwood

High Brow Cat

King

Poco Bueno

Reminic

Shining Spark

Smart Chic O'Lena

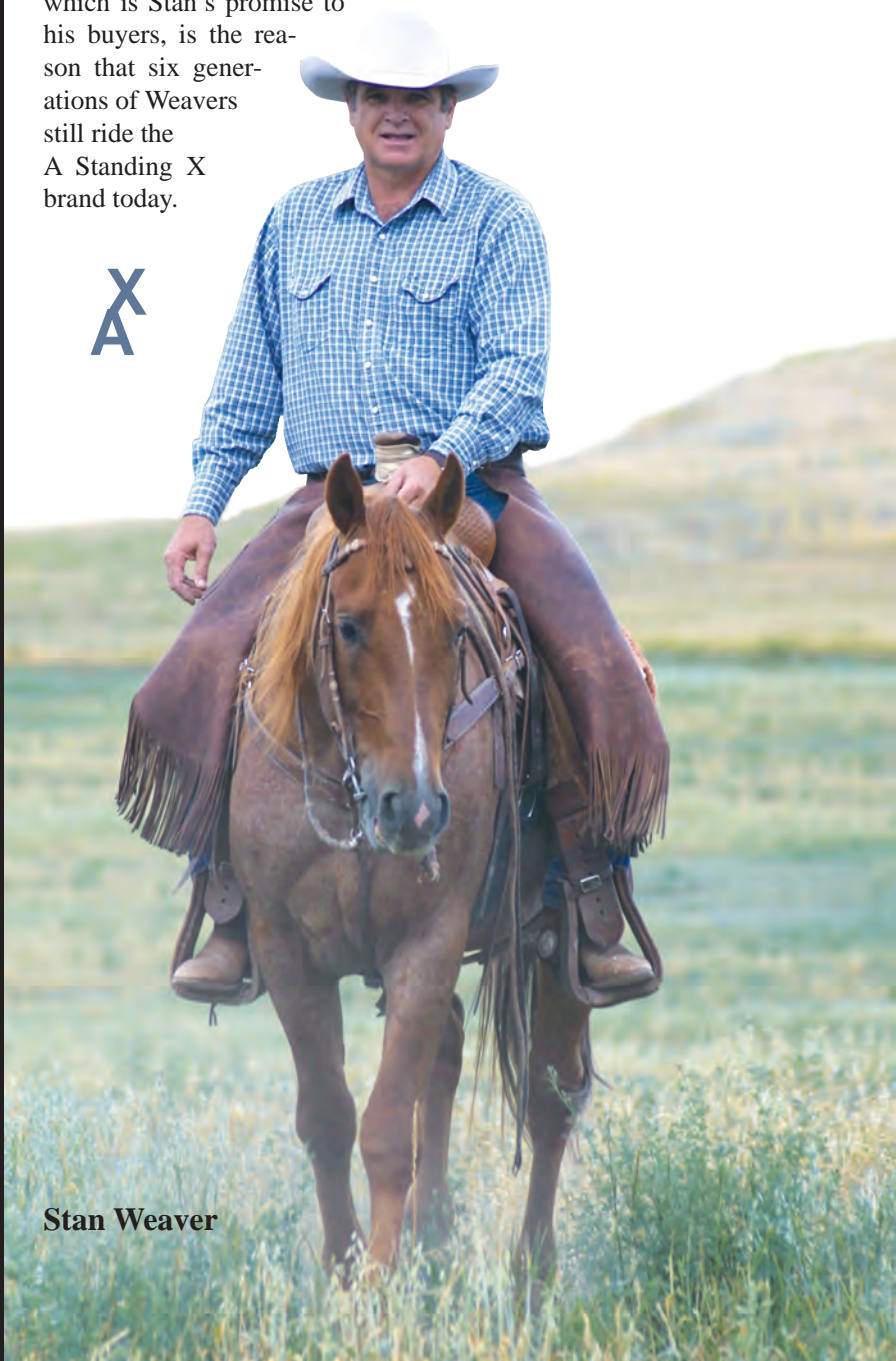
Tangy Classy Peppy

30 years of breeding success, producing over 1,600 AQHA registered foals, 2018 will not disappoint as 2017 sales reached nearly \$250,000 with 87 prime cataloged horses. The sale will be held at the Expo Park in Great Falls, MT on Saturday, September 15th. Make sure to watch for the sale catalog at WeaverHorses.com in mid-August.

From William to Stan, the growth and reputation is tremendous. The now, 15,000 Bears Paw acreage provides for about 90 mares, 550 cows, and six stallions. With the addition of 80 percent return buyers that can enjoy the auction in person, or can watch and bid online, the family has climbed from a single livery stable to an empire in 130 years.

“Treat everybody fair,” words to live by, which were instilled in Stan by his mother, and “Any horse we raise, is one I’d ride on our ranch,” which is Stan’s promise to his buyers, is the reason that six generations of Weavers still ride the A Standing X brand today.

X
A



Stan Weaver