



The AHS 2004 Summer Inspection Tour

Starr Vaughn Equestrian Center Elk Grove, Calif.

[BY DR. LUDWIG CHRISTMANN]

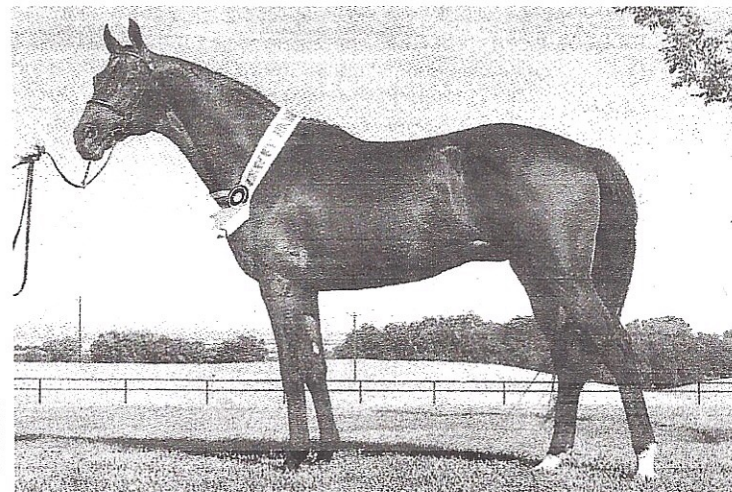
THE STARTING POINT FOR THE TWO representatives of the German Verband, VhW vice-president Heinrich Heemke and myself was the inspection at Starr Vaughn Equestrian Center in the Sacramento area. It is a brand new and beautifully designed facility and the AHS had the honor to have the first official event there. The owners are Michelle Vaughn, who is a successful dressage rider in California, and her husband Greg, a recently retired professional baseball player. The inspection was organized in cooperation with Lucchetti Ranch, another new and hopeful name in the breeding business.

The event which attracted the biggest attention, was, of course, the stallion licensing. The impressive number of seven stallions was presented. It was quite a diverse group, ranging from three through 17 years of age, some stallions already with performance records. Two stallions were licensed at this site.

A very special horse was Coconut Grove xx, a 17-year-old Thoroughbred stallion by Dare to Pet xx-Coral Gables xx/Propellent xx. Foaled in Colombia, he was presented by Tamara Smith from Salt Lake City in Utah. Coconut Grove xx is the first Thoroughbred stallion that has ever been licensed by the AHS. He is the desired classical Thoroughbred type with a really good head and neck and what is really outstanding is his performance record as a show-jumper. He competed at the highest international levels, qualifying for the World Cup Finals in Gothenburg

and the Olympic Games in Sydney for his native country. This stallion was a very special choice, mainly for those who aim to breed show-jumpers and need some refinement with their older type Hanoverian mares. As evidence of his quality, Coconut Grove xx has also been licensed for breeding purposes by Selle Francais (France and North America), American Holsteiner Horse Association, ISR/Oldenburg North America, and Rheinland Pfalz-Saar. He will be presented to NAWPN later this year.

This licensing showed very clearly that a performance test result, even a really good one, does not give a free ticket to a license. In addition to the performance aspect, which indeed is really important for our breed, other traits like breed type and conformation are critical as well and have to be considered. The aim is to apply the same standard in the U.S., as it is done in Germany.



COCONUT GROVE xx – Presented by Tamara Smith, Coconut Grove became the first Thoroughbred stallion to be licensed by the AHS. He has an outstanding record as a show jumper having competed at the highest international levels.

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