

WEST COAST

Horse Power

Retired BMW dealer Nick Alexander gets runners by Grazen

BY TRACY GANTZ

NICK ALEXANDER NEVER INTENDED to enter the breeding business, let alone stand a stallion. Like many other Thoroughbred owners, he started acquiring horses to watch them compete on the racetrack. With his homebred sire Grazen, however, Alexander has discovered more enjoyment as the stallion's foals are beginning to find the winner's circle.

Even among racetrackers Alexander's name is probably more associated with cars than horses. That's because of the success of Nick Alexander Imports, Los Angeles' number one BMW dealership.

The Nick Alexander who identifies himself on the radio in automobile ads is the horse owner's 41-year-old son of the same name. Alexander, now 72, retired in 2004. He turned the reins over to daughter Elizabeth and son Nick so that he and his wife, Mary, could enjoy life at Horse Haven, their 185-acre farm near Santa Ynez, Calif.

Standing a stallion has dovetailed well with Alexander's retirement. California-bred Grazen was born two years after Alexander retired. Alexander has witnessed the colt's development into a graded stakes winner and now a budding California sire.

Alexander even has the ideal arrangement for Grazen's keeping. During the breeding season, Grazen stands at nearby Tommy Town Thoroughbreds, owned by Tom and Debi Stull and home to several good stallions, such as Ministers Wild Cat. Once the mares are bred, Grazen returns to Horse Haven and a paddock right outside of the Alexanders' home.

"He's a happy horse and loves his job," said Alexander.

Alexander's lawn sits next to a grassy area in front of Grazen's paddock. Alexander mows both areas himself and always gives the clippings from Grazen's section to the stallion.

"If I forget and start mowing my yard first," Alexander said, "he'll look at me and start whinnying at me as if to say, 'Hey, come on!' He's a great horse. Everybody at the ranch loves him."

Alexander's fondness for the stallion extends to all of his



Nick Alexander, owner of Horse Haven near Santa Ynez

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horses, and his willingness to do right by them is paying off. Grazen's racing career ended when he ruptured a tendon taking a bad step in a race, and Alexander saw him through surgery and recuperation. Grazen in turn has sired Tough Sunday, a colt who wouldn't have made it past his first week without Alexander's belief and support.

Tough Sunday, now 3, is out of the stakes-placed General Meeting mare Sunday Dress. Tough Sunday broke his maiden for Alexander and trainer Steve Miyadi at Santa Anita Dec. 28. He was such a large foal that during birth, his shoulders became stuck in the mare's hips and he severed the umbilical cord before he could breathe on his own.

Though Horse Haven farm manager Carrie Drake and others worked quickly to save him, Alexander estimates that the colt probably went five or six minutes without oxygen.

Drake rushed mare and foal to nearby Alamo Pintado Equine Medical Center. Dr. Erin Byrne and the Alamo Pintado team did everything they could for the youngster, but

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LUCKY PULPIT

is the only stallion outside of Kentucky to
Sire a Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes winner,
Eclipse Award Champion and Horse of the Year.



Patricia McQueen Photo

The biggest story in the sport of Thoroughbred racing in 2014, **CALIFORNIA CHROME** won the Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes during a five-race winning streak by a combined margin of 23 1/4 lengths. He raced nine times at six different racetracks from January through the end of November and won four Grade I's on dirt and turf in three states – California, Kentucky and Maryland.

The leading California sire of 2014 by North American earnings, **LUCKY PULPIT** ranked fifth in the nation last year among leading sires by Average Earnings Index (2.23) and defers only to **TAPIT** (2.28) among **A.P. INDY**-line sires.

by Pulpit – Lucky Soph, by Cozzene

Fee: \$10,000 Live Foal

Property of Mr. and Mrs. Larry D. Williams



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2014 LEADING SIRE IN CALIFORNIA

Go to BloodHorse.com for daily updated sire lists

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2015 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2014 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	LUCKY PULPIT (01, Pulpit), Harris Farms	\$10,000	73/32	2/10	0/2	(California Chrome, \$4,007,800)	\$5,149,180	*155	5	2.22	1.24
2	TRIBAL RULE (96, Storm Cat)	Died, 2014	184/112	7/14	2/7	(Red Outlaw, \$321,150)	\$5,047,047	557	38	1.34	1.12
3	BLUEGRASS CAT (03, Storm Cat), Ballena Vista Farm	\$6,500	254/128	5/7	1/5	(Lieutenant Seany O, \$140,672)	\$4,943,116	*552	22	1.26	1.95
4	UNUSUAL HEAT (90, Nureyev), Harris Farms	\$20,000	128/59	5/5	4/5	(Betty's Bambino, \$258,036)	\$4,164,699	*669	47	2.07	1.27
5	EDDINGTON (01, Unbridled), Ballena Vista Farm	\$3,500	107/66	3/3	1/3	(Secret Circle, \$552,000)	\$3,210,201	*342	8	1.32	1.54
6	MINISTERS WILD CAT (00, Deputy Minister), Tommy Town Thoroughbreds	Private	112/62	2/2	0/2	(Doinghardtmeagain, \$147,314)	\$2,376,023	272	16	1.08	0.96
7	DECARCHY (97, Distant View), Magali Farms	\$3,000	94/46	2/4	2/2	(Awesome Return, \$326,820)	\$2,364,930	326	10	0.99	0.96
8	BENCHMARK (91, Alydar)	Pnsd	98/56	2/3	0/2	(Bench Light, \$191,650)	\$2,202,029	706	41	1.23	1.12
9	BERTRANDO (89, Skywalker)	Died, 2014	94/48	6/9	0/6	(Tamarando, \$210,500)	\$2,119,075	1064	61	1.33	1.50
10	GOOD JOURNEY (96, Nureyev)	N/A	74/42	2/7	0/2	(Kathleen Rose, \$252,938)	\$1,765,587	*457	5	1.53	0.99
11	KAFWAIN (00, Cherokee Run), Tommy Town Thoroughbreds	\$5,000	92/51	2/3	0/2	(Let Faith Arise, \$398,000)	\$1,764,568	*488	22	1.12	1.28
12	SOUTHERN IMAGE (00, Halo's Image), Rancho San Miguel	\$2,500	80/47	1/3	0/1	(Winning Image, \$219,100)	\$1,719,261	*438	7	1.14	1.27
13	SALUTE THE SARGE (05, Forest Wildcat), E. A. Ranches	\$1,000	68/34	1/4	0/1	(Salutos Amigos, \$599,000)	\$1,659,304	*141	4	1.07	1.24
14	HEATSEEKER (IRE) (03, Giant's Causeway), Harris Farms	\$5,000	62/31	6/7	1/6	(Catholic Cowboy, \$231,522)	\$1,613,911	*107	7	1.14	1.43
15	MARINO MARINI (00, Storm Cat), Rancho San Miguel	\$2,500	85/43	2/2	1/2	(Marino's Wild Cat, \$146,280)	\$1,533,444	289	9	0.91	1.04
16	VRONSKY (99, Danzig), Old English Rancho	\$6,500	49/25	2/4	2/2	(Rovenna, \$327,570)	\$1,479,523	137	6	1.52	1.14
17	OLD TOPPER (95, Gilded Time), Tommy Town Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	72/40	1/3	0/1	(Top Kisser, \$216,550)	\$1,435,066	510	23	0.96	0.85
18	STORMIN FEVER (94, Storm Cat), Rancho Temescal	\$2,500	83/34	1/1	1/1	(Storm Fighter, \$115,558)	\$1,196,193	*717	28	1.17	1.38
19	PAPA CLEM (06, Smart Strike), Legacy Ranch	\$5,000	52/27	2/2	1/2	(Magic Spot, \$169,050)	\$1,160,924	115	3	0.99	1.25
20	STREET HERO (06, Street Cry), Rancho San Miguel	\$3,500	53/24	0/0	0/0	(Street Girl, \$137,399)	\$1,147,315	*137	3	1.12	1.01
21	SQUARE EDDIE (06, Smart Strike), Vessels Stallion Farm	\$10,000	39/19	1/1	1/1	(More Complexity, \$209,570)	\$1,082,836	52	2	1.44	0.92
22	CINDAGO (03, Indian Charlie)	Died	41/21	1/4	0/1	(Wake Up Nick, \$356,784)	\$982,954	81	3	1.31	1.37
23	IN EXCESS (IRE) (87, Siberian Express)	Died, 2013	53/30	1/1	1/1	(Velvet Mesquite, \$227,006)	\$954,551	994	64	1.54	1.37
24	TIZBUD (99, Cee's Tizzy), Harris Farms	\$1,500	46/22	2/3	1/2	(Soi Phet, \$205,450)	\$885,188	150	6	1.11	0.92
25	TERRELL (00, Distorted Humor)	Died	50/31	1/1	0/1	(Hanserella, \$105,230)	\$850,625	175	4	0.61	0.94
26	U S RANGER (04, Danzig), Rancho San Miguel	\$3,000	69/21	2/3	0/2	(Lawn Ranger, \$209,700)	\$810,707	*138	2	0.63	1.45
27	PEPPERED CAT (00, Tabasco Cat), Daehling Ranch	\$3,000	23/10	1/3	0/1	(Pepper Crown, \$272,937)	\$727,429	39	1	1.34	0.75
28	AFFIRMATIVE (99, Unbridled), BG Thoroughbred Farm	\$1,000	34/15	0/0	0/0	(Warren's Veneda, \$106,948)	\$712,047	86	2	1.11	0.78
29	ROCKY BAR (98, In Excess), E. A. Ranches	\$2,500	55/31	6/7	6/6	(Rocked Twice, \$60,250)	\$708,746	118	18	0.92	0.89
30	MCCANN'S MOJAVE (00, Memo)	Died, 2013	44/24	1/1	0/1	(Yahoo Tahoe, \$103,034)	\$694,387	77	2	0.61	1.09
31	DIXIE CHATTER (05, Dixie Union), Ballena Vista Farm	\$4,000	41/19	0/0	0/0	(Global Hottie, \$73,090)	\$678,957	80	2	0.78	1.01
32	TANNERSMYMAN (98, Lord Carson), Woodbridge Farm	Private	49/26	0/0	0/0	(Prime Issue, \$165,972)	\$653,474	147	3	0.65	0.76
33	SEA OF SECRETS (95, Storm Cat), Victory Rose Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	58/30	0/0	0/0	(Sea John's Spirit, \$91,600)	\$636,667	*456	21	0.87	1.08
34	SALT LAKE (89, Deputy Minister)	Died, 2010	41/18	3/5	1/3	(Madame Pele, \$77,135)	\$608,334	*1225	59	1.40	1.39
35	GLOBALIZE (97, Summer Squall), Victory Rose Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	32/18	0/0	0/0	(Global Magician, \$74,990)	\$587,485	170	5	0.82	0.78
36	LUCKY J. H. (02, Cee's Tizzy), Harris Farms	\$1,500	35/16	0/0	0/0	(Lucky S. J., \$99,500)	\$562,639	55	1	0.93	1.26
37	CYCLOTRON (00, Grand Slam), Old English Rancho	Private	18/9	1/2	0/1	(Cyclometer, \$206,450)	\$551,086	59	2	1.68	1.24
38	GAME PLAN (93, Danzig), E. A. Ranches	Died	33/17	1/2	0/1	(Ashleylvsugar, \$105,454)	\$532,236	429	24	0.85	0.80
39	SURF CAT (02, Sir Cat), Old English Rancho	Private	37/18	0/0	0/0	(San Onofre, \$92,040)	\$517,697	75	0	0.59	1.25
40	COMIC STRIP (95, Red Ransom), Gray's Farm	\$2,500	24/15	1/1	1/1	(Weewinnin, \$137,500)	\$514,308	318	12	0.79	1.15
41	DESERT CODE (04, E Dubai), Harris Farms	\$2,000	28/12	0/0	0/0	(Desert Thief, \$69,666)	\$487,422	63	0	0.88	1.20
42	GRAZEN (06, Benchmark), Tommy Town Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	18/9	0/0	0/0	(Grazenette, \$115,008)	\$481,262	35	0	1.13	1.36
43	AWESOME GAMBLER (04, Coronado's Quest), Lovacres Ranch	\$5,000	42/11	0/0	0/0	(She's Flush, \$84,450)	\$461,909	120	2	0.96	0.80
44	SOUGHT AFTER (00, Seeking the Gold), Daehling Ranch	\$2,000	26/10	1/1	0/1	(Masochistic, \$177,050)	\$450,770	101	2	0.77	0.87
45	TIME TO GET EVEN (04, Stephen Got Even), Lovacres Ranch	\$2,000	20/12	2/3	0/2	(Time for a Memory, \$76,519)	\$424,736	26	2	0.84	0.57
46	DON'TSELLMESHORT (01, Benchmark), Running Luck Ranch	\$2,500	42/21	0/0	0/0	(Jedi Mind Trick, \$48,290)	\$419,784	95	1	0.56	0.71
47	PERFECT MANDATE (96, Gone West)	Died, 2012	28/20	1/1	0/1	(Just Because, \$53,304)	\$413,002	298	12	0.90	1.21
48	BEDFORD FALLS (03, Forestry), Poplar Meadows	\$2,000	18/9	0/0	0/0	(Wonderful Lie, \$136,040)	\$403,140	37	0	0.97	0.91
49	WESTERN FAME (92, Gone West)	Died	17/7	1/1	1/1	(Go West Marie, \$283,220)	\$398,255	292	15	0.91	0.82
50	IDIOT PROOF (04, Benchmark), Victory Rose Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	15/8	0/0	0/0	(Frisco Fog, \$99,941)	\$381,411	22	0	1.01	1.27

Alexander ticked off the list of problems—blind, deaf, pneumonia, heart murmur, no nursing instinct, an inability to lie down once he stood up, and a dam who gave up and rejected him.

“By the fifth day Erin called me and said he wasn’t doing well,” Alexander recalled. “The next morning I went over to the clinic. As I walked by the window of his stall, his eyes followed me. I thought that this was pretty cool—one problem had gone away. He could see.”

That gave Alexander the hope to persevere. Tough Sunday, who received his name because of his tough start in life as well as from his dam, ultimately spent 30 days in ICU. He regained his hearing and overcame the pneumonia, though he never did learn to nurse.

After a nursemaid didn’t work, Alexander’s farm staff fed him from a pail. They kept Sunday Dress in the next stall, and she eventually reclaimed her foal. Once they could join the other mares and foals

in a pasture, Tough Sunday developed into a normal youngster and has had no problems since.

“We had high hopes for him too because his half sister, Sunday Rules, is undefeated and won the Generous Portion at Del Mar in 2013,” said Alexander.

If Tough Sunday was willing to fight for his life, Alexander was determined to give him every opportunity.

“You can’t just put a foal down because it’s costing money,” he said. “You’ve got to

Special Note For Sire Lists:

For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in North America (stallions exported prior to the 2010 breeding season are excluded), and have runners in North America. All available statistics listed for the Northern Hemisphere through December 31, 2014. As supplied to *The Blood-Horse* by The Jockey Club Information Systems, Inc., earnings exclude monies from Japan and Hong Kong. Current year stakes winners include all N.H.-foaled stakes winners worldwide and any S.H.-foaled horses that won a N.H. stakes. *Foal counts include Southern Hemisphere. Cumulative stakes winners includes all countries. (A ♯ indicates a sire represented by his first crop to race.)

*AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX AND COMPARABLE INDEX: Lifetime AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX indicates how much purse money the progeny of one sire has earned in relation to the average earnings of all runners in the same years; average earnings of all runners in any year is represented by an index of 1.00; COMPARABLE INDEX indicates the average earnings of progeny produced from mares bred to one sire, when these same mares were bred to other sires. Only 32% of all sires have a lifetime AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX higher than their mares' COMPARABLE INDEX.

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Leading Sires at Harris Farms – Past, Present and Future.

LUCKY PULPIT

Sire of dual Eclipse Award champion **California Chrome** who set a new California-bred earnings record at 3.
Fee: \$10,000 Live Foal

SMILING TIGER

Triple **Grade I** winner of \$1.48 Million won or placed in 16 graded races in four stakes-winning seasons, 2 to 5.
Fee: \$5,000 Live Foal

LAKERVILLE

Stakes-winning son of **Unusual Heat** earned \$318,910 in 11 starts and ran a final quarter mile in 20.80 at Del Mar.
Private Treaty

UNUSUAL HEAT

2008-2013 leading sire of six **Grade I** winners, an Eclipse Award champion and 14 California champions.
Fee: \$20,000 Live Foal

DESERT CODE

The leading 2014 second-crop sire in California by 2-year-old average earnings per runner: **\$25,429**.
Fee: \$2,000 Live Foal

LUCKY J. H.

Graded winner by **Cee's Tizzy** has an average earnings per runner of \$27,605 – **19-times** his stud fee.
Fee: \$1,500 Live Foal

HEATSEEKER

Graded stakes sire in 2014 and the leading **Giant's Causeway** third-crop sire of stakes winners/stakes wins.
Fee: \$5,000 Live Foal

TIZBUD

Stakes-winning brother to **Tiznow** and **Grade I** sire of 2-time California champion **Tiz Flirtatious** (\$779,800).
Fee: \$1,500 Live Foal

Stud fees are payable when foal stands and nurses.

All stallions are nominated to the Breeders' Cup.



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Alexander's grade III winner Grazen, by Benchmark, stands at Tommy Town Thoroughbreds

give them a shot."

That attitude is one of the traits that Alexander's bloodstock agent, Kathy Berkey, admires. Berkey works with Alexander on the matings for his mares and finding the right crosses to prove Grazen as a stallion.

"He's one of the good guys," said Berkey. "He cares about his horses, and Tough Sunday is a great example of that. He's retired and has had other interests, but he loves his farm. He loves being hands on and being a farmer."

Alexander learned to love horses as a kid. He grew up in Pasadena, but he attended Midland School, a college prep program in the Santa Ynez Valley.

"It was founded by a guy who thought that kids should learn to be self-reliant and live simply, but get a good college preparation," Alexander said. "It taught you to appreciate the outdoors."

The students had to wait tables, clean, and even do plumbing and carpentry. The program included—and still does today—horses to care for and ride.

"The horses were dude ranch rejects and great to learn on," Alexander said. "You had to ride bareback. You really learned your balance, and you didn't do stupid things until you could ride a little bit."

Alexander's son also attended Midland, and Alexander is on the school's board of trustees. Horses percolated down to the second generation in another way, as daughter Elizabeth became a top Grand Prix rider on the hunter-jumper circuit.

When Elizabeth was 17, Alexander accompanied her to many horse shows on the East Coast. She won on Long Island, in New England, and at the big Gladstone Horse Show in New Jersey.

Many Midland graduates went on to Ivy League schools. While Alexander didn't follow them, he did attend the University of Southern California closer to home.

His first job as a "get-ready boy" at a car dealership put him on the path to owning a dealership. Once a car sold, his job was to accessorize the car with whatever the customer ordered.

A salesman at the dealership determined that Alexander had potential sales talent and mentored him. Alexander couldn't have found a better mentor because the man, Dominic Longo, went on to become the nation's top Toyota dealer, founding Southern California's Longo Toyota.

Alexander worked hard as a car salesman but wanted to spend more time with

his family. They moved to Booneville, well north of the San Francisco area, where Alexander did everything from sheep shearing, to working in a vineyard, to selling ranches.

That's when Alexander acquired the first Horse Haven, a farm in nearby Navarro. Many years later he sold that property to re-establish the farm under the same name in Santa Ynez.

After a few years, the family returned to Southern California. Alexander was unhappily working in a real estate office there when two opportunities came along. Both cost money he couldn't afford to spend, but they changed his life.

The equine opportunity arose first and nearly derailed the second, which was to buy an automobile dealership.

One of Alexander's co-workers was putting together a partnership on a 2-year-old maiden named Swift Feet in 1978 and asked him to buy a quarter interest for \$5,000.

"Up until then I was just a fan and would occasionally go to the races," Alexander said. "I didn't tell my wife, but I came up with the five grand. The horse never broke his maiden, and we lost him cheap."

That experience might have discouraged most other people, but Alexander decided he wanted to try once more. The second horse, Pashanat Reb, did the trick.

"He had broken his maiden, and we won seven races with him," said Alexander. "He was one of those horses you just loved. He would give everything he had. He could come from off of it; he had speed; he won down the hill (at Santa Anita) one time."



Alexander in the winner's circle with trainer Mike Mitchell in 2009



MINISTERS WILD CAT

Deputy Minister – Hollywood Wild Cat, by Kris S.
Fee: Private Treaty

#1 Active California Sire by 2014 Winners

First five crops to race have earned in excess of \$11.1 million, \$2.2 million in 2014 including nine stakes performers.

His runners are led by **GII** winner **DOINGHARDTIMEAGAIN** (\$734,054)



OLD TOPPER

Gilded Time – Shy Trick, by Phone Trick
Fee: \$2,500 LF

A consistent sire from 11 crops to race **OLD TOPPER** has average earnings per year of \$1.728 million including six stakes horses and earnings of \$1.3 million in 2014

His runners are led by **AIN'T NO OTHER** (\$616,750) and multiple stakes and **G3** L.A. Woman Stakes winner **TOP KISSER** (\$407,100)



BOISTEROUS (KY)

Distorted Humor – Emanating, by Cox's Ridge
Fee: \$5,000 LF

G1 winning millionaire and only son of **DISTORTED HUMOR** to stand on the West Coast

Multiple graded stakes winner of \$1,458,792 won or placed in 15 stakes-14 graded including **G1** Man O' War Stakes

By two-time champion **DISTORTED HUMOR**, sire of **2** champions and **48** graded stakes winners



KAFWAIN

Cherokee Run – Swazi's Moment, by Moment of Hope
Fee: \$5,000 LF

Ranked Among the Top Six California Sires by Both 2014 Earnings and Mares Bred

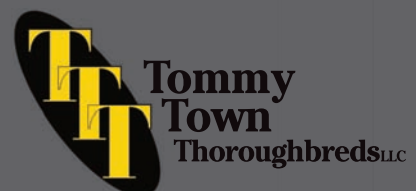
Average Earnings Index for two-year-olds=1.40

His runners are led by millionaire **G1** winner **DAISY DEVINE** (\$1,095,892) and **G1** Santa Margarita S. and **GII** Adoration S. winner **LET FAITH ARISE** (\$488,240)

Also Standing: Gervinho - Grazen - Jeranimo - Unusual Heatwave

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Sunday Rules, winning the Generous Portion Stakes at Del Mar in 2013

On that occasion, the legendary Bill Shoemaker rode for Alexander, an experience he will never forget.

“When I shook hands with him, I almost went to my knees—he had the strongest grip,” recalled Alexander. “I wished him good luck, and he winked at me and said, ‘We’ll win.’ I didn’t think we were going to win, but it was one of those classic Shoemaker rides. When the speed stopped, he smooched to the horse and we just got there.”

A trip with some friends to a Dodgers World Series game in 1978 resulted in Alexander’s hearing about a BMW dealership for sale in Los Angeles. By then, Alexander only had \$8,000 to invest, but he went in with a friend, ultimately buying the friend out and building the business into a leading BMW dealership nationwide.

Originally the dealership also sold Volkswagens, which is how Alexander played matchmaker for Mike Mitchell, his longtime trainer. While Miyadi handles the Northern California horses, Mitchell and now Phil D’Amato condition Alexander’s Southern California-based runners.

“Mike and I have been together 33 years,” said Alexander. “Early on he was dating a cute blonde. He said, ‘I think if I buy her a car, she’ll marry me.’ I got him a VW Rabbit convertible, and she married him.”

That “cute blonde,” named Denise, is still married to Mitchell today, and they have two grown daughters, McCall and Shea. McCall is married to Australian bloodstock agent Craig Rounsefell, and Shea is married to jockey Julien Leparoux.

As Alexander’s racing stable expanded, he began to realize that claiming mares with residual value was a better investment than claiming geldings.

“I put together my broodmare band probably 80% from claiming and 20% from going to sales and buying broodmares,” he said. “I always look for a horse that has decent size, and began focusing on horses who could go a distance of ground on the grass.”

He bought Reckless Rose for \$10,500 as a yearling from a dispersal of Connie Ring’s horses. Though Reckless Rose only won a couple of races, she has become Alexander’s foundation broodmare. The 1985 Cal-bred daughter of The Irish Lord—Here’s to Love, by Don B., produced multiple stakes winner Dayla, an earner of \$300,510, and stakes-placed Navarro Rose, both bred by Alexander.

One of Alexander’s best claims came when Mitchell got stakes-placed Hazen for \$40,000. The 1998 daughter of Rubiano—Kris’ Dear Deby, by Kris S., won a couple of races for them but was claimed away. Alexander bought her back as a broodmare.

Berkey recommended Benchmark as a stallion for Hazen, and that breeding produced Grazen. For Alexander, Mitchell trained the colt to four wins in seven starts, including the 2009 Affirmed Handicap (gr. III) and El Cajon Stakes, for earnings of \$245,400. Grazen also ran second to Misremembered in that year’s Swaps Stakes (gr. II).

Grazen went to stud in 2010, and Alexander has supported him with his own mares. Berkey recommends which mares will cross well with the stallion, and they also consult on sending mares to Kentucky. Alexander only sends open mares so that all of his foals qualify for California-bred premiums. He has bred to such stallions as Lookin At Lucky, Exchange Rate, Successful Appeal, Into

2014 CALIFORNIA SIRE BY STAKES WINNERS

Sire	Stks Wnrs	Stks Wins
Tribal Rule	7	14
Bertrando	6	9
Heatseeker (IRE)	6	7
Rocky Bar	6	7
Bluegrass Cat	5	7
Unusual Heat	5	5
Salt Lake	3	5
Eddington	3	3
Lucky Pulpit	2	10
Decarchy	2	4
Vronsky	2	4
Benchmark	2	3
Good Journey	2	3
Kafwain	2	3
Time to Get Even	2	3
Tizbud	2	3
For Really	2	2
Marino Marini	2	2
Ministers Wild Cat	2	2
Papa Clem	2	2
U S Ranger	2	2

Mischief, and Stay Thirsty.

Grazenette, whose third dam is Reckless Rose, comes from Grazen’s first crop. The Alexander homebred is in training with D’Amato and finished third in last year’s Fleet Treat Stakes at Del Mar. She has earnings of \$129,168.

While Alexander uses Grazen’s name in many of his foals, he also names horses for old baseball players. Archie Graham, from Grazen’s second crop, is named for a ballplayer in the early 1900s who was also a character played by Burt Lancaster in the movie “Field of Dreams.”

Kluszewski, named after slugger Ted Kluszewski, ran third in the Jan. 24 California Cup Derby.

“I always wanted to be a major league ballplayer, but I had no talent,” said Alexander. “These are old baseball players that I always admired. Some of the guys around the racetrack get a kick out of it and know those names.”

If Grazen’s foals keep improving, they’ll soon remember Grazen’s name as well. **BH**

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- ◆ By Sire of Sires **DANZIG**, O/o 3/4-sister to **DYNAFORMER** & half to dam of **OFFLEE WILD**

U S Ranger

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