

WEST COAST



Marianne Hebner, left, with Ridgeley Farm's Pat Thompson

TRACY GANTZ

Ridgeley's Rich Tradition

Pat Thompson going strong at family farm

BY TRACY GANTZ

AS THE SMALL CALIFORNIA TOWN of Hemet grew to encompass the area surrounding Ridgeley Farm, owner Pat Thompson did what she always does—she figured out a way to make it work. The farm's primary 60-acre parcel has a high school across the street and a Walgreens on a nearby corner, but business proceeds as it has since Thompson's parents bought the property in 1962, with just a few changes.

"We do not have any vans come between 7:45 and 8:15 in the morning because the kids are going to school and the vans can't get into the driveway," said Thompson.

Ridgeley has always been a family operation. Though Thompson is the principal owner, her brother, Robert Curry, continues to own a small interest in the farm. Upon the death of their parents, Neil and Conny Curry, Thompson and her

first husband, Jim Thompson, ran the place until Jim's death in 1999.

In 2005 Pat married Richard Longtin, a horseman from New Mexico who over the years had bought horses from Ridgeley. With Longtin, Pat purchased 60 acres near Anthony, N.M., and built a training center, which includes a five-furlong track. The training center is 20 minutes from Sunland Park, halfway between El Paso, Texas, and Las Cruces, N.M.

Longtin died this past April, and while Pat has managers at the New Mexico training center, she continues to run Ridgeley. The farm near Hemet currently stands four stallions—He Be Fire N Ice, Informed, Grey Memo, and Bonnrita.

Grey Memo, a son of Chilean champion Memo, who also stood at Ridgeley for many years, is the pride of the place.

ADVERTISERS' INDEX

HARRIS FARMS 45
www.harrisfarms.com

RIDGELEY FARM 47
www.ridgeleyfarm.com

RIDGELEY FARM 49
www.hebefirenice.com

Past and Present... Stud Fee Value and Quality Sires. Breed for Success at Harris Farms!



Lucky Pulpit



Smiling Tiger



Tizbud



Desert Code



Clubhouse Ride



Jeranimo



Metaboss



Lakerville

Lucky Pulpit

Record \$10.8 million California progeny earnings in 2016 and sire of two-time Horse of the Year **CALIFORNIA CHROME** (G1, \$14,752,650).

Fee: \$7,500 LF

Tizbud

Three stakes winners and six black type wins in 2016 by **SOI PHET** (\$756,816), **AMBITIOUS BREW** (G3, \$449,225) and **CHAO CHOM** (at 3).

Fee: \$2,500 LF

Clubhouse Ride

Multiple G2 winner of \$1,341,132 is the leading money winner at stud by emerging sire of sires **CANDY RIDE**, fourth-ranked General Sire of 2016.

Fee: \$2,500 LF

Metaboss Entering Stud

Graded winner by **STREET BOSS** set a new stakes record at 1 1/8 miles and posted the highest turf Beyer figures of 2016 among his sire's progeny.

Fee: \$2,000

Smiling Tiger

Triple G1 winner of \$1.5 million and sire of \$190,000 and \$130,000 California sales toppers from his first crop, now 2-year-olds.

Fee: \$4,000 LF

Desert Code

Sire of stakes winner **BAD JU JU** (\$309,731), 2017 stakes-placed **Desert Steel** (\$272,779) and Santa Anita allowance winner **Moscato Girl**.

Fee: \$2,000 LF

Jeranimo New for 2017

Eight-time graded winner of \$1.5 million including the Shoemaker Mile (G1, 1:33.97) and Eddie Read Stakes (G1, 9f, 1:45.80).

Fee: \$2,500 LF

Lakerville

UNUSUAL HEAT's brilliant turf sprinter (\$318,910) won Santa Anita's 6 1/2-furlong Clocker's Corner Stakes in 1:11.75 off a 6-month layoff.

Private Treaty



Stud fees are payable when foal stands and nurses. All Stallions are Breeders' Cup Nominated



Harris Farms

John C. Harris, President • David E. McGlothlin, Horse Division Manager • Dr. Jeanne Bowers, Resident Veterinarian
27366 W. Oakland Ave. • Coalinga, CA 93210 • Tel: (800) 311-6211 or (559) 884-2859 • Fax: (559) 884-2855
www.harrisfarms.com • E-Mail: davemcglathlin@harrisfarms.com

2016 LEADING SIRES IN CALIFORNIA



For daily updated sire lists
visit BloodHorse.com

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOBB,Sire), Where Stands	2017 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstret SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2016 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	LUCKY PULPIT (01, Pulpit), Harris Farms	\$7,500	161/77	2/7	1/2	(California Chrome, \$8,180,000)	\$10,788,375	*292	4	1.80	1.17
2	BLUEGRASS CAT (03, Storm Cat), Ballena Vista Farm	\$7,500	234/128	7/10	2/7	(Kathballu, \$194,700)	\$5,553,788	*744	30	1.20	1.77
3	UNUSUAL HEAT (90, Nureyev)	Pnsd	113/57	6/9	3/6	(Cheekaboo, \$275,235)	\$3,771,603	*750	42	1.97	1.23
4	TRIBAL RULE (96, Storm Cat)	Died, 2014	146/76	3/3	3/3	(Tribal Jewel, \$197,946)	\$3,296,007	695	32	1.28	1.07
5	SQUARE EDDIE (06, Smart Strike), Ocean Breeze Ranch	\$25,000	70/45	6/6	6/6	(How About Zero, \$153,245)	\$2,576,652	112	10	1.69	0.95
6	U S RANGER (04, Danzig), Rancho San Miguel	\$3,000	166/77	1/1	0/1	(U S Officer, \$132,565)	\$2,374,094	*311	3	0.65	1.38
7	VRONSKY (99, Danzig), Old English Rancho	\$6,500	61/39	4/6	2/4	(What a View, \$441,178)	\$2,076,855	172	9	1.52	1.10
8	MINISTERS WILD CAT (00, Deputy Minister), Tommy Town Thoroughbreds	\$5,000	86/53	0/0	0/0	(Toledo Eddie, \$183,140)	\$2,000,345	347	14	1.04	0.93
9	HAYNESFIELD (06, Speightstown), Rancho San Miguel	\$5,000	94/44	4/4	1/4	(He'll Pay, \$168,730)	\$1,916,530	*131	4	0.87	1.50
10	STREET HERO (06, Street Cry)	N/A	66/37	3/3	1/3	(The Player, \$170,532)	\$1,651,817	*201	5	1.11	0.98
11	PAPA CLEM (06, Smart Strike), Legacy Ranch	\$2,000	98/48	0/0	0/0	(Mon Petite, \$87,845)	\$1,540,849	205	4	0.82	1.14
12	GRAZEN (06, Benchmark), Tommy Town Thoroughbreds	\$3,500	32/20	2/4	2/2	(Enola Gray, \$359,100)	\$1,472,791	54	3	1.67	1.33
13	EDDINGTON (01, Unbridled), Ballena Vista Farm	\$3,500	73/38	2/2	1/2	(Gracie Ragazza, \$101,060)	\$1,391,823	*385	10	1.26	1.48
14	SOUTHERN IMAGE (00, Halo's Image), Rancho San Miguel	\$1,500	74/44	1/1	1/1	(Smockey Image, \$162,861)	\$1,348,094	*489	7	1.07	1.16
15	BENCHMARK (91, Alydar)	Pnsd	66/41	1/1	0/1	(Sweetrayofsunshine, \$240,350)	\$1,254,362	721	28	1.20	1.10
16	MARINO MARINI (00, Storm Cat), Rancho San Miguel	\$1,500	90/53	0/0	0/0	(Breakaway Dixie, \$88,141)	\$1,211,734	351	4	0.84	0.98
17	HEATSEEKER (IRE) (03, Giant's Causeway), Harris Farms	Died, 2016	55/23	2/2	1/2	(Catholic Cowboy, \$118,191)	\$1,174,217	*180	8	1.08	1.29
18	DECARCHY (97, Distant View), Magali Farms	\$3,000	62/31	0/0	0/0	(Mon Petite, \$85,400)	\$1,114,345	359	12	1.02	0.98
19	DESERT CODE (04, E Dubai), Harris Farms	\$2,000	47/21	1/1	0/1	(Bad Ju Ju, \$234,305)	\$1,009,454	96	3	1.01	1.15
20	MISREMEMBERED (06, Candy Ride), BG Thoroughbred Farm	\$2,500	39/22	1/1	0/1	(Dazzling Gem, \$281,990)	\$1,005,234	56	1	1.00	1.67
21	TIZBUD (99, Cee's Tizzy), Harris Farms	\$2,500	36/18	3/6	1/3	(Soi Phet, \$242,020)	\$995,993	167	6	1.10	0.90
22	EINSTEIN (BRZ) (02, Spend a Buck), Daehling Ranch	\$3,000	68/29	0/0	0/0	(Scholar Athlete, \$124,580)	\$985,569	*140	0	0.69	0.95
23	BERTRANDO (89, Skywalker)	Died, 2014	46/26	2/3	1/2	(Bert's Melody, \$136,185)	\$966,123	1066	52	1.32	1.47
24	KAFWAIN (00, Cherokee Run), Tommy Town Thoroughbreds	\$3,000	74/35	0/0	0/0	(Kafister, \$144,820)	\$929,616	*560	18	1.05	1.22
25	TANNERSMYMAN (98, Lord Carson), Woodbridge Farm	Private	38/24	1/1	0/1	(My Friend Emma, \$123,989)	\$835,208	165	3	0.69	0.74
26	THORN SONG (03, Unbridled's Song)	Died, 2014	62/25	1/2	0/1	(Only You Babe, \$127,400)	\$804,306	108	1	0.54	1.34
27	STORMIN FEVER (94, Storm Cat)	Pnsd	52/24	0/0	0/0	(Agonistic, \$82,516)	\$777,468	*763	26	1.13	1.33
28	CYCLOTRON (00, Grand Slam), Old English Rancho	Private	33/21	0/0	0/0	(He Will, \$164,410)	\$742,094	92	1	1.27	1.24
29	AWESOME GAMBLER (04, Coronado's Quest), Lovacres Ranch	\$5,000	55/26	0/0	0/0	(She's Flush, \$60,809)	\$683,183	195	1	0.76	0.76
30	GAME PLAN (93, Danzig)	Died, 2015	17/10	1/2	0/1	(Ashleyluvssugar, \$492,000)	\$635,450	440	17	0.87	0.79

Bred by Ridgeley and owned by the farm in partnership, Grey Memo counted the 2002 Godolphin Mile (G2) in Dubai and that year's San Diego Handicap (G2) at Del Mar among his victories. Trained by the late Warren Stute, he earned \$1,736,683 and was named champion California-bred older male of 2002.



Neil J. Curry, center, at the Saratoga sales in 1962

"Grey Memo was always a good horse to do anything with," said Thompson.

Grey Memo has such a good disposition that Thompson recalled a bloodstock agent asking what they would do with him after he retired. When Thompson replied that they were going to breed him, the agent insisted that was impossible because the horse was a gelding.

"We had a small argument about it. I said, 'I think I know.' It was because he was so quiet. He'd come into the paddock, and you'd think he was the lead pony."

Grey Memo is just one of the well-mannered horses to come off Ridgeley, which Pat and Jim built into one of the premier family-owned Thoroughbred farms in California. The two of them were always hands-on about every aspect of the operation, from standing stallions to foaling mares.

Even now, with the farm in its sixth decade of operation, Pat remains very involved.

"We had one guy who worked for us the first couple of years, but Jim and I did everything," said Pat, who then laughed and admitted to one thing she managed to avoid. "I never moved irrigation pipe. That was the one thing I said I wouldn't do. Other than that, I've done everything on that farm at one time."

Special Note For Sire Lists:

For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in the states featured in this section (stallions that are dead or exported prior to 2012 are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through December 31, 2016. As supplied to BloodHorse by The Jockey Club Information Systems Inc., include adjusted money from Japan, Hong Kong, and Singapore. Adjusted earnings are put on par with average North American earnings from the previous year. For example, the average North American purse in 2015 is \$21,782 or 50% of the 2015 average purse in Japan. To put earnings on par, all Japanese progeny earnings are multiplied by 50% before being credited to a sire's progeny earnings. Hong Kong earnings are adjusted by 17%; Singapore by 57%. 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.



COURTESY PAT THOMPSON

Ridgeley Farm has been a family operation since 1962

She continues to foal about 40 mares annually, having a second person there only because if something goes wrong, she wants one person with the mare while the other arranges for veterinary help. That arrives in the form of Dr. Kristine Jensen, who has called Ridgeley a client for the past 10 years. Jensen and Thompson are friends who often go to the races at Santa Anita together.

“Foaling is the nicest part—seeing the babies,” said Thompson. “I particularly remember Grey Memo because the mare foaled standing up. We caught the foal and got it to the ground in one piece.”

Pat’s knowledge of horses comes from a lifetime of working with them. Born in Ohio, she moved with her family first to San Francisco and then to the Los Angeles area. They lived on Ridgeley Drive in Los Angeles’ Miracle Mile area, the street ultimately giving the farm its name.

Conny taught horseback riding, and so Pat and her brother and sister grew up around horses. Neil liked horses and bought a variety of animals for the family, ranging from Army remount horses to a burro “because it had a stripe down its back and he thought that was unique,” Pat recalled.

The family eventually got into racing, and Neil Curry served as chairman of the California Horse Racing Board and president of the National Association of State Racing Commissioners. On the occasion of his retirement as NASRC president in 1964, he gave a speech that presaged many of racing’s developmental problems in the decades to come.

In the speech Curry warned of the dangers of “too much racing,” “increasing takeouts,” and “multiple wagering.”

Curry urged the racing industry to take its fans behind the scenes, as was being done in other sports.

“Because the racing fan isn’t made an intimate participant in his sport,” Curry said, “he understandably lacks the fiery loyalty which converts the avid followers of many other sports into organized armies of public opinion—dedicated to the sport’s betterment and survival.”

Curry suggested that the racing industry in each state should “convince our citizens that horse racing belongs to them.”

Unfortunately, Curry didn’t live long enough to enjoy what Ridgeley Farm would become. He died in 1965, just a year after

the family bought the original 40 acres near Hemet. They had been looking throughout Southern California for a farm and settled on the Hemet property because it was near the acreage belonging to Dick Moon, their trainer at the time. The location is ideal for Southern California, being about a 1½-hour drive from both Santa Anita and Del Mar.

A few years before the purchase, Pat had met Jim. She was showing Western and English pleasure horses and attended a dinner given by Equestrian Trails, an organization begun in Long Beach, Calif., in 1944 to preserve horse trails. Jim belonged to Equestrian Trails, which today is a national organization.

Before Jim moved to California, he had horses in New York, where he boarded horses for the New York Police Department. He then ran a riding stable in Virginia.

Initially, the Currys and the Thompsons planned to turn Ridgeley into a private farm for their racing and breeding operation.

“We were never going to be a farm that took in boarders or stood stallions,” said Pat. “But Howard Keck asked us to stand Nagea at the farm. He later stood Neke with us—he was the first son of Bold Ruler to stand anywhere.”

For Keck, Nagea (Nasrullah—Hydrangea II, by Hyperion) won the 1960 Del Mar Derby. Neke, out of the Revoked mare Remiss, captured a division of the 1964 Hollywood Juvenile Championship. Keck would later breed and own 1987 Horse of the Year Ferdinand.

Grade II Winner of \$521,349

I N F O R M E D



12 winners from 24 starters includes stakes winner **SCRAP IRON** (at 3, 2016) and 8 two-year-old winners (\$232,934) from his first two crops to race.

Tiznow—Cajun Two Step, by Tabasco Cat
Fee: \$2,500 payable at foaling

RIDGELEY FARM

Inquiries to Pat Thompson Longtin Tel (951) 654-7728
Fax (951) 654-9780 / 3901 W. Esplanade Ave., Hemet, CA 92545
E-mail: ridgeleyfarmhemet@gmail.com
Also Standing: BONNRITA • GREY MEMO • HE BE FIRE N ICE



COURTESY PAT THOMPSON

Jim and Pat Thompson

The Thompsons also stood stallions for Ann Peppers, including Mr. Consistency. That son of Alibhai in 1964 won the Santa Anita Handicap, San Juan Capistrano Handicap, Arcadia Handicap, and San Marcos Handicap, all at Santa Anita.

Ridgeley later stood graded stakes winner Distant Land (Graustark—Heartland, by Bold Ruler) and Pia Star (Olympia—Inquisitive, by Mahmoud). Pia Star had won several stakes in New York, including the 1965 Brooklyn and Suburban handicaps.

One of the most successful stallions to stand at Ridgeley was Memo. The Chilean champion came to the U.S., where Richard Mandella trained him to win the 1993 San Bernardino Handicap (G3) at Santa Anita, 1994 Commonwealth Breeders' Cup Stakes (G2) at Keeneland, and the 1994 Triple Bend Handicap (G3) at Hollywood Park.

In addition to Grey Memo, Memo's progeny includes millionaire McCann's Mojave, multiple graded winner Bordonaro, and the good graded stakes-winning mare Memorette. Ridgeley bred and raced Memo's son Elegant Fellow, winner of the 2000 Zany Tactics Stakes.

"We got Memo through Richard Mandella and Hal Oliver," said Thompson. "Memo was one of the most well-conformed horses we ever had. He stood 16 hands and looked like he was much bigger. He was also the nicest stallion to handle."

Memo returned to his Chilean owners at age 20 so that he could live out his life there as a pensioner.

With the boarders that come from standing stallions, Ridgeley's initial 40 acres grew to 60 upon the purchase of adjacent land. Thompson today also owns another 20 acres nearby, though she doesn't currently keep horses on it.

Most of the horses at Ridgeley are boarders. Thompson owns seven mares and continues to breed a few to race. Warren Stute trained for Ridgeley until his death in 2007, and now Thompson has horses with trainers Kathy Walsh, Matt Chew, and Eddie Truman.

One of Ridgeley's most recent stakes winners was My Monet. The homebred daughter of Decarchy won her first race and was claimed for \$40,000. My Monet went on to earn \$335,838 and win the 2015 Betty Grable Stakes.

Horses live long at Ridgeley. Julienne, a Mexican-bred stakes-placed mare Thompson raced, was their longest-lived pensioner.

"She died on Preakness day when she was 37," said Thompson.

"She looked good until she was 35. Then she started to look like an old mare."

Currently, Ridgeley has several pensioners, including Johnny Eves, winner of the 2007 Malibu Stakes (G1). A pensioner even led to Ridgeley's standing He Be Fire N Ice, owned by Ron Perry and his wife, Barbara Ranck.

"We were boarding a blind mare for them," said Thompson. "They came to the farm and a couple of months later called us. They are doing a very good job of supporting the horse and are getting some very good mares to him."

He Be Fire N Ice, a gray California-bred son of Unusual Heat—Deputy Tombe, by Deputy Commander, raced in the name of Perry and Ranck's Cicero Farms. He earned \$332,580, won the 2013 California Dreamin' Handicap, and placed in two graded stakes. His first foals are yearlings.

"His foals do look good," said Thompson. "About 95% of them are gray. You can spot them in the field."

Ridgeley owns Grey Memo and Informed, having bought the latter after he completed his racing career. Bred in Kentucky, Informed is by champion California-bred Tiznow. Informed earned \$521,349 and won the 2009 Californian Stakes (G2) and San Diego Handicap (G2). His foals include stakes winner Scrap Iron.

When Jim was alive, he handled the stallions and all of the breeding. Raul Mendoza, who has been with Ridgeley for 23 years, now has taken on those duties. Enrique Carbajal handles the yearlings and much of the sales preparation.



RON MESAROS

Ridgeley stallion He Be Fire N Ice, a son of Unusual Heat

With more than a half-century in the Thoroughbred business, Pat Thompson shows no sign of slowing down. In 2016 she and Jim were inducted into the California Thoroughbred Breeders Association Hall of Fame.

"I've been really fortunate to be doing something for the last 50 years that I love doing," Pat said in accepting the award.

That love shows in the health and happiness of the horses at Ridgeley Farm. **BH**

Tracy Gantz is the Southern California correspondent for BloodHorse.

The Hottest Stallion in
Southern California with the
HEART & SPEED
of a **CHAMPION**

- ▶ 2 ¾ Ragozin in the City of Hope defeating multiple G1 winner **Obviously**.
- ▶ Fastest turf miler at stud in CA, 1:31.84, only .09 seconds off Eclipse champion **Wise Dan**.
- ▶ 104 Beyer, 2 ¾ Ragozin, 118 E-Speed, 1 ¼ Thoro-graph.
- ▶ Multiple G2 placed stakes winning son of pensioned **Unusual Heat**, CA's all time leading sire.
- ▶ Over 90% gray/roan foals in first crop (2016).



\$2500 S&N

CALIFORNIA THOROUGHBRED
BREEDERS ASSOCIATION



Proudly standing at CTBA Hall of Famer
Pat Thompson's Ridgeley Farm in Hemet, CA
(951) 654-7728 • ridgeleyfarm.com

HE BE FIRE N ICE

Unusual Heat - Deputy Tombe, by Deputy Commander

Contact Barb on the FIRE Hotline (424) 279-FIRE • Hotline@hebefirenice.com

Check out FIRE's redesigned website ▶ hebefirenice.com