

WEST COAST

Forever Young

Sean Feld gets a lot done in a short period of time

BY LENNY SHULMAN

IT SEEMS AS IF we've been writing about Sean Feld for at least 30 years, but that's impossible, because 30 years ago Feld was just a yearling. But he is active in so many areas of the Thoroughbred business that it feels as if he's been around since the advent of the starting gate. In the past decade Feld has started a pinhooking group, short-listed at sales, founded an Internet start-up, begun a stallion syndication group, sold seasons, been involved in a racing syndicate, and has been hired to represent the Little Red Feather Racing syndicate in the Midwest and East. In his spare time he does light plumbing and maintenance at several rental properties he owns. Rumor has it he sleeps occasionally.

Feld had little choice but to enter the Thoroughbred business. His paternal grandfather was a handicapper who developed his own wagering system. His father is bloodstock agent Bob Feld and an uncle, Jude, trained on the Southern California circuit. His parents grew up near Santa Anita Park in Temple City, Calif., where his mother won a beauty competition. His father named multiple grade 1 winner Miss Temple City, whom he bred and co-owned, after her. Sean Feld was born in Pasadena and grew up in Monrovia, both nearly adjacent to where Santa Anita sits in Arcadia.

He remembers being on his father's shoulders watching Ruhlmann win the Santa Anita Handicap (G1) in 1990 and, several years later, seeing Cigar in the Hollywood Gold Cup (G1).

"There are a lot of childhood memories going to the races and hanging out with my dad, uncle, and grandfather," said Feld. "I'd go to my uncle's barn and watch his horses run on the weekends. I never really thought about doing anything else although my mother wanted me to try other stuff. When I was playing Little League baseball, I wanted to get the game over with so I could head to the racetrack. Our opening day was always on Santa Anita Handicap day, so I always hoped our game was in the morning so I could get out there. Everything I did revolved around the horses."

Supplementing his high-school education with nearly daily



ANNE M. EBERHARDT

Sean Feld's career path has touched many facets of the Thoroughbred industry

trips to Santa Anita for either live racing or simulcasting, Feld learned his way around vouchers and betting machines, circumventing the detail of not yet being old enough to wager legally. Looking to expand his horizons, he matriculated at the University of Kentucky, taking horse science classes in the school of agriculture as well as making connections with people in the Thoroughbred business.

Unfortunately, his graduation in 2009 coincided with the Great Recession, making it difficult to land a job in a contracting industry. He took a desk at Walmac selling stallion seasons, then approached Spendthrift Farm owner B. Wayne Hughes for a job.

Hughes, with deep California roots, had done business with Bob Feld in the Golden State and Sean had known him since childhood. Hughes agreed to hire him on a part-time basis selling seasons, dangling a full-time position if Feld brought in some business.

"I was still part-time when breeding season ended," said

ADVERTISERS' INDEX

Adena	43
www.adenastallions.com	
Cicero Farms.....	47
www.hebefirenice.com	

Climax Stallions	45
www.climaxstallions.com	

CASTING
A GOOD SPELL ON
CALIFORNIA IN 2018



SHAMAN **GHOST**

GHOSTZAPPER - GETBACK TIME, by GILDED TIME \$10,000 LFSN

SPELLBINDING
SPEED

6 TRIPLE Digit Beyers

including a 112 in the Pegasus World Cup-G1
3rd HIGHEST for 1 1/8 mile behind
ARROGATE and GUN RUNNER

P H E N O M E N A L
C L A S S

G1 SW of \$3.8 Million

Classic Winner & Champion at Three
Won SANTA ANITA H.-G1 & WOODWARD S.-G1

S C A R Y G O O D
S I R E L I N E

BY GHOSTZAPPER

Top 5 Among All Sires by 'A' Runner Index
\$11.3 Million, 16 Blacktype Winners in 2017



Inquiries to: Mike Allen 805-331-8268 | Tommy Town Thoroughbreds
Dermot Carty 416-518-1449 | Adena Springs
tommytownfarms.com

2018 LEADING SIRES IN CALIFORNIA

For daily updated sire lists
visit BloodHorse.com

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOBB,Sire), Where Stands	2018 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2018 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	TRIBAL RULE (96, Storm Cat)	Died, 2014	50/16	1/1	0/1	(Pee Wee Reese, \$61,500)	\$374,032	738	35	1.26	1.05
2	BLUEGRASS CAT (03, Storm Cat), Ballena Vista Farm	\$7,500	60/8	0/0	0/0	(Andesine, \$37,000)	\$290,295	*886	32	1.21	1.67
3	SQUARE EDDIE (06, Smart Strike), Ocean Breeze Ranch	\$25,000	30/3	1/1	1/1	(How About Zero, \$104,560)	\$253,617	145	11	1.54	0.97
4	MINISTERS WILD CAT (00, Deputy Minister), Tommy Town Thoroughbreds	\$4,000	50/15	0/0	0/0	(Dangerously Close, \$33,600)	\$236,875	434	15	1.03	0.91
5	LUCKY PULPIT (01, Pulpit)	Died, 2017	63/9	0/0	0/0	(Lostintranslation, \$33,600)	\$234,860	*435	7	1.56	1.12
6	STAY THIRSTY (08, Bernardini), Lovacres Ranch	\$5,000	61/8	0/0	0/0	(Stay Fond, \$16,200)	\$231,766	*276	4	1.37	1.55
7	UNUSUAL HEAT (90, Nureyev)	Died, 2017	43/2	0/0	0/0	(Majestic Heat, \$28,000)	\$185,749	*804	44	1.93	1.21
8	MISREMEMBERED (06, Candy Ride), Barton Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	22/5	1/1	1/1	(Remember Daisy, \$76,400)	\$183,072	89	2	0.99	1.48
9	PAPA CLEM (06, Smart Strike)	N/A	52/9	0/0	0/0	(Bold Papa, \$32,745)	\$164,994	260	6	0.83	1.10
10	GRAZEN (06, Benchmark), Tommy Town Thoroughbreds	\$5,000	18/4	0/0	0/0	(Tony Blackjack, \$35,056)	\$158,203	84	5	1.70	1.29
11	VRONSKY (99, Danzig), Old English Rancho	\$6,500	37/6	0/0	0/0	(Quick Finish, \$38,400)	\$147,078	216	10	1.46	1.09
12	BOLD CHIEFTAIN (03, Chief Seattle), Victory Rose Thoroughbreds	\$3,000	20/5	0/0	0/0	(Our Bold Princess, \$31,096)	\$123,522	65	1	0.84	0.95
13	DECARCHY (97, Distant View)	Died, 2017	24/4	0/0	0/0	(Lucy De, \$57,300)	\$123,458	397	13	1.02	0.97
14	U S RANGER (04, Danzig), Rancho San Miguel	\$3,000	39/7	0/0	0/0	(Gloves Off, \$19,964)	\$117,722	*352	3	0.68	1.32
15	ACCLAMATION (06, Unusual Heat), Old English Rancho	\$15,000	13/3	1/1	1/1	(Heck Yeah, \$60,000)	\$111,893	96	1	0.96	1.29

2017 LEADING SIRES IN CALIFORNIA

For daily updated sire lists
visit BloodHorse.com

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOBB,Sire), Where Stands	2018 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2017 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	BLUEGRASS CAT (03, Storm Cat), Ballena Vista Farm	\$7,500	198/108	3/4	0/3	(Bluegrass Jamboree, \$181,900)	\$4,858,716	*848	32	1.21	1.68
2	STAY THIRSTY (08, Bernardini), Lovacres Ranch	\$5,000	113/67	3/4	0/3	(Coal Front, \$411,000)	\$3,741,405	*232	4	1.38	1.55
3	UNUSUAL HEAT (90, Nureyev)	Died, 2017	109/54	3/5	0/3	(Majestic Heat, \$263,190)	\$3,374,622	*780	44	1.93	1.21
4	LUCKY PULPIT (01, Pulpit)	Died, 2017	163/85	3/4	2/3	(California Chrome, \$250,000)	\$3,277,616	*392	7	1.57	1.12
5	TRIBAL RULE (96, Storm Cat)	Died, 2014	126/80	4/4	1/4	(Pee Wee Reese, \$192,920)	\$2,965,230	738	35	1.26	1.05
6	MINISTERS WILD CAT (00, Deputy Minister), Tommy Town Thoroughbreds	\$4,000	101/63	1/2	1/1	(Mr. Hinx, \$438,548)	\$2,197,794	404	15	1.03	0.91
7	SQUARE EDDIE (06, Smart Strike), Ocean Breeze Ranch	\$25,000	78/34	2/3	2/2	(B Squared, \$247,735)	\$2,031,472	142	11	1.55	0.97
8	PAPA CLEM (06, Smart Strike)	N/A	106/63	2/2	2/2	(My Italian Babbo, \$221,961)	\$2,027,913	233	6	0.83	1.10
9	U S RANGER (04, Danzig), Rancho San Miguel	\$3,000	137/73	0/0	0/0	(Ranger Lady, \$99,394)	\$2,005,658	*339	3	0.68	1.32
10	VRONSKY (99, Danzig), Old English Rancho	\$6,500	70/40	2/2	2/2	(What a View, \$228,845)	\$1,974,272	191	10	1.46	1.09
11	STREET HERO (06, Street Cry)	N/A	66/31	2/2	1/2	(The Player, \$187,043)	\$1,337,190	*223	6	1.13	0.98
12	GRAZEN (06, Benchmark), Tommy Town Thoroughbreds	\$5,000	33/16	3/6	2/3	(S Y Sky, \$278,240)	\$1,304,825	67	5	1.71	1.34
13	DECARCHY (97, Distant View)	Died, 2017	51/25	1/2	1/1	(One Fast Broad, \$249,160)	\$1,045,315	374	13	1.02	0.97
14	DESERT CODE (04, E Dubai), Harris Farms	\$2,000	51/26	0/0	0/0	(Desert Law, \$123,728)	\$1,032,479	129	3	0.98	1.10
15	MISREMEMBERED (06, Candy Ride), Barton Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	53/23	0/0	0/0	(Whiskey Tree, \$110,296)	\$1,026,175	75	1	0.98	1.48

Feld, “and they didn’t tell me to leave, so I just kept showing up. That summer they offered me a job, and I stayed there for three years.”

While at Spendthrift, Feld was one of the voices urging Hughes to purchase a yearling Henny Hughes (no relation) filly who ended up being multiple cham-

pion Beholder, now a broodmare at Spendthrift.

When Bob Feld put together a deal to bring 2010 Totesport.com Derby Trial (G3) winner Bullet Train (a Sadler’s Wells half brother to Frankel) over from Europe to stand in the U.S., Sean was tapped to put together a syndicate. He left Spend-

thrift for this new venture, eventually tabbed with the memorable name of Climax Stallions.

“I probably would have been the favorite to come up with that name, but actually my Aunt Laura named it,” said Feld. “We were thinking of calling it Feld Family Stallions—my uncle Mark is involved



MATHEA KELLEY



RON MESAROS

Bullet Train, left, a half brother to Frankel, and Curlin to Mischief are two stallions that Feld has managed

CLIMAX

STALLIONS



CURLIN TO MISCHIEF

CURLIN - LESLIE'S LADY (TRICKY CREEK)

- Averaged 5x stud fee at Barrett's January Sale
- Half Brother to Champion Beholder, leading sire Into Mischief, and KY Derby hopeful Mendelssohn

STUD FEE - \$3,500 S&N



EDITORIAL

WAR FRONT - PLAYA MAYA (ARCH)

- *By* leading sire WAR FRONT *and a* HALF to leading sire UNCLE MO
- Breed one mare and earn a lifetime breeding right

STUD FEE - \$3,500 S&N

STANDING AT RANCHO SAN MIGUEL



FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL

Sean Feld (859) 519-9665,
Maddie Mattmiller (859) 421-1620 or
Rancho San Miguel (805) 467-3847

STANDING *at* ROLAND FARM



For more information call

Sean Feld (859) 519-9665,
Maddie Mattmiller (859) 421-1620 *or*
Roland Farm (410) 913-0586

2017 LEADING SIRE IN WASHINGTON



For daily updated sire lists
visit BloodHorse.com

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2018 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2017 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	PARKER'S STORM CAT (00, Storm Cat), Gibson Thoroughbred Farm	\$2,000	66/36	0/0	0/0	(Parkers Delight, \$35,040)	\$459,747	*325	4	0.89	1.01
2	ATTA BOY ROY (05, Tribunal), Blue Ribbon Farm	\$2,000	23/11	2/2	1/2	(Mr. Jagermeister, \$103,000)	\$351,928	41	2	0.58	0.73
3	ABRAAJ (03, Carson City), El Dorado Farms	\$2,000	27/14	1/1	1/1	(Exit Sixty Slew, \$61,487)	\$339,516	47	4	0.70	0.76
4	RAISE THE BLUFF (03, Pine Bluff), El Dorado Farms	\$1,000	22/15	0/0	0/0	(Percy's Bluff, \$106,725)	\$329,315	94	1	0.55	0.48
5	COUNCIL MEMBER (02, Seattle Slew), Dreamstar Farm	\$1,500	21/13	0/0	0/0	(Sea Myrtle, \$40,740)	\$326,443	94	0	0.54	0.89

as well—but she came up with Climax Stallions and that was it. We wanted a name people would remember, and that is certainly tongue-in-cheek. I tell people it's about reaching new heights."

The Felds seek to bring new people into the horse business through their stallion syndicate. Of the eight partners who bought into Bullet Train, half hadn't previously owned a horse. After a deal was made to stand Bullet Train in Australia for a season, Feld said the investors just about got out on the horse before he even covered his first mare.

"We try to get folks involved who aren't horse people," said Feld. "The big farms syndicate stallions to breeders; we're trying to do it a different way."

Four stallions have come into the program. Bullet Train, who stood at Pope McLean's Crestwood Farm near Lexington, failed to break through with domestic breeders, getting just north of 20 mares last year. He has been relocated to Woodfield Farm Stud in Ireland, with the majority of his book coming from hunter mares. The half brother to the undefeated European champion should prove more popular in Ireland.

Haynesfield, a son of Speightstown who won the 2010 Jockey Club Gold Cup (G1) and Suburban Handicap (G2), stood in Kentucky at Airdrie Stud four seasons and in California for one season before an enticing offer from Saudi Arabia proved too good to pass up, and he was exported.



Feld, with his father, Bob, and Select Sales' Amy Bunt, at the 2010 Breeders' Cup at Churchill Downs

However, a stallion with a definite tie to Feld has been syndicated by Climax and is standing at Rancho San Miguel in California. That is the unraced Curlin to Mischief, whose first crop are yearlings of 2018. Out of Leslie's Lady, Curlin to Mischief is a half brother to Beholder, Into Mischief, and Mendelssohn. Grade 1 winner Into Mischief has become a huge success story as a stallion at Spendthrift, earning a 2018 stud fee of \$100,000. He has sired top runners such as grade 1 winners Goldencents and Practical Joke. Mendelssohn, who just turned 3, is coming off a giant win in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf (G1T).

After attracting 41 mares in his first year, Curlin to Mischief had 60 mares in his court last season and has 40 already booked to him this year before the start of breeding season.

"We're learning as we go," noted Feld.

"If you have the Battle of Midways and Gun Runners, people know who they are and come to you. With unproven brothers, it's a struggle. We have to go out asking. Curlin to Mischief (by Curlin) had buzz about him early on, and his short yearlings sold at Barretts (January mixed sale) for an average of five times his stud fee (\$3,500). Into Mischief is on fire, and Mendelssohn's winning the Breeders' Cup was the cherry on top. We might get more mares to him in his third year than we did in either of his first two, which is really positive. His babies look

good, but we have to wait until they run before we know. But the breeders award program in California is great; there are plenty of Cal-bred stakes races; and the bonus for a Cal-bred maiden win is \$17,500. It's a really good program; plus, there are good vets and great facilities out there."

The other Climax stallion standing in the U.S. this year is Editorial, whose career was cut short after one victory in two races, but he is another notable half brother. By top sire War Front, Editorial is out of Playa Maya, making him a half brother to grade 1 winner, champion, and top sire Uncle Mo, who was North America's leading third-crop sire in 2017 and has already gotten champion and Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (G1) winner Nyquist.

Editorial stands at Roland Farm in

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 2013 are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through December 31, 2017 (through February 11, 2018 for the 2018 leaders). As supplied to *BloodHorse* by The Jockey Club Information Systems Inc., lists 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 2016 is \$22,141 or 45% of the 2016 average purse in Japan. To put earnings on par, all Japanese progeny earnings are multiplied by 45% before being credited to a sire's progeny earnings. Hong Kong earnings are adjusted by 17%; Singapore by 65%. Current year stakes winners include all Northern Hemisphere black-type stakes results from all available countries. *Foal counts include Southern Hemisphere. Cumulative stakes winners include 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

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 deceased **Unusual Heat**, CA's all time leading sire.
- ▶ Over 90% gray/roan foals in his first two crops.



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

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



\$5000 S&N

HE BE FIRE N ICE

Unusual Heat - Deputy Tombe, by Deputy Commander

Free nicking from eNicks, G1 and TrueNicks ▶ hebefirenice.com



COURTESY SEAN FELD

Feld recently joined the Little Red Feather Racing Club team to help them expand into the Midwest and East

Maryland for \$3,500, but Maryland has seen an influx of new stallions this year, including Divining Rod, Kobe's Back, and Dortmund, so competition will be keen. Regional markets are tough for unproven stallions, especially markets in close proximity to Kentucky.

"The mare population hasn't swung up yet in Maryland, so it's a challenge," allowed Feld. "It's an uphill battle, but we'll do our best. We'd love to be a WinStar or Spendthrift; our goal is to be a major stallion farm without the farm. I love marketing stallions, finding mares, getting breeders to like the horse. It's a slow process, from conception to racetrack, so you want to make it fun. And there's no more fun than watching a horse you bred win a race. We've had that with Miss Temple City, and it's really gratifying. It's fun when it works."

Feld recently joined the Little Red Feather Racing Club, a racing partnership group formed in 2002 that has enjoyed success ever since its Singletary won the NetJets Breeders' Cup Mile (G1T) in 2004. Racing almost exclusively in California, LRF is up to some 75 horses and hopes to expand into the Midwest and East, a move it

has tasked Feld with facilitating.

"I've known Billy (Koch) and Gary (Fenton) forever, and they wanted me to jump on board," Feld said. "We're going to try and expand it, with a concentration on the East Coast. They want to be a national brand like West Point and Eclipse and run everywhere. I have a core of clients I'd like to bring into the fold, and then maybe down the road I can get into managing the East Coast string. After being a friendly competitor, it's fun to be part of the team, and this is a big opportunity."

Said Koch, the founder and managing partner of LRF, "I've known Sean since he was a little kid; I know his whole family. I realize how dedicated he is to the game, and we're trying to grow our brand and it's nice to have someone in other jurisdictions who is on the ground and whom you can trust. He's a hard worker who knows the racing business, and we feel he's a good addition as we try to grow. We have several horses in New York now, and Sean is in Saratoga all summer and can help take care of our partners and bring new people into the game."

Along with Hibiscus Stables' Mike Oliveto and Jon Taisey (Feld manages the Hibiscus mares), Feld has also started Atthesale.com, an Internet start-up that aggregates information surrounding horse sales with the goal of being a one-stop shop for sales information. Customers can subscribe to receive various reports, including accessing information from past sales, gallop-out reports, work reports, or short lists.

Sean Feld has the Thoroughbred cycle



Editorial stands at Roland Farm in Maryland

2017 CALIFORNIA SIRES BY BT STAKES WINNERS

Sire	BT SWnrs.	Wns
Tribal Rule	4	4
Grazen	3	6
Unusual Heat	3	5
Bluegrass Cat	3	4
Lucky Pulpit	3	4
Stay Thirsty	3	4
Slew's Tiznow	3	3
Square Eddie	2	3
Tizbud	2	3
Papa Clem	2	2
Street Hero	2	2
Vronsky	2	2
Popular	1	6
Surf Cat	1	5
Decarchy	1	2
Game Plan	1	2
Idiot Proof	1	2
Ministers Wild Cat	1	2
Thisnearlywasmine	1	2
Bedford Falls	1	1
Bold Chieftain	1	1
Cyclotron	1	1
Einstein (BRZ)	1	1
Grace Upon Grace	1	1
Indian Evening	1	1
McCann's Mojave	1	1
Mr. Big	1	1
Smiling Tiger	1	1

pretty well surrounded, from helping people buy a young horse, to getting into a racing partnership, to eventually partaking in a stallion syndicate. His father, like the rest of us, has to remind himself that Sean is still very young in years.

"It's impressive when you can accomplish as much as Sean has because this has always been an older person's business," said Bob Feld. "Sean is like Lindsay Lohan, who just turned 31 but you'd swear

was 45. He's been around the sales for a long time and has a lot of miles under him. I don't take a lot of the credit. He's much more type A than I am, and he's earned most of this. I may have given him a little leg up being in the business, but he's more aggressive and works harder, and he's created a lot of the business himself."

With no more of those pesky Little League games in the way, there's no telling how much Feld will accomplish before he hits the ripe old age of 32. **BH**

COGLIANESE PHOTOS/LESLIE MARTIN