

## **Confidential Interview #2**

- Q: Very good. So you understand now that this conference is going to be recorded for the purposes of reading it at the Sound Horse Conference?
- A: Yes.
- A: Well, I've showed and trained for over 20 years gaited horses. I have judged for the past 15 years – I've been quite involved in the industry from both sides – both as the showing and training and also as a judge – That would include Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, even I've dealt with some of the Georgia area, the Texas area.
- A: Well, you know, I've personally seen, visually, and at these open schooling shows, is more of the outer soring around the pastern and using the chemicals to irritate the legs. Now, I have seen some other horses that haven't had that that seem real irritated that were wearing the packages, and from what I understand from some of the farriers that are involved is there has been some more internal type of soring used in the shoeing, some unique shoeing methods. What I've seen on a more regular basis in our particular area with the open schooling shows has been more of the chemical agents irritating the pastern. I think from a cost standpoint I think you will find it costlier to get your farrier on board to do some more of the soring through chemicals than the shoeing, so I don't think they are spending that kind of money in the open schooling circuit.
- Q: Okay, very good observation. And do you have any comments on how you think soring could be ended?
- A: With education. They don't realize that. A lot of people that actually organize these shows are not involved with the gaited horse community, so they don't realize exactly what is going on. Now the sad part is, if we start really cracking down on those particular shows and start bringing out outside people and really get strict about it and maybe fining the shows or whatnot, what will happen is, you will end up having those classes pulled out of the show. As someone, along with a lot of others of us that do not do those soring practices, that's probably what we are going to see what happens – not having those open shows allow for gaited classes, rather than actually fixing the problem just by having better inspection and education.
- Q: Okay, very good. You had described a situation of a grandfather and his grandson who showed at a particular show. Would you be able to describe that situation?

A: Yes. What we do in open school shows is, you accumulate points as you go throughout the season to qualify at the state level. And just within this past year we were in lineup, getting ready to go into the open gaited class, and I looked in front of me and there were two big beautiful black walking horses. It was a beautiful picture, because there was a grandfather sitting on one of these beautiful horses and next to him was his grandson, and they were getting ready to go into the show arena. I honestly was admiring the horses and I was curious to see what type of show that they had for these horses. And of course, they were padded.

As I was looking down at their feet I noticed blood around both horses' pasterns. It was quite excessive. And there they were standing, in front of us ready to go into the entry gate with blood around both of their pasterns. And the sad part was, as they went through and showed, of course, and we went up the lineup, that no legs were inspected at all, including my horse's and including those of the two black horses that we saw. The sad part was, one of those horses actually won the class. It was very discouraging to see something like that would be rewarded in this type of environment.