

Mr. Conclusion



Continued from page 36

AQHA HALTER STALLION CONCLUSIVE IS BOUGHT BY EDGEWOOD FARMS...

The next top stud for Edgewood Farms would be Conclusive, whom Joe and Russell purchased after raising Conclusive's first two world champions, Prestigious Maiden and Obvious Conclusion. "We had both of them in the pasture as babies at the same time," Joe recalls, "...and when I made up my mind I wanted to buy a stallion, that's the one I wanted to buy."

For all of Conclusive's attributes as a sire, the stud had a pretty bad reputation at the time that Edgewood bought him as a six year-old. (In the stallion's defense, Joe Edge notes that Conclusive's bad attitude probably was due to the fact that the stud had foundered before they bought him, and subsequently received countless shots and medical treatments while in his stall). In 1983, as Bill and Ann drove to Kerrville, Texas to pick up the stud and bring him to his new home, they were thrilled to get this AQHA World Champion, an own son of the great Impressive. They also gave some serious thought to how they would handle him.

They were counting on the fact that he was going to a new facility with new people and new surroundings to work in their favor...and they decided on two important rules, the first of which was that no one would handle Conclusive but Bill or Ann. Period. If someone came to see him and neither was available at the time, then the visitors were asked to please wait until one of the Lannings could be there. The other rule? Treat him like a horse! Bill says the stud had little turnout at this previous location due to the fact that no one wanted to go in his stall to han-

dle him to take him outside or do anything with him. That soon changed at Edgewood. "We turned him out in the stud pen and treated him like a horse," Bill explains, adding, "If he done something wrong we got after him; if he didn't, we left him alone. That's just the way we handled him."

YOU WANT TO DO WHAT? WHERE???

The "new" Conclusive led for some pretty funny encounters with people who had heard of his bad rep, or even experienced it first hand. About three months after Conclusive arrived at Edgewood, it was time to call on noted horse photographer, Don Shugart, for new photos of the stud. Don wasn't one to ever shy away from a difficult horse, but Ann says he did initially try to sway them into getting someone else to do the photo shoot. Ann told Don to just come to the farm and if for any reason he didn't want to do continue the shoot, they'd pay him his full fee.

When Don arrived and asked where they'd like to do the photos, Ann had another surprise for him. No, she didn't want to do the shoot right outside the barn. She told Don she wanted Bill to take Conclusive out in the pasture by a big stock pond. Oh, and she wanted one more thing. "I wanted all the broodmares right there in the background across the water, and you'd also see them reflected in the water," Ann explains. Bill walked the stud out, decked in his silver halter, and headed out to the pasture with him. Meanwhile, Ann had sprinkled some oats in the grass across the water so the mares would stay right there. "It took us maybe 15 minutes to get the pictures. He stood right there, regal as could be and never acted up, never jumped

continued on page 40