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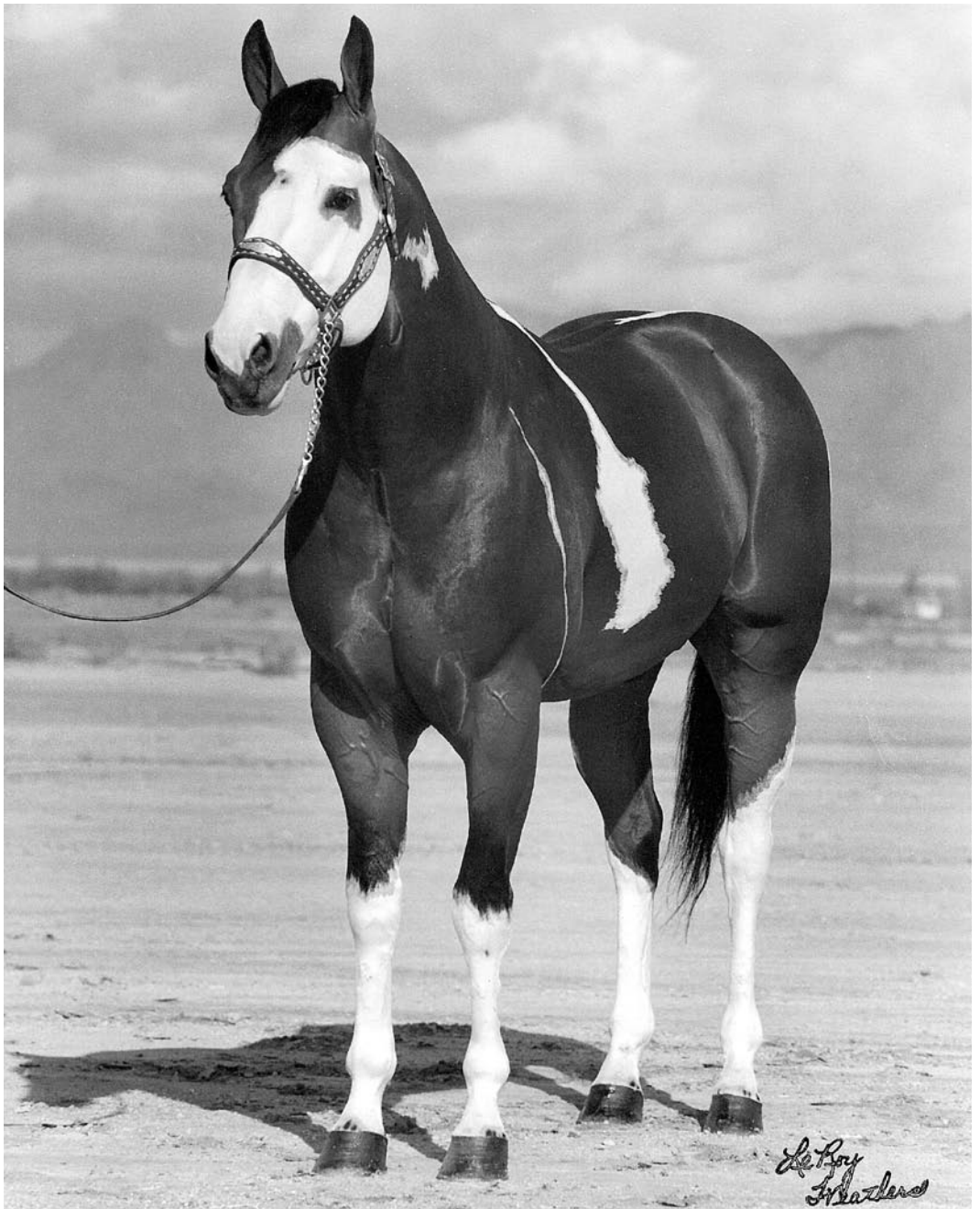
GALLANT GHOST

#21,750

Uniquely marked, this versatile champion made lasting contributions to one of the Northwest's top Paint horse lines.

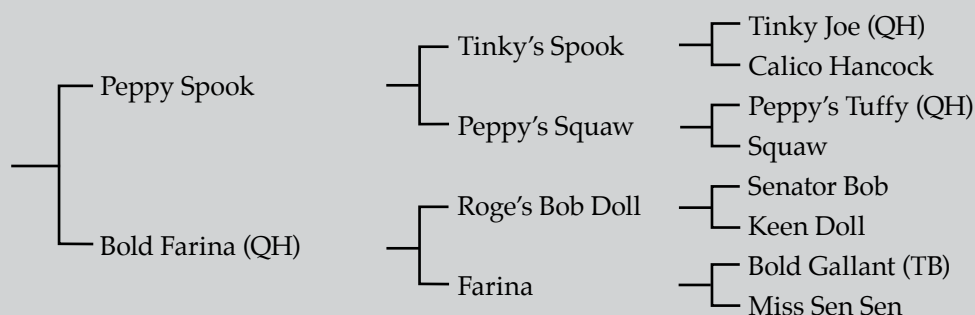
*Gallant Ghost – “the
Ghost with the Most.”*

Photo by
LeRoy Weathers



Gallant Ghost

(1972-1995)



DR. LYLE AND “Butch” Wonderlich of Twin Falls, Idaho, were two of the far Northwest’s earliest and most accomplished Paint Horse pioneers.

As noted in *More than Color Vol. 1*, the Wonderlichs entered the Paint Horse business in March of 1964.

In the fall of 1965, they acquired a bay tovero weanling named Tinky’s Spook that would go on to become one of the breed’s cornerstone sires. What’s more, he would help shape the Wonderlichs’ RoseAcre Farms into one of the country’s premiere Paint breeding and show establishments.

Cornerstone Color and Class

Tinky’s Spook was a grandson of Tinky Poo (QH), one of the Intermountain region’s top foundation sires. A 1949 brown stallion by Wayward Irving and out of Little Peach, Tinky Poo was a AA-AQHA Champion and the sire of 18 ROM racehorses that earned \$143,689. On the show horse side, he was the sire of four AQHA Champions including the legendary Hobby Horse.

The Tinky Poo line was a durable one, and one in which the second and third generations contributed much more than the first. So it was with the Quarter Horse branch of the family, and so it was with the Paints.

Again, as noted in *MTC1*, Tinky’s Spook was purchased by Lyle and Butch Wonderlich to head their Paint Horse program. This he did in marvelous fashion, going on to become the first APHA Champion west of the Rockies and the sire of one APHA Supreme Champion and 14 APHA Champions.

The Wonderlich/Tinky’s Spook era came to an end on July 27, 1974, when

the Twin Falls couple held the first of what would be several dispersal sales. Tinky’s Spook topped the offering, going to Bud and Betty Crump of Wynnewood, Oklahoma, for a record-setting price of \$12,500.

Three of the stallion’s daughters – Fancy Fem, Silly Filly and Spook Slippers – were the sale’s high-selling mares at \$5,400, \$5,100 and \$4,000 respectively, and J.D. Hooter of Alexandria, Louisiana, was the sale’s volume buyer.

Hooter was familiar with the Tinky’s Spook horses prior to this, having purchased a son of Tinky’s Spook named Peppy Spook in April of 1973 to cross on his Q Ton Eagle daughters.

And, even though they had advertised their 1974 sale as a dispersal, the Wonderlichs did retain ownership of several of their best young prospects. Among them was a homebred 2-year-old stallion named Gallant Ghost.

Ghostly Genetics

Gallant Ghost, a 1972 bay tovero stallion, was sired by Peppy Spook and out Bold Farina (QH). Foaled on Rose Acre Farms on May 1, he was a member of his sire’s first Idaho-bred foal crop.

Peppy Spook – “Ghost’s sire” – was a 1969 bay tovero stallion by Tinky’s Spook and out of Peppy’s Squaw. A versatile performer, he earned four halter and 42 performance points in hunter under saddle, heading, reining, trail, western pleasure and western riding.

As a sire he had 81 registered foals. Of these, nine point earners that earned 71 halter, 478 performance and 15 reining points. Gallant Ghost



Peppy Spook, the sire of Gallant Ghost," was a top performer in his own right.

**Photo by
Marge Spence**

was far and away the stallions top performer, accounting for close to half of the total points.

Bold Farina (QH) – Gallant Ghost's dam – was a 1968 bay mare by Roge's Bob Doll and out of Farina. Roge's Bob Doll, a AAA-rated runner, was a grandson of Flying Bob and Bill Doolin. Farina, a AA-rated sprinter, was a granddaughter of Questionnaire (TB).

In addition to Gallant Ghost, Bold Farina was the dam of two additional APHA-registered foals: Bold Bikini, 1974 bay tobiano mare by Tinky's Spook – APHA Champion, two ROMs, 31 halter and 19 performance points; and Bold Banshee, 1975 bay tobiano gelding by Tinky's Spook – APHA Champion.

Finally, Bold Farina, Farina and Miss Sen Sen – the three mares on the

bottom of Gallant Ghost's pedigree – were all speed-bred and all were ROM race producers. This influx of running blood would come to play when it came time for the Wonderlich-bred Paint to show what he was capable of.

Gallant Ghost's name came about in much the same manner as his famous grandsire's did. Although registered by APHA as a tobiano, Tinky's Spook was in reality a tovero with one blue eye and an obvious set of both tobiano and overo genes.

Gallant Ghost was also registered as a tobiano. But, like his sire and grandsire, he manifested obvious overo characteristics.

Viewed from the right, Gallant Ghost looked like a classic tobiano – complete with four white legs, regularly shaped spots. Viewed from the left, however, he looked like an entirely different horse – with an overo-like white steak going up his left front leg and a white bonnet marking covering the left side of his face. Viewed from the left, there were also an overo marking on his muzzle and overo-like dark lining around his eye.

The effect of the young Paint's markings was that, viewed from left and right, he looked like two different horses. And, just like his grandsire was tagged with the surname "Spook" in deference to his one blue eye, so was Gallant Ghost given his surname in deference to his left-sided, eerie appearance.

A Speedy Start

Gallant Ghost began his performance career on the chariot racing tracks of Idaho and Utah. Raced as an early 2-year-old, he won the Snake River Chariot Racing Association year-end award. He also competed as the only Paint Horse at the All-American Chariot Futurity in Tremont, Utah, finishing fifth over-all out of 47 teams of Quarter Horses and Thoroughbred.

Next up for the speed-bred Paint were a few trips to the straightaway racetracks. Sent to the gates at both Idaho pari-mutual and APHA-approved tracks.

Competing in the APHA fifth National Championship Futurity in



Initially trained as a chariot racehorse, "Ghost" acquitted himself well.

Courtesy APHA

August of 1974, he won his 350-yard trial heat in the time of :18.33 – the fastest time recorded during both time trials and the final, and good enough to earn him an 88 speed index. In the finals, the 2-year-old Peppy Spook son "found heavy traffic from his number four hole and finished fourth."

Gallant Ghost made only seven official APHA starts, earning one first,

one second, one third and \$1,589. He was awarded an 87 speed index and his ROM in racing on July 12, 1974

Returned to the chariot racing wars in 1976 as a 4-year-old, Gallant Ghost acquitted himself quite well. The following year, the decision was made to take the fleet competitor off the tracks and make him ready for a show career.

Switch out of harness and into a flat saddle, the Tinky's Spook grandson was a Register of Merit racehorse.

Courtesy APHA



A Supreme Show Record

From the onset, Lyle and Butch Wonderlichs' son Lyle R. handled much of Gallant Ghost's show training and riding. Currently residing with his wife Kathy in Nampa, Idaho, the long-time equine reproduction specialist and APHA-approved judge, recalls that the big tovero stallion was a rare individual.

"'Ghost' was a big, bold 16-hand horse," he says. "After spending several years chariot and flat racing, all he knew when we got him home to stay was to run into the bit.

"Because of that we never really used a D-ring snaffle bit on him; we began with a hackamore and then graduated to a long shank snaffle bit. When we jumped him, we used a Pelham bit.

"You have to remember the Ghost was a senior horse by the time he began showing him," he continues. "And that meant it was only one hand on the reins. But he was easy to get a long with and willing to try whatever you asked him to do.

"When we first started hauling him, he'd come off the trailer all drawn up and looking like a racehorse. Eventually, though, he learned to relax and take everything in stride."

In 1977, Gallant Ghost was shown at halter and in on the rail. On June 11th he earned his ROM in western pleasure, and an ROM in hunter under saddle followed that on October 23. By January 1, 1978, the big Paint had qualified for a Superior Halter award. Later that year, he added an ROM in western riding and a Superior award in western pleasure. On May 30, 1977, "Ghost" was awarded APHA Championship #622.

By 1979, the then 7-year-old stallion had added heading, healing and barrel racing to his show ring repertoire. He added ROMs in these three events to his already impressive resume in May.

Finally, on May 26, 1979, Gallant Ghost and Lyle Wonderlich competed at a three-judge Paint-O-Rama at Filer, Idaho. Shown in heading, heeling, barrel racing and bridle path hack,

Ghost earned nine firsts and earned the final points necessary to qualify for the industry's three top show ring awards – Versatility award #38, Superior All-Around Champion #16 and APHA Supreme Champion #29.

"Gallant Ghost was a true all-around horse," Lyle Wonderlich says. "He was good at a lot of things; he was a natural lead changer and the type of pleasure horse that would be competitive today.

"When I first started training him as a rope horse, I worried that he'd back into the chute and think he was going to be in a horse race. But he never acted up at all; he just looked at it as something new to learn."

After achieving all that was asked of him in the show ring, Gallant Ghost was retired to stud.

A Supreme Sire

Ghost's first four foal crops, which hit the ground between 1976 and 1979, were born while the big stallion was enjoying the height of his success as a show horse. From these initial offerings would come some of the line's most accomplished performers, including Ghost Tale and Gallant Hug.

Ghost Tale, a 1976 bay tobiano gelding out of Cristy Copper, was the 1980 Youth World Champion in Western Pleasure and Western Horsemanship, and the 1986 Youth World Champion in Showmanship at Halter. In addition, he earned three Versatility awards, four APHA Championships, 15 Superior event awards, 22 ROMs, 131 halter and 1,670 performance points.

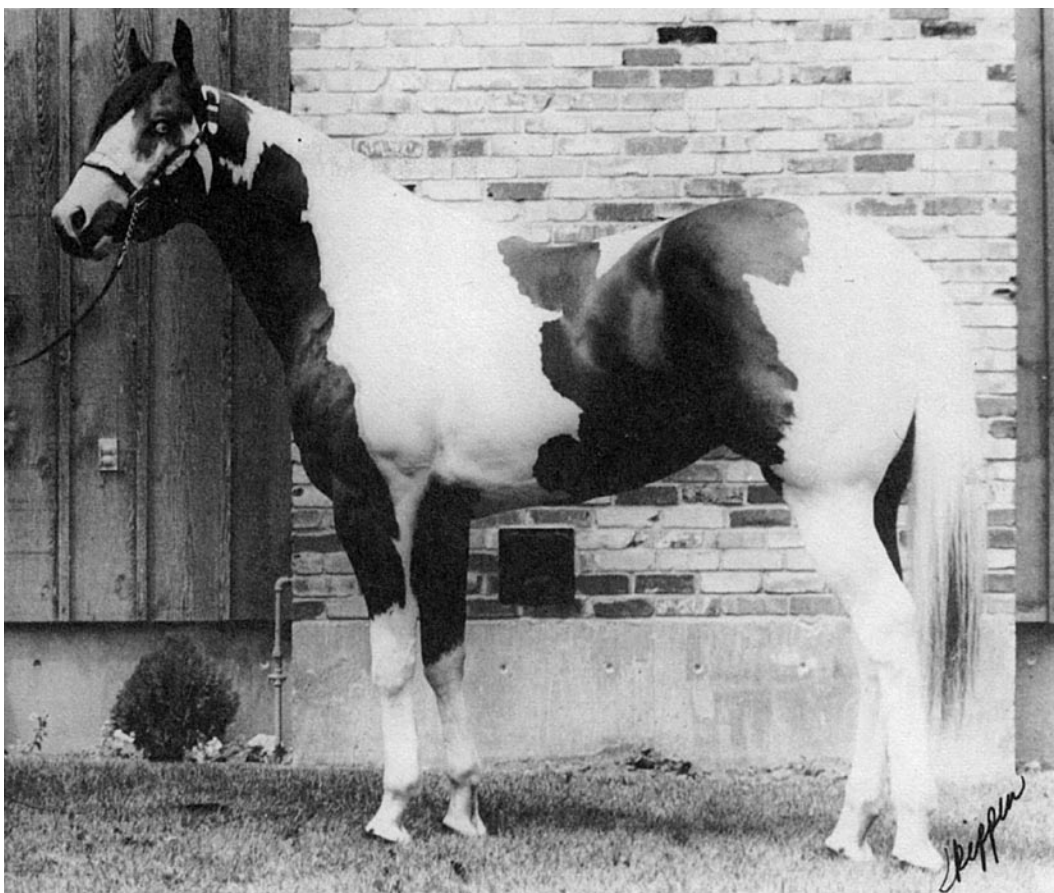
Gallant Hug, a 1976 bay tovero stallion out of Dotty Hug (QH), was a winner as both a race and show horse. On the tracks, he started 21 races, earning nine firsts, four seconds, four thirds and \$7,960. He achieved a 89 speed index and, with 58 points, qualified for a Superior racing award. As a show horse, he earned a Versatility award, APHA Championship, a Superior Hunter Under Saddle award, seven ROMs, 15 halter and 173 performance points.

Gallant Silhouette was also born during these early years and, more



Ghost Tale, a 19776 bay tobiano gelding by Gallant Ghost and out of Cristy Copper, was a multiple world champion. Here he is at the 1980 National Show with Kelly Lingerfeldt of Riverside, California.

**Photo by
Don Shugart**



Gallant Hug, a 1976 bay tovero stallion by Gallant Ghost and out of Dotty Hug (QH), was the earner of Superior award on the tracks and a Versatility award in the show ring.

Photo by Skippen



than any other horse from the Tinky's Spook/Gallant Ghost line, this venerable performer most typifies what the RoseAcre Farm Paint Horse breeding program stood for.

"Silhouette," a 1978 bay overo mare, was sired by Gallant Ghost and out of Silly Filly. Both parents were RoseAcre born and bred and both were APHA Supreme Champions.

Silly Filly was one of the farm's greatest contributions to the breed. A 1970 bay tovero mare by Tinky's Spook and out of Paula Shoe Shine, "Silly" was sold as a yearling to William and Mary Lou Griffin of Spanaway, Washington.

The Griffins showed Silly Filly to multiple honors as an APHA Champion, Superior Halter Horse and APHA Supreme Champion #20. Repurchased by the Wonderlichs in 1974, Silly Filly produced 13 foals – one by Mighty Tink (QH) and 12 by Gallant Ghost.

Gallant Silhouette, was far and away the most accomplished of the baker's dozen. Shown in open competition,

APHA Supreme Champion Silly Filly – a Tinky's Spook daughter – was bred 12 times to APHA Supreme Champion Gallant Ghost – a Tinky's Spook grandson.

**Photo by
Marge Spence**



Gallant Silhouette was the most talented performer to come out of the "supreme cross." A multi-talented show mount, "Silhouette carried youth exhibitor Danielle Brown of Midlothian, Texas, to 10 National and World titles.

Photo by Don Shugart

she earned three national or world titles – 1983 National Champion Sr. Hunter Under Saddle, 1985 World Champion Sr. Western Pleasure and 1985 Reserve World Champion Sr. Western Riding.

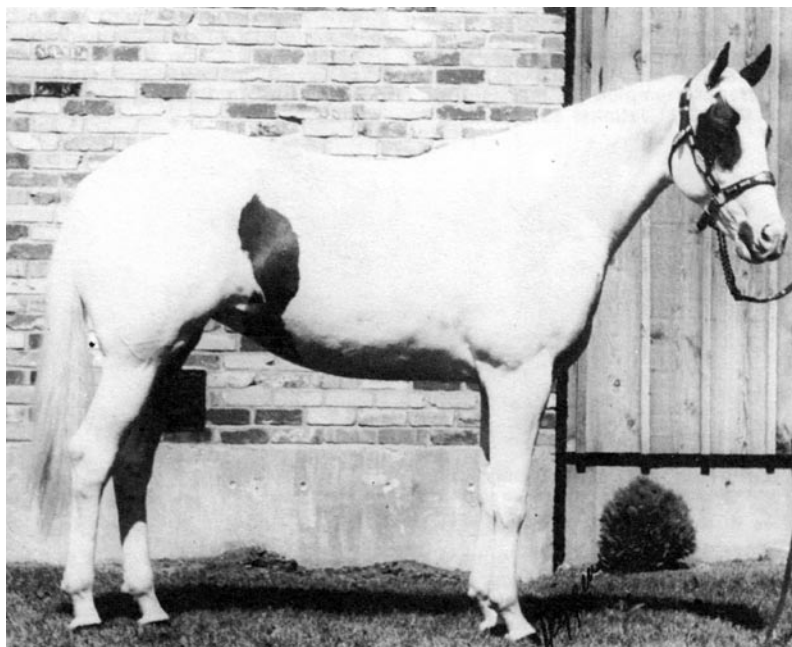
Shown in youth competition by Dawn Vest, Danielle Brown and Jana Simons, the talented mare amassed four world championships, three reserve world championships, five national championships and three reserve national championships.

All told, she earned three Versatility awards, four APHA Championships, 21 Superior event awards, 31 ROMs, 269 halter and 4,348 performance points.

And there were other early Gallant Ghost stars as well. Among them were:

- Gallant Kim, 1977 bay tobiano mare out of Kimama Lily (QH) – APHA Champion; Superior BPH; four ROMs; 19 halter and 217 performance points.
- Gallant Breeze, 1977 bay tobiano mare out of Miss Westwind (QH) – APHA Champion; Superior Western Pleasure; seven ROMs; 39 halter and 219 performance points.
- Glory Ghost, 1978 bay tobiano mare out of Nite's Lady Banner – 1982 National Champion Pleasure Driving; Open Versatility; Superior Pleasure Driving; seven ROMs; eight halter and 250 performance points.
- Gallant Tapestry, 1978 bay tobiano mare out of Jezebel – APHA Champion; Superior Western Pleasure; 23 halter and 80 performance points.
- Gallant Pirate, 1978 bay tobiano gelding out of Miss Westwind (QH) – APHA Champion; two ROMs; 34 halter and 39 performance points.
- Prince Gallant, 1979 bay overo gelding out of Miss Westwind (QH) – APHA Champion; Superior BPH; two ROMs; 18 halter and 142 performance points. Youth Versatility; APHA Youth Champion; Superior YBH and YEE; six ROMs; 27 halter and 268 performance points.

On August 18, 1979, RoseAcre Farm held its second dispersal sale. By this time, the Wonderlich Paint breeding



program was recognized as one of the finest and most progressive in the entire country. As proof of this claim, the event included such headline offerings as Bold Bikini, APHA Champion; Copper Tinky, APHA Champion; Spooka Dot, APHA Champion; Gallant Hug, ROM racehorse; Jag's Leolita, AQHA Champion (open and youth); and Mighty Tink, AQHA Champion.

In addition, such top Gallant Ghost champions – past, present and future – were put up for bids. Among them were Ghost Tale, Gallant Kim, Gallant Kiss, Gallant Silhouette, Gallant Breeze, Gallant Pirate,

After the sale was over, the Wonderlich family scaled back its breeding operations. Gallant Ghost and Silly Filly remained in residence at the farm, as did several other well-bred broodmares and young prospects.

Gallant Move, a 1980 bay tovero stallion by Gallant Ghost and out of Ms Move, was the next Wonderlich horse to make Paint Horse national headlines.

Sent to the racetrack under the RoseAcre banner, "Move" had 23 lifetime starts. He earned nine wins, eight seconds, two thirds and \$7,586. He also achieved a speed index of 88

Gallant Breeze, a 1977 bay tovero mare by Gallant Ghost and out of Miss Westwind (QH), was the earner of an APHA Championship and a Superior Western Pleasure award.

Photo by Skippen

and, on July 14, 1984, qualified for a Superior race award.

In August of 1984, Move was sold to Bonnie Christensen of Salt Lake City, Utah. Under her ownership, he earned APHA Supreme Championship, Versatility award, Superior All-Around award, APHA Championship, Superior Halter award, five ROMs, 71 halter and 59 performance points.

By the dawn of the 1980s, Gallant Ghost was one of the Northwest region's most popular Paint breeding stallions. And, for the next decade-and-a-half, he continued to turn out a steady stream of champions. Among their number were such top performers as:

- Haunted Princess, 1980 bay tobiano mare out of Miss Westwind (QH) – APHA Champion; Superior Western Pleasure, three ROMs; 38 halter and 126 performance points.
- Ima Gallant Lass, 1981 bay tobiano mare out of Ima Bar – 1986 Reserve

National Champion Jumping; three ROMs; 64 performance points.

- Pralines N Cream, 1983 dun tobiano mare out of Jezebel – Superior Western Pleasure; earner of one halter and 94 performance points.
- Ghostbuster, 1985 bay tovero gelding out of Artic Spook – Earner of seven ROMs; seven halter and 200 performance points.
- Gallant Serenade, 1986 bay tobiano mare out of Arctica – APHA Champion; four ROMs; 35 halter and 55 performance points.

By the early 1990s, the two RoseAcre stalwarts – Gallant Ghost and Silly Filly – were nearing the end of their productive years.

In 1990, both were sent north to the High River, Alberta, Canada, ranch of long-time family friends Pete and Diane Fraser. Gallant Ghost continued to serve as an active breeding horse until 1995. The following spring, one single last foal was born.

Gallant Tapestry, a 1978 bay tobiano mare by Gallant Ghost and out of Jezebel, was likewise an APHA Champion with a Superior in Western Pleasure.

Photo by Skippen



APHA records verify that Gallant Ghost sired 257 registered foals. Of these, 62 performers earned six world championships, four reserve world championships, nine national championships, four reserve national championships, one Supreme Championship, 10 Versatility awards, 18 APHA Championships, 51 Superior event awards, 135 ROMs and 9,441 points in all divisions combined.

Gallant Ghost was part and parcel the product of Lyle and Butch Wonderlichs' RoseAcre Farm Paint Horse breeding program. This storied operation stands alone in terms of its pioneering contributions to the breed – not only the Northwest, but across the entire country as well.

The big tovero stallion was, in many ways, its crowning achievement.



Gallant Move, a 1980 bay tovero stallion by Gallant Ghost and out of Ms Move, was RoseAcre Farm-bred all-around performer. Courtesy APHA



On Jan. 1, 1992, "Move" became the second of his sire's get to earn the prestigious APHA Supreme Champion award.

Photo by Rich Reimann