NATIONAL LIPIZZAN EVALUATIONS TO BE HELD AUGUST 18, 19 & 20, 2006
First Joint Evaluations Among LANA, USLR and ALBA
By June Boardman & Sandy Heaberlin

Ultimate Evaluation
On August 18, 19 and 20, 2006, Lipizzan evaluations in the United States are going to reach a a new level and evolve into the ultimate national evaluation – a panel of 3 judges will evaluate each horse. Based on the Austrian 3-member selection panel consisting of the Spanish Riding School director, Chief Rider and studfarm manager, a 3-member panel has been selected to eliminate the premise of a single individual’s opinion and location/farm bias.

In 1986, the first North American Lipizzan evaluation was held in Michigan at an independent location and was hosted by a regional organization – the Midwest Lipizzan Association. Dr. Jaromir Oulehla, then director of the Spanish Riding School and Piber studfarm, judged the show and horses came from all over the country to be evaluated. The form used at that 1986 show encompasses the same criteria on which European Lipizans are evaluated; it is also the same form used in evaluating Lipizzans today.

The Judging Panel
SRS Chief Rider Johann Riegler, Ing. Anton Ulm and Dr. Leopold Erasimus will be the first evaluation panel of its kind to evaluate Lipizzan horses here in the United States. Unlike recent evaluations held around the country, this will be the first national evaluation sponsored by the Lipizzan Federation of America – the umbrella for LANA, USLR and ALBA. The European judging panel selected the dates based on their availability and indicated that because of other commitments, they would be willing to evaluate horses brought to one location. As discussed at the annual meeting, LANA, USLR and ALBA hope to formalize and sponsor future panel evaluations at different locations around the country.

SRS Chief Rider Riegler was the spokesman for the Spanish Riding School during the 2005 USA tour. He is very fluent in English and our members will long remember his lecture at the annual meeting in Columbus as well as his informative narratives at the training sessions held before each performance. Mr. Riegler joined the Spanish Riding School in August 1969 and was appointed Oberbereiter in January 1991. Johann Riegler grew up on a farm in Lower Austria and has been riding since he was 12 years old. Now 52 years old, he is also very involved in riding in his private life, as are his wife and son.

Ing. Anton Ulm is an active rider and horse breeder. He is also the present Chairman of the Federation of Lower Austrian Horse Breeders, President of the Organization of Austrian Horse Breeders (this is the umbrella organization for all horse breeds in Austria with over 11,000 members); Deputy Chairman of the Organization for Warmblood breeders in Austria (there are approximately 2,500 Warmblood breeders in Austria); and President of the Riding and Driving Organization of Lower Austria. Mr. Ulm is also a Major Judge in the Austrian Professional Association for Riding and Driving (young horses) as well as a Judge with the Austrian Horse Breeding Association.

Dr. Leopold Erasimus, is an active rider and horse breeder, as well as a Professor at the University for Agriculture in Horsemaking who did his Doctoral Thesis on Judging, Ranking and analysis of Riding suitability of Lipizzan stallions. In addition to being a Major Judge and Director of the Professional Association for the training and education of Riding and Driving Judges in Austria and breeding judge of the Austrian Horse Breeding Association, Dr. Erasimus is Breeding Advisor of the Austrian Professional Organization for Riding and Driving. He also serves as Director of the (1) Lower Austrian Horse Breeders Association, (2) Warmblood Horse Breeding Organization of Austria and (3) Director of the Central Austrian Organization of Horse Breeders and is Chairman of the Supervisors of the Horse Facility Stadl-PauraGesmbH.
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Phone/Fax: 304-586-1767
E-mail: skyedanser@aol.com

NEAPOLITANO MARCELLA
(Neapolitano Oda x 300 Marcella)

259 N. VIII Graina 33
1958 Piber

Neapolitano Oda
5/15/72—Piber (Canada in utero)

79 Oda
1961 Piber

Neapolitano Marcella
Apr. 18, 1992—Washington

3160 N. XIII-8-10 Alnok
1950 Babolna

300 Marcella
4/9/73 Tempel Farms

73 Materia
1965 Tempel Farms

STUD FEE - $1,000
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The Location

Nestled on 380 acres of beautiful Ohio farmland, the Eden Park Equestrian Center in Sunbury, Ohio, features world-class facilities and hosted the Spanish Riding School after its initial quarantine during its first visit to Ohio in 2005. Because of its size and central location, Eden Park will host this first national three-panel evaluation. To see photographs of this beautiful facility, visit http://www.edenparkequestrian.com

Apprentice Judging Program

Since 1986 Dr. Jaromir Oulehla has traveled around the United States and Europe evaluating the Lipizzan horse. We are thrilled that he has agreed to undertake the initial training of the first Apprentice Judging Program. Participation in the Apprentice Judging Program will be limited to 8 to 10 individuals who it is anticipated can be trained and ultimately recognized as judges in the United States. Like the USDF trainers program, this will be the first of several required classes for prospective judges. The initial class will be limited to 8 to 10 individuals. Interested participants should forward their equine resumes to the address set forth below for consideration. Once accepted into the initial 2-day apprentice judging program, participants will be required complete an application and forward the application and fee of $400. Future Apprentice Judging Panels will be scheduled around the country in conjunction with future panel evaluations. The Apprentice Judging participants will be evaluating the horses at the same time as the three panel judges.

Understanding the Scoring System

Lipizzan breed evaluations have been held in the United States since 1986. The following categories appear on the score sheet with a perfect horse – regardless of sex – stallion, mare or gelding – receiving 100%. The next chart explains what is evaluated as well as a comparison of the scores for a stallion and gelding.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Maximum Points</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Stallion</th>
<th>Gelding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Conformation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) Head/Neck</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Conformation score</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Shoulder/Withers</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>equals total</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Front Legs</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>conformation score</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) Back/Loins</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>divided by 2 with a possible score of 30</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) Hind legs</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f) Frame/Top Line</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>60 /2 = 30</td>
<td>46/2 = 23</td>
<td>46/2 = 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Breed Type (excludes foals and geldings)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) Breed and Type</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Total for type</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Masculinity/Feminity</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>divided by 2 with a possible score of 10</td>
<td>16/2 = 8</td>
<td>0/2 = 0</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>3) Correctness of Gaits</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) Walk in hand</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Total for gaits</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Trot in hand and free</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>with a possible score of 30</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Canter free</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>23 x 1 = 23</td>
<td>23 x 1 = 23</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4) Impulsion and Elasticity</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Total of 4, 5, 6 with a possible score of 30</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5) Temperament/Obedience</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6) Overall Impression</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>23 x 1 = 23</td>
<td>23 x 1 = 23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Points 100%

77/100=77%

69/90=77%

Now, in answer to the question as to why foals and geldings are not scored in Section 2 Breed/Type and Masculinity/Feminity. The first evaluation for foals, as well as geldings, is for educational purposes and to certify the breeding abilities of their sires and dams. Foals and gelding scores are totaled and then divided by 90, rather than 100, to produce
the correct percentage. Geldings scoring is handled the same as foals for the reason that a very nice gelding could receive the same score as a very nice stallion or mare, but is not considered a breeding horse. Take a look at the scoring for a stallion and gelding; you will see that if every score, other than Breed Type, was identical, the horses would score the same percentage when calculated properly.

In European studfarms, horses under the age of three and half are evaluated at several points in their development. Likewise, in the United States evaluations, all evaluation certificates on foals and young horses are marked preliminary. Foals and youngsters two and under should be re-evaluated after age three to obtain their final approval. Sometimes very promising foals do not mature well and visa versa. Preliminary scores received by foals, young horses under the age of two, and geldings are so noted on the evaluation certificates.

**Showing Horses In-Hand and at Liberty**

It is important to turn the horses at liberty in order to properly evaluate the trot and canter. There are few professional handlers in the United States. Not every person owning a horse is sufficiently fit to show it to its best advantage and in most cases, short people do not display a horse to a better advantage than a tall handler. For this reason, it has been established by previous evaluators that the horses be shown in-hand and at liberty to give the horse the most fair judging -- “judge the horse’s trot not the handler’s trot”. With the assistance of several arena helpers, horses can be set free to “strut their stuff” and then reclaimed by its handler.

**Why Evaluate Your Horse**

In the evaluations held around the country from 1986 to the present, nearly every horse has passed. The purpose of evaluation is to eliminate probable genetic faults such as really crooked legs. Of the few horses not passing inspection, one horse was not approved because of a serious pigmentation problem which can lead to serious health issues. Another horse was seriously over-sized (17 hands) and while not approved for Lipizzan breeding, the animal was approved for sport horse improvement.

**When to Stop Evaluating Your Horse and Offspring**

The evaluation process is a continuous process. Once a horse is approved for breeding, does not mean that you should breed indiscriminately. Obviously you breed to the very best you can – to another stallion or mare that will compliment the traits of your own horse. Naturally you will find that your horse crosses particularly well with one body type of horse or another. However, if you are going to be serious about breeding, your newly approved horse must produce well and those offspring must also be approved. It is a constant education and review process.

**Good Marks, Bad Marks**

Horses scoring between 60 and 70 may be bred and their foals evaluated. If those horses produce well, the owner should continue to breed them; if not, the animals should be used as riding or driving horses. Also, as mentioned before, foals and youngsters two and under need to be re-evaluated after age three to receive their final certification. LANA records all marks in their database; however, acceptance into the ALBA records is based on the rule that that a horse receiving a score less than 60, or any single score of 5 or less, should not be bred.

**Evaluation of the Not-So-Classical Lipizzan**

First and foremost, the primary purpose of LANA is to register horses, irregardless of its body type. Some members prefer the baroque, classical type; others prefer the more modern, competition type. Now, according to the judging criteria established thus far, it is the view that the classical, baroque Lipizzan is the epitome of the Lipizzan breed. Therefore, the farther a horse deviates from classical the lower the score will be in the area of section 2 (Breed and Type) which is a total possible of ten points. If the horse deviates from the characteristic of a generally good performance horse in section 1 (Conformation) or section 3 (Correctness of Gaits), obviously the score will also be lowered in those areas. Unless a horse is so unLipizzanlike that it receives a score of 5 in section 2, it will be approved given everything else is of good quality. Consider that a horse received a score of 6 on breed type and a score of 7 on masculinity/feminity, it would still be possible for the horse to receive a total evaluation score of 96.5 if all of the other scores at the maximum number (not likely, but possible).

**Recording the Scores**

When LANA was formed in 1992, a separate Breeders Commission was established in its Rules and Regulations and a place for recording scores was placed in the database. However, the Directors deliberately stepped back from moving
forward with its Breeders Commission due to the formation of the American Lipizzan Breeders Association. Since

National Lipizzan Evaluations (continued)

LANA was the result of the merging of two of the three then existing registries, it was felt that there was no need to further fraction the Lipizzan breed in the United States by establishing another Breed Commission within the Registry. Unification of the Lipizzan breed has always been a goal of LANA, and as long as ALBA follows the same criteria as that which forms the basis of origin of LANA, no other Breeders Commission will be activated within the organization although LANA will maintain the evaluation scores for horses registered within the organization when provided a copy of the evaluation sheet.

As proven in Columbus, Ohio annual meeting, there are far more similarities among the Lipizzan organizations in the United States than differences. This is probably the most ambitious undertaking of the LFA to-date. It will not succeed with out the help and support of each of our members. Horse owners from all over the country are encouraged to bring their horses to Eden Park for Evaluation. Registration forms will be available on the LANA, USLR and ALBA websites.
Dressage great Dietrich von Hopffgarten, 1938-2006 … a fond memory

By Juni Greenough

Dietrich von Hopffgarten was a well-known figure in the world of Dressage. One of his more famous students is Olympic team member Günter Seidel and he was for 25 years my teacher and a friend of mine and my husband, Will. Dietrich loved it when Will would come on outings, lessons or visits over the years because Will is geologist, a runner, mountaineer, and sea kayaker and Dietrich had many interests besides horses and loved discussing sports as well as and most anything else you could come up with. Dietrich kept photos of Albert Einstein and Mother Teresa where he would see them daily and that tells you a lot. I once described him as perhaps the most fun person I had ever known to have a few drinks with, and over the years we did. Dietrich would say “well June Bug you are really Kim’s friend, well my friend too, but I like it that you bring Will along”. One particular evening we drove up to Seattle form our farm south of Centralia and to meet and see Scott Hamilton skate with the Seattle Symphony, it was lovely. After Dietrich, Kim, Will and I went out for cake and talk, a wonderful time and memory. Dietrich worried about me. I had developed some health issues more over the years and Dietrich was always checking that I could eat something he cooked for me, or that my back was ok during riding lessons. He was polite and gracious when I cooked too, although he, I think, was by far the better cook. He used to say I was a terrible frustration to him because one day I would ride very well indeed and the next ride ,horrendous.

Dietrich used to say when I was riding “you are on a Lipizzan Stallion you need to waltz!” Well I did try. I think he really liked my horses over the years. He taught my Lipizzan Stallion Maestoso Africa - 68 all his upper level movements. I think he did this somewhat as a reward for me for surveying my spinal fusion the previous year and returning to riding. Later in 1988 he rode him for me in exhibition at the Champagne Classic horse show. We skip to 1996 and he said of my Lipizzan Fritz, (Neapolitano Distinta II), he really should stay here in stall number 2. I was to say the least pretty flattered that such a great horseman would like my boy so much, or say that to me perhaps just knowing how good it would make me feel.

Dietrich and I had a bad fight back in the 1987, (this I found out from other students at the Memorial was not really unusual) anyway, he told me to go get my horse pack up and go home. I was pretty upset crying the whole nine yards, but I saddled my stallion instead, went to the arena and there was Dietrich like clockwork, right on time to give me the lesson. I guess I could say he gave me some backbone. Many years later while staying with Kim and Dietrich in British Columbia I confessed crying most of the way home after that lesson, he told me that was sad for him to hear, but it made us closer, I think even his getting after someone was a planned means to an end.

Many folks who just knew Dietrich from clinics didn’t know what a sensitive person he was. I tended to try very hard for him, really way too hard, so he would frequently start telling me off color stories as I was riding to crack me up and get me to relax. Dietrich taught me to get along better with my difficult Austrian father and enabled me to have many pleasant conversations with my Dad. For this gift of insight alone, I came to truly appreciate Dietrich as “Uncle” skills. I learned he helped another rider re-establish a relationship with his mother so there you are, the man was a meddling, but in a good way. I really loved the guy and I didn’t know how much till he died.

Will and I had a lovely dinner Dietrich fixed for us about a year and a half ago, when we stopped by on the way home after a drive trip to Banff. It was a lovely visit with many hugs and hand shakes and I will never forget him making his very special German gourmet dinner just for us. Last year he sent me an autographed personalized copy of his book “Reflection on the Life of a Dressage Teacher” many of us wonder if it was an early goodbye.

I went up to Vancouver British Columbia Southlands Riding Club March 12th for his memorial service. The Eulogy was presented with care and sensitivity by his long time student and friend Jeremy Steinberg, with additions and readings from many of the audience members and letters sent by folks unable to come in person. He was remembered as a grumpy but lovable teacher who would teach anyone who wanted to learn working such greats as Stephan Peters and Gunter Seidal one moment then turning around to help someone with rising trot. He was a very private person who shunned the spotlight, only wanting to be known as a teacher. There were likely more that three hundred people there in the sunlight riding hall of Southlands with his boots standing sentinel. I noticed as I went to look for Kim, Dietrich’s wife that there were flowers left by the boots, a very prominent sight.

My own history with Dietrich spans close to 30 years of off again and on again instruction. In all I rode most of my horses with him in lessons Maestoso Africa, Neapolitano Distanta II, and Maestoso Africa’s daughter, Madeline, most recently in my 50’s. Dietrich and I did our most intense work together between 1984 and 1988 with Maestoso Africa-68. For fun and to show folks what a properly behaved stallion was like Dietrich rode him for me in Exhibition as the Champagne Classic Horse Show in 1988 (see photo). Dietrich was a very great teacher, who taught with humor and feeling, and will he will be missed and leaves us all way too soon.
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Photos by Sara Stafford
First Chief Rider Klaus Krzisch

Those of us who were privileged to watch Chief Rider Klaus Krzisch’s solo performance with the recently retired stallion, Siglavy Mantua I, were left with a memorable impression of a true partnership between man and horse. In a recent press release, the management of the Spanish Riding School announced that as of March 1, 2006, Chief Rider Krzisch, 56, will continue his service as First Chief Rider. Riding for the Spanish Riding School for 42 years, an incredibly long period of time, one his principal duties will be to preserve the tradition of classical riding and to transmit the knowledge that has been handed down orally from one rider generation to the next. These teachings go back to classical military riding in Ancient Greece in the 4th century BC. Coordinating the interests of the riding staff and the horses with those of the management will also be part of his responsibilities. For Mr. Krzisch, this appointment means, above all, recognition of his work: “For me, this appointment is a personal acknowledgement – especially among my colleagues.”

Born in Lower Austria, Klaus Krzisch joined the Spanish Riding School as an élève at the age of 15. He discovered his love for horses very early in his life, during a summer job at the horse race track in Freudenau. “My parents got me this summer job so that I would be grateful to go back to school in autumn”, Mr. Krzisch said. Unfortunately, the summer job did not have quite the impact that his parents anticipated. Instead of going back to school, he wanted to ride, and work with animals. On September 19, 1964, he joined the Lipizzaners in the Hofburg in Vienna. Six years later, in 1970, Klaus Krzisch became an Assistant Rider. As you know, in the hierarchy of the tradition of the Spanish Riding School, achieving the rank of Assistant Rider means more years of training and education before the rank of Rider is obtained, which Klaus Krzisch achieved in 1980. Only after many decades as an Assistant Rider and Rider and a great deal of experience in the education of young stallions and their riders, he rose to the rank of Chief Rider in 1990, and is counted among the very best the Spanish Riding School has ever seen.

DNA REPORTS

Until further notice, we have modified the DNA form that was being sent to Lana Mayer to go directly to Tom Hull, the LANA Registrar. So, if you are using the old forms which direct that a copy of your DNA report go to Louisiana, please be sure to send it to the Indiana address at P.O. Box 1133, Anderson, IN 46015.
Piber has a new director: Dr. Max Dobretsberger

Effective April 1, 2006, Dr. Max Dobretsberger follows Ing. Alfred Pischler, who was in charge of the Piber studfarm, until the summer of 2005, as the director of the Federal Stud Piber. Born in Upper Austria, Max Dobretsberger studied veterinary medicine and will be responsible for veterinary concerns and breeding in Piber. Head of the teaching and research estate Kremesberg of the Veterinary University of Vienna, since 1994, he has extensive experience in equine obstetrics obstetrical including birth care, ultrasound examinations and fertility tests.

In addition to his veterinary background, Max Dobretsberger has a passion not only for horses but carriage driving, which will certainly fit well with the Piber driving teams. The new Piber director and his family have successfully participated in numerous carriage driving events. A certified driving instructor for 4-horse carriages, Max’s Noric team captured the European Championship for cold-blooded horses and he is a three times national champion in one- and two-horse carriage driving.

Fortunately his family wholeheartedly supports Max Dobretsberger’s passion for riding and carriage driving. His wife, Dr. Andrea Dobretsberger, also a vet, is a Lower Austria champion in one-horse carriage driving with Lipizzans, and in 2005 she took 4th place in the national championship. Their three kids – two daughters and one son – are also affected by the “riding and driving” bug. While the youngest, Vinzenz (9) just achieved his rider’s passport, the oldest, Charlotte (16) is a successful dressage rider and will compete with the Austrian team at this year’s European Championship. Her younger sister Viktoria (15) rides Three Day Events and holds 10th place in the Austrian youth ranking.

Tempel Lipizzans
2006 Summer Performance Schedule

The 2006 Summer Performance runs every Wednesday (10:30 a.m.) and Sunday (1:00 p.m.) from June 21 through August 30.

The 90-minute performance is set to music and includes mares and foals, the Carriage Tradition, Young Stallions, the Solo, Pas de Trois, the Airs Above the Ground, Long Rein and the Quadrille.

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By John G. Gliege and Erika Sagana Zakriegl!

Alles Walzer, everyone waltz, what a superb thought! Visit the Spanish Riding School in their own Winter Riding Hall in Vienna, Austria, the epitome of activities for Lipizzan fanciers everywhere, and watch the riding and training of the classical horse. Combine these together, plus the ambience of Vienna with its rich food and deserts and great wines and it creates a Dream Week to behold.

Every story has a beginning. This story begins with John thinking about how wonderful it would be to dance to the wonderful music of the Strauss family inside of the Viennese Opera house and the Imperial Hofburg. The idea was conceived in the Fall of 2004, the event occurred in February, 2006. Once conceived it was necessary to determine how to get tickets for the Opera Ball and for the Juristenball (Lawyers Ball) in Vienna. These are two of the biggest balls in Vienna during its ball season. The Opera Ball occurs on a Thursday night, the Lawyers Ball on Saturday Night. It was too late to get tickets for 2005 for either, they were simply sold out. But there was that possibility of 2006.

So preparations began for February 2006, securing tickets for the Balls, securing hotel accommodations, and then also securing tickets for all events occurring at the Spanish Riding School during the same period of time. Obviously there was much luck because in addition to the two balls, it was possible to attend two performances of the Spanish Riding School as well as the inaugural Privatissimus, the exposition of the training of the horse and rider. Add to this daily Morning Training Sessions and a serious Lipizzan devotee has much to do.

A lifetime by both Erika and John has been devoted to the understanding of the breeding and training of Lipizzan horses; this background allows for a wonderful appreciation of all the activities which related to the Lipizzans. But the dancing; truly another question. Erika is well grounded and versed in the intricacies of the human Pas de Deux, but John, well that was another story.

Realizing the necessity of knowing how to dance, John set out to learn so that he could become an acceptable dance partner. A year and a half to learn; no problem one would think. The first few dance instructors he spoke with told him it was impossible to learn how to do a Viennese Waltz of any kind in five years, let alone fourteen months. But then John was fortunate enough to find someone who said no, it was possible, but there was much work to do. So John set off to learn how to dance; before the ball tickets were secured, before a suitable dance partner was found, before hotel reservations were made. Blind faith pushed it through.

Agonizing for month after month to learn how to move smoothly on a dance floor was as difficult as taking a young colt out of the field and teaching him to perform at the Grand Prix level, or at least the Prix St. George level of dressage. But John continued; the initial dancing was like the initial lunging of the horse; learn the basics. Then once mastered, the movements around the dance floor had to be taught, much like the young colt learns the basics of dressage.

During this time of training of the dancer, the tickets were finally secured for the Opera Ball and the Lawyers Ball as well as the Spanish Riding School performances.

There were fits and starts in the dancing, there were a few test performances, and after a year and a few months John was as ready as he could be to go to Vienna and Dance.

Before you take your young horse into the show ring for its first Dressage test there are issues of proper attire for both horse and rider. Likewise for these fancy Viennese Balls there are issues of proper attire. The Opera Ball invitation says “White Tie and Tails.” The Lawyers ball says “Black Tie.” So clothing had to be garnered and there were numerous fittings, just like saddle fittings, to determine not only if the clothing would fit, but could you dance in it.

But wait, with whom was he to dance? Another hurdle to overcome. From the beginning the concept was “Search for Cinderella.” Being middle aged single American man he quickly learned that there were few people willing to engage in the effort or who had the time to do such a thing. Good fortune prevailed and John was reacquainted with Erika at the International Lipizzan Federation meeting held in Piber in June of 2005. John and Erika had previously met at other International Lipizzan Federation meetings, but in Piber in June they had a bit of a discussion about ballroom dancing and engaging in Lipizzan activities. An agreement was reached, they would engage in the Pas de deux for the Opera Ball and the Lawyers Ball in Vienna in February 2006. They also agreed to attend as many Lipizzan activities as would be possible during that week, Erika named it the Dream Week.

So now ball tickets were in hand and Cinderella found. But wait, what about the Spanish Riding School events? When John had first inquired there were no performances scheduled during the week of the balls, but that changed. When the Spanish Riding School created its calendar for February 2006 there were performances during the weeks of the Balls, so tickets for these could be had as well.

So, with tickets in hand, trepidation in his soul John sets out for Austria to begin the Dream Week with Erika. Realizing that he could equally enjoy the horse activities was small comfort compared with the trepidation of knowing that suddenly he was going from training level dance to at least Prix St. George or beyond. While we would not start a horse with his first show at such an advanced level, there was no choice here; the Balls were at that level and it was time to go.

About twenty hours after leaving home in Flagstaff, Arizona John with his luggage arrives in Vienna, Austria. After clearing Austrian Customs, which is virtually non-existent, John finds his ride to Vienna. His choice of Hotels is one of the old famous Hotels adjacent to the Opera house and just down the street from the Spanish Riding School’s Winter Riding Hall. Because it was still early in the morning his room was not ready so John took off to the Spanish Riding School to pick up his tickets for the forthcoming events and to renew his acquaintanceship with the riders, the stall master and the saddle maker for the Spanish Riding School. He was escorted into the famed Winter Riding Hall and he quietly sat and observed the Morning Training. It is a scene like no other, Riders in their brown coats and bicorn hats, white horses glistening in the sunlight streaming through the windows into the Winter Riding Hall. A hushed silence the same as sitting in a great cathedral. People only whisper to each other, respecting the training of horse and rider which is occurring in the Hall. Each day’s Morning Training is a bit different, different horses or different activities, all done pursuant to a schedule previously prepared. The Morning Training is open to the public from 10 AM until Noon, but in fact the training starts each morning before sunrise in the winter, lasting until noon. Only a portion is open to the public.
Following the Morning Training and a brief meeting with the Saddle Maker, Desmond O’Brien, a former rider who now is responsible for all the tack of the Spanish Riding School, John steals away to catch up on some sleep. Remember, it is now Friday, he left home on Thursday morning, but with the time change he arrived in Vienna on Friday morning. After a brief siesta, it is time to wait for Erika to appear and meet him in a lovely local known as the Sacher Eck. She arrives and the Dream Week begins. First on Saturday it is a visit to the Morning Training. Then on Sunday the first performance of the Spanish Riding School.

John arrives early and Erika arrives just on time and they sit and enjoy the performance from the third floor perspective, looking down on the horses and riders and clearly seeing the patterns of the various movements, the Pas de deux and the Grand Quadrille.

Following the performance John and Erika stop at an infamous Viennese Würstelstand for some fast food and then take off for southern Burgenland, a province of Austria where Erika’s horses are located. Sunday is just a day for the initial introduction to the horses. On Monday Morning, John helps Erika with her barn chores so that they will have time to get away and meet with other friends and engage in more activities. All of Erika’s horses are purebred Lipizzans, registered with the Austrian Association. The horses originated in Austria, Hungary, Croatia, and Romania. As such there is a broad gene base. After turning out most of the horses for the day John and Erika left for the day. In the evening Erika left John at the train station in Graz so he could catch a train back to Vienna, and she went back home to feed her beloved horses.

Still wondering about the dancing? So was John at this point. But that comes in a few days. On Tuesday following a brief meeting with the current director of the Spanish Riding School John viewed the Morning Training session. On Wednesday, John met for breakfast with Dr. Werner Pohl, the former director of the Spanish Riding School. Then later John and Erika were supposed to go the dress rehearsal for the opening ceremonies of the Opera Ball, but sadly it was already sold out. So, they chose to just go eat diner, and sample some of that delicious Viennese cooking.

Thursday morning, the date of the great Vienna Opera Ball started with much to do. First in the morning John and Erika met Dr. Jaromir Oulehla and his wife, Hana Oulehla at the Morning Training. This was the first time since his retirement from the Spanish Riding School that Dr. Oulehla was present in the riding hall. The riders honored him and there was the renewal of many old friendships. Three days, three directors, it can give a person a sense of how the Spanish Riding School is progressing.

Thursday afternoon was left for ball preparation. Erika left to get ready and the anxiety of this, the second Pas de deux began. First of all, dressing in formal wear is a task for any man, generally it should not be done alone. It requires very finessing fingers to install the studs in the shirt, put on the tie and in general make one’s self look presentable. Nevertheless, John succeeded. At the appointed hour Erika arrived at the Hotel to meet him. She was driving her car which was more like a Jeep than a conventional car, so one can only imagine the look on the doorman’s face when this lovely lady dressed for the Opera Ball got out of this off road vehicle.

First a buffet diner at the hotel, then about 9 PM a stroll to the Vienna Opera House for the Ball. To say that it was extravagant would be an understatement. All of the chairs and seats had been removed, as well as the stage leaving the entire floor available for dancing. In addition to the main floor there were several other small dance forums also available in the building. A tremendous number of people, but never a crush of people. Even one of the honored guests, Carmen Electra, mingled with many of the people at the ball. The music was constant. When the orchestra which played mostly Viennese Waltzes, Gallops and Polka’s stopped, a Jazz Band started, playing swing, Rumbas and slower waltzes. One just had to be careful not to run into others on the dance floor since it was always crowded. Dancing in this atmosphere, under these conditions, creates a lifetime impression. Even the debutants at this ball were dancing until the wee hours of the morning. So there was never a reason to stop. While John and Erika had a table at which they could sit, they only occupied it for a few minutes during the night. The rest of the evening they performed their Pas de deux.

Fantastic, wonderful, a dream come true; there are no real words to express the feelings and the emotions which rise to the surface when one is dancing in the Opera House in Vienna. John and Erika walked around, danced, walked some more and suddenly it was 4AM; where had the night gone? It is said that when you are having a great time, the time flies past quickly; that was truly the case. So, after dancing and enjoying the evening, it closed with a late night meal, traditional Goulash soup, which ended just about as the sun began to rise. Needless to say, on Friday Morning John and Erika missed the Morning Training. The rest of the day went by quietly and quickly.

But on Saturday, again the horse activity. It was the inaugural performance in Vienna of the Privatissimum, the demonstration of how the horse and rider are trained. For those people who attended the clinics prior to the performance of the Spanish Riding School in the United States this program was very similar. What was most interesting was that for the benefit of all the guests present the program was conducted in the English language.

So Saturday Night is the Lawyers Ball. John and Erika met some friends of Erika’s at this ball and the four of them spent a lovely evening together, first watching the opening ceremonies, and then dancing, dining and of course enjoying fine Austrian Wine. Again in the main ballroom one could dance the appropriate Viennese Waltzes, but in the other ballrooms one could dance virtually any typical ballroom dance. Whirling, twirling, moving to the various rhythms, endless dancing a Pas de deux without beginning or end.

One surprise of this evening occurred with the band started playing an American Cowboy Two Step. Feeling quite at home John proceeded to dance this with first with Erika’s friend, and later with Erika. So now it can be said that in the Imperial Palace of Vienna John and his partners danced an Arizona Two-Step, and the walls did not crumble.

By now the anxiety was gone, the dancing was great fun and the parties relished a great evening inside while it was snowy and cold outside. About 4AM once again it was time to sleep; another evening quickly gone by. But the Dream Week was not over yet. Bright and early on Sunday Morning was another performance of the Spanish Riding School. This time John and Erika were sitting in the Royal Box, and the excitement of the horses made them both overcome their sleepiness and enjoy another spectacular performance. Suddenly it was over, as the horses left the arena the time had come, the Dream Week ended.

But this turned out to be only the beginning. Already plans are being made for next year’s balls and for enjoying more performances of the Spanish Riding School. This summer there are the meetings of the International Lipizzan Union and the International Lipizzan Federation. There are many clinics in the United States and the forthcoming Lipizzan Evaluations in Ohio. It has only just begun, the Pas de deux will continue with both the Horses and the Dancers. Hopefully more and more Dancers will join and experience this Dream as well.

* Ing. Erika Sagana Zukrigl is a private Lipizzan Horse Breeder in Austria. Her stud, “Donau Lipizzaner” [Danube Lipizzans] founded in the mid 80’s, is presently the home of twenty excellent Lipizzan horses. She is a member of the Verband der Lipizzanerzüchter in Oesterreich, the Austrian Private Breeders Association and has been actively involved in it.

John G. Gliege has been involved with Lipizzan Horses in the United States since the early 1980’s. Presently he resides in Flagstaff, Arizona with three magnificent Lipizzans. He also has been involved in the International Lipizzan Federation since its founding and is a Board Member of the Lipizzan Association of North America.
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The Favory line is one of two lines which originated at the Imperial Stud at Kladrub in Bohemia. The Kladrub stud farm was established in 1578, two years earlier than Lipizza. Born in 1779, the original Favory was a dun in color, and he produced excellent offspring which found their way to several noble European stables. In 1893, Favory XI was brought from Hungary to Lipizza for breeding.

**Favory (senior)**
1779, dun, Kladruber (Spanish descent)

- **Favory Delphina**
  1792, Black

- **Favory Quadrata**
  1800, Gray, Lipizza

- **Favory Amantina**
  1814, Brown, Lipizza

- **Favory Moscovita II**
  1822, Brown, Lipizza

- **Favory Ratisbona II**
  1828, Gray, Lipizza

- **Favory Montedora**
  1841, Brown, Lipizza

- **Favory Capriola**
  1856, Gray, Lipizza

- **Favory Aversa**
  1864, Gray, Lipizza

- **Favory Sessana**
  1884, Gray, Lipizza

- **Favory Mahonia**
  1887, Gray, Lipizza

It should be noted that by 1850, the Favory lines could be found beyond Lipizza – Favory stallions were by then standing at Babolna, Mezohegyes, Fagaras Imperial studfarms and even Piber, which then not a major Imperial breeding facility.

*The description of the Favory line comes from the Lipizzan International Federation. The lineage and line drawing is from Der Lipizzaner by Hinz Nurnberg, 1993.*
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EVENTS

April 29, 2006 - Blue Brook Farm, Oberlin, OH - Open House/Sport Horse Clinic. Contact Brooke Renaud at 330-388-8833

June 23-25, 2006 - The International Lipizzan Union meeting in the Czech Republic. For more details contact John G. Gliege at jgliege@earthlink.net.

June 30- July 2, 2006. - International Lipizzan Federation, Djakovo, Croatia. For more details contact John G. Gliege at jgliege@earthlink.net.

June 24-26, 2006 - LFA sponsored Lipizzan class at Dressage at Heavenly Waters, Bel Air, MD. Show is recognized by both USEF and USDF. Contact Fran Crocco, Secretary, 908-253-9138; fcrocco@msn.com; http://www.bfkequestrian.com

July 12-16, 2006 - 5-day clinic with SRS Rider Rudolf Rostek sponsored by The All Dressage Association of Michigan at Jubilee Farm in Nunica, Michigan. Auditors welcome, and there may be a few riding slots still available. More information and the auditor registration form can be found at www.alldressageassoc.org or contact Jorie Sligh at joriejay@comcast.net

July 15-17, 2006 - 3-day clinic and lecture with SRS Rider Harold Bauer (one of the pas de deux riders and one of the capriole horses). Sponsored by the Maryland Dressage Association. Any interest in sponsoring or participating/auditing Melanie Adams at Madams8550@aol.com

July 19-23, 2006 - 5 day clinic with SRS Rider Harald Bauer at Proud Meadows Farm in Waxahachie, TX (near Dallas). Sponsored by Southwest Lipizzan Association. $150 per 45-minute private lesson; $100 per rider for group lesson (up to 3 riders). Auditing is $15 per day. Discounts available for SWLA members and discount for all 5 days. Contact Judith Tarr at capriole@gmail.com for information.

July 28-30, 2006. 3-day clinic with SRS Rider Rudolph Rostek sponsored by the Virginia Dressage Association at the Madeira School, McLean, VA. Rider Applications (First Level & above) accepted until May 15, 2006. Selection committee will choose riders from applications received. Riders at all levels will be represented. Rider fee for VADA/Nova member is $550/weekend (3 lessons); non-member $600/weekend (3 lessons). Fee includes stable. Auditors encouraged & invited to attend July 29 & 30, 2006. VADA/Nova member: In advance $25/day, $40/weekend-at the door $30/day, $50 weekend. Non-member: In advance $30/day, $50 weekend-at the door $35/day, $60 weekend For application forms, directions and clinic details, visit: www.vadanova.org or contact Jessie Ginsburg, sardburg@aol.com, 202-514-5673

August 1-5, 2006 - SRS Senior rider Andreas Hausberger will be returning for his 8th Annual dressage clinic August 1-5th, 2006 at Across The Diagonal Farm in Carmel, Ca. Auditor/ rider info will be posted soon at www.LipizzansAndDressage.com or contact Jennifer Roth at JROTH@redshift.com.

August 18-20, 2006 - SRS Chief Rider Johann Riegler, Ing. Anton Ulm and Dr. Leopold Erasimiu form the evaluation panel for the first National Joint Lipizzan Evaluation, to be held in Sunbury, Ohio. Contact sheaberlin@yahoo.com

August 18-20, 2006 - Retired Director Jaromir Oulehla will be the instructor the the initial United States Apprentice Judging Program which will be held in conjunction with the first National Joint Lipizzan Evaluation, to be held in Sunbury, Ohio. Contact sheaberlin@yahoo.com

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