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Roundup

Left: "Good Horses and Wide Open Spaces" by Tim Cox
Below: Kevin Meyer and 'Marilyn'



Douglas – "I was just standing in the right place at the right time," says cowboy Kevin Meyer who trains horses on the Wagonhound Ranch near Douglas. Meyer also credits the horse he was riding.

In the past year alone Meyer and Miss Shiner Dear (Marilyn), a six-year-old palomino mare by Shining Spark and out of a dam named Katie Starlight, have graced the cover of *Western Horseman* and been the feature of a Tim Cox painting shown on the cover of this edition and above. The painting, shown in the Prix de West art show mid-June 2007, is called "Good Horses and Wide Open Spaces." The painting's namesake is a poem written by Meyer and shown on page three of this edition.

"It's kind of embarrassing," says Meyer of all the attention. "There's a lot of good cowboys out there a lot more deserving." Raised in the mountains featured in the painting, Meyer has a lifelong passion for the work he does and fine horses. Humble about the recent attention, he laughs, "I think I've about used up my 15 minutes of fame."

Both *Western Horseman* and artist Tim Cox visited the Wagonhound Ranch to take photographs. "Tim has been to the ranch several times," says Meyer. "The photo for that painting was taken in 2005." Meyer is hopeful the painting will win the Prix de West. "Tim has won it once before," says Meyer, noting that the winning artwork is bought by the American Cowboy Hall of Fame and added to its collection. "I'd like to be able to tell people that I'm in the American Cowboy Hall of Fame," jokes Meyer. "It's really an honor to have a guy like Tim Cox do a painting of you."

Meyer and fellow ranch cowboy Matt Kelly start the ranch's two-year-old colts and represent the Wagonhound at various shows and events across the region. "It's like working at Disneyland," says Kevin noting the world-class facilities they work in and the opportunity to ride what he says are some of the best-bred stock horses in the nation.

Cowboy work is second nature for Meyer, but his work in the show ring is a new opportunity presented by his current job. "I was in the first horse show I ever saw," laughs Meyer. He's since added several trophies to the ranch's displays, some of which he and Marilyn earned. Seeing the palomino mare, one

can't help but wonder if her namesake is another bombshell blonde that made her claim to fame in the 1950s.

Marilyn won the Cowboy State Stock Horse Association Super Horse award in 2005, was 6th in the National Western Stock Show's Ranch Horse Competition in 2006 and also placed in the reined cowhorse competition at that same event. Several other honors are on the list.

Meyer says since Marilyn appeared on the cover of *Western Horseman* there have been several inquiries from interested buyers. "She belongs to the owner's wife," says Meyer of ranch owner Art Nicholas. "I don't think she's for sale." A colt out of the mare and a half brother, also palomino, are among the other horses Meyer has been riding.

When Meyer talks about his long-term goals, stardom isn't mentioned. "I want to be a better trainer," he says. "I'd really like to get better at showing. We watch videos, go to clinics, we're pretty much the biggest thieves there are in the world when it comes to training methods. If we see somebody else doing something and we like it, we try it."

One big advantage, says Kevin, are the wide open spaces on the ranch he and his wife Andi and their three-year-old daughter Ella call home. He says several top trainers who've visited the ranch have pointed out their real advantage in being able to take the horses out of the arena and use them. "We find the more we ride them outside the arena, the better they do when we show them," says Kevin. "I'm one of very few guys in the country that is packing calves in across the saddle of my show horses."

—WLR



**DOUGLAS COWBOY FEATURED
IN TIM COX PAINTING**

By Jennifer Womack, WLR Managing Editor