

## WHAT DOES A STUNT WOMAN & CIRCUIT DIRECTOR HAVE IN COMMON?

# MARGUERITE HAPPY

**BHH was thrilled to get to know more about Marguerite Happy...her big win in Salinas.....working with “Pardner” ....and so much more.....**

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July 18, 19, 20 and 21st was the 103rd California Rodeo held in Salinas, CA. This event is the largest Pro Rodeo held in California and one of the top 15 in the nation. For me, it was a hometown rodeo in the fact that I was raised and grew up in Salinas. My family still resides in Salinas, and I have many friends and family that live there. It will also count as one of my CA Circuit Rodeo's and what I won there will guarantee me qualifying to my Circuit Finals.

Salinas is a very exciting place to run--you are on the track and there are events going on in the arena simultaneously. It helps Pardner to have Clifford walk me up to the start and another horse on the other side--this helps keep him calmer and straight. You need to get a good angle on the first barrel to set you up for the second, because there is not much room before you turn the second. It is a ways to the third barrel and when you turn it and run home, there is no fence to stop you. This is so cool because you don't have to come to a sudden halt, like at most of our California Rodeos.

My goal at Salinas is always to place in the go rounds and NOT hit any barrels, so I have the chance to make it back to the short go round. On my first run in slack Pardner felt like he was going to go on the wrong side of the second barrel and I had to help him move over. There is not much time for corrections on this pattern and it was a sloppy run. We were out of position and we nearly hit the second. I was grateful that the first run did not fall apart. The second go was during the perf and he felt good--he loves a crowd! This actually felt like my fastest run, but was not. The third go went smooth and I was thrilled to make it back to the short go in fourth place on three runs. My short go round run, I could have completed the third barrel better--he popped out because my timing was off. Always pilot error—I fault myself--Pardner is a rock star in my books!



Marguerite Happy

Pardner is so consistent he does well on averages. My favorite run was the short go round run, because I was just so excited to have qualified back to the short go round on Sunday. Pardner fired and clocked and I was so thrilled to have done that well at Salinas. I am so thankful to Wawona Frozen Foods for sponsoring the barrel race at Salinas.

**The team pocketed a total of \$7,535**

### **About “Pardner” .....**

My horse's name is Ima Top Pardner and we call him Pardner. I have been running Pardner since his futurity year. We entered some Arizona futurities, many jackpots and then rodeos. I won a little over \$7,500.00 on him at Salinas and I picked up some “side pot” money as well. We hold a sidepot during Salinas, which is a fundraiser for our CA Circuit and also fun for the contestants, giving them another opportunity to pick up a few checks.

Continue.....

Marguerie Happy continued.....

Pardner is a blood bay gelding with two hind socks, with a huge overbite. He looks kind of pitiful right now, because he lost most of his tail at Red Bluff in 2012 from allergies. We found him to be allergic to two different flies. We raised Pardner and he is out of a mare we owned called Ima Broadway Babe and she was out of another mare we owned, Ima Breezin Baby. My sister-in-law Danny Connelly Motes thought we should breed Pardner's grandma to Broadway Doc and we got Pardner's mom. On Pardner's top side is Fresno's Ima Master, one of Rick Machado's studs. Fresno's Ima Master's sire is from the Ward Ranch cow horse program. 2x Doc Bar, Poco Bueno, Filinic and Sugar Vandy all on his papers and Wimpy P-1, Leo, and Poco Tivio just one generation off--his genetic makeup is fantastic. However I have to give the mare much of the credit for Pardner's disposition, kindness, big soft eye and his athleticism.

My husband Clifford started him, until he was sent off to trainer Derek Tartalia, while we were on location; then we sent him to Katie Jones Pascoe of Morro Bay who did an exceptional job patterning him.

Pardner was well started and was quite broke before we showed him the barrel pattern. There were times in the beginning when I would wonder if I was going to have to get off him and push him and then other times he will leap in the air and turn a full circle, totally on the muscle. His natural turning style can be stiff, so I work on keeping him coiled up and underneath himself. He is a once in a lifetime horse as was his mother and grandmother. He is a pleasure to ride and be around and he watches everything going on around him. Before I run, it is as if he watches every competitor before me. He is always ready to do his job and I know he enjoys running barrels. He has been headed and heeled on and he is amazing at everything he does, including pole bending. His issues include allergies--Alamo Pintado advised me to call Jean Green in Santa Barbara to test Pardner. She was fantastic and I think he is feeling much better now that we are desensitizing him.

He has a few quirks and one of them is that at feeding time he will stand there and kick at the corral fence, warning the other horses to "back off". He also lets us know that he should be fed first! In the trailer, we have to hobble him with some Australian hobbles that JD and Kelly Yates hooked us up with. With the hobbles on, he is an angel and with them off, he is an impatient nightmare. He will still lay down with us!

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**Q: What is your daily exercise and training program? What do you do to keep your horse fresh and ready to run when hauling & stalling?**

*I try to ride or pony my good horse nearly every day, working on conditioning and air. I work drills and the pattern, working those muscles that my horse will need when competing. I also change it up and go on a long ride outside of the arena or rope on my good horse. I also try to work out to stay fit. To keep Pardner fresh, we pony him and will run some steers on him to free him up. We try to make sure he is in a comfortable stall if possible and we always allow him to roll.*

**Q: Any therapies you use? Routines? Massage, chiropractic adjustment, ice, magnets, etc.?**

*I am so thankful if AJ Keevie is available to work on Pardner--he loves AJ and looks forward to seeing him. Kendra Cohn has also done some positive chiropractic work on him as well. We use Game Ready, Ice Vibe Boots, Back on Track, equi-massager, fly sheets, soft ride boots, stretching and Breath Easy. My routine is prayer prior to my run!*

**Q: What is your game plan, before your first run? Before your second run?**

*My Game Plan is to look at the arena conditions prior to running. The warm up area, the set up, my entry, the ground conditions and any unforeseen problems we may encounter. I sometimes get Pardner into the arena and if I can't, I try to walk the pattern. I throw rocks out if necessary which is habit from doing stunt work--clearing my path where I may hit the ground! (more on that later)*

**Q: Advice..... on what you feel it takes to get to the winners circle?**

*I believe it takes an equine partner that you believe in and can work together as a team. This type of a horse may be the "once in a lifetime" horse that you are blessed to have in your pen. It takes confidence, no fear and everything going your way.*

**Q: Advice..... for novice riders getting started with dreams of becoming a top-notch barrel racer?**

*My advice would be for them to find someone who is willing to mentor them and to get to some of the professional girls clinics. I would explain how important their horse is, as he will make or break them. They can also take advantage at rodeos and barrel races and watch the pros time only their horse, warm their horse up and run their horse.*

*Surround yourself with positive people and stay away from "excuses" and negative thoughts. Remain humble as you never know what tomorrow will hold for you.*

*~Can you give us one barrel racing tip~*

*"Be consistent with what you do. Perfect practice makes for near perfect runs."*

**Q: Favorite Saddle? Pad? Leg Gear? Shoes?**

*My favorite saddle is my Larry Coats, although I ride a Dynamite and Shiloh as well. Each fits different horses that I ride. I just received a Buck Haney Saddle that will be great to ride colts in, barrel race and rope out of and seems to fit everyone. I have a Team Equine Pad, Best Ever Pads and Professional Choice pads that I use so my horse's back stays feeling good. I use Professional Choice bell boots, splint and skid boots because they fit all of my horses the best! Jay Hooker or Johnny Johnson, my shoers, set Pardner up and I trust everything they do with him.*

**Q: Bit you run in, warm up bit? If you could only own 3 bits, which ones would you choose?**

*I run my good horse and his half sister in a Dave Elliott/Myllymaki bit. They love this bridle! If I could only have 3 bridles (which will never happen)...I would keep my Dave Elliott, a snaffle with a tom thumb shank probably with a lifesaver mouthpiece and my Gordon Hayes gag with chain mouth piece banana bit.*

**Q: Supplements, grain, hay type used?**

*I feed alfalfa grass mix and a lot of either bermuda or timothy grass hay. I water hay down in the morning for pm, and pm for am feeding. If I am conditioning my horse, I feed whole or crimped oats, silver lining, Equerry's Plus, garlic, slippery elm bark, Lubrisyn, Lixotonic, flaxseed oil and mix with aloe vera juice. I will feed platinum as well.*

**Q: Your short-term goals?**

*Run at the Northwestern Rodeos, including Pendleton this year. **Long-term goals?** Qualify for my Circuit Finals and some day I may be the oldest NFR Qualifier! Continue working with Rodeo Committees improving conditions at Pro Rodeos. Continue obtaining sponsors for our WPRA CA Circuit Finals, ensuring that they are two of the best Circuit Finals in the Nation. California holds two--Circuit Finals Top 12 Rodeo and Divisional Finals top 12 Divisional, top 12 Permit and top 12 Juniors.*

**Special thank you to family and friends....**

*To my parents for introducing me to rodeo! My husband, for being so supportive in my life. Clifford has been instrumental to my successful stunt career and with the successful horses we have owned. My boys Sean and Ryan for all they do to help me keep my horses ridden. To Katie Jones for doing such a great job with Pardner. All of the clinicians I have learned from: Sammy Thurman Brackenbury, Jodi Branco, Wanda Bush, Jerri Mann, Marilyn Camarillo, Tedda Hudson, and Brenda and Lynne Mays. Wilford Brimley for bringing Pardner's grandmother into our lives. The Gillott Family for affording me so many opportunities growing up and taking me in like I was one of their own.*

**Sponsors?** *I am so thankful for Monty Crist at Professional Choice who has sponsored me for the past two years. Equerry's Plus for their support of product. I would also like to recognize our national sponsors who support the WPRA and the California Circuit Sponsors that have stepped up to the plate since I became the CA Circuit Director. You can find a list of them on our official WPRA CA Circuit Page; just scroll to the bottom of the page and please support them! Sea Mist Farms, RFD Vineyard and Valley Spine Center for their generous pledges to our Circuit. Please take the time to check it out.*

*"I have been so blessed in my life--each day as I grow older  
I try not to take anything for granted.  
God has been so good to me, I count my blessings daily."*





## More About Marguerite Happy



Marguerite & Clifford



Marguerite & Jim Martin (Dad)

Marguerite was raised in Salinas by Jim and Sally Martins with one brother Kearney Martins. Marguerite grew up looking forward to the California Rodeo each year. Marguerite married Clifford Happy in 1977 and moved to Southern California, where they currently reside. They have two sons Sean and Ryan, and a daughter-in-law Erica; who they are very proud of.

I met my husband at Hartnell Junior College while taking the Rodeo Class they offered. John Larrick the Rodeo Coach introduced us. Clifford had finished working on the Alaskan Pipe Line and went back to Hartnell to finish his education. My husband enjoys raising colts, riding, roping, skiing, hunting and hauling me around! He is retired due to some health issues and gives thanks each day he is able to get out of bed!

My husband influenced me the most (getting started riding/competing). He was raised in a Rodeo Family who loved horses and livestock. He has pushed me to be the best that I can be and to accomplish things I never believed possible. We never quit learning.

I have two wonderful boys; Sean who is 30 and Ryan who is 28 and a wonderful daughter-in-law Erica. We are looking forward to grandkids when the kids decide to have them! My boys are very busy all of the time. Sean loves to surf and travels internationally to find the right waves and experience new traditions. He is currently in Nicaragua on a surf trip with friends. Ryan enjoys rock climbing and bike riding. He also competed riding motocross for years. Both of them enjoy hunting and fishing as well. They stay busy working in the picture business doing stunt work.

Marguerite's stunt career began while working as a "background extra." During an intense fight scene in the film "1941" she was converted by Terry Leonard from working as an extra to stunt woman, becoming a member of The Screen Actors Guild. Her in-laws were well known and deeply respected in the picture business and this opened doors for her. Semi-retired after 36 years, she will continue to work as long as she is physically able to. Credits include: "Dukes of Hazard", "Chips", "Thelma and Louise", "Men in Black", "Mask of Zorro", "Runaway Bride", "Charlies Angels", "Pure Country", "Rodeo Girl", "Triumphs of a Man Called Horse III", "Dr. Quinn: Medicine Woman" and "Bad Girls". She was honored when inducted into the "Hollywood Stuntmen's Hall of Fame" in 2011.

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A proud Gold Card member of The Women's Professional Rodeo Association, Marguerite runs barrels and currently serves as the WPRO California Circuit Director. She enjoys working with the numerous Rodeo Committee Contacts and sponsors. Her goals include building strong relationships with the PRCA, rodeo committees and sponsors, working in sync toward the well being of rodeo!

Outside of barrel racing, I enjoy snow skiing, spending time with my family and friends, going to our ranch, hunting, fishing, working out and helping others. I also have greatly enjoyed teaching alongside my daughter-in-law, religious education to 8-10 year olds at our church.

Most recently she has been delighted to offer lessons to numerous students (including a blind young man); working hand-in-hand with her husband, passing on all that she has learned throughout the years, embracing past knowledge that was ingrained by numerous mentors.

**~Growing up.....** My mom and dad both grew up with horses. My dad worked nearly every event at one time or another. My mom ran for California Rodeo Hostess as a young woman and also team roped a bit. My parents started me riding and my Aunt and Uncle, Marguerite and Marvin Roberts helped me a great deal.

My first two horses growing up that I remember were my Dad's and brother's rope horses--BlueTwist and Cluebay. Both bay geldings were very patient with me! My first great rope horse we bought from Kim Burke after I used him as a head horse filming "Rodeo Girl". Girraff was his name and he made it so easy to head on.

My first great barrel horse was Pardner's grandma, Ima Breezin Baby. My husband Clifford went to a horse sale in Pomona, with our friend Wilford Brimley--they came back in Wilford's El Camino and one-horse trailer with this tall, gangly, beautiful 2-year filly who was started by Tink Elordi. Clifford and I had quite a heated discussion, because he did not talk to me first regarding the purchase of this horse, and that was a lot of money for a young married couple to spend. Wilford had told Clifford that if I didn't want the filly, he would buy her for his breeding program, so Clifford was forgiven. I wished we had a barn full of mares like that one! Ima Breezin Baby launched my pro career. I don't think we really knew what we had back then. We realized she was special, but she was a one-of-a-kind mare. Our career in the picture business, then our boys kept us from entering many rodeos. We had different priorities when raising our family and working full-time.

Some of her most cherished memories include raising her sons, roping with her father at the California Rodeo, and competing in the Downhill Cowboy Race in Steamboat Springs, Co during the Denver Rodeo. She has also enjoyed her title as The Miss California Rodeo Master of Ceremonies/Emcee for the past three years.

Clifford deserves recognition for contributing to her success. Supplying her with the confidence to take on precarious jobs throughout her career, she feels blessed to have a husband and family that have been so supportive of her ventures.

## *Marguerite's Stunt Career*



Dr Quinn



*Marguerite*