

# Miles Family Finds Their Forever Home



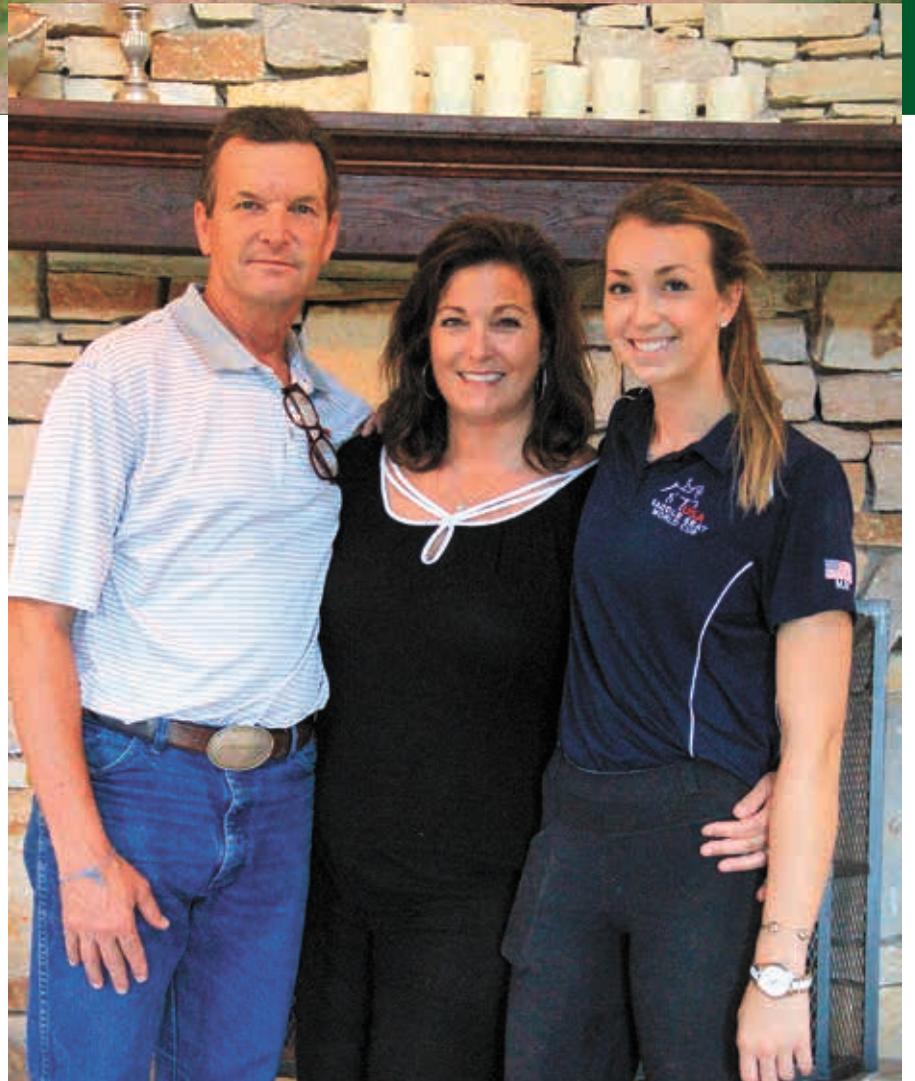
*A beautiful farm and a new training barn are home to many champions for the Miles family and their Milestone Stables.*

by Bob Funkhouser

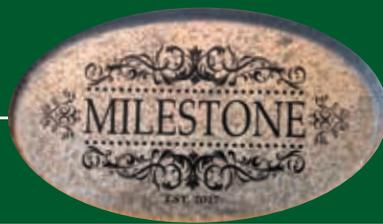
Most all of us have done it. You drive by a property over and over thinking you'd love to be there one day. For Todd and Lesley Miles this thought became a reality with their purchase of 64 acres in White House, Tennessee, now the forever home of Milestone Stables.

"I had seen this place from the interstate many times and said to myself, 'I would like to own that farm one day,'" said Todd. "We were at Blue Ridge last year and started talking about finding a place and decided that since Macey was at school and Tyler was out on his own, this would be the time to make a move. I went back to the hotel that night and Googled horse farms in the Nashville area and by golly this one came up and it wasn't a horse farm at that time.

"I called about it and we stopped by to look at it on the way home. Long story short, we went back and forth but didn't think we could afford it. A friend of ours encouraged me to not give up if this was truly the place we wanted. I eventually called the realtor back and said, 'Hey, can you give me



*Todd, Lesley and Macey Miles have created a show place in White House, Tennessee, hoping to bring the American Saddlebred back to the area.*



*This gateway leads you from the barn to the back of the house where a magnificent pool and entertaining area await.*

the phone number for the owner, I really need to talk to him.' She said, that really wasn't the procedure and stuff and I told her I wasn't trying to knock her out of a commission or anything but I needed to talk to him. She finally gave it to me and I called the guy. We had a few conversations and he had a couple of higher offers on the table but I explained what we wanted to do with the farm and it wasn't long before I had a call from the realtor and she said, "I can't believe it, but he's going to take your offer."

Todd said when he and Lesley started talking about leaving their longtime DeLovely Farm home in Rockport, Indiana, they asked their customers what type of location they would prefer them to be in and most of them responded with, "some place easier to get to and some place where we can do other things when we aren't riding."

"We've always loved this area and thought it would be a great place to grow our business," said Todd. "There used to be a lot of Saddlebred activity in this area and we want to bring it back."

So, they had a business going in Indiana and a beautiful new farm in Tennessee with a shell for a barn, leaving much work to be done. Stalls, tack rooms, feed rooms, offices, arena, they all had to be added. With lots of help from his dad Jerry, and barn building expert Byron Day, Todd set forth to build his ideal facility, a facility that makes him burst with pride today.

From feeders/hay racks that are low for how horses are meant to eat, to the window bars that lower for easy cleaning to the water system, it was all done with great consideration and care. Todd explained that he had taken ideas from barns he

had visited and from things he knew could be better from the barn he worked in for years.

One of those changes was not having a hole from which to grain from the outside of the stall.

"I didn't include an opening because I wanted the person who is feeding to go into the stall so they can check on each horse," said Miles. "If you're feeding from the outside you might not see that a horse's leg is blown up or has a problem with an eye and you could miss it. This way you have to go in the stall."

Feed rooms, storage rooms and the shoeing shop all had the same thought put into their building. Efficiency and ease of use went into literally every inch of this place.

Milestone Stables' 30 stalls for training horses and 12 for lesson horses are already filled to the brim and that's as large as Todd wants it to get. "I've done that other and we had a great run but this is where I want to be today. I've got a great staff and having Macey here now, we're really comfortable about what we're doing."



*Todd feels blessed to have a great team, including Andres, himself, Lesley, Macey, Meliska, Margo, Sarie and Jordan.*



A trainer of world's grand champions and a number world's champions, Todd continues to hone his craft and really loves his current junior five-gaited star, *Stolen Heir*, owned by James Sigmon.



Macey Miles was aboard *Carson Nation* who had just arrived at Milestone.

Winner of two Five-Gaited World's Grand Championships (1995 with CH Onion and 2005 with CH Five O'Clock), the 2005 Three-Gaited World's Grand Championship with one of his all-time favorites, CH Manila Thrilla, and trainer of countless ladies, amateur and juvenile world's champion of champions titleholders as well as Triple Crown equitation riders, Miles brings as good a resume as there is to Middle Tennessee. Add Lesley, a former world's champion equitation rider and their daughter Macey, one of only 12 Triple Crown equitation riders in Saddlebred history, and this is a team with the experience and accomplishments to match their showcase facility.

Taking on this new venture as a family has been extremely rewarding to them all.

"I love learning from dad," said Macey. "He gives me enough rope and has been really good about including me in things I never had to worry about before. There is definitely much more responsibility; picking out horses, picking out suits, handling problems. At Louisville, we saw a horse we liked and he said, 'go get a price on it.' I looked at him and said, 'What?' He said, 'go get a price on it.' I had never done anything like that."

"I really enjoy having her here," added Todd. "I don't have to worry about her leaving and I don't have to watch what I say around her. It really hasn't been hard with us working together."

"I also appreciate that I'm getting to be an assistant trainer and instructor," continued Macey. "As an assistant I get to experience each horse and know everything about them. I think that's important when it comes time to putting the rider together with them."

Besides helping with instructing and being the organizer and overseer of all things Milestone,



Macey enjoys one of the Milestone favorites, Boston's *Big Whammy*, a Morgan otherwise known as *Freddie*.

Lesley is turning an unbelievably unique and beautiful house into a home. Room after room has a story, a certain charm. And then there's the three-car garage that perfectly houses Todd's three "vintage toys" and the outdoor pool area that looks out over the rolling green pastures. The Miles family indeed found a little slice of heaven on earth.

In just their first year as Milestone there have been several show ring stars. One of Todd's favorite horses right now is *Stolen Heir* with whom he was third in the Junior Five-Gaited Championship at Louisville for James Sigmon. The road never gets too long for this young power house.

Milestone was also the home for the first and second place finishers in the World's Champion of Champions Five-Gaited Pony contest. Samantha Swiger and Ultimate Spitfire swept the division, while stablemates Camelot's Riding Out The Storm and Mary Lynes Sutton commanded reserve world's champion of champions honors. Dawson Archibald had a most incredible week for the Milestone family. She and Balenciaga were crowned the Junior Exhibitor Three-Gaited Park World's Champion of Champions. Archibald also made a tricolor and roses victory pass on the green shavings with 14-17 show pleasure winner Completely Caveat. If that wasn't enough she put her horsemanship on display as the World's Champion 14-Year-Old Saddle Seat Equitation rider. Quite a versatile horsewoman, Archibald was just crowned the Reserve World Champion 14-17 Saddle Seat Equitation rider at the Morgan Grand National.

Samantha Swiger added a Reserve World's Champion of Champions Junior Saddle Seat Equitation and Reserve World's Champion 12



*This is the view from many rooms on the front side of the house.*

& 13-Year-Old Equitation titles to those she won with her gaited pony.

Another top young rider under Macey's instruction is Sterling McDonald, the Walk and Trot Equitation 10 & Under Grand Champion at Lexington Junior League this year. The McDonald family's Attache's American Patriot swept Lexington's amateur three-gaited park division

with Reagan Upton riding, giving Milestone another banner performer for this season.

Looking to build an even broader base from which future show ring riders will come, Milestone's lesson program is in its beginning stages. Perfectly situated for markets such as Nashville, Franklin and Murfreesboro, Tennessee, as well as Bowling Green, Kentucky, Milestone

will soon be putting the American Saddlebred in the spotlight to many families who would have never been aware of this breed in those neighborhoods.

"This was once such a rich area for the Saddlebred," said Todd. "We hope to make it that way again."



*Former Equitation Triple Crown winner Macey Miles is now enjoying the roadster under saddle division with Super Shaq.*



*Ultimate Blue is a homebred daughter of (SA) Kalarama's Ultimate Choice and CH She's Gone Blonde owned by longtime customer, the Smith family's Calico Farms.*