

BY CHRISTI MILLER

**J**eff Switzer, Dodge City, Kan., is building a broodmare band that mirrors Hank Wescamp's line of thinking -- gather a good set of mares bred like peas in a pod, and they'll produce you strings of pearls.

It was a big black gelding named He Is Slipping which opened Switzer's eyes to a mother lode of mare power.

"Marty Powers turned us on to He Is Slipping," said Switzer. "He told us about this heart-stopping black gelding, he'd seen at a horse sale. We bought him and Bo (Switzer's wife) liked him so well, we did a search on his dam, A Flick Bug. We found out Marvin Barnes had her, and she had a weanling on her at the time -- this was about '95. Marvin tried to sell her to me, but I turned him down. When Bo placed second at Fort Smith (1996 on He Is Slipping), I called Marvin and asked him what he'd take for that mare. Marvin said that he heard Bo did pretty good at Fort Smith, so I knew that he knew. But we finally agreed on a price. She had Madam Flick Bug in her belly when I bought her."

Foaled in 1958, Flicka Wagon was a sorrel mare bred by M.B. Williams of Grass Valley, Calif. Her sire was Wagon N, a 1945 sorrel by Clabber, the AQHA's very first (1940-'41) World Champion Quarter Running Horse. Clabber died in the ownership of Quarter Horse icon, Frank Vesels, in 1947, at Los Alamitos, Calif.

A love of roping led Marvin Barnes to buy FL Lady Bug. She became the matriarch of his Lady Bug Ranch near Ada, Okla. Her foals could run a lick--which led Barnes from roping to racing. When he bred the mare to Top Moon, he got Lady Bug's Moon.

When asked why he purchased Flicka Wagon, Barnes replied, "I was just trying to get some mares to breed to Lady Bug's Moon. She was a great big stout mare, a good mare. I really liked her. About everything we got out of her, would try to run. I also liked her breeding."

Bottomside, Flicka Wagon was out of Flicker W, a 1945 daughter of Bear Hug, a 1933 sorrel stallion.

Barnes never saw Flicker W, but said, "It seems like Jim Jeffers owned Wagon N up by Tulsa. He had Mr Bar None."

Jeffers also owned Flicka Wagon, for whom she produced three foals by Mr Bar None: Flicka's Bar, Fast Line and Wagon N Bar. A 1965 sorrel stallion, Wagon N Bar was purchased by astute horsemen in Mexico.

In 1969, Flicka Wagon produced a sorrel colt by Casino Creek, named Casino Creek Jr. She then produced Flicka Deck, Mighty Deck Jr and Mighty Wagon, all by Mighty Deck. (Mighty Deck is the maternal grandsire of Firewater Fiesta and Celebrated Streak.)

Flicka Wagon's last four foals were sired by Lady Bug's Moon. First came Flick Bug, foaled in 1974. Next came Wagon Bug, a 1975 mare. In 1976 Flicka Wagon produced Another Flick Bug. Flicka Wagon's 11th and her final foal was A Flick Bug.

Now in his 80s, Barnes said of Flicka Wagon, "I'm thinking she died when A Flick Bug was on her side. She's buried at Lady Bug Ranch, about four miles west of Ada, FL Lady Bug's buried at the entrance, and the rest I buried a little ways off."

#### Flick Bug

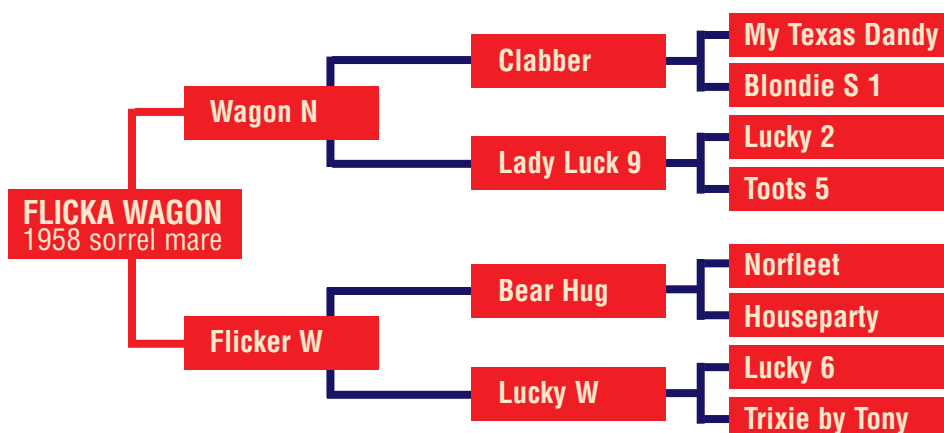
For many years, Flicka Wagon's daughter, Flick Bug, ranked No. 2 on racing's list of All-Time Leading Dams By Money



Jeff Switzer shown with Perk Up N Dash, in foal to Sixarun; Rime House, in foal to Firewater Flit; Oprah Bug, to be run at the barrel futurities in 2004, and to remain on the Switzer ranch to be bred in later years, along with A Flick Bug, the dam of the three mares.

# Flicka Wagon ...

## She could haul it



Earned. According to *Speedhorse Magazine*, as of Nov. 6, 2001, Flick Bug still ranked No. 7.

Flick Bug's first foal was the 1978 bay stallion, Mr Boone Bug (by Johnny Boone), and is registered to Leon Adams of Stuart, Okla. Her next foal was a record-breaking brown stallion, Mr Master Bug (by Master Hand (TB)). When Mr Master Bug won the 1985 All-American Futurity, he became the first Quarter Horse to earn \$1 million in one race. (Barnes's Master Hand daughter, Miss Squaw Hand, placed second.) In all, Mr Master Bug earned \$1,793,718. In 1983, he was named World Champion 3-Year-Old; in 1984, he was the World Champion Aged Horse and World Champion Aged Stallion.

Now 22, Mr Master Bug is alive and well with Barnes, although the stallion is sterile.

Randy and Debra Quarne's Mesa

Farms of Zahl, N.D., is home to Dee Black Bug, a black daughter of Mr Master Bug.

"We've kept all of her daughters," said Debra Quarne. "She had a foal at her side by My Mr Special Bug when we bought her. Her name's Preeanne, and she's double-bred Flicka Wagon. I think My Mr Special Bug had stakes winners in about four different breeds."

The Quarne's own two stallions: Power Break, a Thoroughbred, and Two Ton Digger, of Easy Jet and Depth Charge breeding, and will be having their first production sale in August.

Mr Master Bug is the maternal grandsire of outstanding barrel horses like Packin Moonshine, Mr Big Mike, Perks Master Lady and Magic Master Bug. A maternal grandson, Dashunjuice Is Loose (by Dash For Perks), stands at the 77 Ranch near Ada, Okla.

Mr Master Bug sired 259 foals, his last

crop arriving in 1998.

Flick Bug foaled Miss Venetian Bug in 1982 (by Venetian Jester (TB), registered to Woodstock Stables in Utah. In 1984 she produced Million Dollar Bug, a full brother to Mr Master Bug. According to Barnes, this stallion died.

Bred to Special Effort, Flick Bug produced My Mr Special Bug, a sorrel stallion last owned by Sylvia Binford of Castroville, Texas.

According to Binford's stallion manager, Paul Liebig, My Mr Special Bug died last year of a ruptured colon.

"We were looking for a good Special Effort horse, and his mama was the leading dam of money earners and stakes horses for many years," said Liebig. "At 16.1 and 1,450 pounds, he looked the part, lots of muscle. We have some yearlings by him and mares bred to him that are foaling."

In 1986, Flick Bug foaled Flicks Dream Bug, the only full sister to Mr Master Bug. This mare is owned by the Switzers and is in foal to Dash For Perks.

"She has a yearling, black-and-white Paint stud colt by Treasured Too," Bo (Hill) Switzer said of Flicks Dream Bug.

"The only reason (Kenneth) Winters sold her to us was because he was trying to get a Paint colt out of her and she had solid foals," said Jeff Switzer. "She was in foal when we bought her, and then had the black-and-white colt. We named him Treasured Freebie and he'll be in the Heritage Sale next fall, as a stud colt."

In 1987, Flick Bug dropped the 1987 bay stallion, My Yankee Bug, which stands





My Yankee Bug, foaled in 1987 out of Flick Bug, stands at Mike Harrigfeld's Flying 7 Ranch in Iona, Idaho. The stallion is by On A High (Dash For Cash x Yankee Doll (TB)).



Another Flick Bug, Flicka Wagon's 1976 sorrel daughter, is now owned by Kelly Carr, who lives near Henryville, Ind.

at Mike Harrigfeld's Flying 7 Ranch in Iona, Idaho. The stallion is by On A High (Dash For Cash x Yankee Doll (TB)).

Said Harrigfeld, "We got him in December 2000 and just have yearlings by him. We were looking for a horse that was really well-bred and had done something; we looked three years for a stallion to complement our other sire, Smashed Casanova (sire of Blackfoot, Idaho barrel racer, Sue Smith's APHA-registered gelding, On The Double). I saw a picture of My Yankee Bug, and after I saw what his bloodlines were (Flicka Wagon), I bought him, found him at Powell, Wyoming.

"He's 15 now, and had only bred about 50 mares. He's real big and just magnificent. He stands 16 hands, has a nice little head and good disposition. We sell a lot of barrel colts, ropers and race a few."

Stan and Dan Allred, Tensleep, Wyo., own a brown broodmare by My Yankee Bug, Yankee Bugs Cash.

Flick Bug's next foal was a 1988 sorrel mare named Miss Wrangler Bug, by Rocket Wrangler, and is owned by the Switzers.

"I bought Miss Wrangler Bug from Marvin," Jeff said. "She's got a Frenchmans Guy in her belly right now."

The mare has also produced Wranglers Easy Boy (by Easy Lela), Mr Disco Bug (by Disco Jerry (TB)), A Rocket Image (by Image Of Greatness) and Ms Lela Nick Bar (by Dr Nick Bar). Unfortunately, after being purchased by Tammy Key, this filly broke her back.



Jeff Switzer with A Flick Bug, age 23.

Cynthia Zoch, Lincoln, Texas, owns Flick Bug's 1989 daughter, High On Flick, a full sister to My Yankee Bug.

Flick Bug's last foal arrived in 1992. The sorrel mare (by Disco Jerry (TB)) is named Bye Bye Mama and is registered to Richard Wiley, Siloam Springs, Ark.

Flick Bug's foals earned close to \$2 million (\$1,976,914) on the track.

#### Wagon Bug

Flicka Wagon's daughter, Wagon Bug, would be smaller than most of her full sisters.

"She stood about 14.2 or 14.3," said Jerry Laster, Tecumseh, Okla. "She was real heavy made, lots of muscle, and fairly long-bodied. I bought her about 1996 because of her breeding; Sherry Wingfield of Troy, Mo., had her. Sherry likes the old breeding like I do. Old-bred horses never go out of style, and have a lot of 'stay-with-you,' I guess you'd call it. I've always liked Clabber and Lady Bug's Moon. She was extremely fast at 250 yards, but no more. I have numerous other horses, but one like her is just an old classic. She was truly a classic old mare, a real sweet mare. I lost her a few years ago."

Laster owns a son of The Ole Man, The Ole Lawman, out of a mare of Bar None Bug and Pacific Bailey breeding.

Wagon Bug produced 11 foals by a variety of stallions. Her 1987-1989 foals were all sired by the Thoroughbred stallion Slewicide. Her last two foals were sired by

Special Show (Special Effort x Flaunt It) and included the 1997 sorrel mare Red Bug Special and the 1998 sorrel stallion Red Wagon Bug.

Owned and ridden by Jamey Hunt, Red Bug Special has barrel earnings over \$7,800.

Said Laster, "Red Wagon Bug was a really nice colt, but he broke his neck and I had to put him down."

#### Another Flick Bug

Flicka Wagon's 1976 sorrel daughter, Another Flick Bug, is now owned by Kelly Carr, who lives near Henryville, Ind.

"I leased her to Kelly, then told her she could have her," said Don Jones of Madison, Ind., referring to Another Flick Bug. "I couldn't get her in foal the last couple of years. I used to race horses, but I'm selling out now. I sold all her sons and daughters. She's a big mare, about 15.3, and really nice, just a sweetheart. I bought her because she was a real good mare and I'd seen her run on the track."

Jones purchased Another Flick Bug from Caroline Bruce, also of Indiana.

"I bought her as a yearling," Bruce said,

"and I raced her. We were just getting into the horse racing business and we had a friend who was a trainer, and he went to Oklahoma City and stopped by Marvin's (Barnes) and took a picture of her, and I bought her just based on the picture. I always had a lot of faith in her, she was almost human to me. She was a track record holder, had a speed index of 102 and won over \$39,000. She had more heart than any horse we ever owned, just a great mare.

"My husband knew I was very attached to her and asked me, 'What's going to happen to you when this mare dies?' I knew Donnie (Jones) would take good care of her."

Bruce's success with Another Flick Bug sent her looking for a sibling. "I went

back to Marvin when she was a 3-year-old and looked at A Flick Bug to see if he'd sell her, but all he wanted to talk about was to buy one (back)."

Another Flick Bug raised 14 foals from 1981-1998, sired by Mr Big Wheel, Texas Dancer (TB), Master Hand (TB), Victory Stride (TB), Easily Smashed, By Yawl, Shoot Yeah, Bold Episode, Bully Bullion and Cash Quota.

Another Flick Bug's daughter, the 1995 bay mare Flick A Bullion, turned heads when Troy Crumrine jockeyed her to a fourth-place finish at the 1999 BFA World Championship Barrel Futurity.

Formerly owned by Bob Hamilton, Wooster, Ohio, Flick A Bullion was recently sold.

"B.F. Phillips called me when Another Flick Bug was in foal to Master Hand and wanted to buy her, and I said 'No,'" said Bruce.

#### A Flick Bug

Flicka Wagon's last foal, A Flick Bug, now age 23, has produced 12 foals, by the stallions Beduino (TB), Master Hand (TB), Special Effort, Mr Master Bug, My Mr Special Bug, Rime, Dash For Perks and Disco Jerry (TB). Her 1985 son by Special Effort is A Special Bug, a sorrel stallion registered to Rolando Guerra of La Blanca, Texas.

The Switzers own A Flick Bug, plus three of her daughters; Rime House (by Rime), Perk Up N Dash and Oprah Bug

(both by Dash For Perks and full sisters to He Is Slipping, now owned by Viki Friedrich of Salkum, Wash.).

Said Bo, "Her youngest is Oprah Bug, a 2-year-old black filly Jeff says is NOT for sale."

Rime House produced a chestnut filly in 1999 by Reverend Jonah Black (Rime House Reverend), and in 2000 a palomino stud colt by Frenchmans Guy (Flatland Frenchman).

"When I bought Perk Up N Dash, I pulled into Marvin's and didn't have any idea what I was in for, I didn't even know what all he'd done," Jeff explained. "Marvin let me take A Flick Bug with me until I weaned the foal, then he took her back."

A 1995 brown mare, Perk Up N Dash is heavy in foal to Sixarun.

The Switzers formerly owned Madam Flick Bug, A Flick Bug's 1997 daughter, and Dash For Perks, 2001 leading barrel earner.

"I recently sold her to Kaylin Fussell of Polk City, Fla.," Bo said. "The short-go at (the) Speedhorse (Futurity) was my last ride on her, I had to say good-bye to her then."

Needless to say, Jeff Switzer wasn't pleased to learn his wife had sold Madam Flick Bug.

"Madam Flick Bug is a big mare," Bo said, "16 hands and 1,290 pounds. Out of that mare (A Flick Bug), they were all big. A woman in Nebraska bought her 1994 daughter, Flick Can Disco (by Disco Jerry (TB)), then Marcella Mays bought her, and she just went to Indiana in the last month to someone else. She's one of the few out there of A Flick Bug's babies we don't have. It was Marvin Barnes who first bred A Flick Bug to Dash For Perks."



Randy and Debra Quarne's Mesa Farms of Zahl, N.D., is home to Dee Black Bug, a black daughter of Mr Master Bug.

#### Flicka Wagon lives on

"I am a firm believer that the mare contributes so much to the foal," said Bo. "I really spend a lot of time with my mares, and if I have one that's got a bad attitude, I just get rid of her. I'm very high on that Lady Bug's Moon on the bottom; it's a very good cross on most horses. I have to give my jockey quite a bit of credit, too."

The Switzers also own the Dash For Perks gelding Dash N Sparks (out of a Master Hand daughter) and his full sister, Coconut Cash.

"I bought her out of Mexico," Jeff said. "Their dam, Savannah Hit Song, died a couple years ago, and Coconut Cash was her last foal. She's in foal to Fire Water Flit."

"Most have been by that same sire (Dash For Perks), but they're real trainable and laid back, intelligent, no buck, real athletic and real fast, as far as racehorse speed," says Bo, explaining why she likes the Flicka Wagon line of horses. "They're really good at turning a barrel. They have a round, butt-dragging style, a lot of set, just round and supple."

Marvin Barnes found Flicka Wagon, but Jeff Switzer's making sure she's remembered. His mares will see to it.

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