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By Jessica Bartel

There are very few bonds as meaningful as between a horse and rider. Peter Lichau of Rose Gate Farm is a testament to that exact notion. Born and raised in northern California, Lichau made his way to Texas in the early 1980s. It was riding bareback horses in rodeos and odd jobs on ranches that got him here. The last seven years, Lichau has made his home in Argyle, Texas.

As a child, Lichau always had a horse and looked up to his father who was also a rodeo cowboy. From a young age, Lichau gained a healthy work ethic from working on various ranches. Along the way Lichau met some lifelong friends and learned life-long lessons.

One lesson in particular helped shaped him as a horseman today. That was the riding style known as dressage. Dressage is a French term, and translated means training the horse and rider to perform a series of predetermined movements. It is held as one of the highest competitive equestrian sports.

Lichau had never ridden dressage but found a familiarity to it. For Lichau, dressage helped him feel the horse underneath him better and made him a better rider. That is what he bases his training program off of today.

The notion has served Lichau well. He won his first world championship title in 2004 and has had more than 20 world titles since in breed associations such as Pinto Horse Association (PtHA) International Andalusian & Lusitano Horse Association (IALHA) Gypsy Horse Association (GHA) and the Irish Draught Horse. Some of his titles include 2004 WA White Lightning with PtHA won the World Championship in western pleasure, 2011 IALHA World Champion in western pleasure, suitability for dressage, and hunter pleasure and 2013



Photo courtesy of Rose Gate Farm

WA White Lightning with PtHA won the World Championship in western pleasure. Lichau trains 14 to 16 horses and attends 15 to 20 shows, trail rides and events throughout the year. Horses are his passion but Lichau has a love for people and more importantly people's bond with their horse.

Lichau sees a need, now more than ever, for people to believe in something. The trainer's vision with each horse and rider that step on his place is to connect the two, individualize their experience and relate it back to life. With a will to serve horse lovers, Lichau feels many people are brought to him for one reason or another. He simply helps the horse and rider connect.

At Rose Gate Farm, Lichau practices a number of things including roping, barrel racing, saddle and bareback riding practice, jumping, and more. Also, there is no breed Lichau will shy away from. He has worked with horses such as Quarter Horses and Thoroughbreds to gypsies, Paints, Andalusians, to even winning the Irish Draft Championship in Chicago.

Lichau also trains young horses and gives riding lessons to the public. Along

with that, Lichau entertains teenagers during summer to work and ride for him. For Lichau, Rose Gate Farm is not just a boarding place.

"It is a place for people to achieve their dreams. Here I guide people through their journey. We gain a big level of trust between horse and rider and teach the fundamentals of horsemanship. It is important people get involved with the training of their horse," Lichau said. The natural, non-aggressive, non-judgmental atmosphere at Rose Gate Farm invite horse owners in to find something maybe they did not know they were missing or looking for.

That is Lichau's main goal as a horseman, trainer and equestrian. At Rose Gate Farm Lichau is out to change society, even if it is by one person at a time. This lifestyle has shaped him to who he is today. He believes in his mission and believes that it is what he was put here to do through divine intervention. Lichau is simply there to be a servant to build a new horse community, build character and preserve history one horse and rider at a time. *