

2009 Hall of Fame

January Investment

2009 IQHA Hall of Fame Inductee

January Investment, a 1986 sorrel mare, is the newest inductee into the Illinois Quarter Horse Association's Hall of Fame. She was sired by NSBA Hall of Fame Sire, The Big Investment and out of a daughter of Skip Powder. She was bred by Thurman Dutch Gay, of O'Neil, Nebraska, and owned by Steve and Tanya Relander of Aledo, IL.



January Investment, or "Ji" is the dam of 12 foals (by 7 different sires) 10 of which have show records and have earned almost 3000 AQHA and NSBA points and over \$200,000 in prize money. This includes 5 time World Champion Artful Investment, the highest point earning stallion in the history of AQHA. He has more World Championships than any other stallion, and was Reserve Superhorse in 1999, and again in 2002. He has two Congress All-Around titles, one in Open and one in Amateur.

But that's not all.....

For 4 years in a row, January Investment babies were the Illinois High Point Champions for the year in 2 Year Old Snaffle Bit class. They have earned numerous championships including several Congress Championships, Reserve Championships, and a Top Ten at the NSBA Championship Show.

And last but certainly not least Ji produced One Lazy Investment, Champion of the 2008 Congress Masters Western Pleasure, winning \$100,000 and approximately \$20,000 worth of prizes. He currently has 16 Junior Western Pleasure points and 6 Amateur Western Pleasure points. The Relanders will show him in 2009.

It was January who introduced the Relanders to the NSBA and the larger AQHA shows. She was their first entry in a major futurity, the Tom Powers in 1988. That was the beginning of her show career. She had earned 64 western pleasure points in open and Amateur when she injured a hind leg and began her breeding career.

From the get-go Ji let the Relanders know that while she was a sweet mare, and easy to work with, she had her own ideas about things, chief among them was her preference to be stalled rather than turned out to pasture. Of course that requirement was easily met during her show career, but when that ended, Steve and Tanya needed to make adjustments.

And they did, they built her a barn right in her very own pasture. Ji lived out her last several years in that pasture in that barn. We never saw her back wet with even one drop of rain. She is greatly missed, but the Relanders see the best parts of her in her offspring, such as her great topline, strong hind leg, and gorgeous head. Her legacy lives on.

