

junior exhibitor five-gaited divisions with their big numbers and fierce competition.

Heather Buhr and husband Jon Feiber bought CH A Magic Spell (Blondie) in 2008 after Louisville but the following year the mare got hurt. Ethan showed CH X's And O's successfully while waiting for Blondie to get back to work.

Unlike Ethan, CH A Magic Spell has made the long trip to Louisville from California before with former owners the Jarve family. Katie Jarve rode the mare to the 2008 Junior Exhibitor Three-Gaited Pleasure 14-17 World's Champion Of Champions title as well as the division two qualifier win under Dixon's direction.

Ethan did well with Blondie in his first class, the Junior Exhibitor Three-Gaited Pleasure 13 and Under Sec. II qualifier. He accomplished his goal of getting a ribbon and being able to show back. They left Freedom Hall after that first class with the fifth place ribbon.

When Ethan returned for the championship Saturday afternoon, he was even more focused and just as Dixon predicted, he rose to the occasion. Ethan and Blondie were named the Junior Exhibitor Three-Gaited Pleasure Reserve World's Champion Of Champions.

River Card, his four-year-old new gaited horse, has issued new challenges to Ethan and they're having a great time in their first season together. They didn't get a ribbon in their qualifier but returned to claim eighth in their championship. They learned a lot and did what Jennifer asked them to do. After all, showing in Freedom Hall provides lessons that no other show ring in America can do.

She's a take charge kind of woman and whether at home at the Circus Club or at home in her beautiful little house supervising an entire kitchen renovation or directing her customers and their horses in the show ring, she does it well and with her own inimitable style.

Most of her customers have been with her for years and all have nothing but good things to say about her. At the end of the day, that's what really matters; reputation, respect, friendships and relationships with others.

Jennifer's relationship with her customers couldn't be better according to them.

"I grew up in Dixon Stables. Jennifer has played several different roles in my life; trainer, friend, mother, the quirky aunt who goes to college graduations and family functions", said Julia Martin.

Martin owns CH Callaway's Arbitrator with her mom Patricia. She continued by saying, "Jennifer is an amazing and strong female role model for me. I attribute my drive and inner strength to watching and learning from her.

"It's not the easiest thing to be a female at Menlo Circus Club. It's a bit of a 'boy's club' and her determination and sticktuitiveness is impressive. She's trained numerous World's Champions but she's also the trainer who will go give pony rides on her day off because they need her help".

Helen Roy and her and her daughters Julia, Anna and Maya own show CH Tommy James and have been with Jennifer for four years. "Jennifer has taken me and my three daughters from the lesson ring to the show ring to the winner's circle. There's never a dull moment. We love Jennifer", said Helen.

Sue Valley Chen and daughter Julia Chen have



*Anyone who knows Jennifer knows that she is rarely without her beloved The Brown (center), Karma Jean and DJ the beagle.*

been with Jennifer since 2007 but have known her for many more years than that.

"Julia and I have really enjoyed being part of the group 'that does stuff'. Aside from having a good time at the shows, Jennifer tries to keep the atmosphere at the barn fun. She did a great job for us with our wonderful CH Like Sunshine and went above and beyond choosing my new gaited horse Here We Are. She has been very willing to help with our home horse Too Attached, which has been very much appreciated. I really enjoy her good sense of humor as well as respect her abilities as a horsewoman and a trainer".

Customer Anne Anderson, owner of CH Wizard's Icon, had this to say about Jennifer: "Jen is awesome with both people and horses. As a trainer, she manages to be warm and encouraging, while at the same time challenging everyone to meet the highest of standards. That's a tough combination to find in someone."

Judy and Lexie Castaillac have been with Jennifer

the longest and their bond with her is extra special. "She's been with us since she and Bruce took over for Frank Buckley a long time ago at the Circus Club. Since then, Jennifer has not only been an instrumental part in the development of our riding skills and horses but has been at many family and special events throughout the years. We can't think of an important event that Jennifer was not invited to. With the passing of our beloved Bruce Dixon in 2008, our bond with Jennifer became that much closer. She is more than just our trainer, she's our friend and much loved family member who will always be in our circle of trust".

Riding on the high of his great week at Louisville, Ethan Feiber had plenty to say about Jennifer: Although I'm probably biased, Jennifer is the best trainer anyone could hope for. She doesn't coddle you, but she doesn't angrily yell at you either. She calmly tells you what's right, what's wrong and how to fix it. She's taught me every-

thing I know about horseback riding, and is an amazing teacher. Every compliment she gets, she deserves.

Ethan's mom Heather was equally complimentary: "Ethan loves riding with Jennifer. She is a no-nonsense trainer who calls it like it is. She teaches her kids to respect the sport and competitors, no drama allowed whether you win or lose. Jen always expects the best of Ethan and with her support, encouragement, persistence and hard work, she always gets the best from him.

We are not an equestrian family, so I have always trusted Jennifer's advise and her choices for Ethan as he continues to mature within the sport. With her talent and energy, she has turned a six-year-old's first riding lesson into a full blown passion".

Jennifer Dixon has made a huge success of JL Dixon Stable. Her energy, enthusiasm, no-nonsense approach and girl-next-door appeal promise that the future is even bigger and brighter.



*Jennifer Dixon works hard and plays hard. She can often be found excelling at Stand Up Paddle Boarding near her home in Atherton, Calif.*