

TYNANNE CAPLEY MEMORIAL AWARD

Meredith Landy - Nickys Dun Sizzlin

Driving classes do not usually include fast stops and dazzling spins, but Meredith Landy, an amateur exhibitor with very little experience handling the horse before the cart, got some very practical (and early morning) lessons at the World Show in 2002 with trainer Karen Qualls, her bombproof horse NICKYS DUN SIZZLIN, and most of the reining horses in Fort Worth.

Meredith wasn't sure she could handle driving in an arena packed with carts, so Karen decided some practice was in order. "It was 3 a.m. the night before I was to make my debut in Pleasure Driving," Meredith said. "Karen, who never sleeps at the Worlds, took me to the arena." There were dozens of reiners practicing in the arena, too, and they weren't happy having a horse, cart, new driver and trainer sharing their work space.

"I was driving and these horses were doing their sliding halts and spinning right in front of us," she said. "I finally yelled, 'Get out of my way,' and we established an uneasy peace."

Nicky was not fazed by the commotion around him; he had world titles in driving, but Meredith was really learning the ropes. "He took wonderful care of me," Meredith said, "and we continued our practice."

Finally, Karen told her to drive to the center of the arena, as if the class were finished, and Meredith said to her, "Excuse

me while I assume the fetal position." The class itself was nothing compared to working among all those reiners. We came in third that evening."

Meredith proved a quick study in the other driving class she had entered. "Basically I had one lesson in utility driving too," she said. "Again, Nicky took great care of me. His good mind and cooperative attitude gave me confidence to do well in the class."

Nicky is a seasoned horse with a flair for driving. "He knows his job, and he loves to show," Meredith said. His abilities and his mindset for taking care of his rider enabled the pair to earn the Tynanne Capley Memorial award for being the high point amateur driver in combined pleasure driving and utility driving classes for 2003.

