

Cashion thoroughbred farm finds more land, better climate in Willcox

Development pushes Fleming family to move

By Betty Reid
THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

It's time to move for an 80-year-old southwest Valley farm turned thoroughbred-breeding business.

Growth has boxed in the 70-acre property that has served clients from as far away as New York. The Fleming Thoroughbred Farm, at Avondale Boulevard and Lower Buckeye Road in Cashion, will relocate to Willcox next year.

The new 320-acre farm in the Winchester Mountains in Cochise County has plenty of open space, water and a cooler climate for horses. Fleming family members estimate they will move the entire business to the site in May.

Q.E. Fleming founded the farm in 1926 and sold cotton, alfalfa and grain.

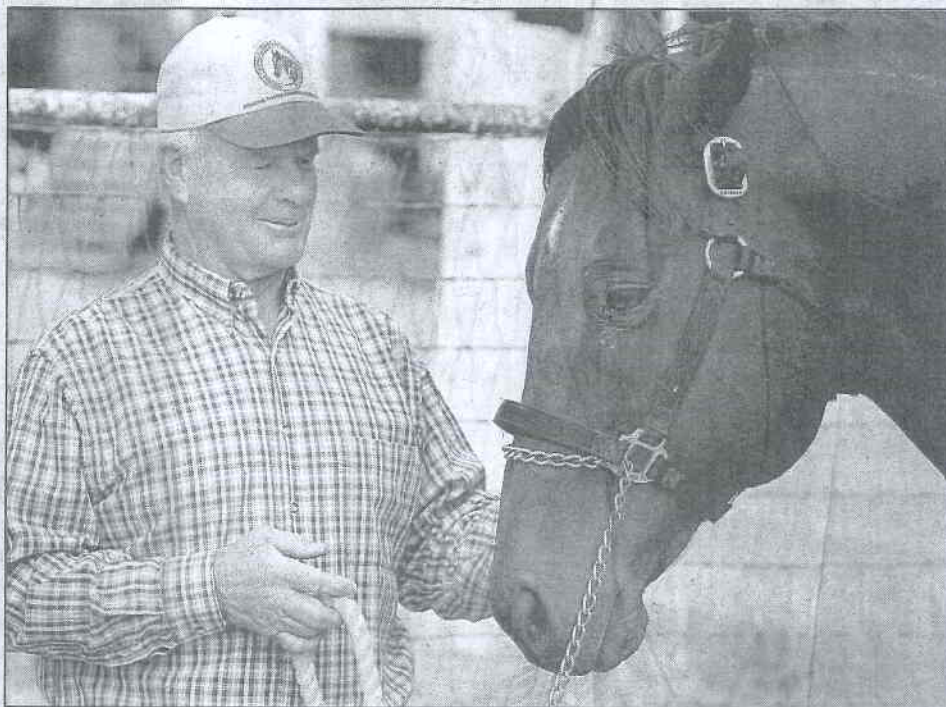
The family added the breeding, boarding and breaking business for thoroughbreds in 1948.

The horse farm started with a wounded mare named High Lake given to the family by a friend, C.W. "Doc" Pardee. Pardee was a bronc-rider, horse racer and trainer and breeder of thoroughbreds, who had a business at 51st and Grand avenues.

Fleming nursed the mare back to health. That gave birth to nearly six decades of a thoroughbred horse-breeding business under the supervision of sons Marvin and Gerald.

The farm also boards racehorses. As many as 175 to 340 horses could be on the Fleming property, depending on the season.

"A lot of people have their own hobby. Ours was horses," Marvin said. "Fortunately, our job is our hobby. Raising horses. We're fortun-



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL GING/THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC
Marvin Fleming spends time with Midnight Royalty, one of the stud stallions at Fleming Thoroughbred Farm in Cashion. The Fleming family will be moving the farm to Willcox.

nate to be able to do what it is that we like to do."

Development has reached the western edge of Avondale Boulevard, less than a mile away from the ranch. When the La Joya Community High School was built nearby in 2001, Fleming realized more families and rooftops were on the way. The family sold the farm to a developer in 2005.

Jake, Marvin's son, will not move to Willcox. His family lives in Avondale. His roots to the farm are deep. Jake, who graduated from Westview High School in 1993, started farm work as a teenager, running the hay baler machine.

A version of this story may have appeared in your community Republic or community section.



Hilario Gonzalez trains a racehorse on the exercise track at the Fleming Thoroughbred Farm near Cashion.

FIND MORE NEWS AND INFORMATION
IN ALL OUR BUSINESS PRODUCTS

IN THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Sunday: The financial markets appear to have made a "soft landing" in 2006 after the boom of previous years. Read the outlook for 2007 from financial reporter Dore Wilcox.



IN YOUR
COMMUNITY REPUBLIC

There's business going on around the corner from you. Look for news and notes about companies in your corner of the Valley.



ARIZONA WOMAN

The rewards and challenges, siblings or children's complexity to owning a small business. Read about Family Inc. in the December issue of Arizona Woman. To subscribe, call (602)

GLEN

Cent
for w

The
Maric
works
sist v
those
manag

"M

Progr
takes
noon,
Facilit
B3. Ci
Glend

The
but ex
execu
inform
tend w
ordina

For
contac
(602)

To
Kraeg
Ext. 5

TEMI

Vide
buys

Vid
visual
ment
expan
buying
will of
nix col
of bus

The
to b
\$9 mil
accord
presid
found

Vide
through
States,
Caribt
sists te
ductio
produ
associ
and co

It h