



Hey Neighbor

For The Love Of Horses

By Frank J. Buchman

Cowboy Veterinarian's Service Puts Him Into Kansas Quarter Horse Hall Of Fame

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The Salina veterinarian's "always ready to help" attitude has been recognized with his induction into the Kansas Quarter Horse Hall of Fame.

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time director," O'Neil said at his clinic where he's maintained an active practice over 40 years.

O'Neil served as president of the Kansas Quarter Horse Association in 1975 and 1976. "Our secretary-treasurer resigned at that time, so I also handled some of those duties for a while," he commented.

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Club Show. "I managed the Kansas Quarter Horses Fall Futurity Show in Wichita for its first 12 years."

Always eager to assist young people in their horse activities, O'Neil has cooperated with members of the Kansas Junior Quarter Horse Association in many of their endeavors and continues to do so.

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with the Kansas Quarter Horse Education and Research Foundation. "This is a licensed-charitable, tax-deductible group that provides two or three scholarships each year to graduating high school seniors," he pointed out.

As president of the foundation since 1980, O'Neil seeks contributions to increase the scholarships. "It is a self-perpetuating fund whereby we only use the income from the investments. It's still struggling, but we are able to provide some nice assistance for Quarter Horse youth," he added.

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Leadership has carried through to O'Neil's family as his wife, Ann, has worked in many Quarter Horse activities. Son Todd, daughter Kirstin and stepson David Dale were all officers in the Kansas Junior Quarter Horse Association.

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"When I was in the eighth grade, I bought a registered Quarter Horse nicknamed Croppy because of his frozen-back ears. He was a good calf roping horse," O'Neil recalled.

A Saddlebred mare was loaned to O'Neil as part of his 4-H work. "I kept the mare and raised a foal and then passed her on to another 4-H member," he recalled. "I broke and trained that filly called Nibbles, and she made a nice rodeo pleasure and driving horse."

After excelling in high school athletics, O'Neil played freshman basket-

ball at the University of Kansas, on the same team with Wilt Chamberlain. However, he preferred the more rural atmosphere and transferred to Southwestern College in Winfield his sophomore year, playing on championship basketball and tennis teams for three years.

After college, O'Neil taught junior high social studies at Meade, where he coached high school basketball and tennis. Then O'Neil decided to apply for vet school at K-State, where he was accepted and graduated in 1966.

Several horses were owned by O'Neil during that time period. But he pointed out, "I bought my first really nice horse, called Veta's Bud, a roan King bred gelding in 1972."

The 1966 gelding came from D.H. Matile of Bazaar and had extensive pasture and roping experience. "Bud was an all-around horse. My son Todd won four classes on him at the state fair and made him an Honor Roll team roping horse in the American Junior Quarter Horse Association," O'Neil said.

Collecting registered points in every other event entered from halter to pleasure to reining to trail. Veta's Bud was then turned over to daughter Kirstin, who continued the winning ways. "She received a lot of honors on Bud too, and I think she won three classes at the state fair one year on him," O'Neil recalled.

In the meantime, the O'Neils bought the Two Eyed Jack gelding called Silver Poco Jack, that Todd also made into an Honor Roll winner in team and breakaway roping, while collecting points in several other classes.

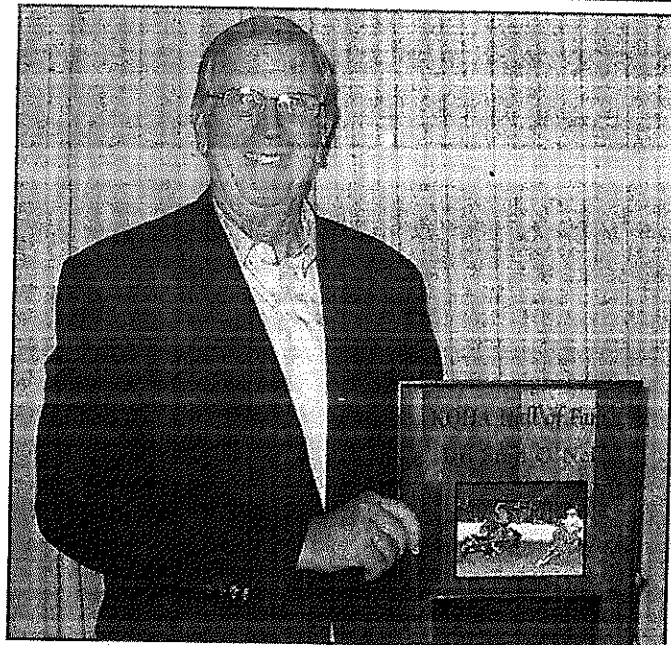
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Other important horses in that time period included Two Eyed Dan, which both O'Neil children showed, and Ginger Greyfell, a Jackie Bee mare, exhibited to many awards by Kirstin.

Ginger Greyfell produced several foals, including Colonels Sarah, which is O'Neil's team roping horse at the present time. Sarah is also now raising foals.

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Affectionately called CH, the big, sorrel gelding is retired now and only ridden occasionally when O'Neil's children and four grandchildren come to visit.

O'Neil has qualified for the AQHA World Show or the Select World Show for 17 years. "I've been going to the Select World the past three years, instead of the open World," he said. That competition, in Amarillo, Texas, is for amateur contestants 50 years of age and older.

Competing in team roping at the Select World this week, O'Neil will be riding Colonels Sarah, a Colonel Hotrod daughter. "I just weaned her foal a couple of weeks ago, but she's doing fine. Both she and I do about the same whether we practice much or not," he commented. A couple of colts are still being raised by O'Neil each year.

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Describing himself as "a header," O'Neil actually ropes both ends, winning multiple honors from each position. While he doesn't often rope in jackpots these days, O'Neil has collected his share of honors in those events. Five trophy saddles are among his many awards. He's also been a successful United States Team Roping Commission roper.

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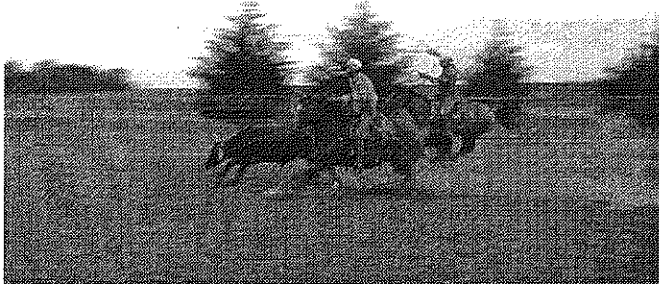
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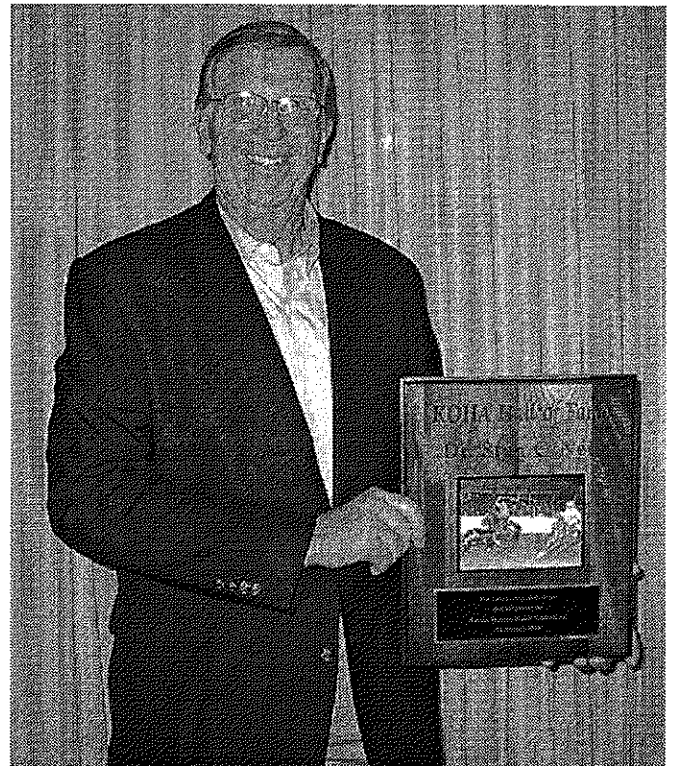
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