

Hey Neighbor



For The Love Of Horses

By Frank J. Buchman

Pinto Horses Are Perfect Niche For Talented Augusta Horsewoman

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That was well before Lauren DeMott was even born.

Yet, there's a direct tie between Little Joe and the 2006-2007 Miss Pinto of America, who was also inducted into the Pinto Queens Hall of Fame this spring.

"My Mom always remembered Little Joe riding a black and white Pinto, and when I kept hounding her and Dad to get me a horse, she insisted that we look for one like that," DeMott recalled.

Mom, Nancee Fleming, chimed in agreement, "I grew up watching Bonanza, liked Cochise and gravitated toward a horse of a different color. We were fortunate to find a Pinto to meet Lauren's needs."

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Miniatures with adequate color," she continued. Appaloosas, mules and draft horses are not allowed in the registry.

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While DeMott's first horse is a Pinto, it is not a black and white. "April is a brown and white tobiano which designates the color pattern going over her back," the horsewoman critiqued. "April was more inclined for speed events, but I did most everything including showing quite successfully in halter with her in the beginning."

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year she owned her as their 4-H project in Neosho County," credited Fleming.

When her dad, Dan DeMott, had a job change, to Canada, the family moved back to near Goddard,

where DeMott attended high school. She became involved in the Sedgwick County 4-H program and participated in the Heartland Youth Rodeo Association, the South Central Stock Horse Association and other non-breed events.

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However, there also continued to be the draw of Pinto competition. "I entered Pinto shows in Kansas and did well, but the World Show was in Tulsa, which really isn't that far, so I decided to enter there, too," DeMott explained. "You don't have to qualify a Pinto for the World Show like with Paints and Quarter Horses. All you have to do is pay the entry fees. So that's another difference and advantage of the breed."

Her achievements at the Pinto World Show remain as highlights of DeMott's show career. "I was fortunate to place in the top five in several events my first year, so that made me want to try harder and continue to go back," she commented. "They really give nice 36-inch rosettes, and I ended up placing in the top five a number of times at the World Show."

Earning several rodeo queen crowns, DeMott was named a Kansas Pinto Princess and then Kansas Pinto Queen, qualifying her to enter the Miss Pinto of America Pageant. Signing the registration was the easy part, because the diverse events involved in the two-week activities could be called a marathon.

Among the categories were horse knowledge, public speaking, modeling, interviews, photogenics, congeniality, English equitation and Western horsemanship. "The hardest part really was the personality

knowledge. "I really appreciate the support everybody gave me."

Diligent efforts and diverse talents paid off for DeMott as she was crowned Miss Pinto of America and also collected special awards for interview, personality and equitation. Among her numerous queen tokens were the sparkling tiara, a silver-mounted saddle, an engraved buckle and a 100X hat.

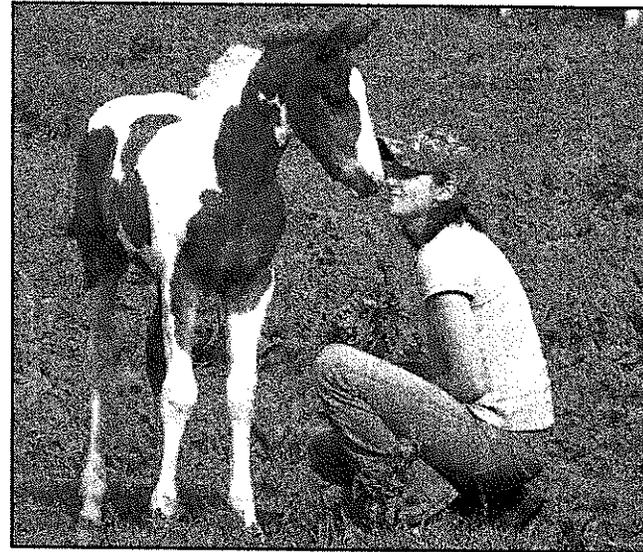
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In addition to her horse project, DeMott was active in many other 4-H projects. "You can just about name it and I was enrolled: leadership, dog, photography, cooking and a lot more. I served two terms as president and two years as vice president of my 4-H club," she reminisced.

After high school, DeMott enrolled in agricultural and mass communications classes at Butler Community College in El Dorado, where she served as editor of the school newspaper. "I had such a diverse class schedule that when I graduated, my degree was in liberal arts," she remarked.

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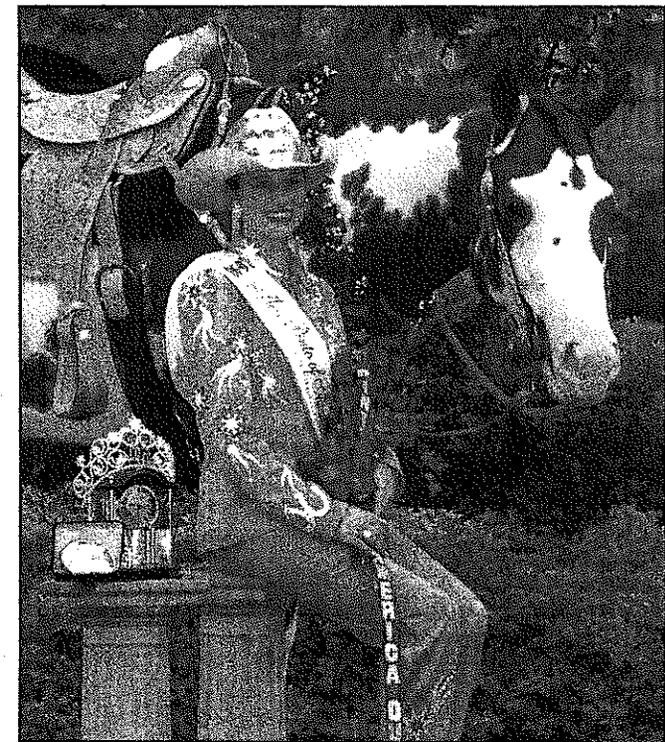
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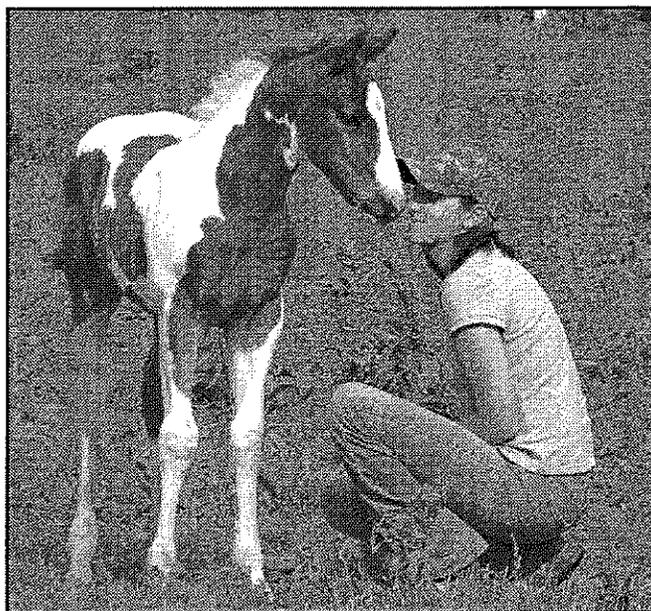
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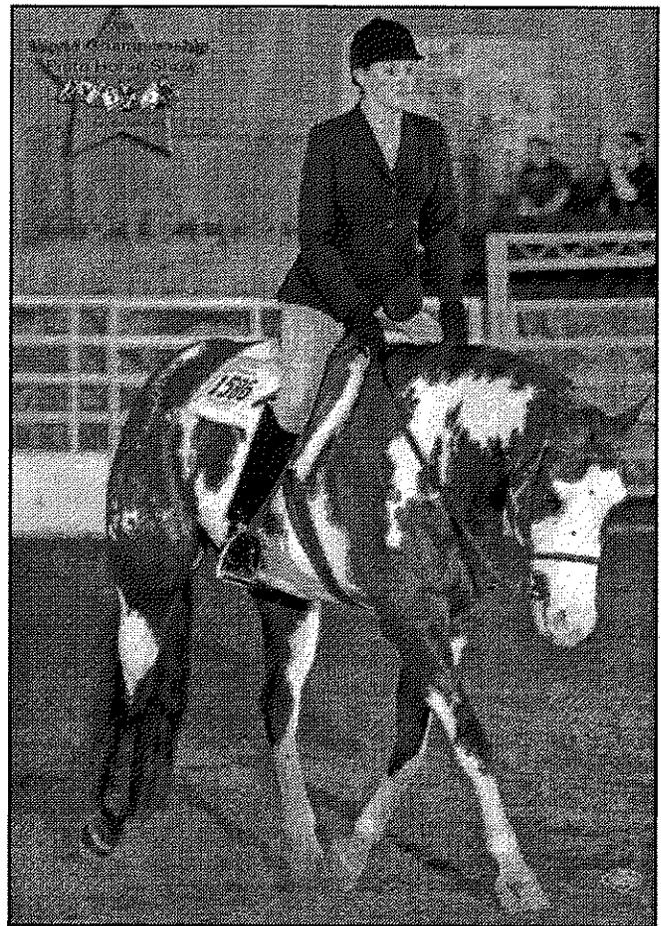
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Miss Pinto of America 2006-2007 Lauren DeMott of Augusta, shown with one of her Pinto Horses, Zip, is a believer in the Pinto Horse Association of America. Horses of all riding disciplines which meet color requirements are eligible for registration and show competition, including a number of classes unique to the organization.



Few limitations have been found with Pinto Horses by Lauren DeMott, who shows in nearly all Western and English events, except jumping. Riding April and Zip (shown here), DeMott has collected titles in 4-H, non-breed and registered competitions throughout the Midwest.