


 Hey Neighbor


# For The Love Of Horses

By Frank J. Buchman

## World Class Quarter Horse Stallion Climax For Family Ranch Operation

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Their horsemanship skills were even greater than most who make such a claim of early years on horseback.

"With seven of us kids, we didn't have enough

saddles to go around, so we always rode bareback," recalled Jerry Gilliam. "Whether it was gathering milk cows, checking pastures or for heat detection, we rode about every day, but I still didn't get a saddle until I was 14 years old."

Times have changed for the T Seven Ranch at Greenleaf and Washington. Their stallion is one of the top rope horses in the country.

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Eyed Red Joe placed fourth out of 77 entries in the team roping heeling class at the 2006 World Championship Quarter Horse Show in Oklahoma City," exclaimed Gilliam, who, along with his brother, Mike, and dad, Tim, owns T Seven Ranch.

Another older brother, Brad, lives nearby, has horses of his own and is also a partner in some of the T Seven Quarter Horses.

Horses go back before the turn of the previous century at the Gilliam operation. "My grandfather Arthur, who was just nine at the time, and his mom

homesteaded the place Mike lives on, after my great-grandfather was shot by horse thieves in Colorado," Jerry explained.

"My grandfather and dad always had horses. My dad (Tim) was one of the first cattlemen in this area to use artificial insemination in 1959, so us kids grew up heat-detecting cows on horseback," Gilliam continued.

While neighbor children of the Gilliams were involved in 4-H and horse shows, Jerry and his family were working on the farm. "We didn't go to town very often. My 10-year-old daughter is involved in horse shows now, so I'm sort of reliving my childhood," he claimed.

Previously the most famous horse at T Seven was actually the pony called

Goldie. "Dad bought her when she was two, and Brad was five. All seven of us kids rode Goldie, and Mike's children even rode her too. I guess you'd have to say she was my first horse," Gilliam reminisced.

Although artificial insemination of horses wasn't yet acknowledged by breed associations without strict stipulations, the Gilliams had the custom inseminator who A.I.'ed their cows in the early years breed one of their mares to the stallion Jetaway Reed.

"I don't know how, but that mare settled, and she had a bay colt we called Big Red," Jerry recalled. "I was just in the third grade, but that gelding was my own first big horse."

Tim Gilliam served as

postmaster at Greenleaf for nearly 40 years. "Dad would go to work at 7:30 in the morning and wouldn't get back until 4:30 in the afternoon, so a lot of the work was left up to us kids," said Jerry.

Brad was still in his early teens when he and his dad went to A.I. school at the Kansas Artificial Breeding Service Unit in Manhattan. "They did all of our cow insemination then. Brad really A.I.'ed a lot of cows when he was pretty young," Gilliam credited.

The family now has a solid A.I.'ed Angus herd and conducts the annual Cattleman's Choice Angus Sale, featuring their production.

A number of horses have been raised by the Gilliam family. "My brothers and I

broke our own horses, and we also trained horses for other people," Jerry related. "That's how I paid for my first saddle, by breaking horses."

Emphasis on expanding the farming operations detracted their interest from horses for a short time. "We just used 4-wheelers, but that didn't last long," Gilliam admitted.

After the family started attending the Pitzer Ranch sale at Ericsen, Neb., they became interested in Two Eyed Jack horses. "We bought several of the line, and then eight years ago, we bought Two Eyed Red Joe as a weanling," Jerry calculated.

Their buckskin stallion is sired by Two Eyed Red

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## Gilliam Ranch cont.

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Buck and is out of Rosalie Joe Jackie. "Joe actually goes back to Two Eyed Jack three times and is also close-up to Harlans Tyree, another top performance horse," Gilliam pointed out. "We were lucky to get Joe, because Rosalie Joe Jackie is now a multiple performance producer and one of the top mares in the Pitzer operation."

Jerry started riding the stud as a two-year-old. "I knew Joe was the best horse I'd ever been on the first time I rode him, but I just didn't know how good. He was such a natural from the start," Gilliam insisted.

Used on the ranch for three years, the stallion's ability was verified by checking, driving and sorting cattle. The Gilliams decided to ask Jim Brinkman at the Pitzer Ranch if he'd be interested in showing

the stud.

"Jim already knew what that dam and sire line could do, so he was anxious to take Joe to train for calf roping and team roping," Jerry stated. "Jim qualified Joe for the world show and showed him there two years."

Each year, Joe returned to the ranch during breeding season, and then was placed back on the show circuit. Brad Lund of Bucyrus has shown Joe the past two years and competed on him at the most recent world competition.

"We had bad luck at previous world shows, but it all came together this time," Gilliam acknowledged. "With almost 300 AQHA points, Joe is a proven performer. It was just a matter of time when everything would work out."

Limiting their expectations, the family has only been having the stallion shown in heading and heel-

ing. "Competition is so specialized nowadays that a horse really doesn't usually compete successfully in every event. Actually, we're planning to limit Joe to heeling competition from now on," Jerry indicated.

Excitement was overflowing at the world finals competition as Joe was standing in third place for a long time and was only beaten by one point. "It was still a great day," Gilliam

granted. "He was really in tough competition, the largest class at the world show."

Although success in the show ring is thrilling and makes a name for the stallion, it is in the breeding barn that the Gilliams are booking their future for Two Eyed Red Joe. "We have about 30 foals out of him so far, and they are really top colts," recognized Jerry, who noted that some breeding complications

limited foal crops for a couple of years.

"Now, I'm breeding him strictly A.I., and it's working out quite well. We're expecting about 20 foals out of Joe this spring," Gilliam verified.

T Seven has a handful of Two Eyed Jack bred mares of their own that are in foal to Joe. "We've had lots of interest from people wanting to breed their mares, so we built a new mare barn to take care of them," Jerry

revealed.

Already, Joe has been qualified for the 2007 World Championship Quarter Horse Show, while competing at the Tulsa Holiday Circuit. "Ever since I attended my first world show when I was in high school, I've wanted to own a world champion. We sure think Joe has a good chance to become a world champion. He really is an outstanding horse," Gilliam concluded.

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Their buckskin stallion is sired by Two Eyed Red Buck and is out of Rosalie Joe Jackie. "Joe actually goes back to Two Eyed Jack three times and is also close-up to Harlans Tyree, another top performance horse," Gilliam pointed out. "We were lucky to get Joe, because Rosalie Joe Jackie is now a multiple performance producer and one of the top mares in the Pitzer operation."

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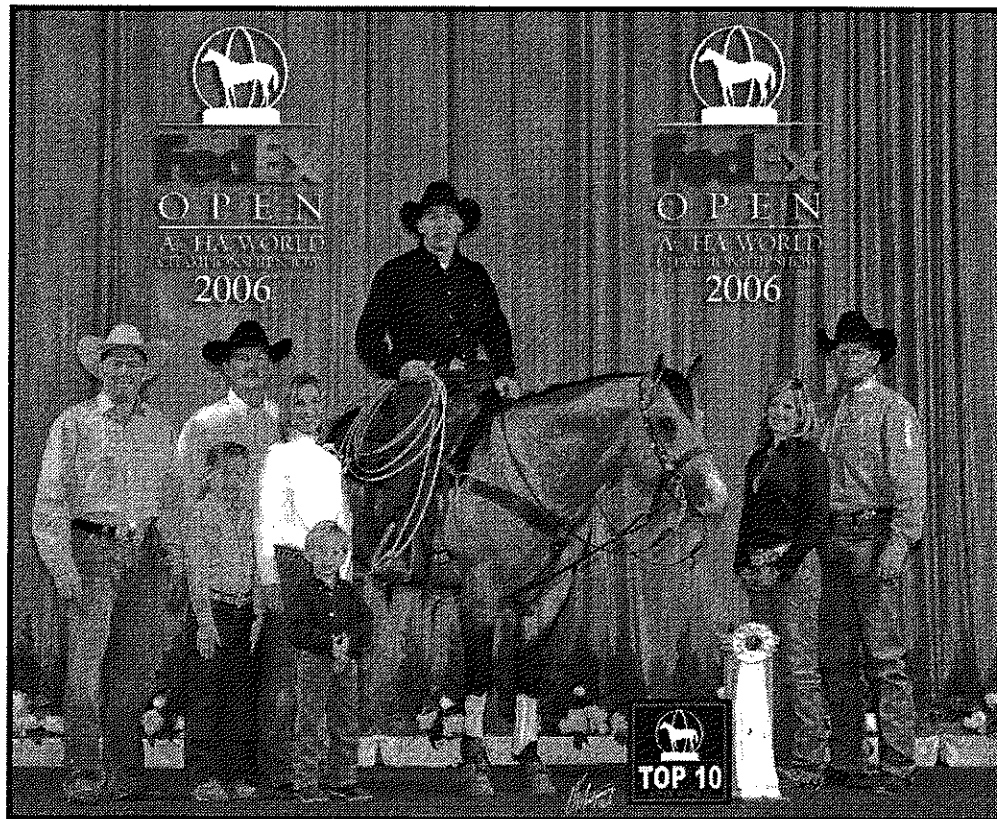
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T Seven Ranch at Greenleaf and Washington owns Two Eyed Red Joe, which was shown by Brad Lund of Bucyrus, to place fourth out of a class of 77 entries in the 2006 World Championship Quarter Horse Show at Oklahoma City. Jerry Gilliam and his family represented the ranch in this picture.