Hey Neighbor

For The Love Of Horses

By Frank J. Buchman

World Champion Quarter Horses Attract International Attention For Topeka Ranch

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That's John Hoffer's philosophy parlayed to wife Barbara when they decided to get into the Quarter Horse breeding business.

"We've tried to do that from the very beginning, and with 15 years in the breeding business, we are definitely seeing it pay off," qualified petite, blonde Barbara, as she hosted a tour of the couple's Hofferosa Ranch Quarter Horses south of Topeka.

While the couple has produced a number of world champions, their latest trophy signifying they own the world champion three-year-old open halter stallion is seen as impetus to push them into worldwide acclaim. Their home-raised buckskin named Not Kiddin Me is affectionately known as Twister.

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Additional contacts have been made from South Africa, according to the owner-breeder as she showed one of their own mares bred to the six-time world champion and three-time reserve world champion in the American Quarter Horse Association and the American Buckskin Registry Association.

Emphasizing that Twister is N/N, meaning he cannot produce the HYPP degenerative muscle disorder, Hoffer said the 16.2-hand stallion, now a four-year-old, was sired by the nine-time world champion Buckleys Mr Twister. Not Kiddin, a full sister to the well-known stallion Im Kiddin, is his dam.

Trained and shown by Aaron Hall of Hall Show Horses at Kechi, Twister was presented in open competition at the World Championship Quarter Horse Show in Oklahoma City during November by Ross Roark of Texas.

The stud is standing with Bill Lanning at Edgewwod/Lanning, Inc., in Pilot Point, Texas. Intentions are to start riding Twister at conclusion of the breeding season.

While Hofferosa is just a decade and a half old, Barbara's horse sense goes back to the cotton fields of Memphis, Tenn. "When my dad got his first tractor, I got his work team, a horse and a mule," she remembered. "I'd

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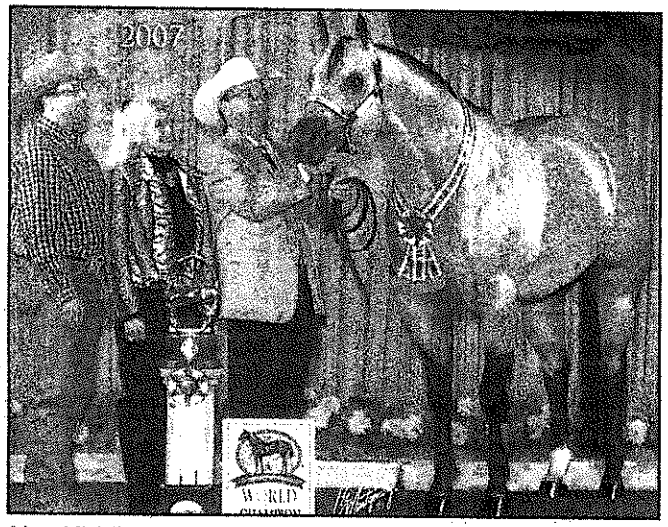

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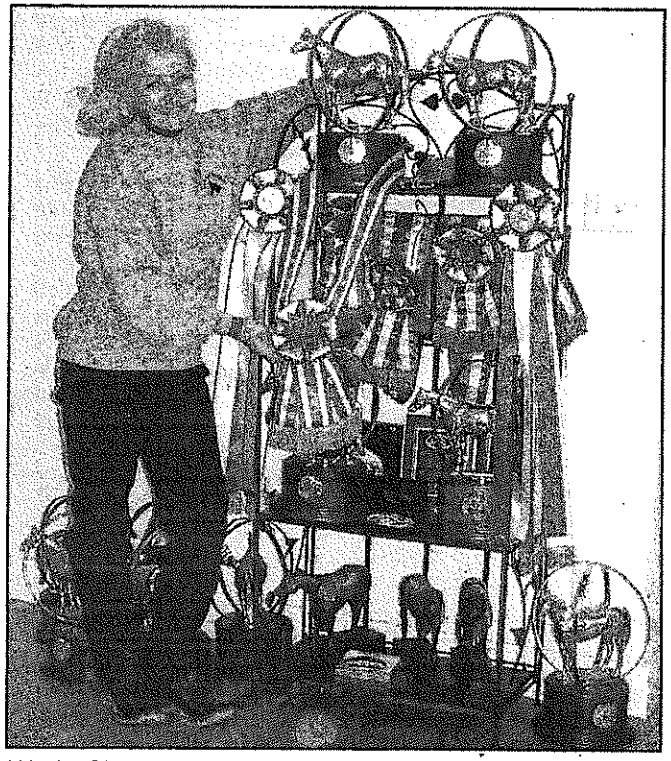

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A career as an executive for Santa Fe Railroad brought Barbara by way of Chicago to Topeka, where she met John. "We were married and just wanted some horses to ride, but we ended up with a $500 buckskin weanling filly that I decided to show," she recalled. "I didn't know anything about it, but I had so much fun that we decided to get into the horse business."

Uniquely enough, that first project filly, Perfec Crystl Pistol, named by the Hoffers after a country-western bar they patronized while dating in Florida, has produced several world champions and is again heavy in foal.

An acreage south of Topeka was acquired by the Hoffers and has been developed into their 210-acre facility, including stall barns, indoor exercise arena and breeding barn, as well as several smaller barns, with outdoor runs.

Barbara took early retirement to manage the breeding operation. "John is not only my husband but my best friend and the best partner I could have in the horse business," she complimented.

Their eight-year-old home, complete with televised view of the barn's foaling stalls, sits on the hill overlooking the horse operation. Parents of a son, Zach, the Hoffers own Chrysler-Dodge dealerships in Topeka and Carthage, Mo.

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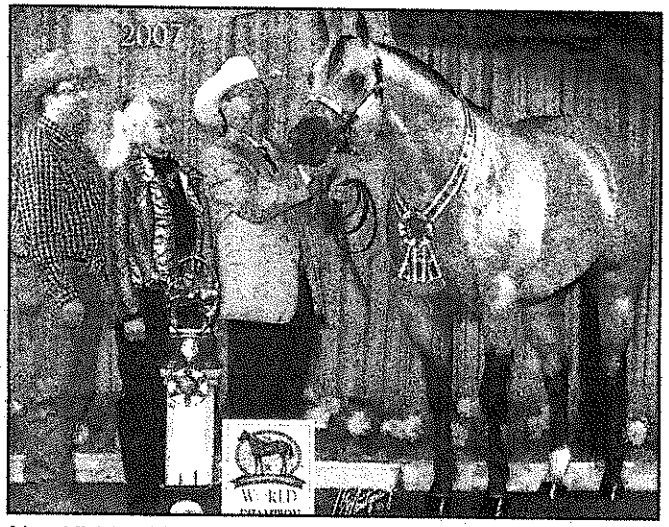

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"It's really busy around here from now on," Barbara noted. "We started our mares and stallions on an 18-hour light program in November so they'd cycle early."

Not only are mares exposed to longer light duration in barns, but expansive floodlights lengthen the light period for outside stallion and mare pens as well. "I keep all of my horses outside as much as I can. It's more natural and they are healthier," she commented. "We're fortunate to have these pastures for them."

With about 15 broodmares, Barbara explained that they are all N/N and out of world champions or producers of champions. "John and I began buying N/N mares when other breeders were still concentrating on the HYPP horses," added the breeder, who testified before the AQHA Stud Committee about the detriments of breeding HYPP positive horses.

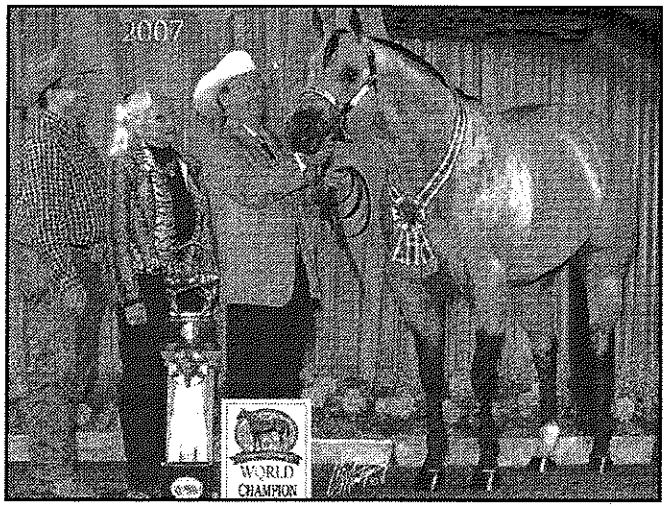
"We are going for quality, not quantity in our business," Barbara verified.

While mares are key to proliferation of a program, Hofferosa has had a higher percentage of stallion foals. "I like the boys. I get along with stallions better than mares," Barbara said. "A barn full of mares is like an office full of women. They're always squabbling.

"I never have any trouble handling these stallions. I treat them right, and they are gentlemen," she insisted.

Looking to the Hofferosa Quarter Horses name being prominent around the world, Barbara concluded, "We've been very fortunate in our short time in the Quarter Horse business to have had this many really good horses. I don't want to take any credit for it. There is a much greater power than us who is responsible for all of this."

A successful Quarter Horse breeding business was initiated when Barbara Hoffer showed Perfec Crystl Pistol as a baby at a local horse show. Since then, with her husband, John, Hoffer has been raising horses on their Hyofferosa Ranch south of Topeka. The original buckskin mare, here, has produced several champions and is heavy in foal now.



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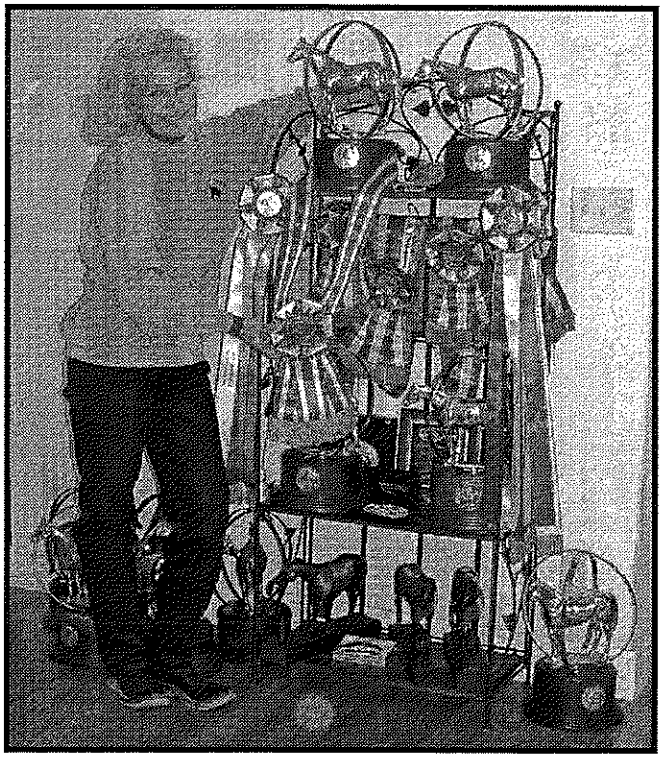
Barbara Hoffer pets the home-raised palomino reserve world champion stallion, Too Yella To Streak, in an outdoor pen at Hofferosa Ranch Quarter Horses south of Topeka.



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