



Hey Neighbor



For The Love Of Horses

By Frank J. Buchman

'Well-Rounded' Young Horsewoman Rides And Volunteers To Gain Top 4-H Award

Not only is she an outstanding horsewoman, but equally a generous volunteer for anything involving horses and people.

For her talents and helpfulness, Bracey Fischer of Sharon Springs has been named the Kansas 4-H state award winner in the horse project.

"I love working with horses, and I enjoy helping others with their horses and horse-related activities," emphasized Bracey, 18-year-old daughter of Virgil and Peggy Fischer.

A USD 241 high school graduate this past spring, Bracey attends Sterling College on a volleyball scholar-

ship and is studying business. That hasn't slowed horse involvement for the 11-year Wallace County 4-H member, in the Sunflower Extension District.

"I continue to work with my horses and participated

in the state fair," she noted. "I placed first in showmanship out of 54 entries, which was a highlight of my 4-H experiences."

Involvement with horses started for Bracey when she enrolled in 4-H. "My older brother, Bailey (now 21), was showing horses, and I got my interest from him," she credited. "As I've upgraded my horses and done better, I've become more involved with everything to do with horses."

Her first horse was Buddy, a ranch gelding, but before long the show ring attracted Bracey's attention. "When I was just getting used to my horse called Rockabee, he was stricken by West Nile virus and

died," she reflected. "Our horses had been vaccinated for the disease, but it still killed mine."

That experience put Bracey to work finding out about the ailment. "I wanted others to be aware of West Nile, so I organized a clinic and a veterinarian presented information," she related. "I assisted him and also gave a radio program about vaccinations."

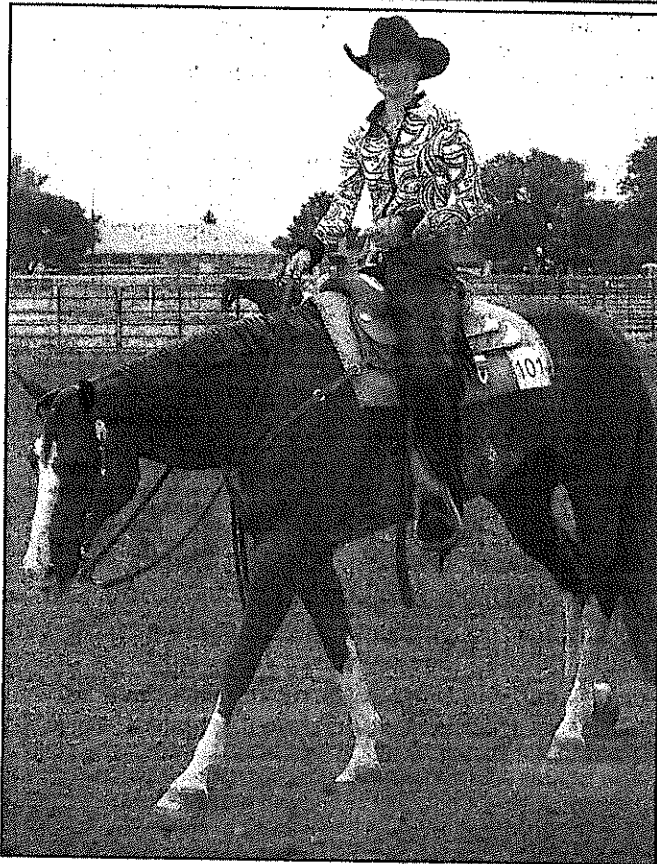
A Paint Horse named Rockin' On Air and called Rocky was acquired by Bracey. "He had a successful halter record but little experience in performance," she remembered. "After many hours of practicing, we are working well together. It takes lots of

hard work."

Credit was given to her parents for their assistance. "Dad and Mom are really a big asset," Bracey applauded. "Dad is just a natural with horses and helps me with my riding, and Mom is on the ground getting everything ready."

Virgil Fischer is an industrial arts teacher, and Peggy is a professional photographer. They have a cow-calf operation. "I grew up on horses but did not show," Peggy revealed. "Virgil only used horses as a youth to work cattle, yet he has been observant of others' showing horses and has a knack with them. He does show some."

Show experience for Bracey includes both 4-H



At the Northwest Kansas District 4-H Horse Show, Bracey Fischer of Sharon Springs rode her Paint Horse gelding to qualify for the Kansas State Fair in western horsemanship competition. Fischer is the Kansas 4-H state award winner in the horse project.

events and registered Paint Horse competitions in Kansas and Colorado. She exhibited under 17 judges in 2006 with a most enviable record.

"I show Rocky in halter and showmanship as well as western pleasure and horsemanship classes," Bracey explained. "English classes are really exciting for me too. They have been beneficial to my western riding."

She was champion in English pleasure at the state fair two years ago. Bracey rides her brother's speed-event horse, Dollar, when working for all-around titles and has collected many awards.

In her down time at shows, Bracey assists with show coordination. "I helped set up the trail course at the state fair last year," she recalled.

Her talents have made Bracey in demand to help others. "I serve as assistant county 4-H horse leader and specifically work with showmanship and trail at practices," she described. "I also give some individual lessons."

Horse show apparel that

Bracey has outgrown was given to a younger 4-H horse owner. "She was glad to have the clothing and could wear them," Bracey confirmed.

At shows, Bracey assists her fellow exhibitors in learning and executing patterns. She indicated, "I have given horse showmanship demonstrations to fair round robin competitors and provided my horse for them to use."

Verification of her congeniality with horse owners, Bracey served on the grievance committee for the northeast district 4-H horse show. "I felt privileged to do that and was ready to help settle any disputes," she commented.

Having participated in horse judging contests over a wide area, Bracey has also coordinated judging competitions. "I had an open judging contest for youth and adults at the county horse show, instructed participants about judging and helped with tabulation," she said.

Bracey has taken her horses to youth day camps. "I let them ride Rocky, and they really enjoy that," she

shared. "I also took my horses to the rest home for residents to see and pet. That brightened their day and brought back fond memories for some."

During the holidays, Bracey made horse photograph door hangers, cards and decorations for rest home and Senior Living Center residents. Bracey's photography talents follow that of her Mom, and her horse photos have won several titles.

So popular are Bracey's works that several have been sold as money-making projects. "The Kansas Paint Horse Association used one of my photographs on the cover of their directory, and it was auctioned off to fund youth activities of the American Paint Horse Association," Bracey confirmed.

Horse photo greeting cards were also mailed to

military personnel. "One soldier wrote to me that she had grown up with horses," Bracey informed. "The photos made her miss it, and she put the cards up in her room."

Educational trips have been made by Bracey to further her knowledge. "I visited several horse operations when I went to California and stopped to see the Budweiser Clydesdales," she reminisced. "My brother, Bailey, works for a cutting horse trainer in Texas, and I got to spend time there learning that business."

Presenting horse talks in competition and for public meetings, Bracey stated, "At school, I discussed horses during National 4-H Week. I also made horse posters and displayed them at the bank and the fair."

Although there are two other siblings, brother Blake, 20, and sister Brecken, 25, Bracey and Bailey were the only ones interested in horses. "They kept us busy going to horse activities, but we enjoyed it," Peggy admitted.

A leader in her 4-H club and horse groups, Bracey is uncertain the direction of her future. "With a degree in business, there are many ways I can go," she analyzed. "I think I'll be able to say I am a well-rounded, knowledgeable adult because of being actively involved in 4-H and with horses during my youth."

'Well-Rounded' Young Horsewoman Rides And Volunteers To Gain Top 4-H Award

Not only is she an outstanding horsewoman, but equally a generous volunteer for anything involving horses and people.

For her talents and helpfulness, Bracey Fischer of Sharon Springs has been named the Kansas 4-H state award winner in the horse project.

"I love working with horses, and I enjoy helping others with their horses and horse-related activities," emphasized Bracey, 18-year-old daughter of Virgil and Peggy Fischer.

A USD 241 high school graduate this past spring, Bracey attends Sterling College on a volleyball scholarship and is studying business. That hasn't slowed horse involvement for the 11-year Wallace County 4-H member, in the Sunflower Extension District.

"I continue to work with my horses and participated in the state fair," she noted. "I placed first in showmanship out of 54 entries, which was a highlight of my 4-H experiences."

Involvement with horses started for Bracey when she enrolled in 4-H. "My older brother, Bailey (now 21), was showing horses, and I got my interest from him," she credited. "As I've upgraded my horses and done better, I've become more involved with everything to do with horses."

Her first horse was Buddy, a ranch gelding, but before long the show ring attracted Bracey's attention. "When I was just getting used to my horse called Rockabee, he was stricken by West Nile virus and died," she reflected. "Our horses had been vaccinated for the disease, but it still killed mine."

That experience put Bracey to work finding out about the ailment. "I wanted others to be aware of West Nile, so I organized a clinic and a veterinarian presented information," she related. "I assisted him and also gave a radio program about vaccinations."

A Paint Horse named Rockin' On Air and called Rocky was acquired by Bracey. "He had a successful halter record but little experience in performance," she remembered. "After many hours of practicing, we are working well together. It takes lots of hard work."

Credit was given to her parents for their assistance. "Dad and Mom are really a big asset," Bracey applauded. "Dad is just a natural with horses and helps me with my riding, and Mom is on the ground getting everything ready."

Virgil Fischer is an industrial arts teacher, and Peggy is a professional photographer. They have a cow-calf operation. "I grew up on horses but did not show," Peggy revealed. "Virgil only used horses as a youth to work cattle, yet he has been observant of others' showing horses and has a knack with them. He does show some."

Show experience for Bracey includes both 4-H events and registered Paint Horse competitions in Kansas and Colorado. She exhibited under 17 judges in 2006 with a most enviable record.

"I show Rocky in halter and showmanship as well as western pleasure and horsemanship classes," Bracey explained. "English classes are really exciting for me too. They have been beneficial to my western riding."

She was champion in English pleasure at the state fair two years ago. Bracey rides her brother's speed-event horse, Dollar, when working for all-around titles and has collected many awards.

In her down time at shows, Bracey assists with show coordination. "I helped set up the trail course at the state fair last year," she recalled.

Her talents have made Bracey in demand to help others. "I serve as assistant county 4-H horse leader and specifically work with showmanship and trail at practices," she described. "I also give some individual lessons."

Horse show apparel that Bracey has outgrown was given to a younger 4-H horse owner. "She was glad to have the clothing and could wear them," Bracey confirmed.

At shows, Bracey assists her fellow exhibitors in learning and executing patterns. She indicated, "I have given horse showmanship demonstrations to fair round robin competitors and provided my horse for them to use."

Verification of her congeniality with horse owners, Bracey served on the grievance committee for the north-east district 4-H horse show. "I felt privileged to do that and was ready to help settle any disputes," she commented.

Having participated in horse judging contests over a wide area, Bracey has also coordinated judging competitions. "I had an open judging contest for youth and adults at the county horse show, instructed participants about judging and helped with tabulation," she said.

Bracey has taken her horses to youth day camps. "I let them ride Rocky, and they really enjoy that," she shared. "I also took my horses to the rest home for residents to see and pet. That brightened their day and brought back fond memories for some."

During the holidays, Bracey made horse photograph door hangers, cards and decorations for rest home and Senior Living Center residents. Bracey's photography talents follow that of her Mom, and her horse photos have won several titles.

So popular are Bracey's works that several have been sold as money-making projects. "The Kansas Paint Horse Association used one of my photographs on the cover of their directory, and it was auctioned off to fund youth activities of the American Paint Horse Association," Bracey confirmed.

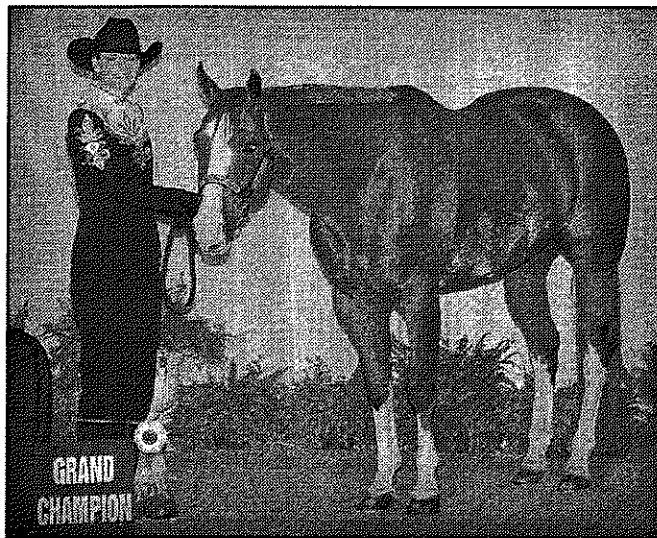
Horse photo greeting cards were also mailed to military personnel. "One soldier wrote to me that she had grown up with horses," Bracey informed. "The photos made her miss it, and she put the cards up in her room."

Educational trips have been made by Bracey to further her knowledge. "I visited several horse operations when I went to California and stopped to see the Budweiser Clydesdales," she reminisced. "My brother, Bailey, works for a cutting horse trainer in Texas, and I got to spend time there learning that business."

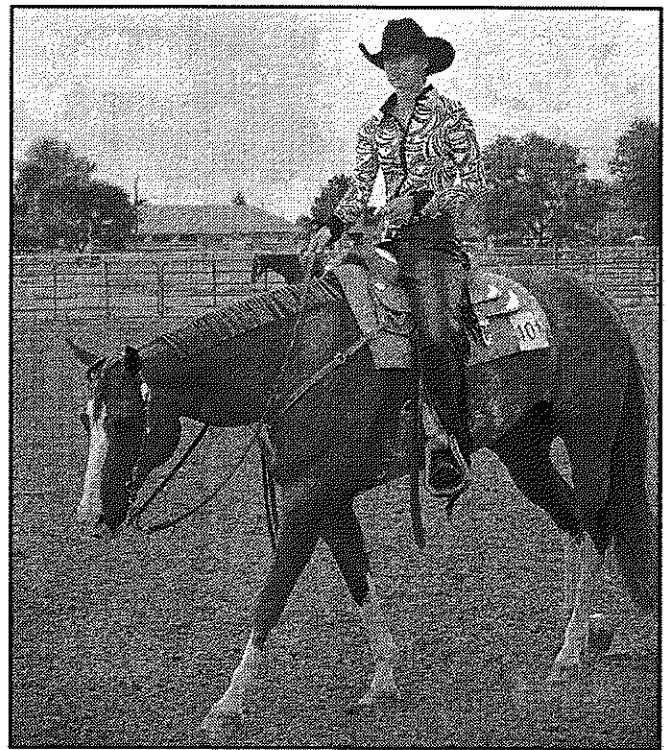
Presenting horse talks in competition and for public meetings, Bracey stated, "At school, I discussed horses during National 4-H Week. I also made horse posters and displayed them at the bank and the fair."

Although there are two other siblings, brother Blake, 20, and sister Brecken, 25, Bracey and Bailey were the only ones interested in horses. "They kept us busy going to horse activities, but we enjoyed it," Peggy admitted.

A leader in her 4-H club and horse groups, Bracey is uncertain the direction of her future. "With a degree in business, there are many ways I can go," she analyzed. "I think I'll be able to say I am a well-rounded, knowledgeable adult because of being actively involved in 4-H and with horses during my youth."



State 4-H horse award winner, Bracey Fischer of Sharon Springs showed her Paint Horse gelding, Rockin' On Air, to be champion in showmanship at the 2007 Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson.



At the Northwest Kansas District 4-H Horse Show, Bracey Fischer of Sharon Springs rode her Paint Horse gelding to qualify for the Kansas State Fair in western horsemanship competition. Fischer is the Kansas 4-H state award winner in the horse project.