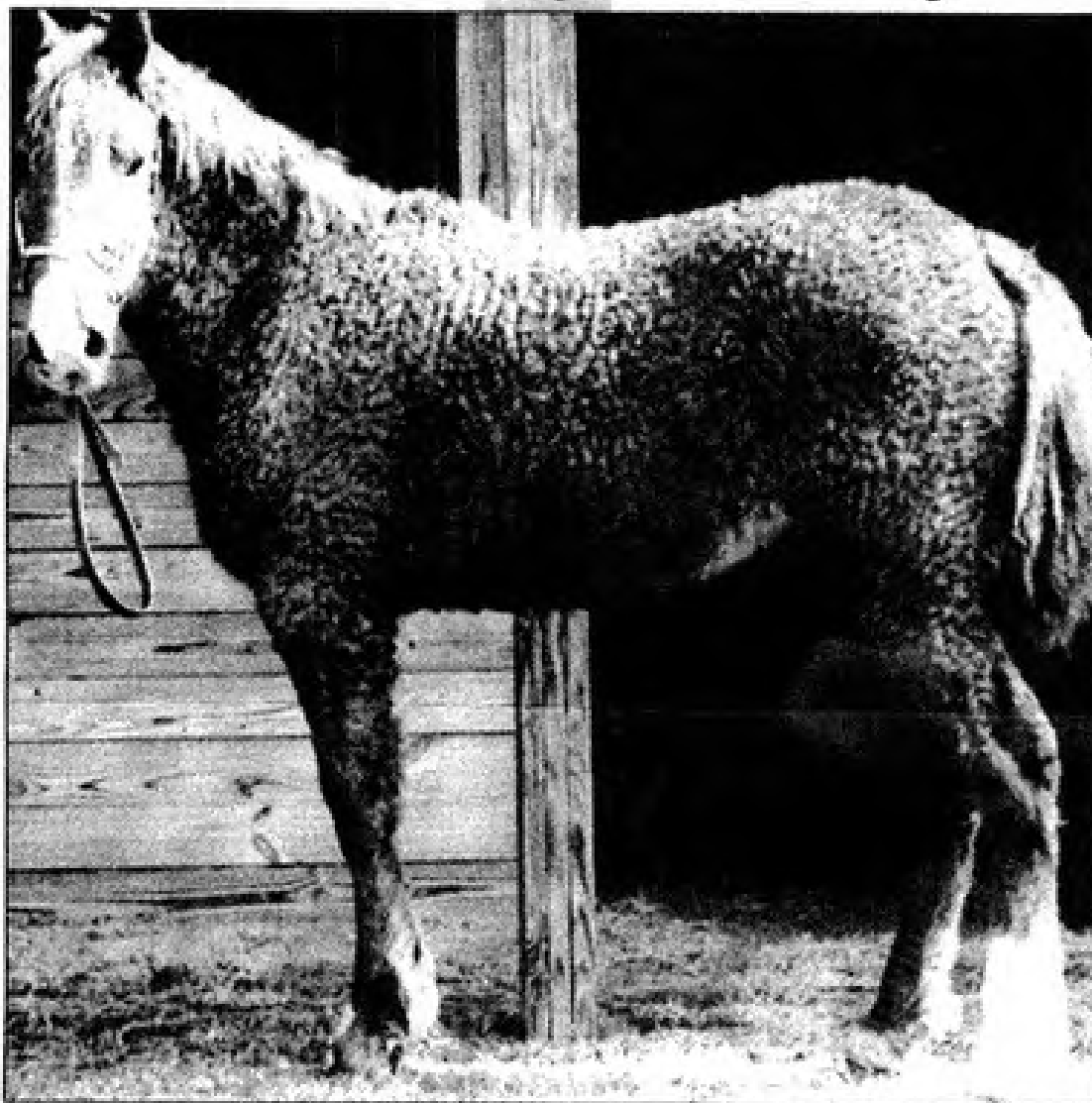


Curly Horse History (/)

Search

PUBLICATIONS (/)	DOCS I (/DOCS-I.HTML)	MUSTANGS (/MUSTANGS.HTML)	DOCS II (/DOCS-II.HTML)
HOME (/HOME.HTML)	GALLERY I (/GALLERY-I.HTML)	GALLERY II (/GALLERY-II.HTML)	CURIOUS (/CURIOUS.HTML)

Back in Curly Country



Laura Hilt took this photo of her curly horse, www.indyanna.com.

Breeders and fanciers of the American Bashkir Curly Horse are to convene in Ely this weekend, June 19-21, for their 33rd annual convention.

With a full agenda of business at the Bristlecone Convention Center, delegates from all over North America will be attending.

"It is nice to be back in Ely" said ABC President Greg Oakes from Ontario, Canada. "Ely is the birth place of the American Bashkir Curly Registry."

Several special guests will be attending with presentations for the membership. Dr. Tom Sanders, DVM will be discussing the dangers of the West Nile

virus on Thursday. Dr. Cecilia Pengdo, PhD from the Veterinary Genetics Laboratory at the University of California at Davis and Dr. Tervaki Tozaki from the Laboratory of Racing Chemistry in Japan will be presenting a research proposal regarding horse genome mapping designed to isolate the curly gene.

There is a horse show being held on Saturday at the White Pine Fairgrounds. The show, sponsored by the ABC Registry is open to all breeds and includes 19 classes and eight timed events. Registration for the ABC Registry fun horse show and play day is 8:00 a.m. Saturday at the fairgrounds.

There will a national awards and wall of fame presentation. Several past presidents of the organization will be attending to pay tribute to the memory of the recently deceased charter member and secretary, Sunny Martin of Ely. Several early curly horses are being recognized for their contributions to the breed including Sunny Martin's Curly Q, Debbie Mitchell's Pello Chino and Tom Sanders beloved Georgi Zarina.

6-19-2003

Curly owners convene

One hundred and forty owners and fanciers of curly-coated horses have signed up for the 14th annual convention of the American Bashkir Curly Registry being held in Ely this weekend. The group will represent 20 states, from Alaska to Alabama. Convention Chairman Virginia McIntyre and her committee have planned a Western weekend for them, with headquarters at the Bristlecone Convention Center.

Stephen Richer, Nevada State Director of Tourism, Carson City, will give a Nevada welcome to the conventioners at their Awards Banquet Friday evening. He will be accompanied to Ely by his wife, Kathy. ABC President Norman Dills of Sacramento, Calif., will act as master of ceremonies for the evening and will present the ABC National Championship Trophies and various other special awards. Many door prizes donated by local businessmen will also be given out.

Highlighting the evening will be the Steptoe Steppers Square Dancers who will be performing during the cocktail hour, and the Rick Martinez 1983 Regional Champion Blue Grass Band of Salt Lake City will entertain after the banquet.

ABC Board of Directors, General Membership and Breeders' meetings will take up most of Saturday, and a 10-Class All-Curly Horse Show, judged by John Fraser of Elko, will be held at the Fairgrounds Arena at 4:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend. Admission is free.

Convention attendees bringing horses will join the Ely Riding Club on Sunday morning for their annual Father's Day Trail Ride to Murry Summit Campground for a outdoor Cowboy Breakfast cooked by ERC President Duane Kerr and his crew.



Aboard a Curly horse

Debbie Mitchell, of McGill, riding Sunny Martin's Curly mare, Pello Cheno, in Pasadena Jan. 2, just before the start of the Rose Parade. The mare was the 1983 Hi point performance champion in the All Curly Horse Show.



(Sunny Martin collection)

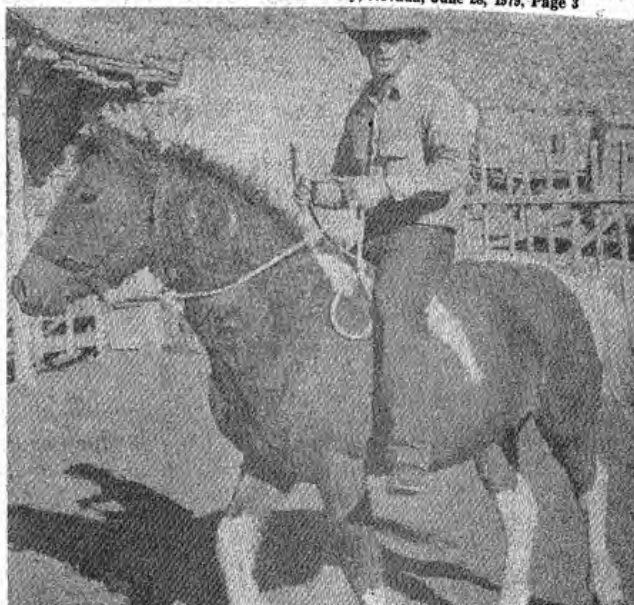
Sunny Martin of Ely rode her white, champion curly horse named Pello Cheno in the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, Calif., in January 1986.



(Sunny Martin collection)

The late Benny Damele, who owned the Dry Creek Ranch between Eureka and Austin, rode a curly horse named Shoshone D in the 1984 Tournament of Roses Parade.

Ely Daily Times, Ely, Nevada, June 28, 1979, Page 3



Pleasure class winner

Benny Damele warms up on Dixie D. for the Pleasure Class. Damele was the first place winner in the Pleasure Class in the Curly Horse convention.

"A Free Voice in a Free America..." ...Helping to Build a Better White Pine C

Weather
Mostly sunny through Tuesday with zero chance of precipitation. Gusty afternoon winds. The low tonight is expected to be near 40 with a high Tuesday near 85. Sunday's high was 80 with a low this morning of 35. Noon temperature Monday was 75 with 24 per cent relative humidity.

Ely DAILY

VOL. NO. 75, NO. 154, Phone 289-4491 Aug 9, 1976 ELY, NEVADA, MOND



Curly trophies

Members of the American Bashkir Curly Registry held their sixth annual meeting this weekend in the Bristlecone Convention Center. Receiving the top three Curly awards were Pat McKendry, national champion performance horse; John D. Curtis, Las Vegas, national trail ride champion; and Zeke Davidson, Anna, Ill., showmanship. Shown with the trophies are, left to right: Jay McKendry, accepting for his wife Pat; Sonny Martin with Davidson's award and Curtis. New officers elected were: President, Jay McKendry; vice president, Melvin Blue, Litchfield, Calif.; registrar, Dixie Cole, East Ely; secretary, Mrs. Martin; McGill Highway; new directors, Georgette Jessen, Reno; John Curtis, Las Vegas; and junior board member, Dawn Moran, Las Vegas. The other board members are: Charlene Seely, Woodburn, Ore.; Stella Heit, Ely; Benny Damele, Austin; Davidson, Mrs. McKendry and Glen Kugler, Dayton, Ore., chairman. Mrs. Martin said the convention was "great." She said the guest speaker, Jeff Edwards, was "very informative and a great boost to the Curly breeders."

(TIMES Photo)

For the Ideal Family Trail Horse . . . **Ride a CURLY!**

American Bashkir Curly Registry

This unique breed is gentle enough for a child, yet tough enough for a man – intelligent – lovable – smooth-gaited – hardy – all this, plus a beautiful Curly coat that stands out in a crowd.

For more information, contact:

GLEN KUGLER, PRES.
Rte. 2, Box 206
Dayton, OR 97214

SUNNY MARTIN, SEC.
Box 453
Ely, NV 89301

BENNY DAMELE, V.P.
Dry Creek Ranch
Austin, NV 89310

Aug. 6-8

From Donna York, Did you get it??

Ely Curly horse confab set

The sixth annual convention of the American Bashkir Curly Registry, will be held Aug. 6-8, at the Bristlecone Convention Center.

The dates coincide with the 26th White Pine Horse Show, in order to allow owners to bring their horses and enter the American Bashkir Pleasure Class and Halter Class. These are the only classes in the United States

exclusively for Curly-coated horses.

Guest speaker at the convention will be Jeff Edwards of the Spanish Barb Wild Horse Research Farm, Porterville, Calif. Edwards and his partner, 86-year-old Ferd Brislawn, who will also attend the meeting, are nationally known authorities on primitive breeds in the United States, a local spokesman said.

The Registry, headed by Jay McKendry, Morgan Hill, Calif., extends an invitation to all horsemen in the area to attend the convention, or anyone else who might be interested. Reservations may also be made to attend the awards banquet.

Those attending will also see for the first time the movie film taken by Art Reid of Carbondale, Ill., at last year's horse show and Mt. Wheeler trail ride. Also to be shown are a slide show of Curly-coated horses, in all their winter finery, which is offered to horse groups, colleges, horse seminars, etc., in order to acquaint more people with these highly unusual horses which seem to be so native to Nevada.

The local committee planning the arrangements for the convention in-

Horse show judge picked

Tom Finley, Chandler, Ariz., will be the judge for this year's White Pine Horse Show, August 6-8, at the White Pine County Fairgrounds.

Finley has 35 years of judging experience in events staged all over the United States, Canada, Mexico, Central America, Hawaii, Australia, and some in Europe. He was president of AQHA in 1967 and has been the chairman of the AQHA International since.

There is no admission charge to any
of the Horse Show events.

cludes Elaine Heit, George C. Heit,
Stella Heit, Sunny Martin, Debbie
Mitchell and Donna York.



TOM FINLEY

staff of officers to promote these unique horses.

The fifth annual convention for breeders, owners, and fanciers of Bashkir Curlies was held in August at Ely, Nevada. A special highlight of the weekend was the first Bashkir Curly class to be held in the United States—a country pleasure class, plus a halter class, which were added as a special feature of the White Pine Silver Anniversary Horse Show. Curlies from California, Oregon, and Nevada competed.

At the awards banquet, trophies were presented to the following 1975 national champions:

Champion arena performance horse: Reid's Curly, owned by Robert "Zeke" Davidson, Anna, Illinois.

Champion competitive trail horse: Pat's Grey Ghost, owned by Pat McKendry, Morgan Hill, California.

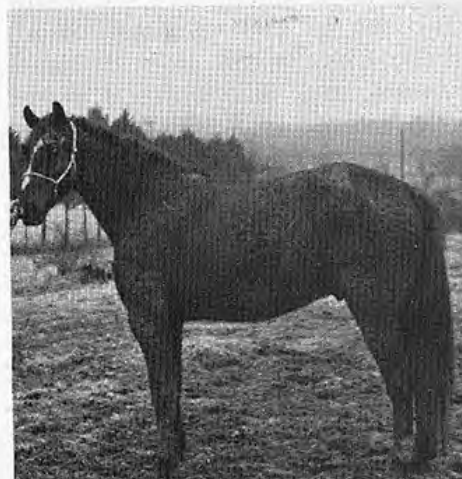
Champion endurance trail horse: Copper, Jr., owned by John D. Curtis, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Showmanship award: Sunny Martin, Nevada.

American Bashkir Curly Registry

By Sunny Martin, Secretary

FIFTY American Bashkir Curly horses now hold certificates with the registry, and the statistics on these horses have been compiled in studbook form. These sturdy, compact horses with the "poodle" coats and winning ways have compiled an enviable show and trail record in just four short years, proving that it has been well worth the effort of President Glen Kugler and his



• Reid's Curly, the American Bashkir Curly Registry's national performance champion for 1975. He is owned by Robert Davidson, Anna, Illinois.

OCTOBER 1975

INTERMISSION

June 18 thru June 24

Champion of the curlys



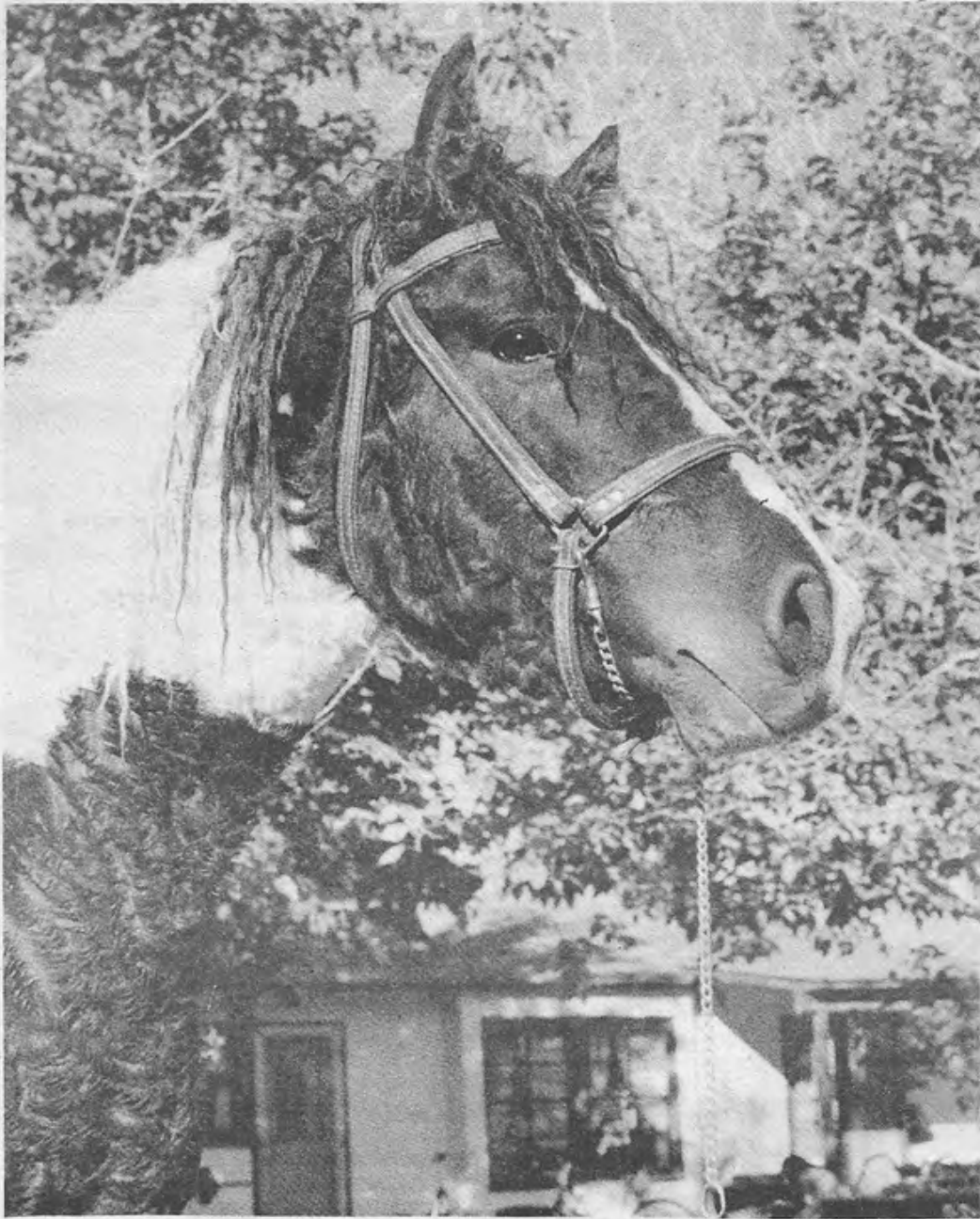
The national performance champion for the American Bashkir Curly Registry for 1983 is this Portland, Ore., mare, Blossom J ridden by its owner Laura Gilkey. The horse competed in 21 open classes in the Portland area and won six classes while never finishing out of the ribbons. The horse

has been shown in seven different types of events and won a first place at every show it entered. See article and pictures on this weekend's convention of the Curly Horse registry on Pages 8 and 9.

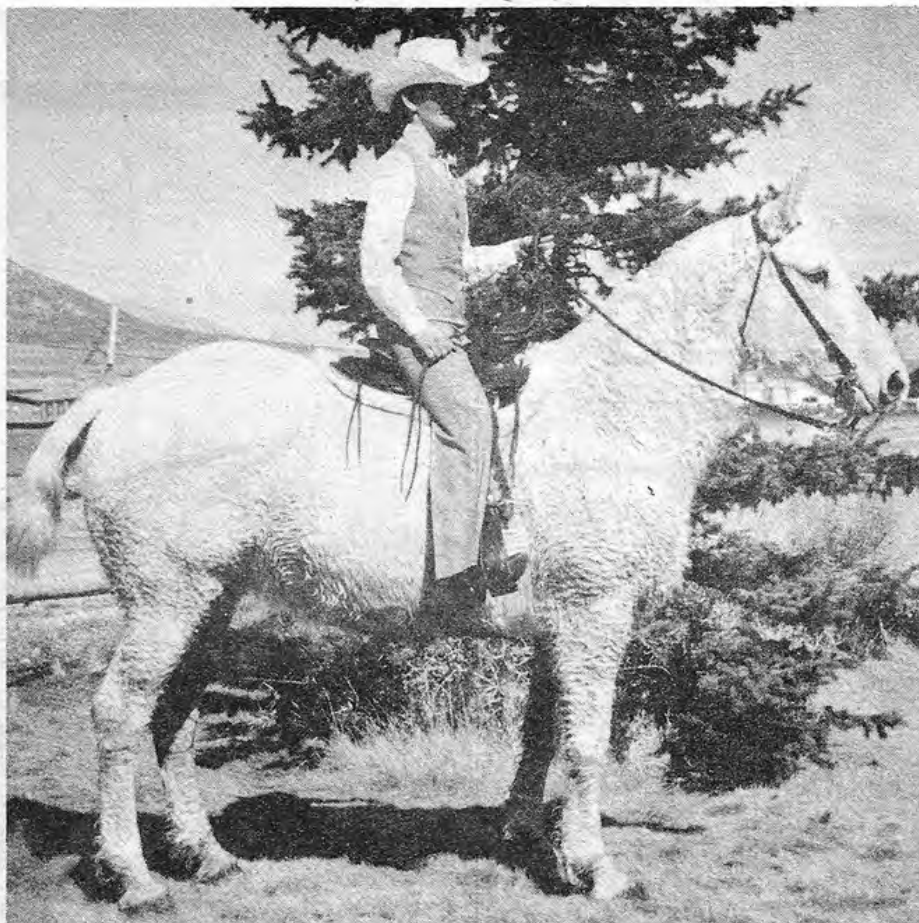
Page 8, Supplement to the Ely Daily Times, June 17, 1983



Jay's Curly Boy is another winner in the Curly Horse field, taking victories on endurance trails in California with 35 entries in its division. The horse is the American Bashkir Curly Registry's national trail champion and was also a first place winner in the Mushroom Mardi Gras Parade in Morgan Hill, Calif. The horse is ridden here by Pat McKendry, and the owner is Jay McKendry of Morgan Hill.



Nakita is the name of this Curly Horse specimen. The horse is owned by B.J. Thomas of Henderson and was the winner of a first-place trophy in a recent Las Vegas Helldorado Parade.



Pello Cheno was the American Bashkir Curly Registry's 1978 and 1981 national performance champion, and has been a winner of numerous trophies in country pleasure, trail and parade categories. The horse is owned by Sunny Martin of Ely and is ridden here by Debbie Mitchell.

By **SUNNY MARTIN**

Folks coming for the 13th annual convention of the American Bashkir Curly Registry will be greeted with a warm Ely welcome by Mayor-elect Barlow White, as they get together at the Bristlecone Convention Center on Friday evening for a cocktail hour and awards banquet.

Georgette Jessen and Stella Heit, who co-chair the weekend's activities, will host the evening's affair.

Conventioners will register in, beginning at 3 p.m. on Friday afternoon at the Convention Center, with Vivian Stephens and Eleanor Renshaw at the desk. The afternoon will also include a get-acquainted hour, a chance to look over the many breeder exhibits, pictures in the Gallery of Champions, Stallion Row and the Photo Contest. "People" Bingo will also be played with chances to win a host of door prizes furnished by local businesses.

A feature of Friday evening's festivities will be live entertainment during the cocktail hour. Performing on stage will be Ely's World Champion super-whistler Art Carling, a sure crowd pleaser; plus a group of dancers, Jeanette Hogan, JoAnn Stratton and Denyse Warner, in costume, who will treat the group with a routine of belly dancing.

Following the buffet supper, ABC Vice-Pres., B.J. Thomas of Henderson will present the Registry's 1983 National Awards. Those receiving the trophies are: Lorrie Hofstad, Fallbrook, Calif., Champion Youth Award winner; Laura Gilkey, Portland, Ore., owner of Blossom J, Champion Performance Horse; Jay McKendry, Morgan Hill, Calif., owner of Jay's Curly Boy, Champion Trail Horse; Dick and Shirley Hofstad, Fallbrook, Calif., winners of the Breed Promotion Award and Dan & Debbie Mitchell, owners of Strike, Half-Bashkir Performance Champion.

Special gifts will be given in a number of other categories, such as: Youngest member attending, oldest cowboy, member driving the furthest distance, and member bringing horses the longest distance, plus a variety of door prizes.

The more serious part of the three-day weekend starts on Saturday morning with a board meeting at the convention center at 8 a.m., presided over by Georgette Jessen, chairman of the Board. At 8:30 a.m., a free Kaffee Klache

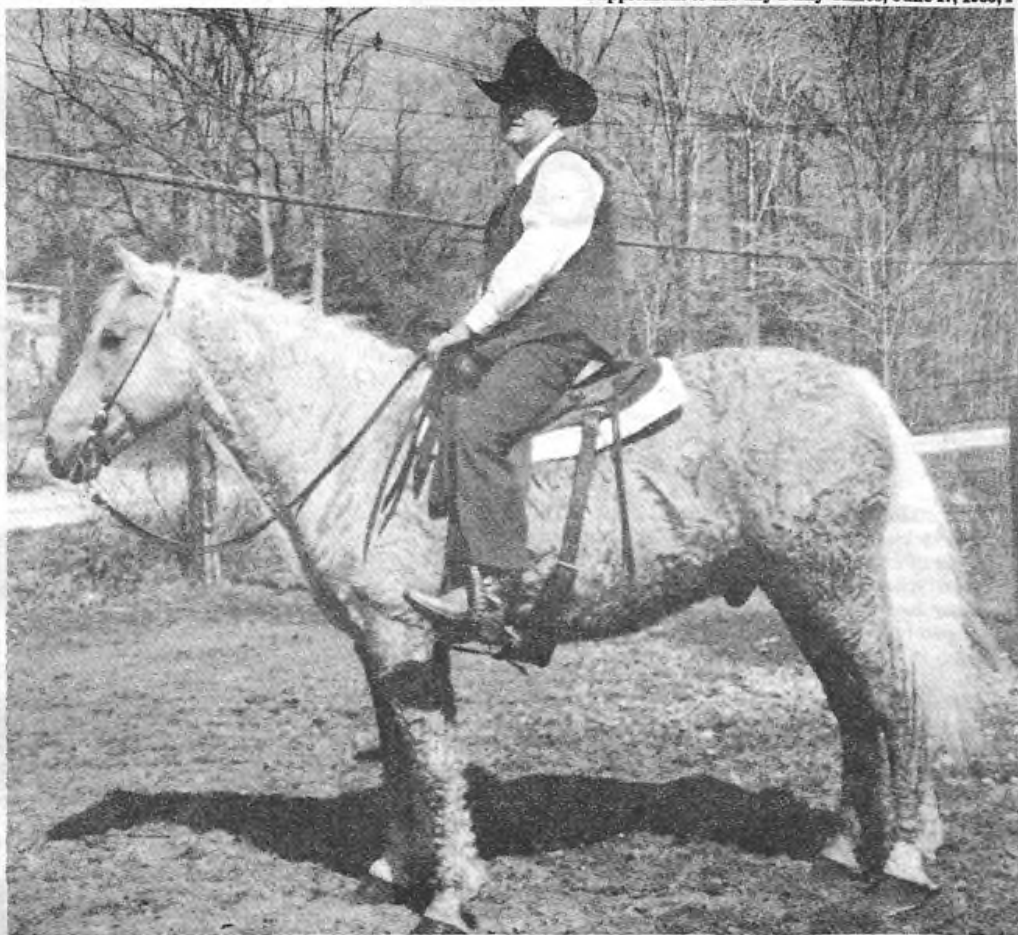
for everyone attending will be hosted by Virginia McIntyre and Dee Gipson, followed sat 9:30 a.m. by a general membership meeting and election of officers with B.J. Thomas presiding, all at the convention center.

At 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, the White Pine County Fairgrounds will be the setting for the ninth annual All-Curly Horse Show, to be judged this year by Mary Jo Craig of Reno. The show is under the direction of chairman Michelle Couch of Henderson, with 10 classes offered complete with trophies, ribbons and prize money. Two classes added to the show this year are jumping and bareback, both new to Ely. The public is invited and admission is free.

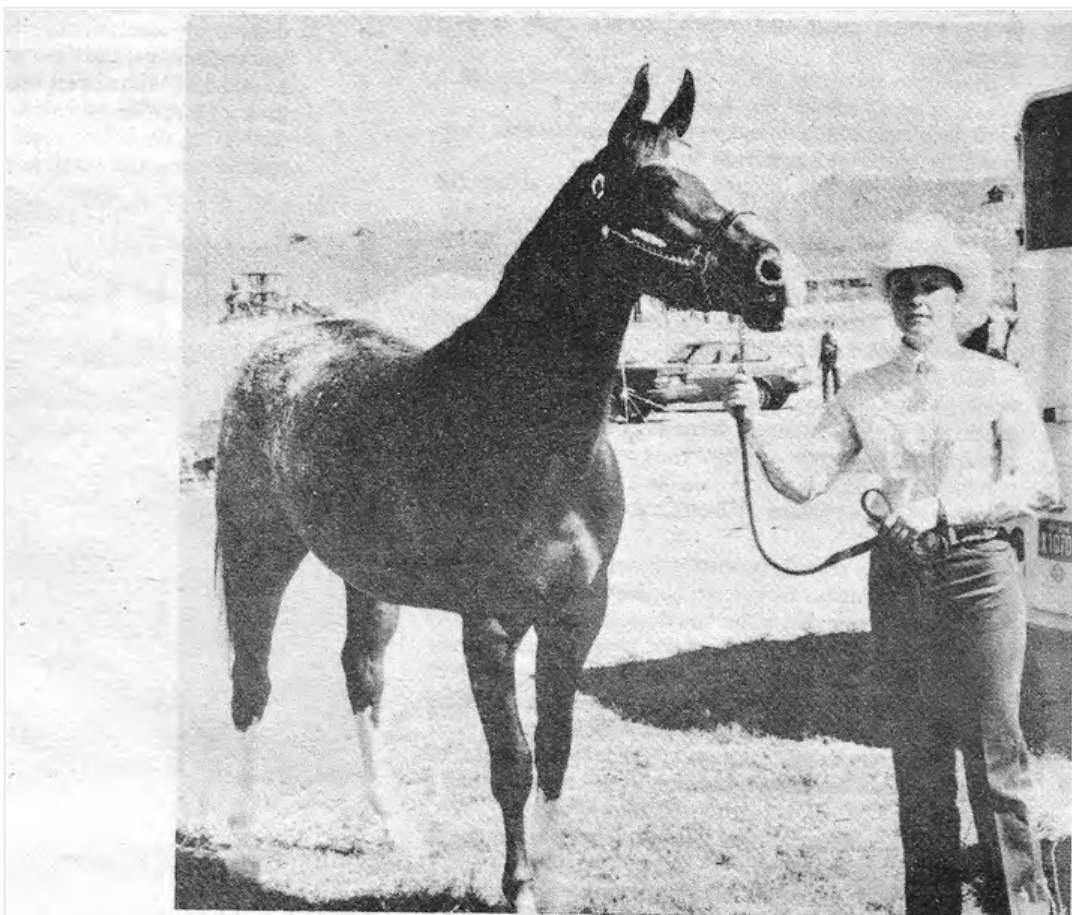
At 8 a.m. Sunday, owners bringing Curlies to Ely will join the Ely Riding Club Trail Rids to Murry Summit for their Father's Day Outdoor Breakfast, enjoyed annually by about 150 people, mostly horsemen and their families. The all-you-can-eat Cowboy pancake breakfast is prepared and cooked by a crew of excellent cooks headed by Duane Kerr, Riding Club president. After breakfast, a post-convention board meeting at Murry Summit will wind up the weekend activities.

Anyone interested is also welcome to visit the stables and look over these unique horses and talk to their owners. Fast gaining a reputation as the rarest and most unusual breed in the U.S., they are not only known for their curly coat but also for the many breed characteristics that are truly different from those of the better known breeds. Just 235 curly-coated horses from throughout the U.S. and Canada have now been registered with ABC headquarters here at Ely. Their superior cold-weather qualities have especially interested people living in cold climates, and quite a number of Curlies have sold into Alaska and the Yukon territory from the Ely area. These new owners are extremely pleased at their Curlies' ability to withstand 50 to 60 degree below zero weather without any problems. Highly intelligent, inherently gentle, extremely rugged and surprisingly athletic, performance records kept on Bashkir Curlies show a very high percentage of winning performances both in the arena and on the endurance trails, and the demand for them is growing rapidly. There are 15 Curlies at present in the Ely area.

Supplement to the Ely Daily Times, June 17, 1983, Page 9



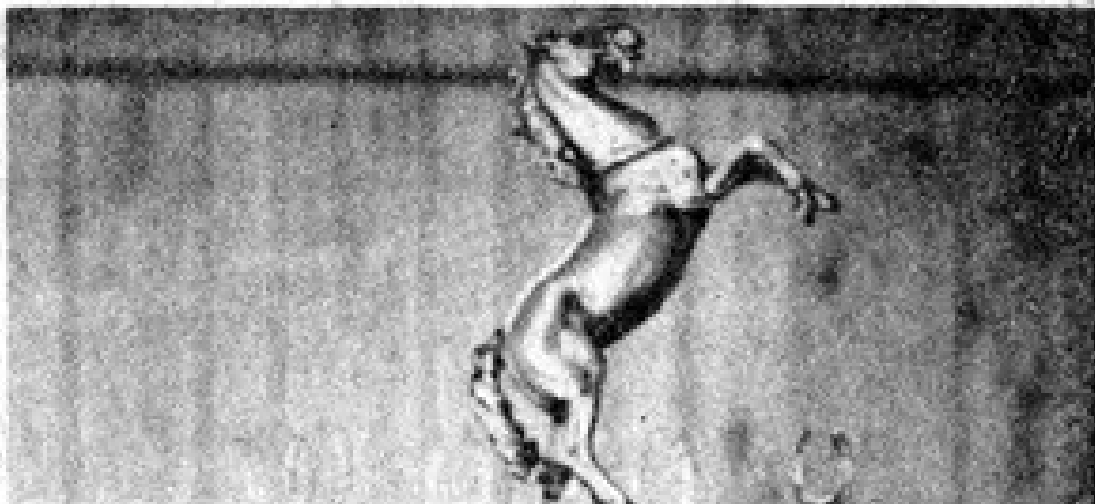
Johny Come Lately is the name of this Curly Horse, ridden here by owner Rollie Newman of Sparta, N.J. The horse took first place in the St. Patrick's Parade in Sparta and does a number of tricks for audiences. The horse does 14 high school tricks by voice command, and is also used for roping and driving.

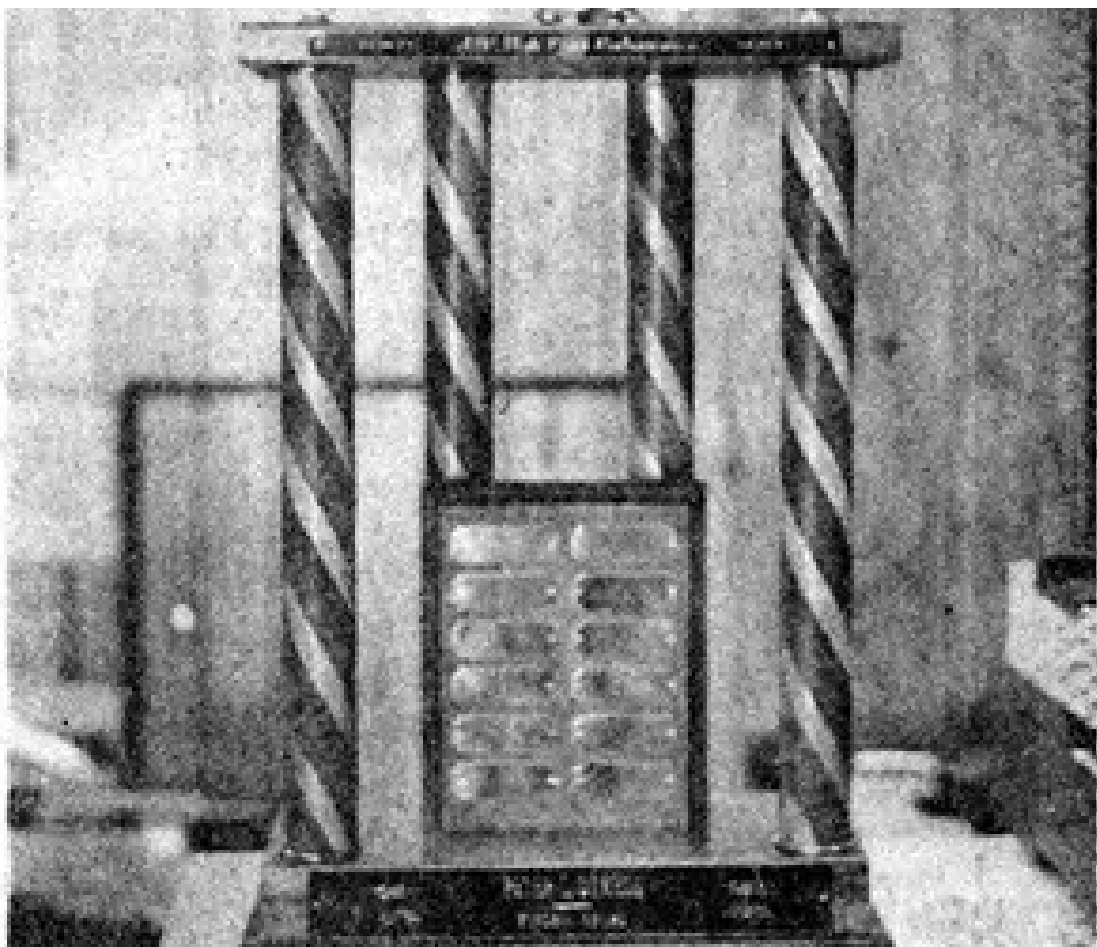


Mary Jo Craig of Reno will be judging this year's ABC Curly Horse Show, which starts at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, at the White Pine County Fairgrounds Arena. The public is invited. Craig is a native Nevadan, and will soon graduate from the University of Nevada-Reno with a major in Animal Science. She started at a very early age with horses, being a 4-H member for eight years, competing in three State 4-H shows, and was a member for two years on the State Horse Judging Team, and has shown in a variety of horse show events, both Western and English. She has been on the intercollegiate horse show team for three years, and also was 1982 president of the UNR Horse Show Club.

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6-10-82





The Peter L. Damele Memorial Award given by Mrs. LaRaine Damele and Benny Damele, Austin, in honor of Mr. Damele, Curly horse breeder who passed away last year. The trophy will be presented to the ABC hi-point performance horse at the All-Curly Horse Show to be held Saturday, June 19, 9 a.m. at the Fairgrounds. It will be on display with the many other ABC trophies this coming week at Goodman-Tidball's.

ABC convention set

With the American Bashkir Curly convention just a week away, locals who would like to attend the Awards Banquet on Friday, June 18, are reminded to make their reservations no later than June 11 by calling Sunny Martin, 289-4228. A Western barbecue buffet is set for those attending and will be preceded by a no-host cocktail hour at 6:30 p.m. at the Bristlecone Convention

Center.

The presentation of National ABC Awards by President Glen Kugler of Dayton Ore., will be one of the highlights of the evening. ABC members from as far away as Alaska and Connecticut, and many places in between will be there.

Curly owners convene

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Aboard a Curly horse

Debbie Mitchell, of McGill, riding Sunny Martin's Curly mare, Pello Cheno, in Pasadena Jan. 2, just before the start of the Rose Parade. The mare was the 1983 Hi point performance champion in the All Curly Horse Show.



Good ol' mountain music

The Rick Martinez Blue Grass Band entertained in Ely during the weekend for the Curly horse convention. Playing at the Sunday morning breakfast on Murry Summit are Tim Fisk, Bill Vernieu, Rick Martinez and Jennifer Holderman. Approximately 200 people attended the breakfast.

ARC MEMBER

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Curly, Cuddly And Almost Too Good To Be True

BY BONNIE KREITLER

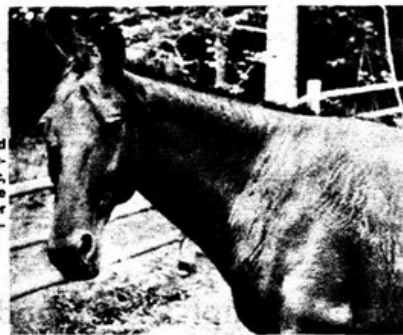
Most horse owners would phone the vet if their horse's mane and tail shed out along with his winter coat. But Nancy Dillon of Weston, Conn., just smiles when it happens every spring. Her horses are rare Bashkir Curlies, the only breed based on coat characteristics, and they're just doing what comes naturally.

Nancy first learned of the breed in 1983 from a magazine article. Her curiosity led her to Joe Perle of Danbury, Conn., who at that time had the only Curlies in the state. Joe was disbarring his herd and Nancy took home Fazio, a five-year-old Standardbred gelding. Fazio convinced her that everything she'd read about the breed was true and very soon, she went back for his lam, Barbara. More recently, Nancy purchased a double registered Bashkir Curly/Missouri Fox Trotter filly named Mindy.

Curly-coated horses may be a novelty to Americans, says Nancy, but depictions of them in early Chinese art and statuary place them far back in ancient times. The American Bashkir Curlies are so-called after their resemblance to the handy, curly-coated horses raised by the Bashkiri people for centuries in Russia. Perhaps some of these Russian horses crossed the Bering Strait in early times, perhaps early Russian settlers in Alaska and along the West Coast brought curly-coated horses with them. No one knows for sure how they reached North America.

According to the American Bashkir Curly Registry, seven-year-old Peter Damele spotted a trio of mustangs covered with tight curly ringlets in the remote Peter Hanson Mountains of central Nevada in 1898. This is the first recorded sighting of the curly-coated horses in the United States. Fifty years later, a severe winter

Fazio sheds his mane and tail each spring, a distinctive Curly characteristic, but the wave patterns are still distinct in the shorter coat hair. (Photo by Bonnie Kreidler)



killed most of the Damele stock horses and Peter and his family were forced to round up the only equines that survived — the tough little curly-coated descendants of the horses Peter had seen years before.

Nature had demonstrated that these had special characteristics beyond their curly coats. But when curly coats occasionally cropped up in their purebred herds, most breeders destroyed the foals as "freaks." To save these animals and protect a priceless gene pool, Sunny Martin of Ely, Nev., established the American Bashkir Curly Registry in 1971. Although no scientific genetic study has ever been done of these horses, when Sunny polled Curly owners in 1971, they documented a significant number of desirable traits that seem to correlate with the curly coat.

The most obvious ones are physical. Curlies have fine, soft hair that has round hair shafts, rather than the flat shafts of normal straight horse hair. For some reason, people allergic to horse hair are not allergic to the hair of Bashkir Curly horses. The body hair ranges from "crushed velvet" through marcel wave and ringlets (all descriptions used by Curly owners when registering their animals). The mane of a Curly parts in the middle and falls to both sides. It may be wavy or in ringlets and both mane and tail hair are shed in the summer. Sunny speculates that this may be nature's way of coping with tangled banana curls or a temperature regulating mechanism that helps the

horses handle extremes in weather. Curly eyelashes, curly fetlocks and tight curls inside the ears further distinguish a curly from one of his straight relatives.

Curlies have somewhat slanted eyes which give them an Oriental look as well as better vision to the rear. They generally have a high red blood cell count and short backs with only five lumbar vertebrae. Their nostrils are small, another adaptation that not only helps them cope with cold but also gives them somewhat different breathing patterns than other horses. Nancy uses Fazio for competitive trail driving and was very concerned about inversion (when a horse is breathing faster than his pulse rate) when they first began. But she soon realized that Fazio's rapid breathing was due to his smaller nostrils and learned to judge the quality of his breathing in ways other than counting breaths per minute.

Curlies are incredibly easy keepers. Many stay fat and sassy with no grain at all. Nancy cups her hands to show the amount of sweet feed that Fazio receives twice daily. That, plus oat hay, is all he needs to keep in competitive condition. Fazio and his compatriots live year-round in a paddock with an open shed, a situation that suits Curlies ideally. And although Fazio is shod for the miles he travels on paved roads, most Curlies have such hard feet that shoes are unnecessary.

But the trait that attracted Nancy to the breed and has prompted her to start a breeding program is the incredibly gentle and intelligent temperament the Curly horses exhibit. It's hard to believe some of the stories one hears about Curlies but those who work with them say every bit is true.

Nancy declares she had no qualms about taking the two-year-old Mindy to an elementary school this spring as part of a 4-H farm day. The young filly stood quietly while she was petted by 700 children as their teachers admonished, "Don't pat the

(Continued to page 9)



In winter when he is in "full curl," Fazio's wavy coat pattern vividly stands out. (Photo by Dale Stammel)

Curly

(Continued from page 8)

horse on the belly, dear." Mindy also visited a regional center for the retarded where she approached wheelchairs without hesitation. Nancy delights in Mindy's "wide-eyed curiosity about the world," something she says is characteristic of all Curlies. Most horses won't grab the end of a wormer syringe and gleefully gulp the contents. Mindy does.

Fazio has stories to tell, too. Before coming to Nancy, he was renowned for getting out of blankets. His owners spied on him to learn how he did his Houdini act — he undid two surcingle buckles with his teeth then took the back of the blanket carefully in his incisors and pulled it off over his head before depositing it carefully in a corner of his stall.

The 73-year-old Sunny Martin declares "nothing gentler like a Curly." She should know after a lifetime of working with Quarter Horses, Morgans, Thoroughbreds off the track, and mustangs off the range. She recalls one Curly mustang stallion that they ran for two years before catching by roping him from a pickup. Like Curlies in general, he took to people and they were riding him the next day. She tells of one rancher who never biter breaks his Curly mares because they're so gentle, anyone could walk off with them if he did. She tells of another Curly that's used as a performance horse in one class then sent into a leadline class the next minute with a two-year-old on his back. "I've been around horses all my life," says Sunny, "and it's the craziest thing I ever saw. They just don't have any innate meanness."

Sunny notes that unlike other registries, the American Bashkir Curly Registry doesn't stress any ideal physical breed type although many Curlies closely resemble the old-type Morgans in body type. Their top priorities are disposition, intelligence and soundness. Then come performance, easy gaits (many Curlies pace and the Curly trait crops up in breeds like the Standardbred and Missouri Fox Trotter) and, finally, con-

formation. Because of the breed's reputation, most curly-coated horses sell sight unseen.

One negative thing about Curlies is their scarcity. The American Bashkir Curly Registry currently lists only 375 plus some 30-odd "half-curly" or "straights" who have one curly parent and one straight hair. Because of the necessary outcrossing, many Curlies are double-registered as both Curlies and, for example, half-Morgans. There are also double-registered Curly-Standardbreds like Barbara and Fazio. Mindy is a double-registered Curly-Missouri Fox Trotter. And Nancy says the Curly trait sometimes appears in Tennessee Walkers.

Nancy delights in the gentle, curious nature of her animals and, with three

young children, she especially appreciates their calm, common sense attitude. Until recently, her Curlies were the only ones in New England and there were no Curly stallions available when Nancy bred Fazio's dam, Barbara, to a Morgan hoping for a Curly foal (alas, little Morley's coat is straight). Just recently, Betsy Perillo of Killingworth, Conn., brought six Curlies across the country from California.

As interest in the breed increases, Sunny has prepared an information packet to send to those inquiring about these unusual horses. To get it, send a self-addressed envelope with 44 cents postage and \$1 to cover costs to Sunny Martin, The American Bashkir Curly Registry, Box 453, Ely, Nev. 89301. □

Horse convention held

Commissioner Doug Hawkins welcomed the Curly Horse conventioners to their Awards Banquet at the Brisltecone Convention Center on Saturday evening.

Top awards for the year were: Youth award, VadaShea, Langdon, N. Dak, Champion Performance Horse, Walker's Prince T-ABC P-90, owned by Lester and Mary Tune, Summersville, Mo; and Breed Promotion Awards, Georgette Jessen, Reno.

The show classes at the fairgrounds on Sunday were judged by Lew Eklund, Carlin.

The winners out of seven entries in the ABC Pleasure Class were: first, Dixie D, ABC T-34, owned and ridden by Benny Damele, Austin; second, Curly Riser, ABC T-86, owned by Lynette Peterson, ridden by Rhonda Scott, Sausalito, Calif.; and third Laura J. ABC T-71, owned by Glen Kugler, Dayton, Ore. and ridden by Daria Hawkins.

A trophy was presented to Damele by Stella Heit, who sponsored the Class.

The winners in the ABC Showmanship out of seven entries were: first, D's Shelly Ann, ABC T-116, owned and shown by Daria Hawkins, Battleground, Wash.; second Curly Riser, ABC T-86, owned and shown by Lynette Peterson, Sausalito, Calif.; and third, Mel's Pride, ABC T-111, owned by Stephen Ellis and shown by Larry Ellis, Ely.

The sponsor of the class, Glen Kugler, presented Ms. Hawkins with a trophy.

Trophies sponsored by ABC were presented through 6th place in each event.

Immediately after the classes, a big potluck picnic lunch was served to

for a Trail Ride into the Schell Range.

New officers elected at the convention were: Mel Blue, President, Litchfield, Calif.

New officers elected to the convention were: Mel Blu, Litchfield, Calif., President; Daria Hawkins, Battleground, Wash.; Vice-President; Deborah Mitchell,

McGill, Registrar; Sunny Martin, Ely.; Secretary-Teasuer; and Georgette Jessen, Reno, Publicity.

It was also voted to have the 1980 convention at Ely. Everyone attending was very impressed with Ely's excellent facilities, the cooperation, hospitality and friendliness of the people and business houses here.

average after which 90

FIFTY American Bashkir Curly horses now hold certificates with the registry, and the statistics on these horses have been compiled in studbook form. These sturdy, compact horses with the "poodle" coats and winning ways have compiled an enviable show and trail record in just four short years, proving that it has been well worth the effort of President Glen Kugler and his

staff of officers to promote these unique horses.

The fifth annual convention for breeders, owners, and fanciers of Bashkir Curlies was held in August at Ely, Nevada. A special highlight of the weekend was the first Bashkir Curly class to be held in the United States—a country pleasure class, plus a halter class, which were added as a special feature of the White Pine Silver Anniversary Horse Show. Curlies from California, Oregon, and Nevada competed.

At the awards banquet, trophies were presented to the following 1975 national champions:

Champion arena performance horse: Reid's Curly, owned by Robert "Zeke" Davidson, Anna, Illinois.

Champion competitive trail horse: Pat's Grey Ghost, owned by Pat McKendry, Morgan Hill, California.

Champion endurance trail horse: Copper, Jr., owned by John D. Curtis, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Showmanship award: Sunny Martin, Nevada.

Juniper Hills grandmother

I faithfully ignore the early appearance each year of Holiday decor and sales. To me the real kickoff of the Christmas season is seeing Santa at the end of the Hollywood Christmas Parade.

This year we can watch for Juniper Hills resident Ingrid Fulcher, who will ride in the 66th annual Hollywood Christmas Parade tomorrow evening as part of a mounted group representing the American Bashkir Curly Horses.

Fulcher will appear riding Daisy, and her daughter, Ann Washington of Costa Mesa, will be on Teddy. Ann's children, Tiffany, 15, and Lawrence, 13, will be mounted on Normandy and Paladin. Ann's husband, Jim, current president of the American Bashkir Curly Registry, rides Tory as marshal of the group.

Accompanying Fulcher and her family will be Curly-owning friends Janette Stone of Irvine on Wrangler, Grant Evenson of Arroyo Grande on Peacock D (sire of Teddy and Tory), and Manuel Garcia of Hanford will ride Fulcher's Kirby.

Fulcher, originally from northern Germany, has resided in Juniper Hills since 1962 and has owned horses for 30 years. Four years ago, she bought a horse for her grandchildren to ride.

Purchased because of his nice disposition, Fulcher knew nothing about curlies like her new horse, Teddy. She has since purchased the eight curlies now owned by the family.

Those of you who enjoy trail trials may have met Fulcher and the Washington family at local competitions. They also enjoy participating in the few breed shows available, plus several parades each year. Fulcher tries to ride a little during the week, but on weekends the whole family hits the trails near Fulcher's home.

If you miss seeing Fulcher in the Hollywood Christmas Parade, watch for her New Year's Day in the Rose Bowl Parade, when the American Bashkir Curly Horse group will make another appearance.

Curly horses

Curlies were first noticed in the United States in the late 1800s near Austin, in the high country of central Nevada. In 1971, the American Bashkir Curly Registry was established in Ely, Nev.

These small, compactly built horses, with the curly manes and tails, and long, curly winter coats were once believed to be descended of horses found in Russia. Horses with curly coats are seen in ancient Chinese art and have been raised in Russia on the southern slopes of the Ural mountains by the Bashkiri people for centuries, which is how the name Bashkir came to be used for the curlies found in the United States.

No one is certain how curlies came to be in North America. The Curlies were found wild primarily in the Northwest, making it seem unlikely that they were descended from horses brought to the Americas by the Spanish, since these were principally in the Southwest.

In Russia, the usual color is chestnut, with flaxen legs. Breeding of American Bashkir curlies has produced all colors, including spotted horses.

Fulcher's Curlies include Roman Red (Teddy), a bay gelding; Winged Victory (Tory), a bay pinto mare; May Day Dividend (Lady), a buckskin mare; Ebony May Day (Daisy), a chestnut mare; Paladin (Pal), a black gelding; J.W. Normandy (Normandy), a chestnut pinto gelding; Kings Royal Ruby (Kirby), a liver chestnut gelding; and Woolly Bully, an enormous

In the Saddle



Zera is member of Dressage Riders of Antelope Valley, the California Dressage Society, the U.S. Dressage Federation and the American Horse Shows Association. You can reach her care of the Valley Press, P.O. Box 880, Palmdale, CA 93590.

By Valerie Zera

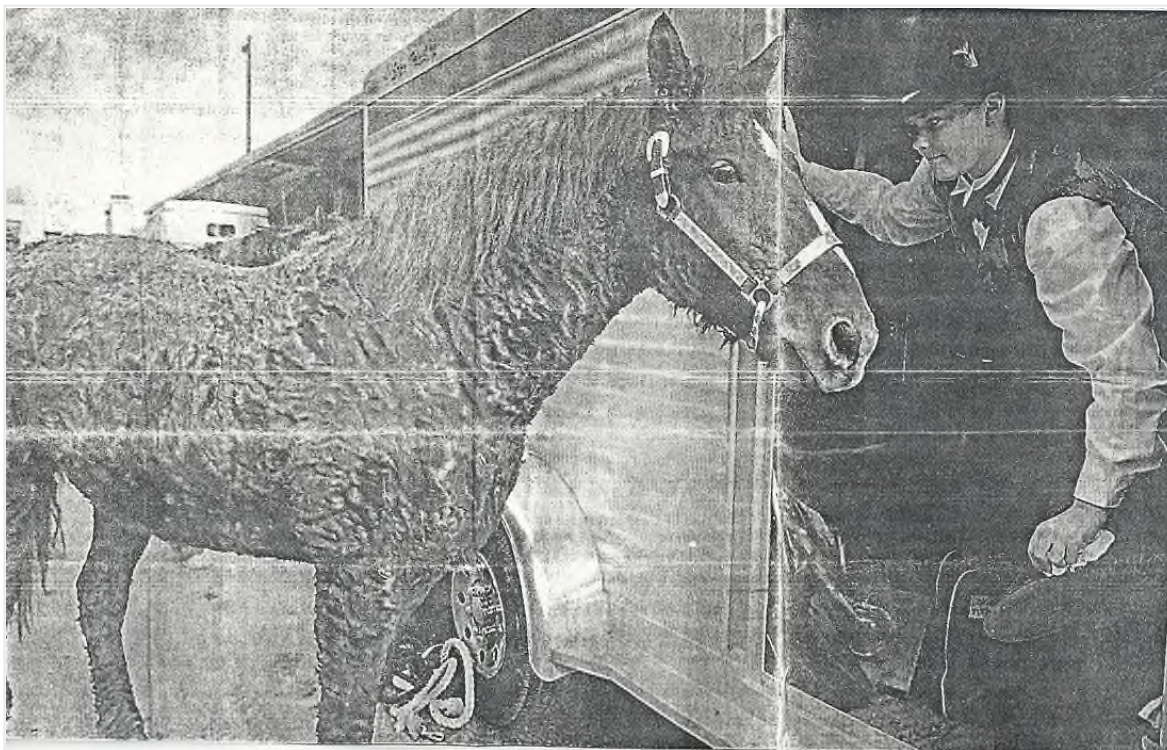
black Percheron born with a curly coat.

Curlies seem to have a larger range of vision to the rear than do most horses, and thick, curly eyelashes. Round, black feet (even if legs are white) are usual and shoes are seldom required. The breed is tough, strong and known for endurance, with a high concentration of red blood cells and a short back with seven to nine vertebrae.

Coats can grow to 4 or even 6 inches in length in cold climates, which sheds to a normal flat coat in warm weather. Oddly, they often shed their kinky manes in summer, as well. People who are allergic to horses don't seem to react to curlies.

There are currently less than 1,500 total registered curlies, with about 50 of these being wild mustang curlies (which may also be registered in the American Bashkir Curly Association).

For more information about the breed and a copy of their newsletter, send \$1 with a self-addressed envelope to: American Bashkir Curly Registry, P.O. Box 246, Ely, NV 89301.



Breed is no longer object of contempt

By Letisia Marquez
Daily Bulletin

POMONA — Once killed because they were thought to be sick or deformed, American Bashkir Curly horses are now a rare commodity coveted around the world.

At the 1996 Curly Classic horse show Sunday at Fairplex, about 20 horse owners raved about the horses' curly coat, wavy manes and tails, and affectionate disposition.

"There's not many of us around," said Victor Espinosa, owner of the Lilac Hill Curly Horses ranch in Orangevale. "We're breeding really sweet horses that are also very athletic and versatile."

About 1,500 curly-haired horses are believed to exist around the world, Espinosa said. The horses are registered with the American Bashkir Curly Registry in Ely, Nev.

No one knows exactly how the horses originated in the United States, but there's evidence that they've been in North America since the early 1800s. The horses were found in Nevada, California and Utah. They might have originated in the Bashkir region of Russia's Ural Mountains.

Espinosa said the horses' hairy coat, which can resemble angora, keeps them warm during the winter and rainy seasons. The horses shed their coat in the summer.

Teddy, a curly horse who's been in 13

See HORSES/B7



Above, 14-year-old Tiffany Washington of Costa Mesa cleans her boots while her horse Daisy watches. The pair had just finished competing in the junior showmanship event of the 1996 Curly Classic horse show Sunday at Fairplex. Left, Janette Stone of Irvine rides her curly horse named Wrangler during the Western Equitation portion of the show.

Jeff Malet/
Daily Bulletin

Jan 1, 1997
C.A.H.H.S.

Horses/from B1

Tournament of Roses Parades and two Hollywood Christmas Parades, exhibited many of his breed's trademark qualities.

A curly reddish-brown hair covers his body while his legs, mane, and tail are covered with black hair.

With his big black eyes, he looked affectionately at people who stood near him. Teddy often rubbed his nose against visitors' shoulders and sniffed papers they were holding.

"He just loves attention," said Ann Washington, Teddy's owner. "He just wants to be touched all the time."

With such an easy nature, most of the horses carried children without any major problems. Washington's niece, Missy Wilburn, 13, placed second in the

trail competition with her horse, Mesa.

"He caught on really quickly," Wilburn said. The horse show had 28 competitions, including the best curly coat, showmanship and barrel racing.

Jack Skadsen, 48, of Glendora attended the horse show to find out more about the curly horse. He plans to buy a horse soon.

"A lot of people want to see these horses because they are rare," Skadsen said. "I like their disposition, but they don't seem very flighty."

These horses can cost from \$1,500 to \$5,000. Espinosa joked that he's the largest breeder of curly-haired horses in California because he has three baby horses to sell.

Vicky Vogel, 50, of San Dimas said her horse, Chief Curly Smoke, is less restless than her other horses.

"I thought we would sell him after we bought him seven years ago, but we haven't," Vogel said. "We've really gotten used to him."



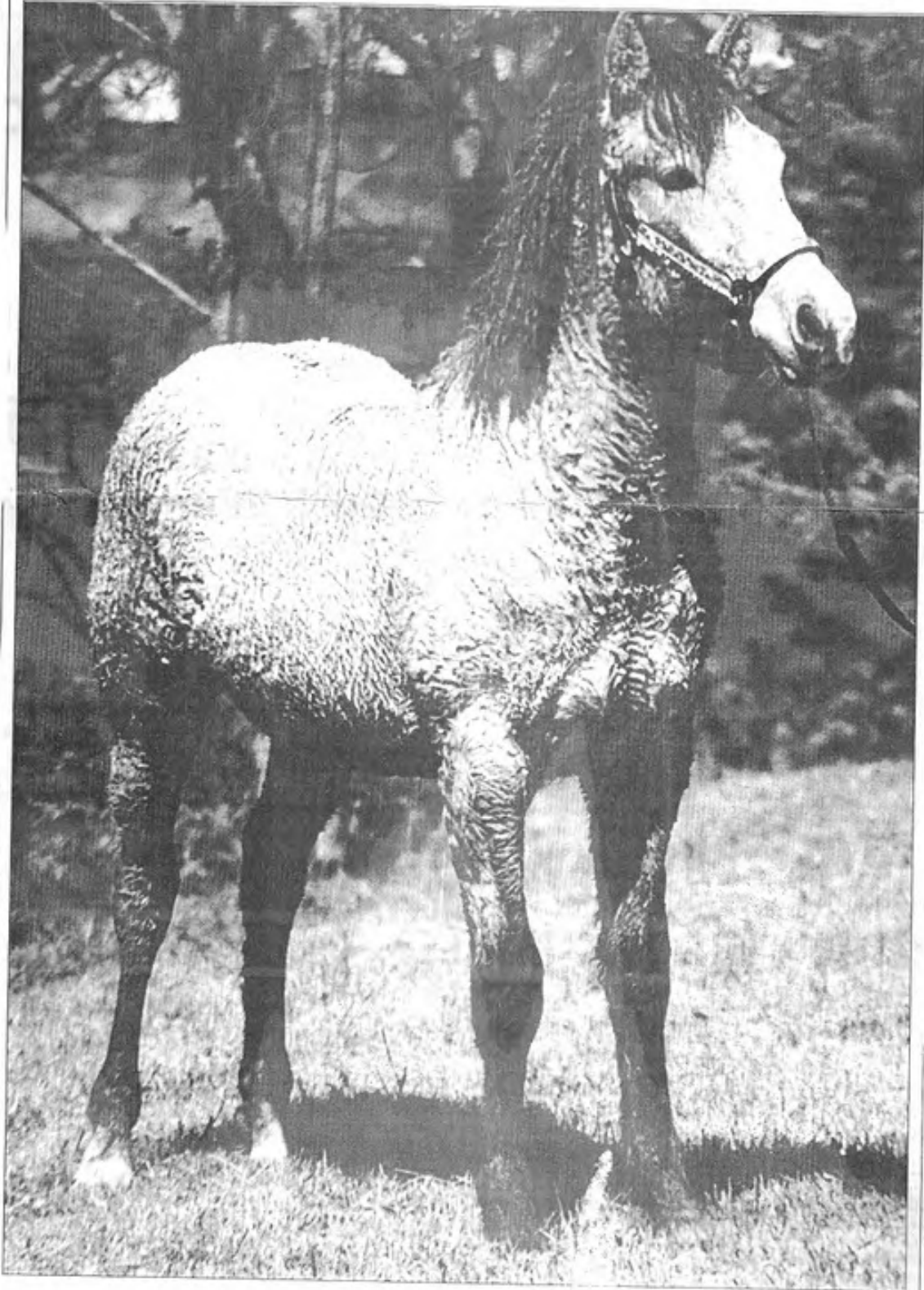


KKR Q-Pid's Cleopatra was born 6-9-96 in Ely, NV to Q-Pid and Sabrina Mustang. Her facial markings are just like her Daddy's and she'll be red dun with white socks. Proud step-grandparents are Howard Palen and Kirsten Mortenson of Fredonia, AZ. Step-Greatgrandmothers are Sunny Martin of Ely and Iris Mortenson of St. George.

6-13-96

Curlies Coming

6-18-99



Submitted Photo

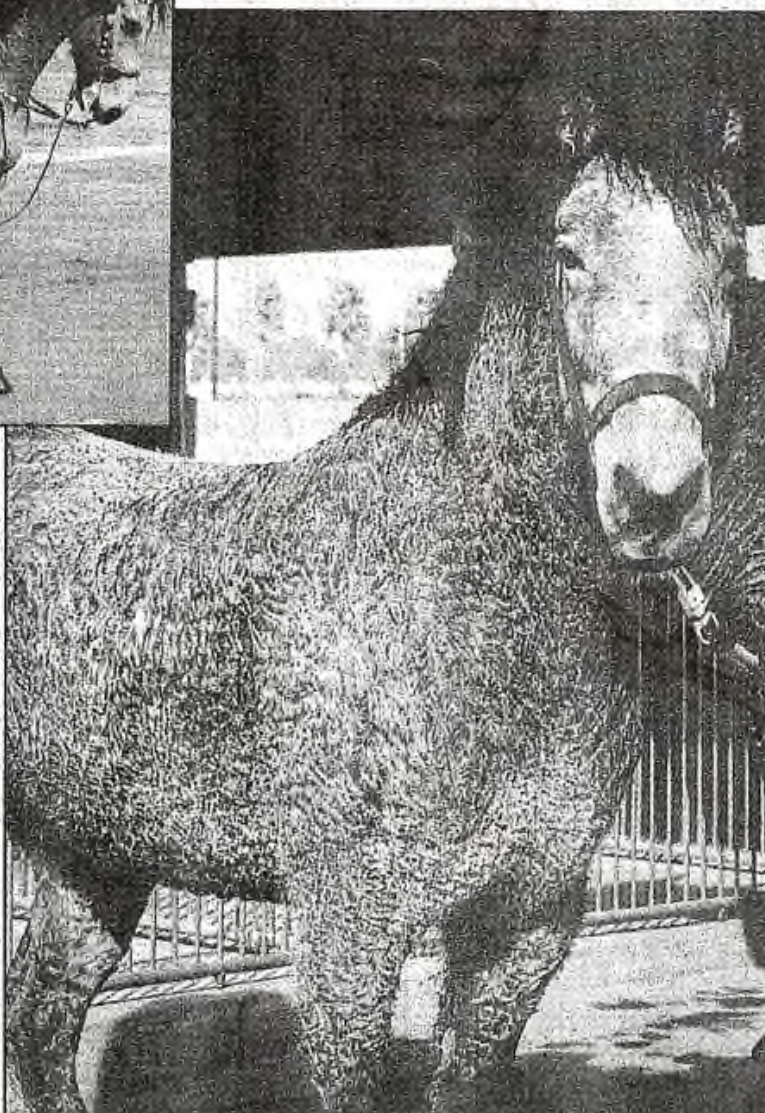
Submitted Photo

The 29th Annual American Bashkir Curly Horse Convention will be held in Ely, June 24-26. There will be a steak barbecue on Thursday night at the Duck Creek Range. On Friday, during a luncheon, there will be a guest speaker with a video auction afterward. Then in the evening, an Italian dinner will be served.

The registry will sponsor an American Bashkir Curly Horse auction on Saturday, June 26, offering a large selection of the rare and unique horses. The first-ever all curly auction will be held at the White Pine County Fairgrounds. Anyone interested in receiving a list of horses for the auction should call the office at 289-4999. The registry is also planning a ride on the Ghost Train of Old Ely on Saturday.



INGRID AND HER CURLIES — Ingrid Fulcher of Juniper Hills, left, sits on Lady, a buckskin mare, at the Costa Mesa Fish Fry Parade in June. Below, Lady shows off her curly coat, still wet from bathing at the Pomona Fairgrounds a year ago, as she was readied for the 1997 Rose Parade. Fulcher will ride Curly in Sunday's Hollywood Christmas Parade and the 1998 Rose Parade.



Grand marshal of the 66th annual Hollywood Christmas Parade is Tom Arnold. The event begins at 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 30, at the corner of Sunset Boulevard and Van Ness Avenue.

It travels west to Highland Avenue, north to Hollywood Boulevard, then east to Bronson Avenue. Spectators can watch for free, however, prices vary for grandstand tickets, which are available today and tomorrow from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the ticket booth at the corner of Tamarind and Sunset boulevards, next to Arby's Restaurant. Call (818) 795-4171 for further details.

Zera's articles and coverage of equestrian sporting events have appeared in several California equestrian publications. She is a member of California Dressage Society, Antelope Valley Chapter; Backcountry Horsemen of California, Antelope Valley Unit.

history as long as their hair



COREY RICH/valley

NATURALLY CURLY – Kirstin Wilburn shows off the uniquely curly coat of May Day Dividend, an American Bash Curly horse.

America. Their coats and the other hardy features that characterize this breed enable them to survive cold and other harsh conditions.

Curlies were found wild primarily in the Northwest, making it seem unlikely that they were descended from horses brought to the Americas by the Spanish, since they were primarily in the Southwest.

seen in ancient Chinese art, and have been raised in Russia on the southern slopes of the Ural mountains by the Bashkiri people for centuries, which is how the name Bashkir came to be used for the Curlies found in the United States.

Source of milk

The Bashkiri people use their horses for transportation, cloth-

are frequently kept in herds, cattle, and produce 3 to 6 gallons of milk a day, which is used for drink, and to make cream, butter, cheese, or fermented Kumiss – used as both a medicinal tonic and an intoxicating beverage.

Coats can grow to 4 or even 6 inches in length in cold climates; the horses shed in warm weather. Oddly, they often shed

ome to Curly Horse Show Country



Farmer's Curly King, owned by Sunny Martin of Ely, displays the typical curly coat of the curly horse. In this photo by local photographer June Stone. Curly horse owners have gathered and many will compete tomorrow and Saturday in the All-Curly Horse Show at the fairgrounds.

The 1993 All-Curly Horse Show is scheduled tomorrow and Saturday at the White Pine County Fairgrounds. The curly-coated horses will be competing in both English and western classes. Admission to the annual show is free and events start at 8 a.m. both days. Points will be accumulated by first-, second- and third-place finishes in each adult class. The horse that accrues the most points will be awarded the Peter L. Damele Revolving Trophy, plus a combination halter-bridle, given by Collin Dangaard of the Australian Stock Saddle Co. of Malibu, Calif. Grand champion and reserve champion ribbons also will be awarded to the top two performing horses. Prize money of \$50 per adult class is sponsored by Mary Goeringer of the Hotel Nevada, and will be awarded to the top three horses in each event. Besides the trophies given to first place in each class, trophies also are awarded to the top six contestants.

Between the class events on Saturday, show organizers will stage the annual cow-pattie pitch. Trophies will be awarded to the top pitchers in the men's, women's, boys' and girls' divisions.

Tom Sanders, DVM, is chairman of this year's event, with Brad Bowlen of Wells serving as judge. Other workers include: Peggy Jo Yourdon, secretary; Sunny Martin, announcer; Lucille Broderick, concession; Dayle Johnson, ring steward; Jake Broderick and Larry Dobrescu, arena crew; Sterling Wines, groundsman; Lloyd Bell, photographer; and Bunny Hill, trophies and ribbons.

All-Curly Horse Show

Fairgrounds
White Pine County

Saturday, 8 a.m.

3 and older)	Sponsor	No. 8	Leadline (riders 7 and younger)	Carl and Rita McBride, Lakeview, Ore.
lip (2 and younger)	Harry and Mary Sue Rhea, Ely	No. 9	Curly Jr. Country Pleasure	Heather Amans, Fullerton, Calif.
loria Brathcer, Canyon City, Ore.	Russell & Marilee Wellersdick, Baker City, Ore.	No. 10	Country Bareback	Bill Gartrell, Amarillo, Texas
2 and younger)	Corine Mead, Sequim, Wash.	No. 11	Obstacle Trail	Warren and Linda Stevens, Lake City, Calif.
asure	Richard & Betty Chase, Lewisburg, Kent.	No. 12	Curly Senior Country Pleasure	Norman and Lou Ann Dills, Janesville, Calif.
ving	Holly Chase, Lewisburg, Kent.	No. 13	Reining	Sandra Child, Springville, Utah.
	James and Pat Schlueter, Tigard, Ore.	No. 14	Jr. Western Riding	Tom Sanders, DVM, Ely
		No. 15	Senior Western Riding	Dayle Johnson, Ely

6-24-93

Welcome to Curly Horse Show



CURLY ENOUGH: Charming's Curly King, owned by Sunny Martin of Ely, displays the typical curly coat of the American Bashkir Curly Horse, in this photo by local photographer June Stone. Curly horse owners have gathered in Ely this weekend and many will compete tomorrow and Saturday in the All-Curly Horse Show at the White Pine County Fairgrounds.

Eureka historic home of unique curly horses

By Adella Harding

Curly horses are "the sweetest, gentlest horses in the world, and they're tough, too. You can't wear them out," according to Sunny Martin of Ely, one of their most devoted fans and the founder of the curly horse registry.

"You can break them in nothing flat. They follow you around and love people," she said. "They're so intelligent, and they have a sense of humor."

Yes, the horses really do have curly hair, and while many Nevadans have never heard of them, they have roamed the ranges around Eureka for more than a century.

Just last month, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management gathered 11 curlies during a wild horse roundup on the Fish Creek Ranch Allotment near Eureka, said BLM horse specialist John Winnepenninkx of the Battle Mountain office.

Registered curly horses, meanwhile, have been appearing in the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, Calif., since 1963 and the Hollywood Christmas Parade for six years.

And Martin has photographs of curlies that have won championship trophies in horse shows and endurance races as well as ones trained as trick horses.

She said owners of registered curly horses started riding in the Rose Parade because it provided a great opportunity to show off their horses' curly hair in the winter. The horses shed their winter coats in late spring and their hair isn't curly in the summer.

Many of these curlies got their start at the Damele family's Dry Creek Ranch, located in Lander County between Eureka and Austin. Martin sent buyers there, and she sold and gave away a number of curlies over the years herself.

Martin, who described herself as a "horse-aholic," fell in love with curlies back in 1966 when she got her first curly stallion off the range from a ranch near Duckwater. She said the stallion was so gentle, she rode it before she left the ranch.

When she learned that some horse owners slaughtered curlies, believing they were defective, she wanted to do something to save the breed.

"Without her, we wouldn't have saved the horse," said Dale Woolley of Byron Center, Mich., who researched the curly horse and Damele family while living in Eureka for several years and wrote the book *The Dameles and the American Curly Horse*, published in 1993.

Woolley wrote that Peter L. Damele was fascinated by the curly horse and "it was through him that the curly-haired horse was kept and domesticated in large numbers because of their unique characteristics and curly coat."

Damele died at age 90 in 1981.

Martin started the Ely-based registry in 1971, and "if they were curly



(Adella Harding/Tree Press)

Valerie Sawyer of Spring Creek holds her 18-month-old son, Owen, on Brutus, a curly horse she has had since 1984.

And BLM horse specialist Kathy McKinstry said she hasn't heard of any wild curly horses in the Elko BLM district, but she has heard of them around Winnemucca and Ely.

"I never run into them up here," she said.

Winnepenninkx said that of the 11 curly horses showing up in the roundup of 622 wild horses, "we sent two or three curlies to Palomino Valley." The horse adoption center is located there.

The remaining older curlies were released again onto the allotment after last month's roundup.

Winnepenninkx said people seek out the wild curly horses in the adoption pens because they are unique.

Woolley said his research showed John M. Comaiti captured and domesticated the first known curly mustang from the Nevada range in 1893, and other ranchers caught and tamed them soon afterwards, but not the Dameles.

Woolley learned from the late Benny Damele that the family began taking an interest in the curly horses after an especially hard winter in 1932.

Peter L. and Bernard Damele dis-

uncle, Benny Damele, sold quite a few. "It was almost like a fad."

But the fad hasn't faded away. The curly horses are still in demand after wild horse roundups, and they're in demand among those who breed them. The Dameles, however, have few curlies left.

Peter J. Damele Jr., who lives on the Ackerman Ranch 44 miles west of Eureka in Lander County, said he and his brother, Tom, have between them two curly colts, one curly saddle horse and two curly mares so they aren't selling any curlies now.

"We may sell them in a couple of years. We want to build up the bunch a little," Peter Damele said.

He agreed with his sister that curlies are "kind of like any other horse. It depends on the stock. Normally they are pretty gentle. I got one here that's real gentle."

Martin said the registry requires horses to be curly, and four breeds are accepted for breeding: Morgan, Arabian, Appaloosa or Foxtrotter.

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Martin started the Ely-based registry in 1971, and "if they were curly we registered them. There is no way you can prove 100 percent, but if they have the trait, they are curly."

The American Bashkir Curly Registry office in Ely reported there are 3,111 registered curly horses.

In the beginning, Martin answered the mail and registered and promoted the horses, recalling that an article in *Mother Earth News* in 1983, for example, drew more than 5,000 letters about the curly horse.

That article, in fact, led Valerie Sawyer of Spring Creek to buy a curly horse in 1984. She said she called Martin after reading the article.

Sawyer said she is still best friends with the 17-year-old gelding named Brutus, which is No. 147 on the breed registry. The horse originally came from Dry Creek Ranch, she said.

"This horse has a place for life with me."

Sawyer said she has entered the multi-talented Brutus in horse shows in English and Western classes, and he pulls carts and serves as a pack horse.

Brutus also "has taught a lot of people to ride," she said. He's gentle with children, including her 18-month-old son, Owen, who gets to ride with his mom sometimes.

Most curly horses are "laid back, but if you treat them wrong, they will remember and won't work with you," Sawyer said. "They've got a real refined sense of fairness."

Listing more of the curly's characteristics, Martin said the curly horse is smart enough that it hates repetition, and she has seen curlies watch something once and be ready. She has lots of stories to tell, like the one about a curly horse who rang a doorbell for a carrot.

Sawyer, a metallurgist working part-time for WESTEC, said she has heard about a few other curly horses in the Elko and Spring Creek area, but not many.

Valerie Sawyer of Spring Creek holds her 18-month-old son, Owen, on Brutus, a curly horse she has had since 1984.

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Woolley learned from the late Benny Damele that the family began taking an interest in the curly horses after an especially hard winter in 1932.

Peter L. and Bernard Damele discovered in the spring that the curlies survived where most others did not, and they let a young curly stallion run with their horses for the season. From the spring of 1933 onward they always kept curlies, Woolley wrote.

Another severe storm hit in 1932. Out of 60 horses, all died except a curly stallion and four curly mares.

Benny Damele, son of Peter L., captured that spirited stallion a few years later and called it Copper D. From then on, all the curly horses with the 3D brand sprung from Copper D, Woolley wrote.

He also said the Dameles bred the curlies with a Morgan, Arabian, Appaloosa, Palomino and Buckskin draft horse over the years.

Martin, 65, who is not only a curly horse advocate, but a cowboy poet and nominee for the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame, said she talked Benny Damele into having a yearly roundup of curlies in the fall and selling the weanlings.

Although curly horse fans praise the breed, Ellaree (Damele) Mariluch said "sometimes everybody believes their breed is best. Curly horses are unique, but there are bad ones, too." She said her brother, Tom Damele, who lives on Dry Creek Ranch, had a horse that was "so mean" he couldn't keep it.

She said the curly horses introduced in the Eureka area originally were more stocky and less refined, and "an Arab stud refined them a lot." Mariluch said she remembers seeing ones that were more coldblooded and coarse with heavy legs.

Mariluch said her father, Peter J. Damele, wanted the curlies to be recognized as a breed but he was killed before it happened. "I remember him saying, everyone else has a breed, why can't the curly be one?"

Once Sunny Martin started the registry, "there was great interest in them," Mariluch said, adding that her

uncle, Benny Damele, sold quite a few. "It was almost like a fad."

But the fad hasn't faded away. The curly horses are still in demand after wild horse roundups, and they're in demand among those who breed them. The Dameles, however, have few curlies left.

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The registry also hosts a curly horse convention every year, almost always in Ely.

Woolley said in a telephone interview that his research leads him to believe the curly horses came to be in the Eureka area because a horse breeder named Tom Dixon brought two pregnant mares and a stallion back from India in 1874.

"I talked to old-timers who worked for Tom Dixon, and the story is he brought them from India," said Woolley, who backed their stories up with additional research. He wrote in his book on the Dameles and curly horses that Dixon kept the curlies sheltered the first few years and then released them and their new offspring onto the range.

Woolley disputes several theories on the origin of the curly horse in this country, and believes Dixon, who died at age 80 in 1927, should be credited with bringing the curly horse to this country. In his book, Woolley cites a letter written by the late Albert Laird recalling hearing





(Damele family)

Marge Damele of Eureka provided this snapshot taken in 1982 of a curly horse.

Dixon talk about going to India and bringing back the curlies.

Another theory is that the Russians brought the curlies to this country during visits to Alaska in the 1700s or after they established Fort Ross north of San Francisco Bay in 1799, but Woolley said there is no record of horses being shipped to Fort Ross.

Native Americans had curly-haired horses, too, he wrote, but he believes these horses had Cushing's disease, caused by a hyperactive pituitary gland, and they "did not possess the true curly traits instilled in them as those found in Nevada during the late 1800s."

Woolley's book also raises the question of whether the curlies are Bashkir or Lokai.

The official name of the registry is the American Bashkir Curly Registry, but Woolley said research indicates the Bashkir wasn't curly after 1845, when Russians began a breeding program, while the Lokai horses remain curly.

He said also that C.S. Fund Conservancy of California wrote to veterinarians in Russia, and the vets said Bashkir never had curly hair.

Woolley said there was mention of wavy hair on the Bashkir in accounts written before 1845, however.

In his book, Woolley also notes that getting Lokai horses out of Russia to India would have been easier for horse traders than moving the Bashkir, because the Lokai people and their horses were about 300 miles north of Khyber Pass. The Bashkir, however, were 2,000 miles away.

Woolley became fascinated by curly horses after buying a pair of them in Oregon in 1984. A couple of years later, he traveled to Eureka and bought three more from Dry Creek Ranch, where he met Bonnie Damele.



(Adella Harding/Free Press)

Sunny Martin of Ely looked over her photo album of curly horses during a visit to Elko last month for the Cowboy Poetry Gathering.

Woolley spent several years in the Eureka area, moving back to Michigan in 1906.

During his time in Eureka, he was also interested in efforts by the BLM's Winnepenninx to make Eureka County a center for curly horses.

Winnepenninx, however, credits Lloyd "Doc" Munson, who has since retired from the BLM, and Woolley with coming up with the idea of managing the wild curly horses in Antelope Valley and selling them in

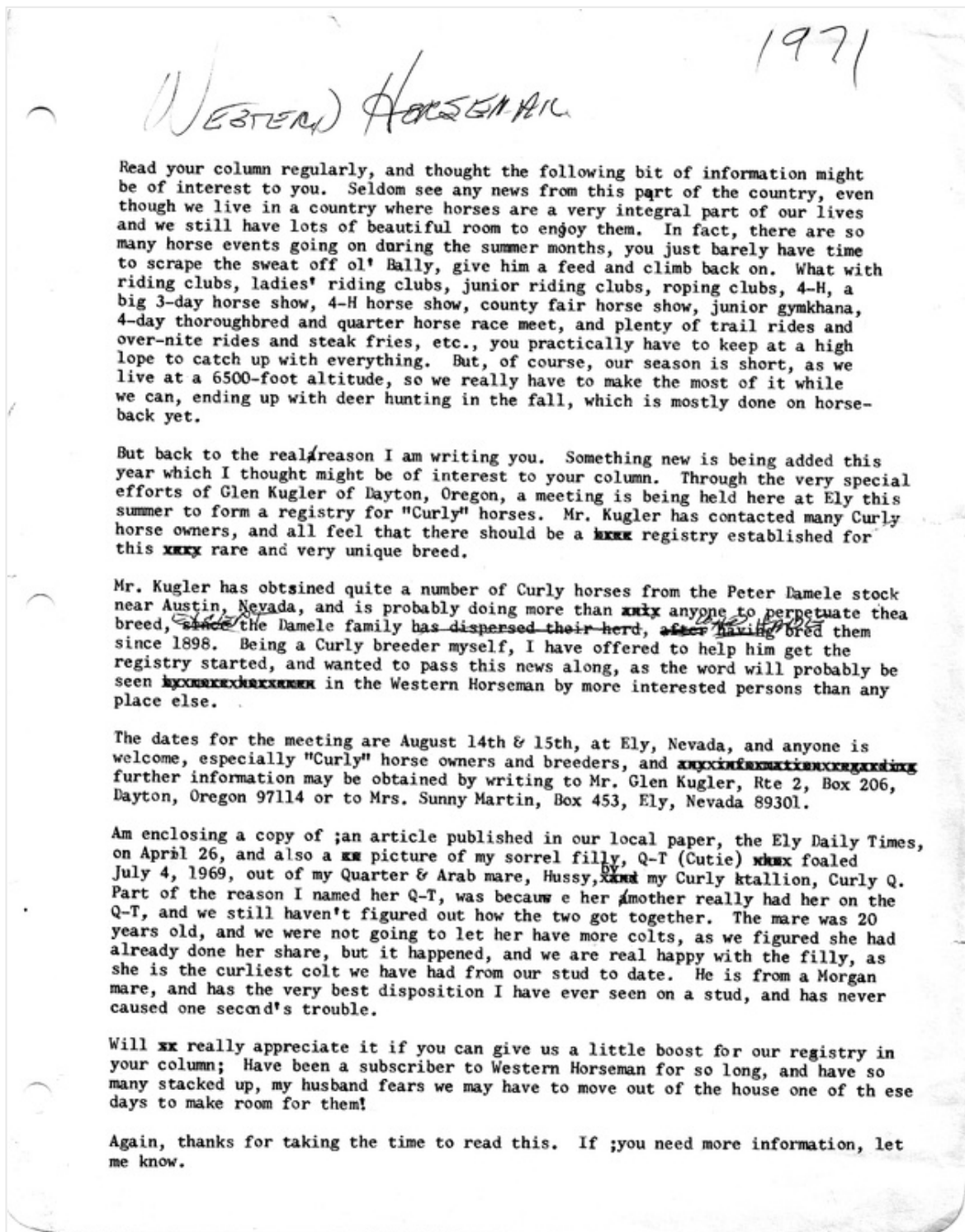
"I think it would bring a lot of business to Eureka," Winnepenninx said, reporting that area residents, however, were not too keen on the plan. "Some really pitched a fit about it."

Ranchers in the Eureka area are critical of the BLM for not removing more wild horses from their grazing allotments.

BLM also proposed a special viewing area for tourists to see the wild curly horses, and while the plan "isn't dead yet," the agency isn't pursuing it.

Stories Told in "Western Horseman"

Since we have not been able to receive permission to post the articles found over the years telling about Curly horses I will give an account here of what each article contains in my own words as well as the date of the issue should anyone wish to purchase copies from the magazine!



June 1960 "Fur Covered Horses" by Dorys Crow Grover

Here we find the first mention of the Pony with a Toni, speaking of the curly horses found around Pendleton, OR. They were also called "Fur covered Horses". C. A. Wolf had about 1 inch of tightly curled hair all over. Wolf was controlling the breeding to get a curly every time. he noted that they took little grooming.

Wolf was attempting to set up a registry for them and to find a suitable name. His first encounter with the Curly horses was some running wild in the Blue Mountains; where he noted some were extremely curly and others only partly so. His horses showed Thoroughbred and Appaloosa blood lines, notably with blankets as well as their manes and tails. Those with Thoroughbred strains were from were gathered on the Umatilla National Forest. At the writing of this article he had been gathering them for at least six years. he stated that when breeding a Curly to a straight-haired horse 50% were curly. When breeding Curly to Curly most were curly.

Wolf had five animals with which he wished to start his registry. he called them easy to gentle and about the size of a Cayuse or large pony. He stated he believed them to most definitely be a mutation!

An editor's note followed and the following letters from folks over time in WH were shared:

1. (Jan.-Feb. 1947) Written by George A. Ludin; Lander, Wyoming tells of the horse owned by George A. Dollison of Englewood, CO., a five year old gelding 15 HH weighing 1050, the horse used by "Ripley's Believe It or Not" cartoons. Ludin noted that he had a letter stating that that horse came from a stallion imported into Canada and that these horses were well known around the Lander area before that; his father having shipped a matched pair to NY in the early 1880s.

2.(March-April 1947); Duane M. Shipman; Westminster, CO. mentioned about the 'fur-covered horse" mentioned by Ludin that the March 1938 issue, "Nature Magazine mentions a curly-haired breed belonging to the (Bankshirs) spl: and comes from the plains of eastern Russia.

3. (July-Aug, 1947); Elias W. Hoagland of St. Louis, Missouri stated during his life they observed many curly horses; stating in the 50 years prior many saw them. (he also mentioned seeing one with a bone protruding from it's forehead, a rather heavy bone.) He states the belief that they originated in Ireland.

4.(May-June 1947); Morton Bell; Tracy, CA. tells that in 1920-11-12 he believed it was '12 about 100 miles east of Tonopah, NV, he had some Paiute Indians helping him and his partner gathering wild horses and ran into a bunch of "curly sorrels" the same as Mr. Dollison's curly, except that the stallion would have been the only one that weighed that much. Mr. Bell credits his partner Ed Hand with saving his life from this stallion. The Indians had no appetite for this particular herd and dropped out of chasing them.

When they had the bunch about 1/2 mile into a blind canyon when the stallion sensed something amiss; whirling back he ran behind his bunch and came straight for Morton who along with Ed ended up roping him only to have the stallion get free enough to clamp down on Morton's thigh with his teeth. The story didn't end well for the Stallion but the Indians told the men they would not be going with them in the future should they look for Curly haired sorrels!

5. Sept-Oct-1948; Mrs. H.E. Hecht, Clearwater, CA: She shared a photo of a 5 year old Curly horse owned by art Johnson of Hollydale, CA. He was bay his mother was an Indian pony and his father, a Thoroughbred. His dam being curly also and bay in color.

These are the dates of known early issues of Western Horseman magazines with mention of Curly haired horses:

- 6-1960
- 8-1960
- 10-1960
- 1-1970
- 10-1976
- 10-1979
- 10-1980
- 12-1986
- 10-1991
- There were a couple more but i do not have dates on them and they were later like 1990s possibly.