

National honors come to Lancaster ponies

BY SHEILA MILLER
DENVER — National honors were recently awarded to two Hackney ponies owned by C G Sweigart, Mt View Pony Farm, Denver

Joys Yankeeman, a black, eleven-year-old gelding, was named the 1980 National American Pony of the Year by the American Horse Show Association. The high-stepping cob tail is also the first place pony in the Hackney Division in Zone 2, covering the Mid-Atlantic states and New England.

Through this outstanding performance in the showing, Joys Yankeeman earned the title of All-American Gentleman's Amateur Pony and Reserve All-American Lady's Amateur Pony.

The gelding was not the only pony to bring honors to the Lancaster County area. A three-year-old stablemate, Callaways Little Jewel, came in first in the Harness Division in Zone 2 and was named All-American Three-Year-Old.

Pegasus, a nineteen-year-old gelding, was the second top performer in Zone 2 in the Roadster Division.

According to Marlene Sweigart, daughter-in-law of C G Sweigart, this is the first time in the farm's fifteen years of showing that the ponies received these prestigious awards.

Marlene, along with her husband, Galen, train and raise the Hackney ponies on their 13 acre farm. They re-



Joys Yankeeman, an eleven-year-old gelding Hackney pony, has been selected National Amateur Pony of the Year by the American Horse Show Association. Owned and shown by Mt. View Pony Farm, Denver, the Lancaster pony is also the All-American Gentleman's Amateur Pony for 1980.

assisted in their efforts by daughter Brook, who's been showing ponies since she was eight-year-old.

Justifiably proud of her ponies' accomplishments, Marlene pointed out that the family shows for the fun of it. She explained when the ponies work well in the ring, they're proud of their performances regardless of what color ribbon they wear.

The national awards they just received are strictly for the ponies, she emphasized. The Sweigarts have owned and shown Joys Yankeeman for 8 years, and have had

Callaways Little Jewel for only one year.

Since we started showing Callaways Little Jewel last May, she's only been beat twice. At the Syracuse International she won the Three-Year-Old Futurity In Harness and the Three-Year-Old Classic — the two most important events,' she said.

Marlene smiled as she recalled the filly's big wins and confessed they had bought her 'sight unseen' from a breeder in Iowa.

The first time we saw her was at the 1979 Penn

National, in Harrisburg," she said. "I wouldn't have given 2 cents for her then — her coat was shaggy — since she was only a two-year-old she hadn't been worked with."

After the Sweigarts brought her to her new home, Callaways Little Jewel learned the training regimen, just like the other show ponies.

"We start training them in January to get them in shape. The ponies are driven from behind with long-lines and when the weather is

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