

# Horsewoman rides 100 hours to benefit the handicapped

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SHARTLESVILLE — The Rajah Mounted Patrol, the horse unit of the Rajah Shrine Temple, Reading, uses the slogan, "We ride so that crippled children may someday walk." Since 1978 they have been sponsoring a horse show each year for the benefit of crippled children. With this slogan and this purpose, Paulette Stoudt has pledged her help to handicapped children. She staged her third attempt at achieving the world record in endurance riding during a Shriner's weekend extravaganza to benefit crippled children.

You might have seen her if you attended the festivities in Shartlesville this past weekend at the Mountain Springs Camping and Riding Resort, about one mile off of I-78, Shartlesville. The events included a donkey basketball game, country music each night, therapeutic riding demonstrations, canine corps and drill team demonstrations, a pig roast, and the annual horse show, which concluded the weekend on Sunday.

Paulette began her endurance test on Wednesday, June 13th at 6 a.m. and concluded with a total time of 100 hours and ten minutes in the saddle on Sunday morning at 10:10. She did it, and volunteers who were on hand to officiate and verify the times for the Guinness Book of World Records, were ready with the champagne.

So, what's so great about this? Why would she want to do this? You are probably asking these questions.

Twenty-three-year-old Paulette hails from R1 Mohnton.

An accomplished horse show judge and well known for her ability to train and show horses, Paulette relates how she perceived this idea of endurance.

"I saw a girl walking in and out of a door for 12 hours," she states about a television show about Guinness world records. "That's really stupid, I thought," Paulette remembers. "I wanted to do something that's real endurance, to benefit something," she said.

Soon after this, Paulette decided to try for the Guinness world record in horsemanship endurance. It was in June of 1980, when Paulette set her first record of 58 hours and 15 minutes, to make the Guinness Book of World Records. Proceeds from this ride went to the Animal Rescue League of Berks County. In 1981 Mick Grealy, of Australia rode for 62 hours and broke her record. In

1982, Paulette rode again and surpassed all previous records with 67 hours.

Proceeds from this ride went to Pegasus Wings, a therapeutic riding group for the handicapped, and the National Foundation for Happy Horsemanship, Inc. This record was also broken by two girls from Washington who rode for 70 hours.

"This is probably the hardest thing I have done in my life," Paulette states. "I feel strongly about what I am doing," she says. Paulette says that she wants people to realize what it means for handicapped people to ride, and this is her way of bringing handicapped riding to the public's attention.

Several years ago Paulette had the fortune to meet one of the people responsible for introducing handicapped riding in the United States. She also got to know several handicapped riders and saw the emotional and physical benefits that horseback riding gave to these children. Since then her record-breaking attempts have been for their benefit.

During each ride, Paulette asks for donations for these children. She also states that wheel chair ramps, equipment, tack, horses, and feed, are needed. The local group based in Boyertown is trying to get their own place with an indoor ring and appreciates all donations.

For this attempt, Paulette asks that the donations be sent to the Easter Seals Therapeutic Horseback Riding Program. Donations can still be given and interested people can contact John Gancar, Easter Seals, Reading, Pa. at 215-775-1431.

Paulette had to walk, trot, canter, gallop, and jump three hurdles no less than three feet high every three hours to achieve the record. After every three hour interval, she was allowed a 15-minute break. The different paces of the ride were all timed in five, ten, and 15 minute intervals by volunteer timers, around the clock. The attempt involved over ten horses and 50 people. While some people walked with her and talked to her during her attempt, others manned the clocks, log books, and entertainment during the ride. All the entertainment was donated and the proceeds benefit the Easter Seals handicapped riding program.

Riding has been helpful emotionally and physically for the handicapped. It strengthens



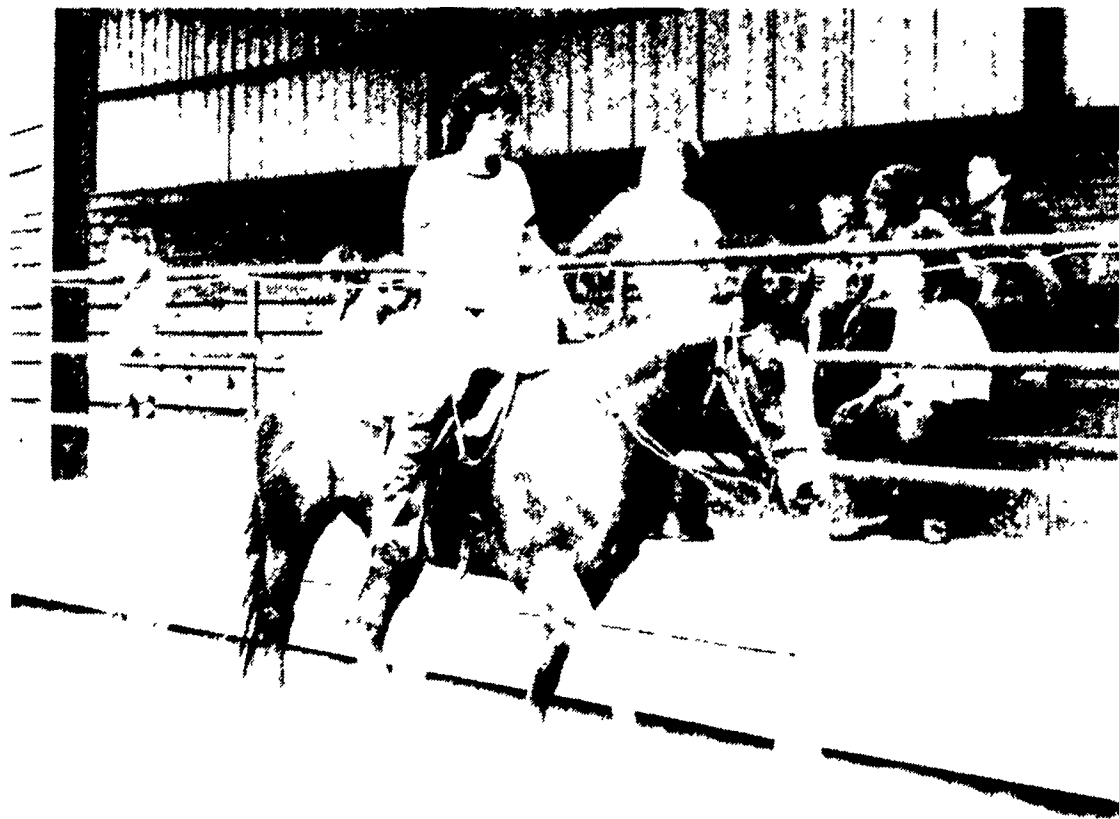
This photo was taken in 1982 after Paulette finished her 67 hour ride with Eric, a handicapped friend who rode the last three hours with her. Eric came to see Paulette in Shartlesville and although he was still in braces, he could walk to her.



Most of the manpower for this attempt was supplied by volunteers from the Rajah Mounted Patrol. Local people also gave their time and support in helping Paulette achieve her goal. These volunteers were keeping the time records which they had to sign for verification. Smith and Sallie Mase, Hamburg, gave their support each day. Donna Delong, R1 Hamburg, right, walked among the spectators to gather signatures for witness verification.

weakened muscles, coordinates limbs and trunk movements, and gives an emotional boost when it is really needed.

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Here Paulette is on a five-minute trot. Spectators stopped by constantly for the entertainment and to see Paulette try to break her record.



Paulette and her horse stand with Bobby Paul after taking a few seconds to drink some juice. She says she eats on the horse and likes to brush her teeth on horseback at night to keep awake. Bobby, Paulette's fiance, was with her most of the time and usually road or walked alongside her.