

# Homebred Horse Wins World Championship

MANHEIM — Earning a grand champion trophy in any type of livestock competition is always a thrill. But when you've bred the animal yourself, and he manages to top the best in the world...well, as the commercial goes, it doesn't get any better than this.

That was the case when Manheim's Odie Adcock trailered his homebred, raised and trained Tennessee Walking Horse to Shelbyville, Tennessee, in August and came home with world grand champion honors in the Plantation Pleasure Horse division.

No "dark horse" entry, Raven's Touch of Class is a six-year-old that took reserve honors behind an Oregon horse in last year's world

competition. To be sure, the classy black gelding had plenty of momentum going into the show. "So far he's had 16 straight blues this year and is undefeated," says Adcock, who began his bid for the world championship three years ago.

This year, amid a field of 125 of the world's best horses, Touch of Class showed he had just a touch more class than any other entry.

Dubbed the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration, the show hosts some 2,500 entries and draws in excess of 30,000 spectators. Horses entered in the Plantation Pleasure division are judged on the basis of their performance of three gaits, their manners and conformation.

As in any livestock competition, starting with the right raw materials can give an owner that all-important edge. Touch of Class was sired by Delight's Raven and his dam was Ebony's Maid, both horses being the products of previous world champions.

The victory was particularly sweet for Adcock, who was born near Shelbyville and moved to Pennsylvania in the 1940's. "I rode Tennessee Walking Horses all my life," he says.

Next week Raven's Touch of Class will have yet another opportunity to strut his stuff, when Adcock travels to the Washington International Horse Show to take part in a riding exhibition. The show runs from Oct. 26 to Nov. 1.



*Raven's Touch*  
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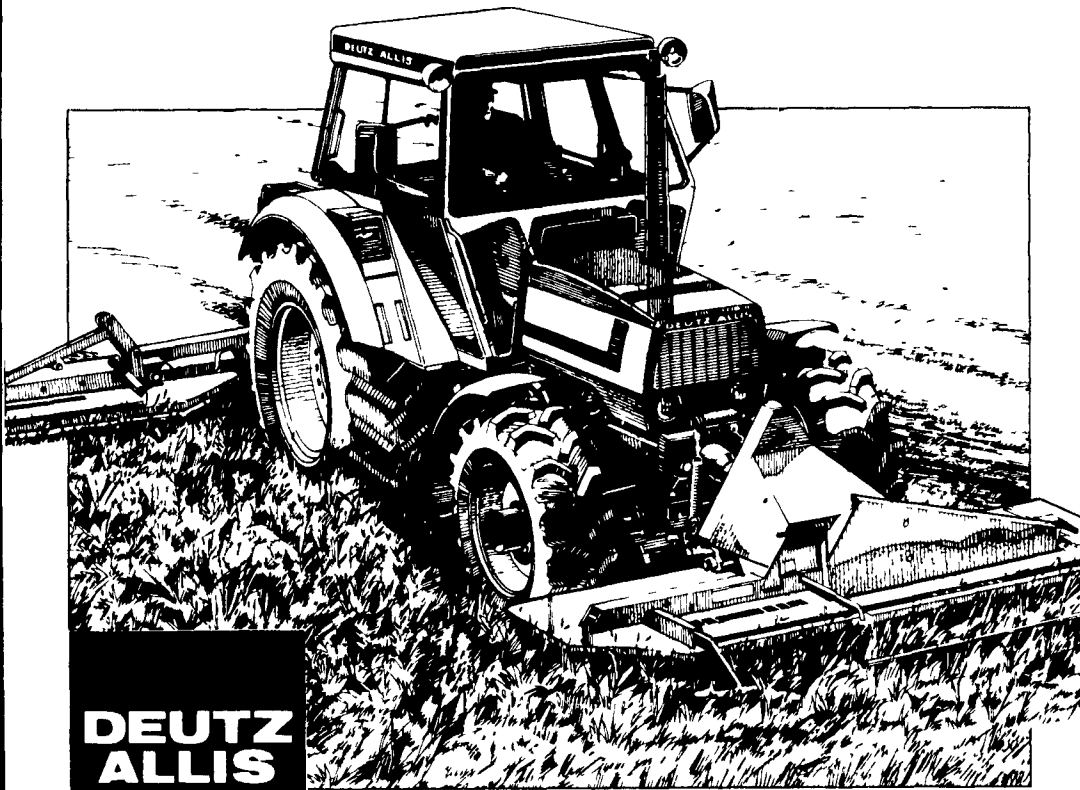
Odie Adcock's dream came true this year when he campaigned Raven's Touch of Class to world grand champion honors at the 49th annual Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration in Shelbyville, Tennessee.

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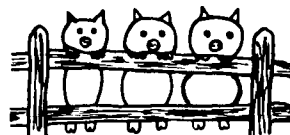
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