

# Four-H'er Shows POA Supreme Champion

CHAMBERSBURG (Franklin Co.) — For 16-year-old Rodney Garling, training and showing blue ribbon ponies is as natural as playing basketball or a musical instrument. Rodney, a junior at Chambersburg Area Senior High School, has been showing ponies since he was three years old. He started showing in lead line and pony-driving classes until he was old enough to become a 4-H Tiny Trotter three years later. Two years later, Garling became a full-fledged 4-H horse member, competing at county, district, and state shows.

Over the past nine years, Garling trained and showed three ponies to Pennsylvania 4-H state championships. His 19-year-old sister, Rhonda, also has trained and shown three state champion ponies. In addition, in the past 10 years, the 4-H District VI pony-driving class has been won by either brother or sister.

At the 1989 Pony of Americas International Show at Indianapolis, Ind., the siblings competed in

the week-long events, bringing home several national awards. More than 2,000 entries competed in the event.

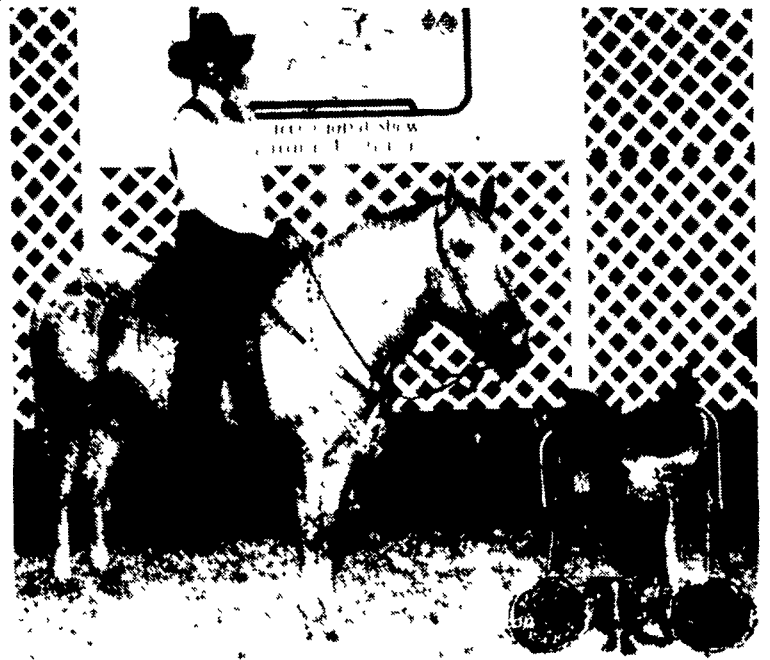
Bonaza's Gold, Garling's six-year-old pony, was named the supreme champion pony, the highest national award to be given to a POA pony. This award is given when the pony earns enough national points to first earn a Registry of Merit award (ROM) in halter, a ROM in pleasure classes, a ROM in speed classes, and a ROM champion award combining halter and pleasure points. Twenty-five percent of the points had to be earned at a regional or international show. Very few ponies achieve the points necessary for the award.

Garling also was recognized for his riding ability. He received silver plates as year-end awards for boys' English equitation and stock seat equitation. A large silver cup was awarded to Rodney for being one of the top 10 pony-rider combinations for the year. In addition to these national awards, Garling also won reserve Hi-point awards at the Mid-East Regional Show in

Indiana and at the Northeast Regional Show in Maryland. He also won a game saddle as the year-end award for speed class.

A silver halter was awarded to Garling and Bonaza's Gold, a spotted palomino, for reserve Hi-point pony-rider combination at the POA International Show in Indianapolis. This award is given to the same rider-pony combination that competes in all classes, which demonstrates the POA pony's versatility. The pair competed in English and Western equitation, jumping, pleasure driving, Indian costume, open costume, reining, trailing, and 12 speed classes.

Besides winning honors at the POA breed shows and in 4-H competitions, Garling is active in his high school choir and marching band and is on the honor roll. He is involved in several 4-H clubs and was a host to a LABO Japanese 4-H exchange student this summer. He raises Seeing-Eye puppies as a 4-H project and competes in Puppy Bowl.

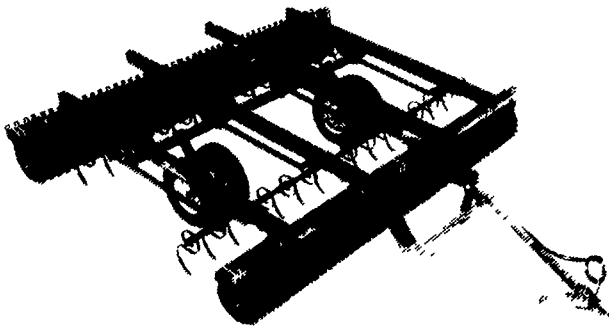


Rodney Garling of Franklin County and Bonaza's Gold recently competed at the Pony of Americas International Show in Indianapolis, Ind. The pair received numerous awards including a supreme champion title for the palomino for his achievements in halter, pleasure, and game classes. The award, infrequently presented, is the highest national award bestowed by POA.

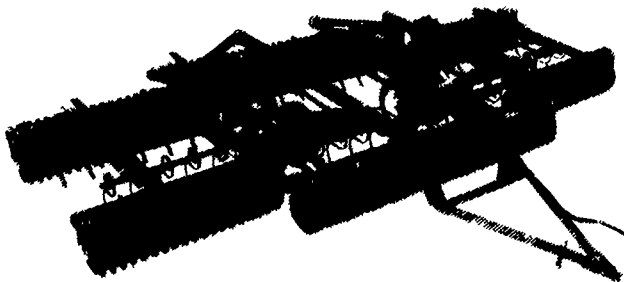


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