

# Kid's KOrner



Bobby Howard drives his team of prize-winning horses while Linda Williams goes along for the ride.

## Grandfather's Gift Brings Honors For 11-Year-Old

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DONNEGAL (Somerset Co.)  
— Bobby Howard of Donnegal is only 11 years old, but that hasn't stopped him from winning top honors in the pony pull at the Pennsylvania State Farm Show or the Missouri State Pony Pull.

And, he wins against men. As he puts it, "The other contestants were all old, you know, 30, 40, or 50."

His ponies, a cross-bred Shetland, and a miniature draft horse were bred special for Bobby by his grandfather, William Howard, who died when Bobby was only eight.

The miniature draft horse had a father who was a dwarf.

Bobby was six years old and his grandfather was the announcer at the Pennsylvania Pony Pull when he pulled for his first race. That year, he placed second.

Bobby's mother, Joyce, says, "The crowd went wild that year. Bobby made headlines."

He placed fourth at the next Farm Show, then, fifth, and finally, last year, he won.

Bobby's horses pull 4,000 to 5,000-pound weights while they weigh only 1,350 pounds together. That means they are pulling much more than twice their own weight.

The horses seem to enjoy working together. They get a lot of love and attention from the entire Howard family. In the winter, Bobby and his friends slide down the front yard hill. The ponies are waiting to pull them back up.

During the summer months, Bobby keeps the horses in shape while helping his dad rake hay. For several hours each day, the horses pull a hay rake through the fields sweeping it into piles with Bobby at the reins.

"It takes a lot of time to have a winning team," Bobby admits. He works with them two to three hours a day.

In addition, Bobby helps with the feeding although he gets some aid from his mom, and dad, Bill. The diet includes oats, corn, molasses, and salt.

Bobby also helps with the clipping and gives them their bath. He admits, the baths are hard work, but necessary for show ponies.

Ponies in pulling contests wear special shoes that dig into the

ground and allow them to pull with more strength. They get their shoes from a friend of the Howards who is a blacksmith. He travels with them to many of the competitions.

In addition to the Pennsylvania and Missouri awards, Bobby has won awards at New York for having the best dressed (nicest harnesses) team, and at Butler, Pennsylvania for handling his team the

best. He also has placed first for several years at the Meyersdale County Fair and at the annual Maple Sugar Festival.

### Ice Cream Knock Knock Jokes

Knock, knock  
Who's there?  
Topping  
Topping who?  
Topping difficult.

Knock, knock  
Who's there?  
Pecan  
Pecan who?  
Pecan the freezer and see if there's any ice cream.

Knock, knock  
Who's there?  
Malt  
Malt who?  
Malt the butter and mix with sugar.

Knock, knock  
Who's there?  
Milkshake  
Milkshake who?  
Milkshake hands with Mary.

Knock, knock  
Who's there?  
Parfait  
Parfait who?  
Parfait, she didn't get any ice cream.