

Garman and 'Jo' Win World Championship

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EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) — The one-week trip down South proved to be a good one.

A great one, in fact, as on July 3, in Forth Worth, Texas, Noel Garman, Ephrata, captured a World Championship title at the World Championship Paint Horse Show, a competition of the American Paint Horse Association (APHA).

Years of hard work paid off for Garman and "Colonel Dakota Jo," an 11-year old Quarter Horse gelding, as the pair turned in the best time to win the Novice Barrel Racing class.

Barrel racing is a timed event as the competitors run a complete a cloverleaf pattern around three barrels, "a right turn and two left turns," said Garman.

Approximately 2,000 entrants competed at the show, which attracts competitors from the U.S. Canada, Germany, and Australia. Classes include Western, English, cattle, driving, and speed classes.

"There are people from all over the country. I knew I was competitive at home but didn't know where I stood there. I knew we had to give everything we had," said Garman.

In barrel racing horse and rider either "blow wide" or "wrap" the barrels, and Jo's expert wrapping of all three barrels helped to win the title, according to Garman. The pair competed in seven classes in different levels of competition. They also took home a first in amateur pole bending, another pattern class where horses run weaving pattern around poles.

Growing up on a dairy farm in Mount Joy, Garman enjoyed the horses her family owned to entertain the family's bed and breakfast guests. "I rode as soon as I could," she said — although she was pressed into service with milking duties. "I just fell in love with horses and that was it, they (her family) had to make me get off," she said.

Her parents, Galen and Eileen Benner, supported her horse affinity, as her father would tack up the horse she would bring to him before she headed out on long trail rides around the 120-acre Rocky Acre Farm.

When she was nine year old she got into barrel racing with her 4-H club. Saturday mornings in the summertime would find her riding along with one of her four brothers to another show. "Then when I turned 16 they wondered which of their trucks I



Noel's husband, Jason, accompanied her to Texas, along with both of their parents, her trainer, and the horse's former owner.



Noel received a saddle from a first-place finish in recent state competition. The ribbons are from the world championship title.



Capturing the moment: Noel Garman rides back from collecting her ribbons and belt buckle for a world championship title in barrel racing at the World Championship Paint Horse Show.

wanted," she said.

"I just did average, but I loved to ride. As long as I was with my horses, that was enough," she said. "It didn't really matter to me where I placed."

When Garman turned 17 she got in touch with a local lessons and got lessons to improve her competitiveness in the sport. With the addition of a competitive horse, she made it to 4-H states, her first big event in the class. She took several years off for college and married Jason Garman, who was also interested in horses and competes in reining classes.

"At that point we started pursuing a professional level of horses," she said. "We knew that someday we wanted to get a well-bred, well-trained horse."

Moving to the next level placed Garman at Evergreen Farm, Wrightsville, where she came under the tutelage of trainers Terry and Peg Helder. At Evergreen Farm she began taking lessons on Jo. The trainers quickly noticed a connection between horse and rider.

"It has to be a team between you and the horse. It's so competitive it takes a true connection between you and the horse," she said. "when I sit on him I just feel like I belong there."

More training and victories in the ring led Jo's owner to offer him for sale to Garman, who purchased the gelding in February.

Garman and Jo won a fourth at Colonial Nationals in Lexington, Virginia, out of 715 entries and are planning to return this

year to the same event.

They also competed at the National Barrel Horse Association (NBHA) state show in Dillsburg in June. Their lowest time qualified them to take home the state championship in the open 1D class.

At Evergreen Farm Garman rides five of her own horses — three seasoned and two younger animals which she is training for future competition.

She hopes to continue to competing and is looking for bigger shows to go to. Jo, 11, will race another four years with Garman keeping the schedule light and saving him for the bigger competitions.

"He got tired but never quit on me. He ran with his heart toward the end."

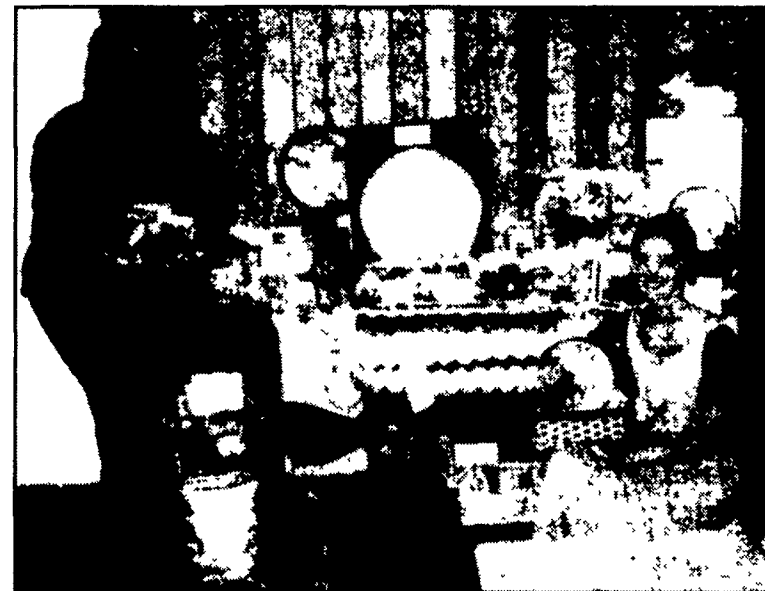
Auction To Benefit Lebanon County 4-H

LEBANON (Lebanon Co.) — On Thursday, Aug. 2, the 20th annual Lebanon County 4-H Auction will be conducted to benefit 4-H youth and adult leader education and leadership programs. Featuring items sure to appeal to the avid auction bidder, sale items include farm toys, handmade craft items, collectibles, movie passes, gift certificates to area restaurants and businesses, specialty gift baskets and much more.

The auction is a successful fund raiser for the county 4-H development fund and organizers hope to raise more than \$4,000 this year. The Lebanon County 4-H board of directors coordinates the event and contacts more than 100 area businesses and crafts persons for donations.

The auction includes special theme gift baskets assembled by the members of the county 4-H clubs and Farm Women Societies. Clubs have selected themes based on their 4-H projects such as dairy, horse, goat, or a more general theme such as a, "Welcome to the Community" or "Pennsylvania Products" Basket.

The auction will be from 6 to 9 p.m. in the North Hall of the Lebanon Area Fairgrounds, Corn-



Lebanon County 4-H summer assistants Nuria Rodriguez, left, and Jessica Watson, right, preview some of the items that will be up for bid on Thursday, Aug. 2 as part of the Lebanon County 4-H Benefit Auction conducted at the Lebanon Fairgrounds.

wall and Rocherty Roads, Lebanon as part of the Lebanon Area Fair. The money raised helps to fund educational materials, member and leader activity fees, transportation costs, and awards for the county's 1,450 4-H mem-

bers and 162 adult volunteer leaders. For more information or to make a donation, contact the Lebanon County Extension Office at (717) 270-4391 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.