

Getting To Devon

(Continued from Page E1)

horses, working full-time on her family's Lodestone Farm hunter/jumper operation.

"All I remember as a kid was wanting to stay home and ride. I couldn't wait to get off of the bus, and I would look forward to what horse show we were going to compete in that weekend," she said. "I never sat in the house and thought, 'do I really want to ride today?' It was always a given."

Riding since she was three years old, Jocelyn began competing in the show ring at age four, and by age 11 had made her debut into the ring at Devon in the medium pony hunter class.

She plans to compete at the upcoming Devon Horse Show and Country Fair, May 22-31. The ring is familiar to her, as she, along with her father, John, and mother, Leslie, has participated in the event for many years. The family owns and operates Lodestone Farm, Denver.

Jocelyn has participated in the pony divisions, local division, green hunters, working hunters, junior hunters, and has been champion and reserve at the event. She has

shown horses for Lodestone Farm and for other professionals from across the U.S.

"Devon," as it is more familiarly called, is one of four annual horse shows in which a horse must be qualified to enter. Exhibitors and their horses come from all over the country for the event.

The slogan, "Where the Champions Meet," highlights the prestige of the event.

The horses must prove themselves by winning consistently at A rated horse shows throughout the year.

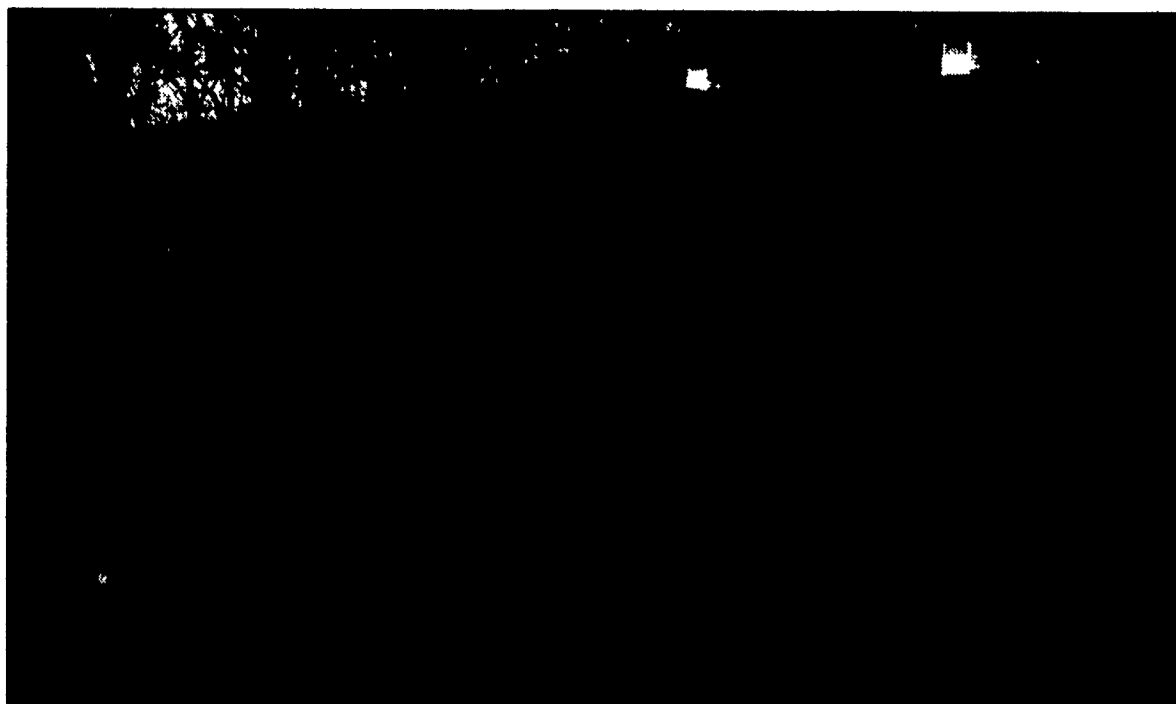
The Devon Horse Show then selects the horses with the greatest number of points from the horse's best 15 shows of the year before the show issues an invitation to compete.

Typically, of the 15 horse shows submitted to Devon, the horses will be champion or reserve almost every time.

The Road To Devon

"Getting to Devon takes years of preparation," said John Martin. Spectators watch riders at Devon and "don't really know what people have done to get there," he said.

One of the first considerations is the purchase of a quality mount. Devon horse own-



This picture was taken as Jocelyn and Bodine, or "Fred," his barn name, competed at Devon in 2001. Fred was competing in the second-year green working hunter's division. Photo by James L. Parker

ers "have looked long and hard for a quality horse," said Jocelyn.

"It's a long process, not only for the rider but also for the horse," Martin said. "You can't take just any horse and say, 'I'm going to make this horse qualify for Devon.'"

Besides purchasing a quality horse, training at a top-notch show barn to get valuable instruction for the rider

and the horse is imperative, he said.

Finding a good instruction requires "going to horse shows, seeing who's winning and who has more of a professional attitude," she said.

"It's not something that you can work on for a few months and then go to Devon," Martin said. "That's like saying 'we're going to do batting practice this month and hopefully get to the World Series.'"

Training for this equine World Series, then, begins with two days of schooling over jumps, besides 2-3 sessions of doing flat work — walking, trotting, cantering, and doing various exercises, such as figure eights, small and large circles, and flying lead changes.

"It's not something that you or your horse learns in a week or a month," he said.

Training, however, is a balance between doing enough work to be ready and "yet not so much that the horses get

muscle sore or foot sore. If a horse gets sore, we give them time off," Martin said.

Owners hoping to get to Devon put in time not only practicing at home but "there is a commitment of time at horse shows, too, to get enough points to qualify," he said.

The points go with the horse — the owner does not necessarily have to ride the horse to the qualifying wins.

"Most of the horses and ponies that get to Devon are on a fairly rigid show schedule," said Martin. "If they are planning to show 30 times, they need to try to win 50 percent of the time at least."

"The first pony I took to Devon (her own "Bit of Chance," which was second in the country in the medium ponies that year) was a very successful pony. I probably showed it 35-40 times a year on the weekends," said Jocelyn.

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Spring 2003 Horse Industry Handbook Update Available

CREAMERY (Montgomery Co.) — The American Youth Horse Council is pleased to announce the publication and availability of the new Spring 2003 Update for the Horse Industry Handbook.

This update marks the third since the Horse Industry Handbook was introduced in 1994. The Horse Industry Handbook is an encyclopedic volume on equine care and management written and reviewed by over 200 equine experts containing over 400 fact-filled pages in an updateable ring binder format.

Is used extensively as a reference for youth competitions and is a valuable addition to the equine library of all horse owners. Nancy Kadwill, Montgomery County Extension Agent and member of the Board of the AMYC, highly recommends the book as a resource for current and potential horse owners.

The concept behind the Horse Industry Handbook is

for national experts to continually refine and keep current the information contained in the Horse Industry Handbook. All the books sold after the release of an update have the most recent update, and any previous updates incorporated. Since its first release in 1994, the Horse Industry Handbook has had three updates, Fall 1995, Spring 1999, and now, Spring 2003.

The Horse Industry Handbook Update Spring 2003 is in stock and ready for those of you with Horse Industry Handbooks purchased before February 2003.

The update includes five articles:

- Bandaging the Equine Limb
- Common Feet and Leg Problems of the Horse
- Equine Salmonellosis

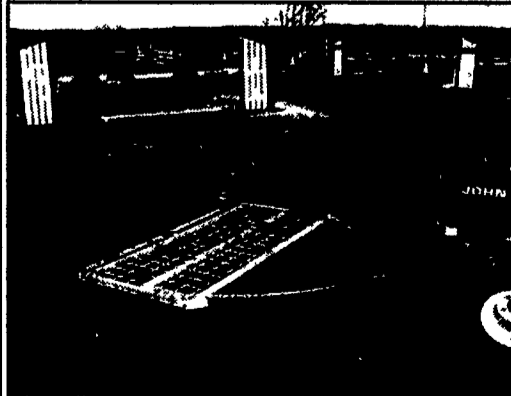
• The Renewable Resource: Horse Manure

• West Nile Virus in Horses.

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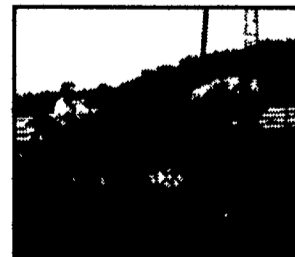
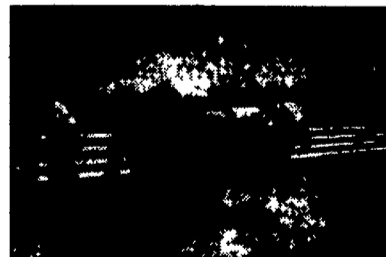
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