

*I'm happy about all the ribbons and trophies, but the greatest satisfaction for me is having my childhood dream come true.*



## On top of Ole Smokey

**I**t was cold and wet that night in Maryland. I was helping Mom with the dishes when my brother Dave came running into the house shouting, "The mare just threw a colt. Come see."

To me it was the most perfect colt I'd ever seen in my life. A beautiful animal the color of blue-grey smoke. My Dad said that'd be his name. Smokey.

I spent every spare hour I had with that colt. Then one morning at the breakfast table, Dad announced, "Sandburg Stables 'll be coming to fetch Smokey today."

"You're selling Smokey?" I cried. "Why can't we keep him? Can't I ever have a horse of my own?"

"Honey, we can't afford to raise horses for money, then keep 'em around for pets. We need that money. Smokey's a fine young colt but we have to sell him. Maybe someday we'll have enough to keep one just for you."

Maybe. Well, what with the cost of feed and labor, "maybe" never came for my folks. Eventually, the ranch was sold and I went off.

As soon as I got a job, I joined the Payroll Savings Plan and started buying United States Savings Bonds.

I wasn't really sure what I was saving for. I guess I didn't ever want to find myself in a position where I'd have to sell something I loved just to get along.

I never knew what happened to Ole Smokey until a few years later. I was telling Linda, a friend at the office, how my car had broken down on the way to work. She offered to drive me home. "But I've got to stop and pick up my daughter at riding school," she said.

I was glad to find a way home. "Thanks, I don't mind the stop, and I love horses."

We pulled up next to the fence and watched her

daughter dismount. As she led the horse toward us I recognized Ole Smokey.

The owner was talking to Linda, so I asked as casually as I could, "Is that horse for sale?"

He looked at Smokey, shrugged and said, "Anything's for sale if the price is right."

Right then I knew why I'd saved all those Bonds. The price was a bit stiff for a school horse, but the Bonds had grown over the years and I knew I had enough.

As it turned out, Ole Smokey had a lot of talent no one had ever asked him to use. A friend of mine, who trained jumpers, took him over the hurdles and was astounded. "This horse could be a great jumper. Where'd you find him?"

And a great jumper was what he became. He jumped in horse shows from here to Madison Square Garden.

I'm happy about all the ribbons and trophies, but the greatest satisfaction for me is having my childhood dream come true. Sitting up on top of Ole Smokey, riding across the green fields knowing he is my very own.

*When you join the Payroll Savings Plan, those U.S. Savings Bonds stack up and bring you closer to your future dreams, and the dreams for your country's future.*

Take  
stock  
in America.

