



Mr. And Mrs. Hughes (left) With Vickie And Her Favorite Horse

Vickie Is A Winner

'An Angel In The Saddle'

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BY SARAH COFFEE

At the Trainers' Show early last year, a darling girl with swinging locks of gold mounted on a bold going bald faced bay mare captured the hearts and fancies of crowd and judges alike, in addition to a most impressive blue ribbon. The ever-smiling angel in the saddle was Vickie Hughes, the horse COPY'S HOT PANTS, and that was the beginning of what was definitely their year.

In coming this far, you must go back a long, long way. Vickie's association with horses commenced when she reached the tender age of two. Leadline and costume classes saw the tiny blond bombshell, even then with a smile on her face despite the braces on her legs, skyrocketing to the winner's circle. These beginning show ring efforts were shared with her older brother Warren who was to become the guiding light of encouragement and effort in Vickie's equine career.

Born March 13, 1964 to Farrell & Anna Lou Hughes, Vickie and her family reside in the tiny town of Burnsville, North Carolina. Until she was six year old, the perfection of the little lady was marred by leg braces. These had to be worn to correct the stance of her feet and legs. Despite the braces, she was on horseback and in the show ring every chance afforded. The Hughes recall the many offers from the Shriners who were a part of the horse shows they attended, who often queried about Vickie to see if they or their hospitals could ever do anything for her. Mrs. Hughes remembers Vickie's elation when the doctors finally took the braces off and let her have

the cowboy boots she had long desired.

Horses continued to be a major part of Vickie's life as her nine years older brother Warren was bitten by the same bug she was. Warren showed for several years, working and preparing his horses for the ring himself until football and college intervened. An excelling athlete, Warren's career on the football field was abruptly ended his senior year in high school when in the season's opening game he suffered a severe knee injury, tearing loose every ligament in his leg. Confined to a wheel chair for more than two months, Warren still cheerily encouraged Vickie in her equine activities. Now a junior at Western Carolina, Warren holds a real estate brokerage license and plans to continue into the study of law. His little sister still comes first with him and he would literally do anything for her.

Vickie complied with her brother's wishes, becoming a determined and talented equestrian. Her initial Celebration competition was in 1974 and yielded a ninth place tie on her gelding EBONY'S GO BOY. At that time, Vickie and her mount were under the guidance of Dickie Wall. The following year, with Asheville, North Carolina's Larry Wheelon on the rail, she upped her Celebration placement to the green streamers denoting sixth. Since Vickie's accomplishments as a horse-woman were ever increasing, her parents decided it was time to obtain for her a horse with which she could be a big time winner. This was what Larry Wheelon looked for and was exactly what he found, at Buddy Hugh's barn during that 1975 Celebration. They purchased the bold bay mare, COPY'S HOT PANTS and she

and Vickie became a combination ranking of juvenile perfection.

The rule of this striking combination over the junior juvenile division has been one of popularity and talent. From the Trainers' Show at Stone Mountain they went on to fill the winner's circle at many shows, such as the Smoky Mountain Walking Horse Classic; Asheville's Land Of The Sky Summer Festival; Hendersonville and Lincolnton, North Carolina, and South Greenville, S.C. before hitting the Celebration primed and ready. Their victory in juvenile eleven and under class B was both well deserved and well received, and a happier girl, family, and trainer could not have been found on the big Shelbyville surface. It was the culmination of their dreams, the attainment of their goals, and a stepping stone to the future.

Vickie's love for animals extends to everything four-footed. She has her own pets, dogs and cats, but seems to attract others by the score. She spends many hours at the Hughes' own barn with her pleasure horses, and establishes special rapport with both animals and people. Her plans for the future revolve around the Walking Horse and include the possibility of becoming a full-time professional trainer.

While horses are number one on her list of sporting activities, Vickie is very athletically inclined. She loves swimming, roller skating, was a member of a clogging team and takes part in other sports her school's athletic program includes.

The twelve year old young lady is a student at Yancey Middle School near Burnsville with science, history, and math her favorite subjects.

The Hughes have lived in Burnsville all of Vickie's life. It is the home base of Mr. Hughes' business of Scenic View Estates, a developing concern which features the building of summer homes.

Full of life and vigor, Vickie Lou Hughes is a shining example of youth today. She is a young lady who is a credit to her family and to every endeavor she is a part of. The ever-smiling angel, in the saddle or out of it, Vickie has a love for life, horses, and her family which is all encompassing. She doesn't need anything else.

Fred Riddle Honored; Chops Wood At 101

In recognition of May as National Senior Citizen's Month the Pickens County Council on Aging's Information, Referral, and Outreach staff saluted one of Pickens County's oldest residents, Fred Riddle.

Fred Riddle, age 101, will be 102 years young in August. He lives in a log cabin on Star Route, Pickens, and is still chopping wood and shooting rabbits a few miles northwest of Pickens off Shady Grove Rd. Riddle is a native of Yancey County, who has several nieces and nephews still living there, among them are Maude Riddle of Burnsville and Carlo Riddle. He is married to Augusta Anglin Riddle, also from Yancey County, and moved to Pickens from North Carolina in 1918.

PCCOA Outreach Workers (sometimes referred to as PLEA), visit Riddle every few months to see if he has any needs. He is delightfully independent and his only unmet need in the past three years has been for a new pair of glasses.

After working with the S.C. Commission for the Blind, the Department of Social Services, Community Action Program's transportation, and Riddle's neighbors and friends, everything was

arranged and Riddle received his new glasses on November 3, 1976.

Riddle can see again. He already has a garden started.

Riddle, at age 101, enjoys good health. He almost never sees a doctor. His good health and longevity can partly be attributed to lack of worry. He certainly has not had to worry over the "energy crisis". He chops his own wood with which he heats his cabin and cooks his rations. If his cabin gets too hot on summer nights for comfort, instead of turning on a fan he simply moves outside to sleep under the stars.

Riddle is part Choctaw and to this fact he attributes his non-grey hair. His father, states Riddle, died early at age 87 but his grandfather lived to be over 120. Riddle matter of factly said, "We don't die, we just dry up and blow away."

The Pickens County Council on Aging's outreach staff chose to salute Riddle to help celebrate National Senior Citizens Month because of his independent nature, good health and wealth in the knowledge of the past at age 101.



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Democratic Officials Elected

The Democratic Executive Committee met Saturday June 18, and elected the following party officials for the next 2 years. Chairman-Mack B. RAY, 1st Vice Chairman-Evelyn H. Pate, 2nd Vice Chairman-Mary Jane Silvers, 3rd Vice Chairman Bill Buckner Jr., Jewel W. McIntosh Secretary, treasurer and Harlon Holcombe, Representative on State Committee.

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