

## Basketball tourney set

A benefit 3-on-3 basketball tournament for aneurysm victim Charles Smith will be held Sat., Nov. 14 at the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club, 1001 S. Marietta St., Gastonia.

The event is sponsored by Jones Intercable.

There will be an open division as well as a six feet and under division. There is a \$40 entry fee (four

players). Twelve teams will be accepted for each division.

Prizes will be awarded to the

first place teams in each division.

To enter, send a check or money order to Jones Intercable, PO Box 218, Lowell, NC 28098 (Attn: 3-on-3 Tournament); call Bryan Welch at 853-2334; or go by any Jones Intercable Office location between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Entry forms are also available at the office of the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club.

Entry deadline is November 10. Checks should be made out to Charles Smith Fund.



Susan Putnam and her horse, Rusty

## Susan has love for animals

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
of The Herald Staff

Susan Putnam, 13, is a horse-woman who is proud of the 40-plus ribbons she won this spring.

She is even prouder of her menagerie of animals at her home in the Patterson Grove Community.

The barnyard of the home of Roger and Libby Putnam, Susan, Laura and Jim, is overflowing with the loves of the teenagers life.

Her horse, Rusty, gets tender loving care as well as Sam, her cocker spaniel, three cats and their siblings, four roosters, 12 chickens, her father's guineas, and a guinea pig.

Susan, 8th grader at Kings Mountain Middle School, started her animal collection last fall when the family moved back to Kings Mountain from Salisbury. The barn of her grandmother's farm is a perfect place for housing her horse and Miss Hen and the chicken family have plenty of room to grow.

It isn't hard to guess that Putnam aspires to be a veterinarian. She is getting an early start on her dream by learning to groom her horse which she hopes to train for upcoming competitions. She gives him a work out almost daily, jumping over hurdles set up in the front yard. Rusty has never competed in a show or event and Susan says she has her work cut out for her.

Putnam says it takes patience to work with a young horse. Rusty kicked her several times when she first started training him. "He didn't like for me to pick up his front foot and he let me know it," said Susan.

"It almost scared us to death," said her proud mother, the former Libby Alexander of Kings Mountain.

Rusty also threw his young rider a few times too but the secret of Putnam's success is that she climbs back on his back and off they go. "At first I could not touch him at all and he would not stand still," said Susan.

In recent months, Rusty and Susan have become fast friends. They jump almost every day and young Susan takes every precaution to try to avoid spills. She wears a riding habit topped off with a helmet and always is alert for rocky ground, guiding the animal through practice sessions.

When her little friends asked Santa for a doll, Susan said she always asked for a pony or a horse. Living in Salisbury she couldn't keep a horse or pony at her home, so she boarded Pal, her first horse, and leased her first pony, Confetti.

At age eight Susan fell in love with horses at the Cleveland County Fair when she rode the pony rides. Six years ago she took her first lesson in Salisbury and English riding lessons became a favorite part of her young life.

"It was the happiest day of my life when we moved back to the farm and then found Rusty on March 5," said Susan. Her family rents the Putnam homeplace on Amelia Road, formerly owned by the late Mrs. Lala Putnam.

An avid rider in the Cleveland County Horsemen's Association, she never tires of riding and practices every day as soon as she com-

pletes her homework assignments. Cross country, stadium jumping and dressage are three events she hopes to master.

Susan probably got her love for horses from her mother, who used to own a horse named Josie. The palomino quarterhorse was too fast for Libby. "He liked to trot and I liked to walk," she laughed.

Susan checks her horse daily for cuts because he is pastured at the back of the house. She is his exclusive trainer.

A member of a vaulting team in Salisbury, she said the young riders learned to groom their horses but they also learned to clean stalls. "It isn't glamorous and it's dirty work but the stalls must be kept clean and the animals must be kept clean and healthy," said Putnam.

She highly recommends that other teenagers learn to ride. "Work at it rain or shine," says Putnam, who says that a novice rider should board horses first before making an investment in one. She attended camp with a pony club and the first chore assigned to the young people was stall cleaning. The class was aptly called stable man-

agement.

Susan is the only member of her family who rides. Her sister, Laura, is a sophomore at UNCC. Her brother, Jim, is a junior at Kings Mountain High School. Mrs. Putnam teaches music and chorus at Shelby Middle School. Mr. Putnam works for Naska Pharamcal, pharmaceutical manufacturer in Lincolnton.

Susan recalled that during her first competition at a show she fell from her horse.

"I got up and mounted him again and we finished the competition," said Susan who was proud of the ribbon she received. The blue ribbons in her bedroom at home are examples of her proficiency. But she also gives the credit to her family who are always on the sidelines when she works out at home or in an arena.

After high school graduation, Putnam wants to go to college and study veterinary medicine. And she wants to own horses and animals of all sizes and descriptions. With several years ahead, she expects to gain plenty of experience on her family's animal farm.

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