

The Power of a Quarter Pony!

2008 deals a blow to the pony world as admirers of the talented pony, Theodore O'Conner (Teddy), say good-bye. The 14.1 hand chestnut gelding, of mixed breeding, seemed to embody the heart and talent of a true Quarter Pony. Although Teddy may not have been a registered QP, he is still deserving of QP recognition. Therefore, on behalf of The Quarter Pony Association, sincere condolences is extended to all who knew, admired, and loved this little event pony with huge talent.

In your passing, Teddy, may you gallop proud and free through the heavens - jumping the stars! Run and rest in peace little guy – you'll be missed, but not forgotten.

That said, lets see...

WHATSA GO'N ON WITH QPA (human membership)

It's not too late to add events to the QPA calendar! The calendar can be found through the QPA website by clicking on the "Events" link. All Quarter Pony friendly events are welcome to post.

WHATSA GO'N ON WITH IQPA (pony registry)

The December Christmas Pony sale isn't far off. If you would like to attend or would like more information, please contact Dominique Nave through the IQPA website. Last year, Dom advised IQPA would be looking for a different facility, for 2008, but no official word has been received, yet, regarding any new location.

WHATSA GO'N ON IN THE U.S. REGIONS & ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD

No reports have been submitted in time for this printing.

OFF THE BEAT'N PATH

This evening, as I sit to write the August newsletter (in June), I thought I might share a little something about my family and our Quarter Ponies. Next month, I hope to share a little something about yours. So, members, don't be shy - submit your story and pictures of your special Quarter Pony.

Although, I have always had a passion for equines, and been around them nearly as long, my youngest daughter, Natalie Lange (now 13 years old), took a liking to horses from the time she could walk. Her first ride was double, in front of her Grandpa, as I led them around, on an old retired Quarter Horse. My eldest daughter, Randi Lange (now 26 years old), "likes" horses, but doesn't share the same passion as her little sister or me. Randi digs big dogs over equines. My ex-husband, was definitely not a "horse person" and to my recollection only really dug one animal... a medium sized dog named "Buddy" which we rescued, in the 1980's, from a shelter.

In 2002, after over a year of searching for the "right pony", for Natalie, we finally found one and gave her the name "Shelby". So, at 7 years old, Natalie entered a new realm under the guidance of local Eventing trainer, Rochelle Costanza, Owner and Trainer at Platinum Farms in Franktown, Colorado. Rochelle focused on safety, proper seat and hands, and always encouraged Natalie to have fun, yet respectful of Shelby. We were never in a hurry to win ribbons and show, but rather focused more on doing things safely – as both pony and rider became ready. Alas, as with so many others, finances became tight and the professional lessons, and Shelby's professional training, stopped. However, Natalie and Shelby made their mark in 2004 and had a great season in combined training, other english and also western events... their first and only official show season, to date.

Another door opened and Shelby (IQPA registered name ShelBEaGoodPony) was bred to a two-year old Quarter Horse stallion, named SA J Dubbya Zip, as a test breeding. Born in 2005, the resulting foal was the first generation of QPA approved foals. That filly, we named "ShelBE aJazzie Zip", and she is now

three years old. While slow to mature, soon she'll go into training to determine where her talent is strongest.

The ponies remain boarded, at Greg & Angelique Dieker's "Rockin 2 Bar D Ranch", where Jazzie was foaled. In the future, both Natalie and I hope to produce at least one more quality baby out of Shelby... or maybe out of Jazz.

REMINDERS:

Quarter Pony Association (QPA) official website is www.UQPA.com
or www.QuarterPonyAssociation.com.

International Quarter Pony Association official website is www.IQPA.com .

All submissions, for consideration in QPA Newsletters, including, but not limited to, emails, articles/stories, commentaries, informational submissions and pictures/images, become property of the Quarter Pony Association and no compensation, for use, shall apply. Submissions may be sent to QPA_Newsletter@mac.com .

By Rhonda Lange,
QPA Writer/Publicist