

## MULE CROSSING: A.D.M.S. National Show

By Meredith Hodges

The 1986 A.D.M.S. National Donkey & Mule Show was held in Dallas, Texas, October 24-26, and hosted by the Southwestern Donkey & Mule Society. Glen Heiney, owner of the Heiney Training Center in Joshua, Texas, who has devoted his life to the advancement and promotion of the equine industry, was the chosen mule judge; Dr. Suzy Schoener, member of the A.D.M.S. since 1976 and founding member of the



Texas Draft Horse & Mule Society, took time from her veterinary practice in Mansfield, Texas, to come and judge the donkeys. There were 70 different classes in the show, equally divided between mules and donkeys. This is one of the few shows I have attended that gave donkey owners an opportunity to exhibit their abilities; one need only try to train a donkey to really appreciate the patience and effort these donkey owners have put into their animals. They deserve a place to display their talents. This was one of the primary reasons we travelled all the way from Colorado to attend this show--this was one of the few shows where we could show our jack at more than halter. Another important reason for attending was to meet those in Texas who share our interest in longears, and what a hospitable group of people they turned out to be!

From Loveland, Colorado, it took two days to reach Dallas. The first night, Cliff Rich and Gary Marble were kind enough to arrange for accommodations for us and our longears at the Equestrian Center in Canyon, just south of Amarillo. The following day, Cliff led us safely into Dallas for the show. Without his help, we would surely have been lost! At the show we were greeted cheerfully and enthusiastically by several A.D.M.S. members and friends whose hospitable contributions made our trip worthwhile. Our deepest thanks to Cliff Rich, Katharine Bradley, Paul and Betsy Hutchins, Darlene Winters, Grady and Wanda Alexander, Seb and Sue Wilson, Walter Nunn, and Keith and Micki Woods. These folks went out of their way to make our stay a pleasant one.

Besides the number of donkey classes made available, there were other things about this show that made it special. Exhibitors were encouraged to decorate their stall areas with photos and facts about mules, donkeys, and their farms and ranches. This kind of enthusiasm made for a rather informative and interesting display for the spectators who

strolled the barn area, helping them to better understand just what was really going on at the show.

So many times, those who work long and hard on such functions as this National Show get lost in the shuffle once things have begun. I was particularly impressed with their thoughtfulness in holding an awards ceremony to appreciate those who made this show possible, and for those who have made other measureable contributions to long ears. It's things like this that keep people interested in contributing!

I have noticed at many other shows that the costume classes are not always well defined, which can really leave a judge "out in left field" so to speak. The costume classes at the A.D.M.S. National Show were expertly decided in three different sections: humorous, historic, and authentic. Done in this manner, each class was well defined to the judge, exhibitors, and to those who were watching, promoting more enjoyment and less confusion. My compliments to the wonderfully creative costumes that were exhibited; they were fascinating and most enjoyable!

As impressive as the adult classes were youth classes. These young people did a fine job showing their donkeys and mules, and should be congratulated on their mature conduct and horsemanship (or should I say Longearsmanship?!). They did as fine a job as I have seen!

Congratulations to our National Champions:

'86 A.D.M.S. Champion Model Donkey

"Rosser's Boy"

Owned by A.P. Rosser, Sr.  
Stephenville, Texas

Reserve Champion

"Otay Alfalfa"

Owned by Chris Henderson  
Hurst, Texas

'86 A.D.M.S. Champion Model Mule

"Leading lady"

Owned by Cliff Rich  
Amarillo, Texas

Reserve Champion

"Penny Annie"

Owned by Patricia Windom  
Celina, Texas

'86 A.D.M.S. Champion Model Donkey

"Solomon's Henry"

Owned by Dub & Sandra Osborne  
Grandview, Texas

Reserve Grand Champion

"Redman"

owned b Cliff Rich  
Amarillo, Texas

'86 A.D.M.S. Champion Model Mule

"Ginger"

Owned by Marvin Brown  
Sunset, Texas

Reserver Grand Champion

"Sandy"

owned by Grady Alexander  
Buddah, Texas

'86 A.D.M.S. Champion Youth Mule

Bobby Winters

Kennedale, Texas

Reserve Champion Youth

Matt Wood

Bryan, Texas

'86 A.D.M.S. Hi Point Champion Model Donkey

Zack Kepple  
Cleburne, Texas

Reserve Champion

Kimberly Garza  
Needville, Texas

'86 A.D.M.S. High Point Novice Youth

Tie between: Tela Way  
Millsap, Texas  
and: Rachel Holly  
Prairie Grove, Arkansas

Reserve Hi Point Youth

Wayne Kepple  
Cleburne, Texas

Thanks to all of you who made this year's National Donkey and Mule Show the success that it was. We thoroughly enjoyed our first visit to Texas and appreciate the warmth and hospitality that we received. Congratulations on good show!

For more information about Meredith Hodges and her comprehensive correspondence training Program, *Training Mules and Donkeys*, please visit **[www.LuckyThreeRanch.com](http://www.LuckyThreeRanch.com)** or call **1-800-816-7566**. Also, find Meredith Hodges and Lucky Three Ranch on Facebook and Twitter. And don't forget to check out her children's website at **[JasperTheMule.com](http://JasperTheMule.com)**

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