

NVRHA LEGEND AWARD

— Donna Stewart

Every issue of the Rundown has acknowledged outstanding achievements and contributions of people who make up the organization. Although this is a good thing, it is also an incomplete view of whom and what the NVRHA is all about. You see, most people who belong to amateur organizations like the NVRHA don't pay their bills by riding or showing horses, and they don't often seek personal recognition for something they love doing. That being said, there is not an amateur cowboy or cowgirl out there who does not want their horse recognized! After all, this is the partner for whom you spend all your extra time, money, blood, sweat, and tears. You may not get a new blanket every year, but you can bet he does. How many days, nights, weekends, and of course all of your vacation time, have you spent with your horse; even when that small voice in your head says maybe you should really be at the family reunion, son's ball game, church, or the million other activities and obligations we all have. So, in this issue, we are proud to begin the tradition of honoring our outstanding equine counterparts who led us to the NVRHA in the first place. Guided by the insightful inspiration of President Dave Currin, the NVRHA has created a new category of achievement known as the Legend Award. This award will be presented to those horses accumulating a total of 200 lifetime points in the NVRHA. This year we are celebrating the first horse to achieve this feat, a 1995 AQHA gelding owned by Cindy and Tim Rose:



DOUBLE TUCKERED OUT

Double Tuckered Out, known as JJ, has a story of his own. JJ was purchased by the Roses' in 2003 as an eight year old. He was sired by Dry Double, by Dry Doc, and out of a mare by Doc Tom Tucker. JJ is a horse with a lot of talent who has had his share of success.

It's not hard to see why Cindy fell in love with JJ when she met him in 2003. Cindy will tell you, "my journey to JJ was my quest for a versatility horse."

Cindy had been a trail rider and like so many others was looking for something else to do with horses. She and Tim went to a combination trail ride/VRH event in Fort Robinson, Nebraska and 'fell in love with the challenge that versatility offered.' They met Dave Currin who shared his passion for horses and the VRH program. Now anyone who knows Dave also knows how hard it is to resist his enthusiasm. The Roses' were not immune to that either and soon began attending clinics and private lessons to better their horsemanship skills with the goal of competing in VRH.

One day in Nathrop, CO, at a Richard Shrake clinic, Cindy came to the realization that to be competitive in the versatility events she would have to buy a different horse. Riding her trail horses in a challenging event like VRH had become too much of a struggle.

Again, enter Dave, who called Jay Henson to inquire about a likely prospect for Cindy. Thinking this would take six months to a year to accomplish, everybody was surprised when Jay said, "yes, I have 3 prospects for her right now." Despite Dave claiming, "it shouldn't be this easy", Cindy and Tim headed for the Henson's place in Hugoton, Kansas to look at horses! Cindy rode several horses that day, but none compared to JJ. She felt immediately at ease and comfortable with the big bay gelding. Cindy vividly remembers her first ride and how in sync she felt with JJ.

"He was a gentle horse with smooth motion," says Cindy. "I felt so much better on JJ. He did everything that the other horses' did, but didn't seem like he wanted to eat the cattle. JJ just wanted to do his job and then get out. I knew without a doubt that this was the horse for me!"

And so it started...Cindy admits that JJ knew a lot more than she did at the beginning.

"I was able to learn all of the parts of VRH because I could concentrate on me and not have to worry about the horse," says Cindy. She quickly excelled in all aspects of VRH but especially ranch riding, trail, and the reining portion of the working cow horse event.

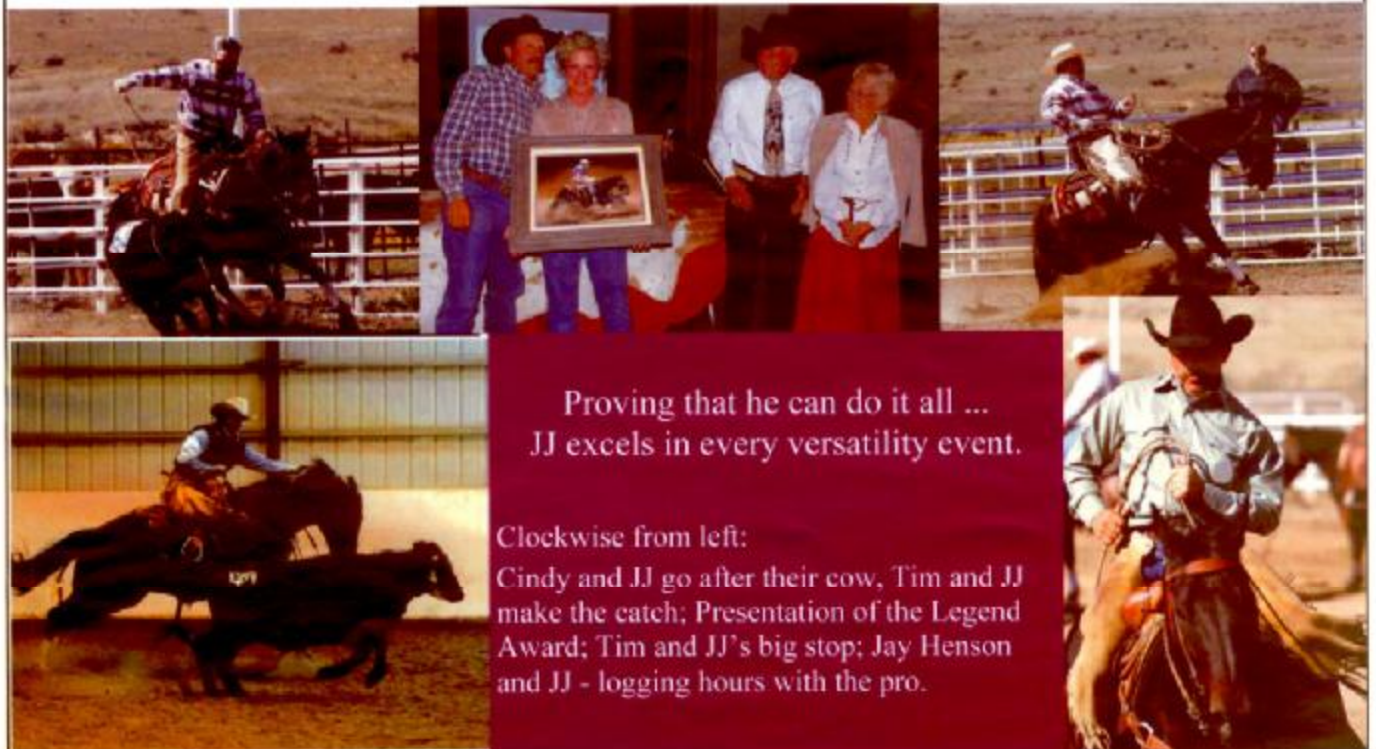
"The cow events were harder for me because I was afraid. Of what, I really don't know. Maybe just coming off and being in the middle of all the cattle. Consequently, I held JJ back from doing what he was really trained to do," Cindy admits.

Taking every training opportunity she could get, Cindy says that after awhile she and JJ became 'like a hand in a glove.' "He would know what to do, and when I have more courage and when I am afraid," said Cindy, "and I do know that I have babied him too much which has made him soft."

Nonetheless, this pair started competing full bore in the RMQHA and AQHA from 2005 to 2007 and one success followed the next. The points racked up, and the Cindy/JJ team earned their Ranch Horse Champion and Supreme Ranch Horse Champion in 2005 and Overall High Point Award for Ranch Trail, Ranch Riding and Conformation in 2007! As of this date, JJ has earned over 351 lifetime VRH points making him the highest point earner in the NVRHA!

So how does Cindy feel about her horse winning the Legend Award? "JJ has worked very hard and he deserves every point. In my opinion, he is and always will be one of the best versatility ranch horses in America!" Cindy says about her old friend.

We agree Cindy, and it gives all of us at the NVRHA great pleasure to present Double Tuckered Out the first ever Legend Award! As for JJ, well like most of our 'silent partners' he is pretty humble.



Proving that he can do it all ...
JJ excels in every versatility event.

Clockwise from left:

Cindy and JJ go after their cow, Tim and JJ make the catch; Presentation of the Legend Award; Tim and JJ's big stop; Jay Henson and JJ - logging hours with the pro.