

into the 80s/summer/into the 80s/summer Combined qualities make ideal riding stable horse

By Betsy Miller

The qualities of a top horse at a riding stable are diverse, according to Nancy Brown, co-owner of Lincoln's Pioneer Stables.

Brown said she and her husband, Carl, the other owner of Pioneer Stables, are looking for strong, middle-aged, slightly stupid horses. Gelding quarter horses between seven and 15-years-old are preferred.

Nancy Brown remembered a horse at the stables a few years ago that was just "too smart."

This horse could tell if his rider was in control, Brown said. If the rider didn't have enough control, the horse would turn around and head back to the stables regardless of his rider's efforts to stop him, she said.

"What we want is a really calm, gentle horse that won't spook," Nancy Brown said.

The stable rents between 10 and 16 horses out to riders, according to Brown. During the week, younger horses are used, but on weekends a few older horses hit the trail, she said.

"We have two (horses) that are aged 20 and 21. These have been good performance horses in the past," Nancy Brown said. "Older horses are just like older people. They get stiff if they don't get some exercise," she said.

According to Nancy Brown, the stable is preparing for the summer weekends when it will average about 60-70 customers a day.

However, she said summer is not the

stable's busiest time.

Late spring and early fall are favorite times for riding because of the cool weather, she said.

The stable charges \$5 for a ride on a 4½ mile trail that winds through Pioneer Park.

Brown said the biggest problem the stable has with people is their tendency to run the horses too hard.

Brown recalls spotting some people on the trail who had run the horses so hard the animals were dripping wet.

"I told them to get off and walk back. They thought I was kidding but I wasn't," she said.

"It's a 50-50 deal. We don't want the horse to abuse the rider or the rider to abuse the horse," Brown said.

A rider who begins galloping a horse may soon find himself unable to control the horse, she said.

The worst part of this trip may be when the rider reaches the last stretch of trail, she said.

"All horses love to run home. Sometimes they make that last corner and the people don't," she added.

Overall, though, Brown said she rarely has any difficult customers.

The facility is set on five acres of land and includes 45 box stalls, indoor and outdoor arenas and a hot walker, which is a type of machine used to exercise horses, Nancy Brown said.

According to Brown, every luxury the horses get is well-deserved.

"We really respect these horses. They work like slaves for us," she said.



Shelie Moreson enjoys a spring ride at Pioneer Park.

Photo by Jerry McBride

Track club member foresees largest marathon turnout ever

By Mary Jo Pitzl

It's possible that a Rosie-Ruiz type of incident could happen at the Lincoln Marathon May 11, but Lincoln Track Club member Jim Lewis said the Lincoln race will be better prepared than the Boston Marathon.

It could be difficult to keep track of the anticipated 1,000 runners, Lewis said. However, checkpoints set up to record split times at five points during the course would make it hard for anyone to duck in for just the last few miles of the race, and not be noticed, he said.

Lewis said about 800 runners are already registered for the 26-mile, 385-yard race. Entry fee for the third annual event is \$10, with entrants on the day of the race required to pay \$15.

Lewis said the May 11 event promises to be the largest road race the track club has ever sponsored. Last year 580 runners started the race, he said.

During the past two years, the Lincoln Marathon has earned a reputation as a quality race, Lewis said. He credited this to several factors, among them: the good weather the marathon has enjoyed the past two years (94 percent of the entrants

completed in 1979, a figure way above the national average of 80 percent); the attention given the individual runner; the reasonably flat course; and cooperation from the Lincoln Police Department, traffic engineers and Lincoln citizens.

"Lincoln is really very accepting to athletic people," said the mathematics professor, who is training for the marathon.

Lewis said that, because of training for the Olympic trials May 24, most top American male runners will not be available to attend the marathon. He predicted that Australian Bob Wallace, who lives and works in Omaha, will win the men's division.

The 1980 Lincoln Marathon will focus on women, Lewis said. He listed last year's women's challenger Lanae Larsen and Iowa City marathoner Tina Gandy as two runners to watch for.

Ruth Anderson, one of the best known masters (over 40) runners in the United States, will also compete, Lewis said. He added that Anderson and her husband are Nebraska natives.

Further details on the marathon and entry requirements can be obtained by calling race director Ross Greathouse, Lewis said.

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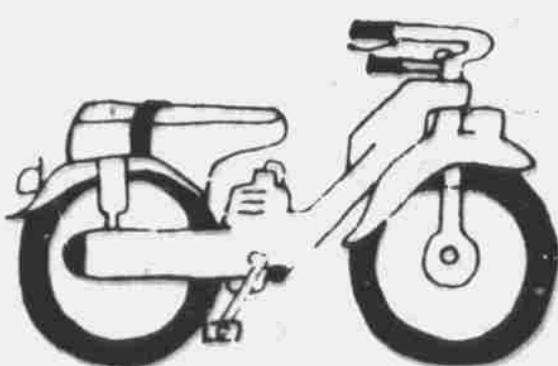


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