

The Hutchisons Hang Their Hats

By Carole Audet

When the Hutchisons left their seven quarter (1120 acres) farm east of Edmonton, for British Columbia in 1985, they thought they would be retiring. In Jack Hutchison's mind, going from a farm that size to 66 acres in B.C. equals retirement, even though they brought 45 Polled Herefords from their 300 head herd.

Then in 1987, a visit from their former prairie neighbours led to them exploring the world of Miniature horses. "We asked them what they were doing now and they said they were into Miniature horses. We didn't know anything about them and they were so enthusiastic. That fall, we went down to the National Miniature Horse show in Reno and looked at them," recalls Barb Hutchison.

A considerable search lead them to one stallion and two mares which launched them into breeding Miniature horses that same year. With the birth of J-Bar-H Miniature Horses, they were now officially out of retirement.

Throughout the years, the Hutchisons maintained certain rules about their beloved horses. "We would never sell a Miniature to someone that was planning on giving it as a surprise," says Barb. "Also, we have never sold a foal. That's the best time to sell them because everyone falls in love with them. But, we always waited until they were a year old

because we know what they are going to be at that point, and the people that are buying them knew more that they got a horse and not just a cuddly little toy."

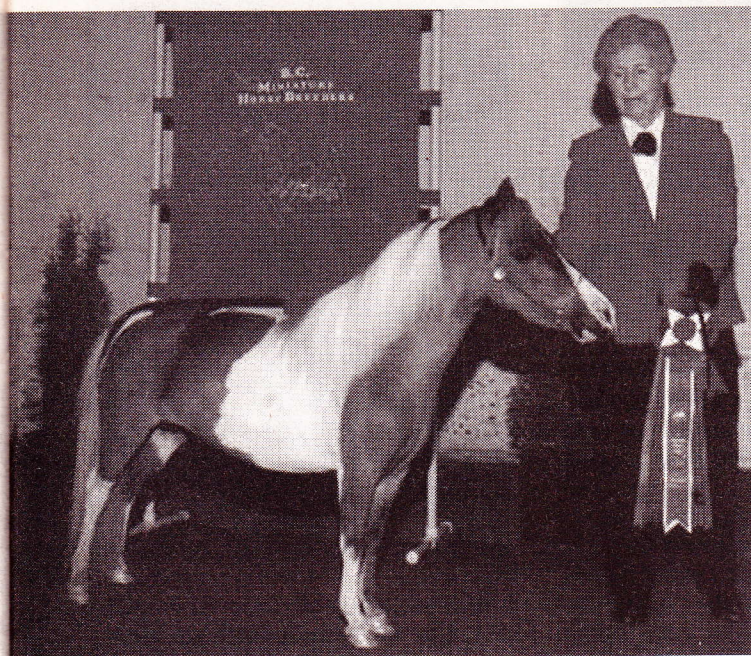
The horses were also fully trained by that point. In fact, Barb and Jack trained them at just a few weeks of age. "We imprint them as soon as they are born and that way they are used to everything you do to them," explains Barb. This training also extended to being "house trained" as they regularly took their horses to visit the elderly in nursing homes, lodges, and extended care hospitals. There will be some sad folks who will miss the visits from these intelligent and willing friends.

Jack is also the person behind all the Vancouver Island Miniature Horse Shows. He started the Saanich Fair Show, the Cowichan Valley Show and the Vancouver Island Exhibition Show in Nanaimo. Also, since Barb was unable to lunge the horses due to a bad back, Jack came to the rescue

Jack Hutchison with Magnum. "The draft horse people loved Magnum and they made a small single tree for him so he could go into log pulls against them. They figured he could out pull them pound for pound!" says Barb.

Photo courtesy of J-Bar-H Miniatures





Barb Hutchison proudly displaying ribbons won by her favourite horse, Kaliko.

Photo courtesy of J-Bar-H Miniatures

by building a treadmill to condition the horses.

Five years ago, they dispersed the last of the remaining cattle. They had once again decided to try retirement. At this time, they also started to cut back on the Miniature horse breeding business. They sold all their horses except one family; Magnum the original stallion, and Honey, one of the original mares, daughter Kaliko, and her daughter, Sassy. In February of this year the Hutchison's parted with Kaliko who went to a good breeding farm, followed by Sassy in April.

Magnum, now 24, and Honey, now 23, are the only two remaining on the farm. Magnum has been gelded so that he and Honey can run together. The Hutchisons are looking for a retirement home for the pair, somewhere they will be safe for the rest of their lives. That is also the hope for the two humans in this business. Their 66 acre farm in Duncan is for sale and they plan to move to the Victoria area after it has sold. "It's a beautiful spot and we like it. That's why it's going to be hard to leave," says Barb.

The Hutchisons want to maintain some presence at the island club, even if it's, "just visiting or doing whatever we can," says Barb. And, the wonderful memories will follow them to their new life – like watching the birth of their first Miniature foal, winning their first show, and their favourite horse, Kaliko, a multi-champion bay pinto. "Apart from winning everything, even when I was showing her when I didn't know anything about showing, she's given us so many great fillies and she's just such a nice horse," explains Barb.

"They are addictive — somebody buys one, they never end up with one," says Barb. For that reason, she advises those wanting to explore Miniatures, to purchase breeding quality horses as the fever will surely grow to wanting more of these wonderfully versatile little horses.

CANADA'S BEST SELECTION OF QUALITY BRAND NAMES



ENGLISH, WESTERN
AND AUSTRALIAN SADDLES,
BEGINNER PACKAGES,
TACK, RIDING APPAREL,
SUPPLIES, EQUIPMENT,
HORSEY BOOKS,
GIFTS AND MUCH MORE...

- Canada's Best Selection!
- Lowest Prices Guaranteed!
- The World's Best Brands!
- Fast Efficient Shipping!
- Satisfaction Guaranteed!
- All Saddles Sold On Trial!
- Trades Always Welcome!

**HUNDREDS
OF SADDLES
IN STOCK!**



Call us now to request your FREE copy
of Canada's most comprehensive
equestrian catalogue at
1-800-TOP-TACK (1-800-867-8225)
or fill in our online form at
www.applesaddlery.com

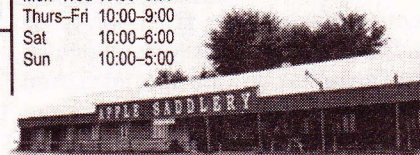
**OVER
100
PAGES**

Tel: (613) 744-4040
1-800-867-8225
Fax: (613) 744-3256

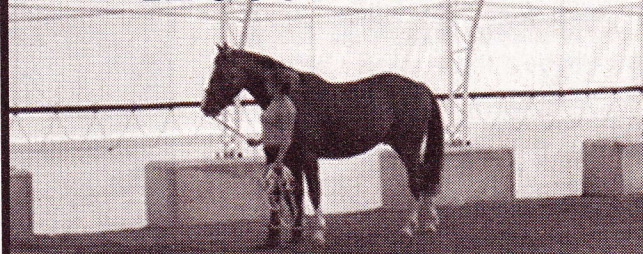
1875 Innes Road,
Ottawa – ON
K1B 4C6

Store Hours

Mon-Wed 10:00-6:00
Thurs-Fri 10:00-9:00
Sat 10:00-6:00
Sun 10:00-5:00



Picture Yourself Riding in Your Own Indoor Arena



Arena Pictured Here 60'x96'

Only \$22,000 to purchase or \$500/month to lease!

Bans • Shelters • Arenas 15' to 160' wide, any length

In Alberta call...

Bill Mensink
Toll Free 1-888-601-6611
Ph: 1-780-986-5548
www.starlinesales.com

In BC call...

Ida May Paterson • Ph: 250-707-0561
Cell: 250-212-9462 • Fax: 250-707-0581
www.indoorarenas.ca
ida_may_paterson@hotmail.com