

STALL OF FAME & HONOUR ROLL HORSE

TOPPER

(nominated 1990)

By Rose & Lesley Danko (re-typed by Kristen Howard)



Lesley Danko and Topper: 1981 Base Borden 50 Mile Endurance Ride

Topper was a 15.3hh, chestnut, grade (Arabian x Quarter Horse) gelding who competed from 1979 to 1989. He competed in a total of 44 events finishing all but two in:

- 37 Competitive Trail Rides,
- 6 Endurance Rides, and
- 1 Ride 'n' Tie.

With

- ◆ top 10 placings 37 times,
- ◆ top 5 placings 34 times,
- ◆ top 3 placings 22 times,
- ◆ top 2 placings 17 times



The Rockwood Ride is the oldest competitive trail ride in Ontario and a member ride of the Ontario Competitive Trail Ride Association. Riders came from Toronto, Peterborough, Penetang, Waterloo and surrounding areas to compete in the third of six such rides to be held throughout Ontario this year.

The winners were:

Novice Division

- 1st. Lisa Leeman—Top Cat, Waterloo
- 2nd. Marina Elder—Caramel, New Lowell
- 3rd. Mike O'Toole—Biscuit, Peterborough
- 4th. Jeanine Gravelle—Shasta Lee, Hastings
- 5th. Marion E. Hewick—O'Cricket Bars, Millgrove
- 6th. Karin Wagner—Doodle Dandy, Rockwood.

Lightweight Division

- 1st. Lesley Danko—Topper, New Lowell
- 2nd. Sylvia Burke—Rusty, Willowdale
- 3rd. Michelle Hergott—Cajun Sun Clara, Waterloo
- 4th. Nicole Horst—Neden Jabeym, Petersburg
- 5th. Pamela King—Adanae Danny Premier, Burlington
- 6th. Mary Jean Rich—Whiskey, Milverton.

Middleweight Division:

- 1st. Beverly Woodtke—Morning Glory, Kitchener
- 2nd. Brenda Dean—Lad, Wolfesley
- 3rd. Lesley Bond—Benji's Blaze, Millbank
- 4th. Rose Danko—Trija's WhipperPopper, New Lowell
- 5th. Lynn Stanley—Count Diablo, Bolton
- 6th. Connie Morrison—The Duke, Baden.

Heavyweight Division

- 1st. Earl Baxter—Clyde Barrow, Millbank
 - 2nd. Harold Van Dyke—Sanman, Stouffville
 - 3rd. Dave Taylor—Cheri, Fergus
 - 4th. Dale Horst—Middlemarch, Petersburg
 - 5th. Dale Canning—Lyndale Cedar, Toronto
 - 6th. Jim Dales—Bubba, Guelph.
- Sweepstakes: Lesley Danko—Topper
Reserve Hi-Point: Earl Baxter—Clyde Barrow
Hi-Point Arab: Harold Van Dyke—Sanman

July 16, 1980: Rockwood and District Free Press

Topper won his division on 8 occasions with 5 sweepstakes ribbons to his credit. He was an OCTRA top 10 competitive horse many times and has his name on the Lochinvar Trophy several times. He was Reserve High Point Competitive Horse 3 times and 1985 OCTRA High Point Competitive Horse. Topper was the first horse to earn 1000 mile credit and one of the first two to earn 1500 miles. He represented Ontario twice in the Canadian Competitive Trail Ride Championships and was Canadian Champion in 1995.

Topper competed in many "firsts" for OCTRA -- the first 100 mile ride in Ontario, the first 3 day 100 mile ride, as well as the first Canadian Championship Competitive Trail Ride.



First CTR 1980

Topper died suddenly and unexpectedly at age 19 in January of 1990. He is fondly remembered and sadly missed.