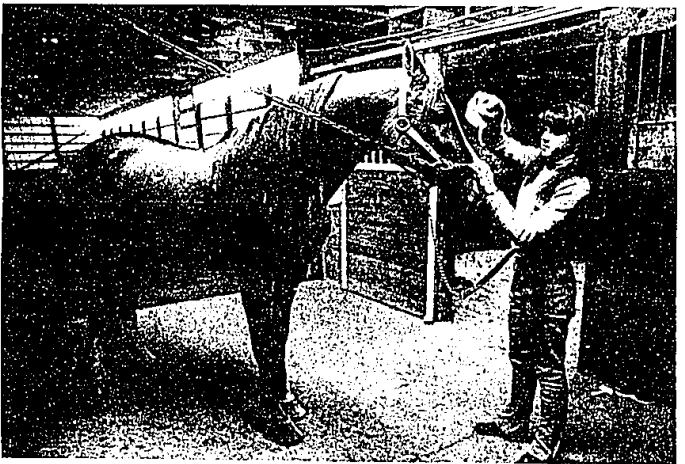




Susan Pawlowski of Southfield rides her champion Arabian stallion through the fields of Ortonville.



Grooming is one of the skills a horsewoman has to master to keep her horse healthy and in show condition.

By Shirlee Rose Iden
staff writer

AT AGE 3 she was picking out illustrations of horses in picture books. By age 7, her father began taking her riding and by age 10, Susan Pawlowski owned her first horse.

"Horses just get to you. It's like eating," she said.

Today, at 18, the Southfield teen and her Arabian stallion Xanadus Bacchus, 14, have distinguished themselves in the show ring.

Bacchus is Pawlowski's second horse, a liver chestnut pure Arabian with a white blaze on his face. He stands over 14 hands high, a good size for an Arabian, a breed noted for compactness, speed, endurance and athletic ability.

At a recent Michigan Horse Show Association awards banquet, Pawlowski and two other Southfield horsewomen received honors.

Rita Small and Poplar's L. J. William won championships in Morgan halter gelding, Morgan pleasure driving and Morgan English pleasure.

Elizabeth Lyons on Foresight took a reserve champion for amateur owner working hunter.

PAWLOWSKI and Bacchus won the championship for Arabian western pleasure, junior exhibitor.

For the horse, it was another distinction added to a superb show record. "He's been in Michigan all his life and has been shown all his life too," she said.

Pawlowski's stallion has been a champion as park horse, driving horse, western pleasure, English pleasure, saddle seat and stock seat.

"He's been shown all over Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and for regional championships in Indiana. He was reserve champion in the Buckeye, one of the most important shows in the country," she said.

Bacchus had just about done it all, even qualifying for the nationals and making top 20, before the Pawlowski family bought him for their daughter.

Since age 7, she has ridden with her father, Michael. Her mother, Patli, is a horse watcher but doesn't ride. Another daughter, Cheryl, 13, has a half-Arabian pony.

Bacchus is stabled at Four Star Arabians in Ortonville, where Corinne Rowalski is trainer-owner.

ALTHOUGH she does all her own training and has ground-broken horses herself, Pawlowski takes lessons from Claudia Roberts.

"I ride horses other than Bacchus," she said. "I like riding stock horse the best. But with Bacchus, whatever you ask of him, he'll do."

Pawlowski has ridden in shows all over the Midwest and in the nationals as well. She's taken championships and first places in many of the big events for Arabian horses.

"When we got Bacchus, I had seen him but never ridden him," she said. "Actually he had been retired from competition and not ridden for a couple of years."

Immediately, she began conditioning and training him for competition and the horse responded well.

"Now I'm beginning to drive the car myself so I can get here every day or every other day at the least," she said.

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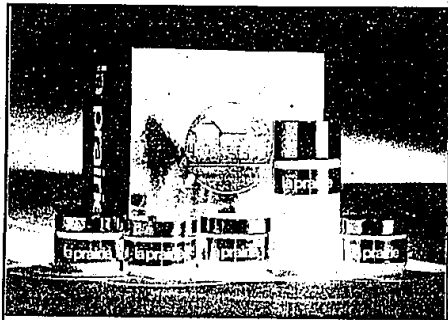
Pawlowski is in the 11th grade at Southfield-Lathrup High School. She plays varsity soccer for the S-L team as well as the Square Lake Racquet Club.

SHE PLAYS the clarinet in the high school band and has been in the flag corps and the marching band.

Eventually, she would like to go to Michigan State University for their nursing education course.

"I want to be a nurse anesthetist," she said. "That's been my goal for three years now. I thought about being a vet when I was in junior high, but when I looked it up it ended up like 10 years of school."

Meanwhile, Pawlowski continues to excel. Last year, she leased a half-Arabian mare and took her to the nationals in saddle seat. "She went top 20," the rider said.



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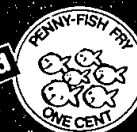
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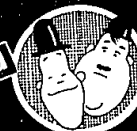
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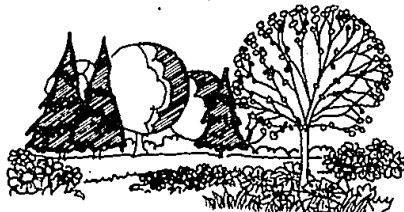
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