

CAPRISON – Louise Reidel



Louise Riedel, Iowa

Caprison's induction into the AERC Hall of Fame at the 1980 convention was the high point of an association between horse and rider that has been full of achievement, love and mutual respect. Since then he has gone on to complete 4550 miles and place 16th nationally.

Caprison is beginning his 12th year of endurance competition this season; in fact his endurance record predates the founding of AERC by a couple of years. As is usual every spring, he has had to be convinced that it is not necessary to spook, snort, or to buck every time another horse gets ahead of him on a training ride; and that at the age of 17 he should behave with more maturity.

The plans for this year are for his six-year-old stable mate to take over on some of the endurance rides, but it remains to be seen whether the "kid" can be a satisfactory replacement or not. Obviously there will never be a *really* satisfactory replacement.

Caprison's record includes: six times in AERC's top 25 national champion (three times top 10); four times UMECRA champion; 23rd place on the '78 Tevis -one of only 85 finishers out of 200 starters. He also held the fastest time record for a 50-miler in 1977 with 2 hours, 27 minutes.

His record is all the more outstanding since, with a ride season of only five and a half months in the Midwest, this little Arab gelding has competed week after week, with only a rare weekend or two off between rides. Caprison has indeed been the "once-in-a-lifetime" horse for me!

