

JESSE

Owner Teri Olson

My horse saga starts in the fall of 1990. My father and I made a bet. He told me that if I could shoot 20 out of 25 targets at trap shooting that he would buy me a horse. It took me a whole year but I finally shot 20 targets. I could not believe it – I was finally going to own my first horse. I had always wanted a horse of my own and now I was going to have one.

I knew that I wanted an Arab or some other horse that could do endurance rides. One of my co-workers knew a lady that helped people find horses. She took me to see about 10 horses. None of them caught my eye. Finally she told me that she knew a couple that did endurance riding and that she would take me to see them.

I met Ray and Audrey Gehrig and they gave me a lot of good information. They told me of two ladies in Galena that sold endurance horses. So I called Jan and Grace. By the time I got down to the J&G ranch it was early spring of 1992.

Jan showed me two horses that were in my price range. One was a chestnut gelding and the other was a gray gelding. I rode the chestnut and she rode the gray. The gray one looked better to me but I liked both horses. So I told Jan that I would call her and let her know if I was going to buy one of the horses.

About a week later I called Jan back and made arrangements to take another look at the horses. When I got back down to the farm the gray horse had been sold, so I decided that the chestnut would be my horse. His name is Jesse. When I bought him he was a 5 year old grade gelding. I also bought a used saddle and later bought a used horse trailer from Jan. A month after buying Jesse, we competed in our first competitive ride at Glacier Trails.

Since that first ride Jesse and I have learned a lot together, both on and off the trail. Jesse has been a wonderful horse for me. I have never pushed him far or fast because to me the main goal is to finish and have a horse that is able to go on. The motto for our sport is "To finish is to win" and that is what I believe.

Jesse has been pulled twice in his career. The first was from a pulled tendon in his rear leg that I thought had ended his career, but he came back from that and has not looked back. The other time he was pulled was for a metabolic reason.

In 1997, Jesse received his 1000 mile award. That award may seem small to some people but for someone like me it was a big deal. I never thought I was going to own my own horse. I am hoping to have many more wonderful times with my horse on the trail.

