

Nancy Diepenbrock and TOGY

It's scary to think of what Togy could have done in endurance if he had come to me as a 6 year old instead of a 16 year old. A few competitive rides were on his resume, but until he met me, endurance was an unexplored frontier.

I remember I didn't even want him when he was offered for sale. Then I rode him. We did a 50 mile ride, and he finished with ease. We tried 100. He took the challenge and completed. How could I not buy him? I took him to Texas with me, and we started racking up the miles. We returned to Wisconsin, and continued our quest. Six years later, at the age of 22, Togy received his 1,000 mile medallion from the AERC. And now, finally, at the age of 23, he completed his 1,000 miles for UMECRA.

Togy always was a bomb-proof, steady, honest horse. Ever the prankster of the barn, his eyes still sparkle and his soul still thinks he has it in him to crank out those long distances. But his old bones are starting to show the wear of those accumulated miles, and I've chosen to retire him. He has earned the right to graze on lush fields and dream in the warm sunlight of the days gone by. He will always have a home with me, still going out for short trail rides (pretending they are long endurance rides), and still bringing me as much happiness as the night he finished that first 100.

Well done, my good friend.

