

# A Special Life...

We are all grieving the untimely death of our friend Raven Briggs. For those of you who have not heard the news - Raven was killed on October 25, 1997 in Nashville, Tennessee in a horrible car accident. Raven was a husband, father, horseman, storyteller and friend. Raven was a truly unique individual and left a lasting impression on everyone he ever met. He lived his life to the fullest everyday and never took his life for granted. Raven often talked about how good his life had been and how he felt that God had blessed him immeasurably.

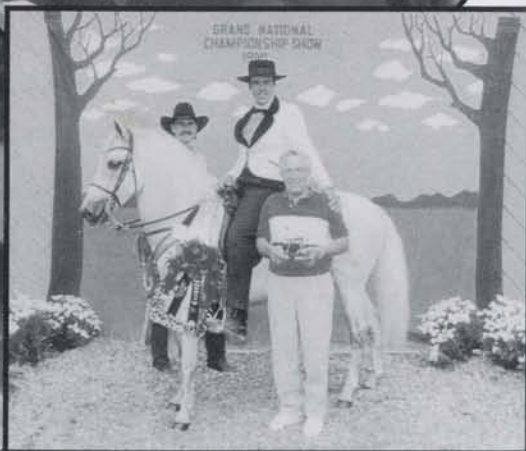
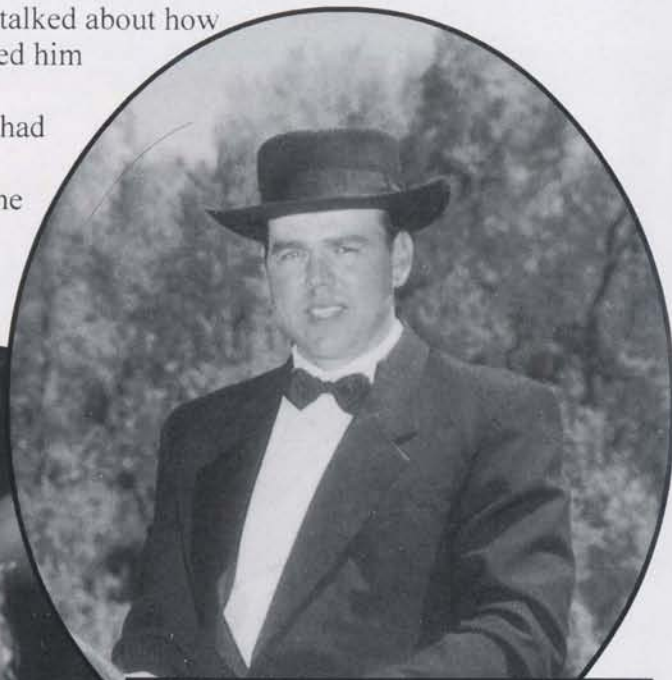
Raven had a very special gift for training horses. He had been involved with Paso Fino horses for over 20 years. During this time he had the opportunity to train some of the greatest horses in our breed. He was a master showman and could always get the very best performance from his animals. In his career he was champion or reserve champion over two hundred times in National and Grand National Classes, and he always strove for improvement.

Raven was also an excellent pianist, and he loved classical as well as country music. He loved poetry and would often quote his own rhymes as well as familiar works by famous poets. He loved to reminisce about his grandparents, his school pals, the early days in the Paso Fino Breed, and some of his crazy experiences with friends like Bill Minter, Sam Kirk, and Mark Styers. Raven could take a story and by stretching it just a bit, make it uniquely his own.

He loved his family and was very proud of his wife Kathy and his sons Houston and Austin. He loved Davidson County, North Carolina and the people in this community. He also loved his farm and the colorful history connected to it.

Raven was a happy person who had a very positive outlook on life. The loss of this life is a tragedy that will affect all who know him for a very long time. We don't want to say good-bye. We only do so because we are forced to by circumstance.

Many people have said that the National Shows will never be the same without him, but I believe that he will always be there in spirit. Not even death will keep him away from the thing he treasured most in his life - his beloved Paso Fino horses.



by Janet McEntire