

Melton Saddles Up

Rhett Melton, a senior, has chosen horses as his hobby. He competes locally in various races and shows. The type of racing Rhett mostly does is barrel-racing. He has competed in the S.C. State Fair where he placed second and fourth.

This is the third year that Rhett has been involved in barrel-racing competition, which is a rodeo sport where a horse is ridden around a clover-leaf pattern, and the winner is determined by the one who has the fastest time. Penalties, such as knocking over a barrel, can cause a deduction of five seconds from the official time.

Barrel-racing takes time, dedication, and money. Rhett spends time every day feeding and exercising his four-year-old quarter-horse, Sassy. In order to pay for some of the expenses involved, Rhett gives riding lessons to children after school.

In addition to barrel-racing, Rhett is interested in other activities that involve horses. Some of these activities include participating in various horse shows, and helping Ellen Acres provide horses for different movies.

Rhett receives his information about horse shows and races primarily by mail. He says it is not much trouble to prepare for these events if you take good care of your horse and familiarize it with the different racing techniques.

Rhett does not plan to pursue a career in racing. He says, "It is just a hobby that I enjoy a lot."

by Angi Atkerson and Fran Jolly

Famous barrel-racer, Rhett Melton, goes for a more comfortable ride after posting second and fourth place finishes in the State Fair's races.

Waiting for Western Civilization class to begin, Ashley Wilson amuses Lawrence Hodge with his antics.

