

Grand Benito Benny was born in 1984 and was broke as a reining horse where he was trained to slide and spin. The only problem with this was the amount of discipline it took to do this and with Doc Bar in his veins Benny wanted more in return. He constantly gave his owner a bumpy ride of bucks and snorts; he was just too much horse for the reining world. As most people already know, a good friend Porky Watters was able to get his hands on Benny and bring him home for me. It was 1990 when I was given the gift of Mr. Grand Benito Benny. Porky and I spent a good year breaking Benny for barrels and every other rodeo event known to man. Of course as history has shown, Benny excelled in all events and never let me down. He has brought me across northern Quebec, northern and southern Ontario, and even Columbus Ohio from rodeos like St. Tite, to Quivillon, all the way to the Congress. For nine years Benny and I were one. There wasn't a trailer he wouldn't load in or a ring he wouldn't run in. I could give you a list of what he has accomplished but I assure you it would be too long. I am very proud of Benny and feel blessed for what he has done for me. He is still the first horse I greet every time I walk into the barn and with a heart of a lion I am sure I will be able to greet him for many more years to come.

David Wilson



Benny,,,

Well, what do you say about a horse that is basically human? You could start off by saying that Grand Benito Benny has won many barrel, pole, keyhole and dash races not to mention TPHC High Point Youth Champion five consecutive years from 1995-2000, TPHC High Point Open Champion in 2001, High Point Youth Champion for Festival De Guigues in 2001, ARAWAT High Point Champion in Keyhole in Quebec, 2001 or you could say that you could jump on his back and put him into a relay race, a pick up and rescue race or a boot race with no worries that he would not try his best. Benny did and does just about anything you ask him to....Although he does prefer only one person on his back at once. He took Tessa and I for a good ride in Guigues one year but of course he gave us the red ribbon even in a race that wasn't his favourite.

Anybody who knows Benny already knows that when he gets into a ring he puts all his heart into it, but what people don't know is his true personality! As soon as you walk into the barn Benny is there to greet you with his head bobbing to say hello and to tell you that he is hungry and we know better not to feed any horse before Benny. He gets all meals first, turned out first, turned in first and of course more treats than any other horse

in the barn. If Benny does something bad like bite another horse on the butt we laugh and say “oh Benny” if he puts his head down for grass on a trail ride we laugh and say “oh Benny”, if he gives you a good buck while out casually riding we laugh and say “oh Benny” and if he is kicking at his stall door while you are brushing another horse we laugh and say “oh Benny” and we take him out and brush him instead. As you can see Benny is not a regular horse, he is one of a kind who you may say is treated like one of a kind but for many good reasons. Benny has taught me how to ride, barrel race, care for a horse and become a competitor. When I was younger and not ready to go fast he would slow down for me and when I was ready to go faster he would give me his all. Benny knew who was on his back and how to treat those who weren't experienced riders. He was a babysitter for many members of my family and friends. Benny is a trustworthy horse. I never had to worry about noise, flags, rodeos or different shoots or rings with Benny. He didn't care about any of that he just want to give me his best and make me happy. Benny even learnt how to drive a sleigh in a week to take me away in it at my wedding this year. Benny is everything I could have and ever ask for in horse and I am truly grateful that I was able to be in a ring with him for five years.

Missy Wilson



Benny unexpectedly fell into my hands the day of a local TPHC horse show. My sister Missy was showing two horses (one of them being Benny) and she felt her hands were too full so she asked, actually begged me to race Benny that evening. Being a Hunter/Jumper competitor my whole life I was a little hesitant, but I thought what the heck one night might be fun and I can help my sister out. Well, one night turned into years and this is attributed to Benny. I think anyone; given the opportunity to race Benny would have done the exact same thing. After that evening of pure adrenaline pumping

from both Benny and my hearts and feeling the muscular power beneath me, I was instantly hooked.

I finished the 2001 season with Benny and continued racing him throughout the 2002, 2003 and 2004 show seasons. Like Missy and David, Benny and I competed on the OBRA circuit, ARAWAT circuit and TPHC. Throughout those years Benny and I competed in every game from barrels to flag to pick up and rescue, Benny did it all and put his all into every race. Benny was a great teacher but also made his mount pay attention because he would not do anymore work then he had too. Benny kept me honest and on my "A" game every moment whether it was entering the ring in a eager prance, or him trying to cut the timer off because he thought he knew when the race was to be over, or trail riding in an open field of green grass where you had to watch not to fall off the back of him during a playful buck or off the front of him while he put his head down for grass in mid trot.

Benny's great talent, ability, big heart and desire to please earned Benny and I High Point Championship at the Festival Western De Guigues in 2002, ARAWAT High Point Open Flag in 2002, TPHC High Point Western Games in 2002, 2003 and 2004, and THPC High Point Games Horse in 2004.



At the end of the 2004 season my family decided to retire Benny while he was still a winner and a hero in our minds. Since then Benny has continued to put his talent to use by being my number one school horse in my summer riding school. I am happy to be able to pass on his one of a kind personality and to let others experience not just an extremely

talented horse but a horse that becomes your confidante, support, knowledge, and truly your best friend.

Tessa Wilson