



If you can ride a regular bike, you can ride a "high wheeler", according to the manufacturer.

## BOTH MEN AND WOMEN JOINING IN THE FUN

# "High Wheeler" Bicycles Making A Comeback

"Ordinaries," a high-wheeler bicycle that was popular from 1870 to 1890, are making a comeback, thanks to a couple of Colorado entrepreneurs.

Three years ago, Don McClung and Mike Rust formed the Colorado Cyclery Co. and began manufacturing "Ordinaries" out of their Salida, Colo. shop. The bikes have a large front wheel, either 48 or 51 in. in dia., and a much smaller, 20-in. rear wheel.

"Ordinaries," sometimes called penny-farthings or high-wheelers, take their name from the fact they were an "ordinary" bicycle, compared to safety bikes with two wheels the same size which came out later.

A basic Ordinary today sells for about \$700, or you can buy one in kit form about \$500.

"Ordinaries were never cheap," says Rust. "When they were first made in the late 1800s, they sold for \$125 to \$175 which was equivalent to buying an expensive car.

"Ordinaries generate a tremendous amount of goodwill," notes McClung, who

receives many requests to participate in parades and other events.

Riding an Ordinary is easier than a unicycle but slightly more difficult than a conventional bicycle, says McClung. "Many people ask to try out an Ordinary before making a purchase because at first they appear difficult to ride. Some people have a harder time than others, but in general, if you can ride a regular bicycle you can ride an Ordinary. To mount and dismount the bike, you use a step just above and on both sides of the rear wheel."

"One new development, compared with the old days, is that women as well as men are riding them," says Rust. "Back then, their clothing made it difficult for women to ride bicycles. Also, many people believed that exercise was not good for women."

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Don McClung, Colorado Cyclery, 111 E. St., Salida, Col. 81201 (ph 303 539-2453).

## TOY MODELS REPLACE "THE REAL THING" "Horseless" Horse Shows

Miniature plastic horses — sculpted, painted and even saddled to look like "the real thing" — are catching on fast with youngsters of all ages who love horses but don't have a barn, or a budget, for "live" horses.

Collecting and exhibiting molded plastic horse models is a fast-growing national hobby, complete with regional and national model horse shows where titles, trophies and ribbons are awarded. Judges at these "horseless" horse shows place models and their meticulously handmade tack and painted bodies. And, just like regular shows with "live" horse judging, there are various categories to enter. Exhibitors can show ready-made purchased models, or models they have painted and decked out themselves.

"Anything you see at a live horse show can be reproduced in miniature on a table top," says Arlene Bentley, co-owner of Bentley Sales Co., Des Plaines, Ill. The company is a mail order distributor for Breyer Animal Creations, Pequannock, N.J., which, she says, is the industry's premier model horse maker.

The model horses, which stand about 10 in. tall, are generally priced from \$11 to \$16. However, for some early and discontinued models, collectors may pay \$400 to \$500.

"Many collectors of model horses start out as teenagers but there's also growing interest among retired persons," notes Bentley.

"Some hobbyists have become experts at reshaping and repainting horse models, such as cutting off plastic manes and tails and replacing them with actual horse hair. Remaking changes the structure of the horse," notes Bentley. "Soaked in hot water, model horses become bendable so you can reposition their legs into a totally different stance. Some craftspeople even cut off the head from one model and put it on the body of another, using wood putty and filler. After sanding, polishing and repainting, they have a totally different horse."

As yet, there is no nationwide association



Breyer's model stallion, created by Jeanne Herrick, Hamilton, N.Y., is "ideal type" Morgan horse.



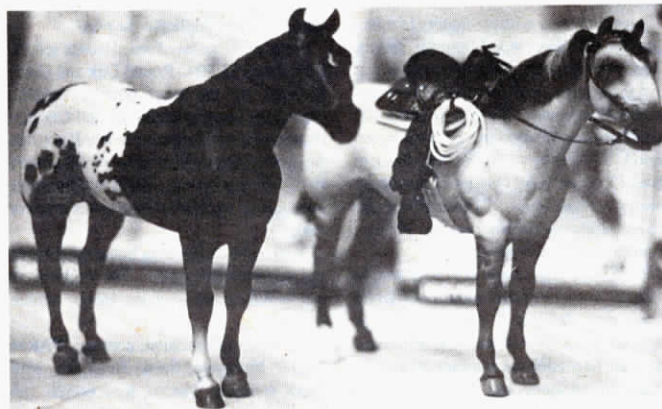
Kathleen Blumreich won 1st place with this "Collector's Class" of Breyer model horses

or organization for horse model collectors. "But that's no problem," notes Bentley. "We all keep in touch via our own information network. When word gets out on something new or different, model horse collectors from coast to coast know about it within hours."

For anyone who wants to learn more about

model horses, a magazine called "Just About Horses" is available. It provides information on show dates and people to contact.

For more information, contact: FARM Show Followup, Bentley Sales Co., 642 Sandy Lane, Des Plaines, Ill. 60016 (ph 312 439-2049).



Hobbyists become experts at shaping, painting and outfitting model horses.