

# Two Horses For Christmas

BY KAY HIVELY/THE POST

Perry and Irene Whipple understand the idea of giving gifts at Christmas. And this year, they had an opportunity to give a very special gift.

On December 17th, two men from Southern Nazarene University in Bethany, Oklahoma, came to the Whipple ranch west of Neosho and loaded up two beautiful Colorado Ranger mares. These two registered horses were donated by the Whipples to the University for its equine program which today has 123 active students.

Bill Bowen, Equine director for the University, and Paul McGrady, equine instructor, had nothing but praise for the Whipple's generosity and for the quality of the mares they received. The mares, Bright Fan Fare II and Whips Bright Cindy, are Colorado Rangers, a unique breed which, ironically was first bred by Perry Whipple's grandfather and his neighbor in Colorado.

According to Perry Whipple, the Colorado Rangers came from a line of horses once owned by President U.S. Grant

After his presidency, President Grant made a trip around the world. On that trip, he was given two Arabian stud horses by the Sultan of Turkey. These two horses were brought back to the United States, and eventually made their way to Beatrice, Nebraska.

Perry Whipples Grandfather had read about the horses when news of them ran in newspapers after Grant's trip.

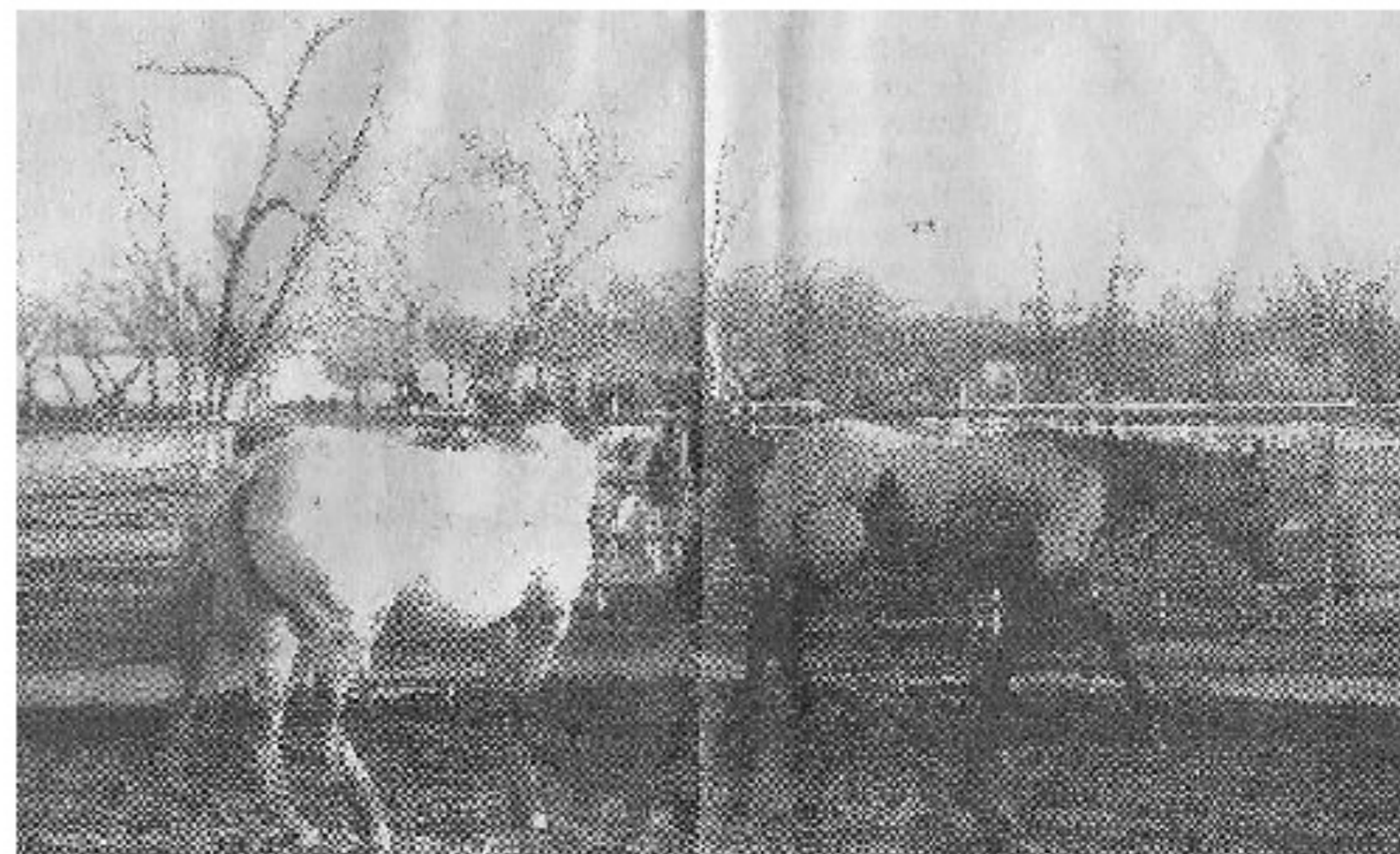
"My grandfather knew from the start that he wanted horses from those lines," Perry Whipple explains.

When the two Presidential horses were sent to Nebraska, Mr. Whipple took a train from Colorado and bought 20 mares which had been bred by the two studs that came from Turkey. The 20 mares and their foals were shipped by train to Colorado, to the railhead closest to the Whipple Ranch. From the railhead, Mr. Whipple drove the herd overland to his ranch. These horses were the beginning of the breed now known as the Colorado Rangers, and many still carry the Whipple name (often listed as Whip).

But how the descendants of these horse found their way from Neosho to Bethany, Oklahoma, is equally interesting.

In early December, Irene and Perry Whipple's granddaughter, Kim Greiner, flew to Arizona, to see a friend dancing in the Nutcracker Suite. On her way back to Oklahoma, she got into a conversation with a couple seated beside her. The trio found a common interest --horses. To the delight of the strangers, Whipple's granddaughter mentioned her family's history with the Colorado Rangers.

The man on the airplane was Paul McGrady, equine instructor at Southern Nazarene University. He said the school had been studying Colorado Rangers and wanted one in their herd, but they had never found anyone in the Midwest with



HOME IN OKLAHOMA--On the morning after their arrival, Bright Fan Fare II and Whips Bright Cindy are shown getting acquainted with their newquarters on the campus of Southern Nazarene University

this breed of horse.

He asked Kim Kim if there was any chance that her grandparents would donate a horse to the University.

Once back home, Kim called her grandparents and asked about a donation. They seemed interested. Then came a call from equine director, Bob Bowen. Over the telephone, Perry Whipple offered to give the University two registered mares.

On a sunny December day Bowen and McGrady came to Neosho to take Bright Fan Fare II and Whips Bright Cindy to their new home in Oklahoma. a call to the University the next morning revealed that the horses had already been introduced to the equine students who were at the moment working with the two horses.

According to Bowen, "This is really a great thing for us. The Whipple name is famous in Colorado Ranger history so it's very special to get two from that family. Eventually we will breed these horses. It's a wonderful gift and we're very, very happy..

Perry and Irene Whipple feel they, too, got a special gift.

According to Irene, "We could hardly bare the thought of what would eventually happen to our horses. We are 86 and 87, and what an opportunity for us to see these horses go to such a good home and to know they will be used by students there."

With their worry about the future of their horses, Irene said the gift has been special for them. "I think it put a little spring back in Perry's step," she said. "This is exciting and we're the ones who were really blessed by all this."

*Perry and Irene have been truly blessed--what will eventually happen to our horses is a concern for a great many of us. Plus the CRHA is blessed that our horses have been donated to the University, giving us the opportunity of having many more folks learn about our great horses..*



SPECIAL GIFT Irene and Perry Whipple pose with Bob Bowen and Paul McGrady as they present the registration papers for the two Colorado Ranger horses that Whipples donated to Southern Nazarene University