

# Equine

## Dressage Olympian Charlotte Bredahl-Baker wins top award for article in national magazine

Buellton resident and 1992 Olympic dressage team bronze medal winner Charlotte Bredahl-Baker won a first-place award in the 1999 American Horse Publications Annual Awards Competition for her article titled "To Monsieur, With Love," that appeared in the February 1999 issue of Dressage Today magazine. Dressage Today submitted the article in the personal column class which was judged on "columns that are personal views of events or activities." Entries were judged on choice of subject, interest to the reader and style.

According to Sandra Oliynyk, editor of Dressage Today, "We chose to submit Charlotte's article because it was such a touching tribute to her equine partner of 13 years." The judge of the class agreed and wrote, "I liked this story from beginning to end. It's evident how much this author loves her horse. It's a wonderful theme with a sweet ending. There isn't anyone who couldn't relate to this." The article was chosen out of 31 entries submitted by equine magazines throughout the United States.

About her win, Bredahl-Baker says, "This award means so much to me because it was my first attempt at really writing a story. It is encouraging to do so well at something I've never done before and something other than training and riding horses."

What makes her win even more satisfying is that Bredahl-Baker didn't learn to speak English until she came to the United States from her native Denmark 20 years ago. "I never had formal English lessons," she says. "I learned just by listening."

The 18-year-old Danish warmblood gelding, Monsieur, was retired from competition in January 1999. He lives at her and husband



Monsieur and Valley resident Charlotte Bredahl-Baker is pictured after one of their many victories in competition. Bredahl-Baker recently won a competition of a different sort. She took home an award for an article she wrote on her old friend Monsieur.

Joel Baker's farm in Buellton, where he is ridden daily and occasionally performs in dressage exhibitions.

Riding Monsieur, Bredahl-Baker was a member of the bronze-medal winning team at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain. In 1994 and 1997, Monsieur was the United States Dressage Federation (USDF) Grand Prix Horse of the Year, and in 1990 and 1993, he was the California Dressage Society (CDS) Grand Prix Horse of the Year.

From 1991-1993, the pair rep-

resented the United States Equestrian Team (USET) training and competing throughout Europe.

Bredahl-Baker's current Grand Prix horse, Lugano, was 1996 USDF Intermediate II Horse of the Year and 1997 USDF Intermediate II Horse of the Year. In 1997, the pair were chosen to be on the U.S. team and compete at the North American Dressage Championships in Maryland where they had the highest Grand Prix score for the United States.

She is also working toward her promotion to American Horse Shows Association (AHSA) "S" judge which allows her to judge at the highest level of dressage competition. She recently returned from the USET national dressage finals in Gladstone, N.J., where she judged and commented for spectators during the national championship class.

When she is not immersed in the world of Dressage, Bredahl-Baker works as a real estate agent at Ranchland Real Estate in Los Olivos.

Dressage, a French word that means "training," is an art and Olympic equestrian discipline that is the gradual and harmonious development of a horse in both body and mind to increase suppleness, obedience and strength. While dressage is a fairly recent sport in the United States—the first American dressage team competed in the 1912 Olympics and was made up of military officers—its roots can be traced back to the Greeks in 380 BC.

America's only magazine devoted exclusively to dressage, Dressage Today is the comprehensive magazine for the dressage community. With training techniques and expert analysis of the most significant dressage events, Dressage Today teaches, informs and entertains readers every month. Renowned national and international competitors, trainers, instructors and judges contribute their experience and knowledge, helping to make Dressage Today a compilation of useful and authoritative content in an innovative graphic setting. Dressage Today is owned by Primedia Special Interest Publications.

American Horse Publications (AHP) is a nonprofit association of over 240 members including publications primarily devoted to the equine animal and related lifestyles. The Annual Awards Contest has been offered since 1977.



**1998**  
**American**  
**Horse Publications**  
**ANNUAL AWARDS**

FIRST PLACE  
in the category of

**Personal Column**

is presented to

**Charlotte Bredahl**

"To Monsieur With Love"  
Dressage Today