

"IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME"

By Phil Harder

The "building" quote, from the movie "Field of Dreams," could easily have been the motto when building Catalpa Corners Charity Horse Trials (CCCHT) near Iowa City, Iowa. But the true reason the event was originally envisioned was to honor the memory of a wonderful young man, Madison Brigham, who left us too soon.

My wife, Pam, and I had our first taste of CCCHT when our daughter, Lizzie, was planning to compete in her first schooling

It all started out very simple with cutting grass, trimming trees, working on jumps. Then we were helping out at schooling shows and then the recognized shows. When I was asked to be the stadium steward for 2008 I thought that would be great, but the flood that came had different plans for me and I didn't have a lot of time to put into the job. Next came the Stadium Chairperson job. "Wow!" I thought. "We already have a great course, so what could I do to improve this?"

So I set my sights on new jumps. Susan wanted an English phone booth and a western-style jump. With that in mind I went to work looking on the Internet and asking my wife and daughter for

booths and all the poles for this jump I have guessed we have about 80-90 hours of work on this jump alone.

It was harder to "picture" a "western jump," but then the cowboy and cowgirl came to mind. I found patterns from a company and started cutting out the figures. My wife and daughter had a blast painting them with bright colors. Susan wanted the new jumps to "POP" with color and I think Pam and Lizzie did a great job. The cactus standards for this set were an afterthought that turned out great. They help to make this set very easy to arrange in different ways.

I have learned a lot about making jumps and I would like everyone to try and help out at an event. I believe that once you have helped in any way, you will understand what it really takes to put a show on, and have a greater appreciation for those that make this sport possible for you. I would also like to thank my painters, Pam and Lizzie, for helping me with this and also giving up their garage space while the jumps were being constructed. I also need to thank my son Michael for helping with moving and building the jumps. I could not have done it without their help.

One last little thing, WHAT IS IN STORE FOR NEXT YEAR ????? For that answer you will just have to come to the horse trial and see for yourself. I will give you a hint. New jumps are in progress...

show ever. One evening Pam and I decided to drive down and see where this horse park was located. Little did we know what wonderful things were in store for us!

After finding the home place, and while attempting to turn around in the farm house driveway, we noticed a woman walking up to us, who turned out to be none other than the owner, Susan Brigham. After introductions all around, Susan gave us a grand tour of all the grounds. She shared all of the details of what was her dream to come. Both Pam and I easily realized that this place would hold a very special place in our lives. This would be the beginning of a new friendship and the start of our involvement with CCCHT.

help with this project. The phone booth was actually the easy one, with all of the information I needed on the Internet. Also, Pam told me about an actual phone booth located in Marion. So the plans were drawn up using measurements from the full sized phone booths and looking at a lot of pictures. With both of the phone

