JAZZER (Donkey)

As told by Jazzer's family:
Approximately **twenty-seven years ago** stopping at a local feed & grain store, a sign on the bulletin board advertized a free donkey. I drove to the house and there was JAZZER. I went home and told my husband about him and said I wanted him. We called the owner; he explained that Jazzer was his daughter's and she was going off to college so he wanted to find a good home for him with children. We **were** that home and home came Jazzer the following day. My two sons grew up with Jazzer and now my 4-year-old grandson comes over to see Jazzer. My husband does do pony rides and has a petting zoo so Jazzer did go out on some jobs but he was "our pet."

Jazzer also made his debut at Governor O'Neill's picnic when he was governor. We put a hat and a blanket on him and my son led him around. The children at the picnic loved him. Jazzer on occasion will still volunteer his services for certain local politicians.

Jazzer is also the "watchdog" of the yard. If something is wrong, we hear Jazzer's loud bellowing. One night several years ago, he bellowed and bellowed; my husband looked out and couldn't find anything. In the morning we found in the back of the pasture that a pony gave birth.

Jazzer also bellows to get attention; and when he sees people eating something he wants, you can hear his loud bellow. Occasionally when my husband starts loading the truck to do a pony ride, Jazzer may run to the fence and bellow, as if to say, I want to go. He loves being with people, in particular children. About five years ago we took him to with us on an outing where he became reacquainted with his prior owner. Now, every year when we go to there, Jazzer comes with us and his prior owner (now a middle-aged person) comes to see him.

Jazzer is now old and grey but very healthy and still bellows in the barnyard.