EQUINE EQUIVOCATIONS

BROOKS H. ROHDE
Bryan, Texas

Editor's Note: In the late 1970s and early 1980s Rohde wrote hundreds of logological poems about horses, mostly palindromes and charades. In the following, the first half of the palindrome presents one point of view and the second its complement. The final poem is an example of Jesuitical verse (equivoque), common a century or more ago.

MORNING AND EVENING (Jun 1 1982) word-unit palindrome

Day for laboring,
Finished resting for now,
Time now for working,
Done feeding, eager, fresh, not tired,
Properly made work harness clean and up to task,
Rough yet brushed, not dirty, feather clean,
Not over worked on plowed lands,
Bottom wide, broad across back,
Head to eager look,
Eyes bright, ears pricked up, driver behind.
Not done working the rest, they till hard, going on.

Later on, going hard till they rest,
The working done, not behind,
Driver up, pricked ears, bright eyes look eager to head back
Across broad wide bottom lands plowed on, worked over.
Not clean, feather dirty, not brushed yet,
Rough task to up and clean harness,
Work made properly tired,
Not fresh, eager feeding,
Done working for now,
Time now for resting,
Finished laboring for day.

CONDEMNATION AND REBUTTAL (Nov 3 1980) line-unit palindrome

So, willingly
I would own one
Hardly ever.
Arrogant and aloof,
Overly nervous,
Saddlers are not
For everybody
The type of horse,
They are not
Only for an expert!
They usually behave
Calmly and gently
The best of friends
Saddlers like to be caressed
Less than other breeds.
They really act up
For no good reason,
Explode and cavort,
And they will not
Settle down willingly
For a beginning rider.
And if asked to serve
Calmly and gently,
They usually behave
Only for an expert.
They are not
The type of horse
For everybody.
And if asked to serve
For a beginning rider
Settle down willingly.
And they will not
Explode and cavort
For no good reason.
They really act up
Less than other breeds.
Saddlers like to be caressed,
The best of friends.
Saddlers are not
Overly nervous,
Arrogant and aloof
(...Hardly ever).
I would own one
So willingly!

TO SHAKIN' DUDE; TO ANY COMPETING HORSE (Aug 22 1981) charade

TO DUDE: Do what you can do! You, strutting in, tend to win. "To win, to..." What a mantra, Shakin' Dude. Now may you be first to place, last to lose, always.
TO COMPETITOR: Do what you can, do you, strutting, intend to win? To win? To what (aman!) trash kin, dud enow, may you be? First to place last, to lose always.

DAWN AND THE QUARTER HORSE (Apr 7 1981) Jesuitical verse
(Read down each column for one opinion, and across for another)

I much admire
The Arab breed
In many ways
This wondrous steed,
Can't be surpassed.
So proud and not
Ungentle, hot;
He makes the rest
Even the best
In pride, seem to me
Inferior
And he ought to be
Most numerous
And loved the most,
Free of all vice
From coast to coast

The Quarter Horse;
Is simply not
An equal to
The best we've got
His disposition's
Really too lazy.
There are but few,
Seem partly crazy;
Now keep in place!
He's full of it.
He'll never be
My favorite.
Of all the breeds,
That certain one
That I like least
Beneath the sun.