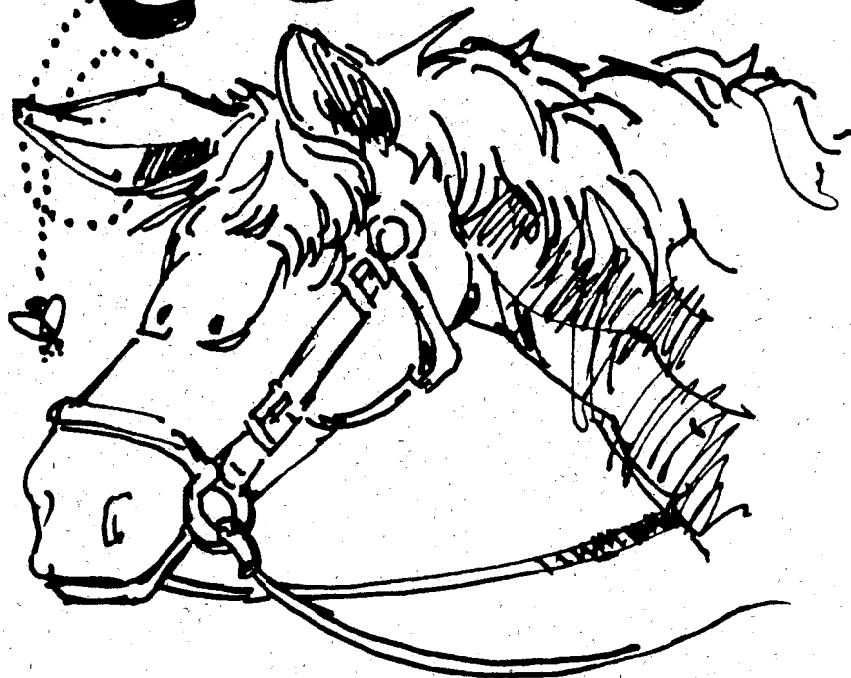
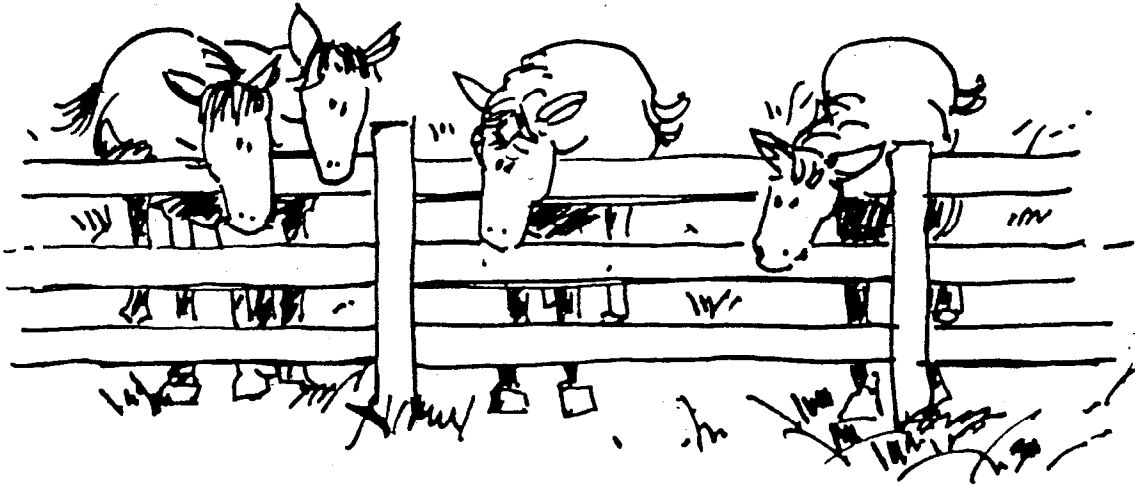


FOOFEY^{TM.}



(The Horse.)

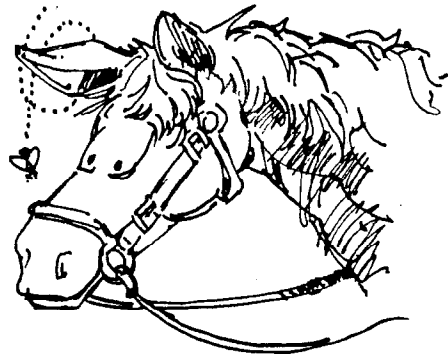
Written by Molly and Stuart Baum
Illustrated by Fred Plewa



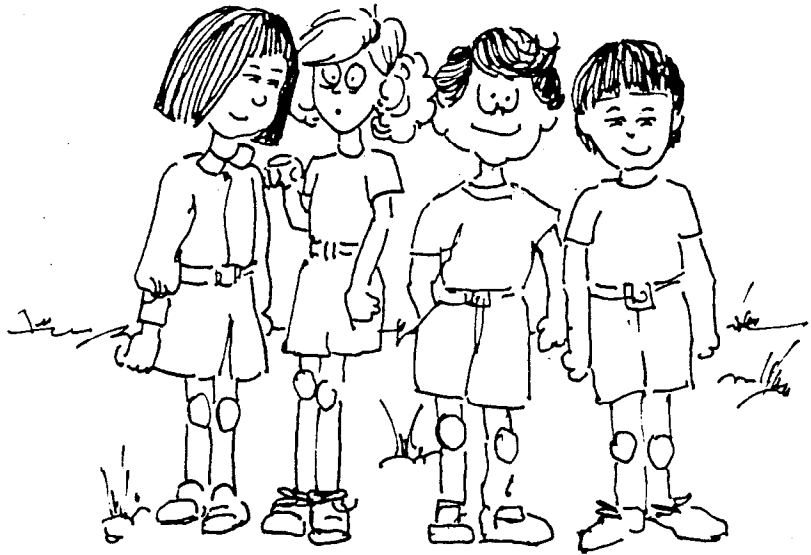
In Wisconsin, just two hours north of the Illinois border, there was a riding stable with four horses. The four horses were named Butterscotch, Sugar, Diamond, and Foey.

Butterscotch was called Butterscotch because he was a light yellow and brown color, just like the candy. Diamond was named Diamond because of the white, diamond-shaped marking on the center of his forehead. Sugar was named Sugar because he was the sweetest of all the horses. Foey was called Foey because that's what everyone said when they rode him. "Foey!" they'd say, "My horse just walked into a haybale." Or "Foey! My horse just stepped in a puddle." Foey was always walking into things instead of around them.

The stablehands loved Foey, but they usually made him stay in the stable while the other horses gave rides to the boys and girls who came to the stables.



One day,
four children
came for rides at the
same time.



There were two boys and two girls. Their names were Jason, Arthur, Nyssa and Molly. As soon as they arrived at the stable, they jumped out of the car and ran to the horses. Jason was the fastest, but he stopped to tie his shoes, so the other three children got to the horses first. Arthur picked Diamond. Nyssa picked Butterscotch and Molly picked Sugar.

"Foey!" Jason said. "I have to ride this dumb horse!" He picked the only horse left, Foey.

All four children got onto their horses. Arthur got onto Diamond. Nyssa jumped onto Butterscotch. Sugar, the sweetest of all the horses, lowered himself down so Molly could get on. But just as Jason was about to get on, Foey let out a huge sneeze, "Ker-neigh-neigh-choo!" and took a small step backwards. Jason missed the horse and landed on the ground.

"Foey!" Jason said. "My stupid horse sneezed just as I was getting on!" Jason tried again and got onto Foey just fine.

The four horses got into a line, as horses do. Diamond was first, because he liked being in front. Sugar was second and Butterscotch was third. As always, Foey was last.

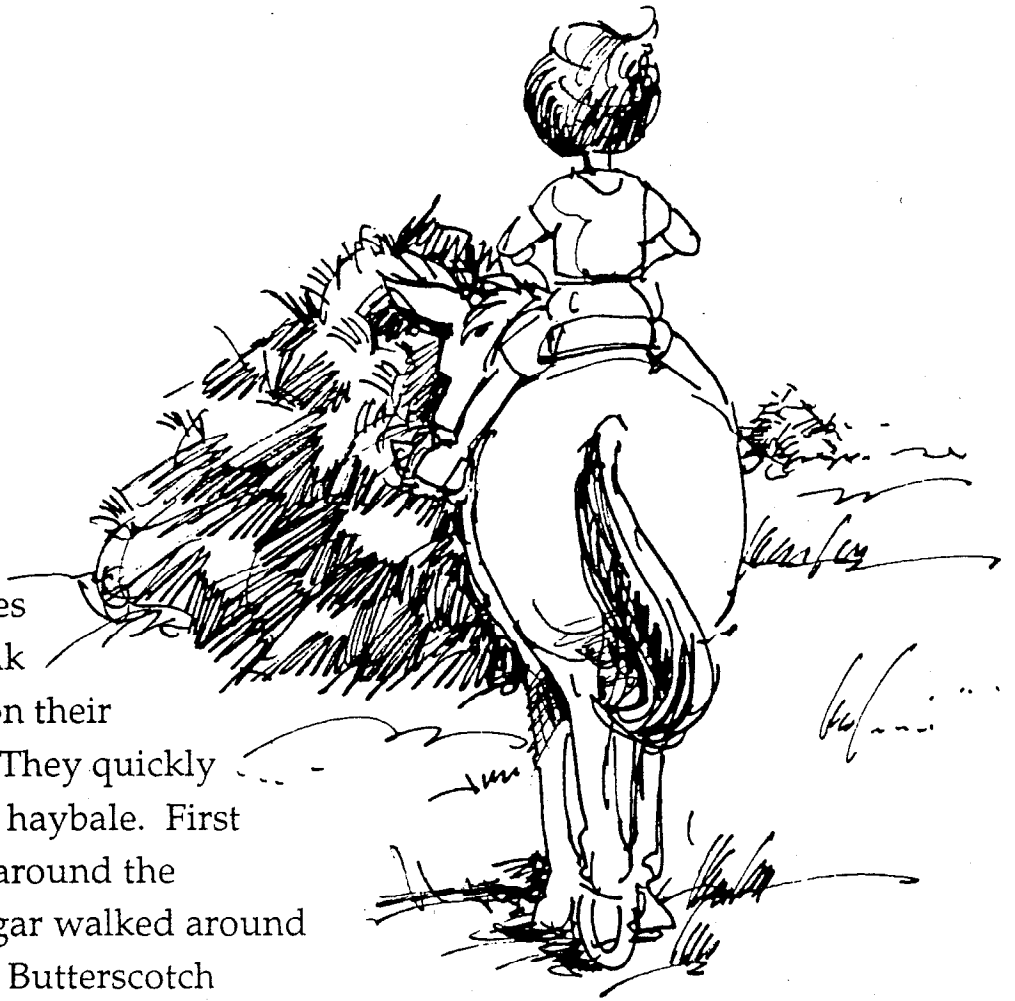
"Foey!" Jason said. "My horse is last. I don't like being last!"

The four horses began to walk through the field on their way to the forest. They quickly came upon a large haybale. First Diamond walked around the haybale. Then Sugar walked around the haybale. Then Butterscotch walked around the haybale. But Foey, who was thinking about lunch, walked right into the haybale, getting hay all over himself and Jason.

"Foey!" said Jason. "My horse walked right into the haybale!"

Soon the four horses came upon a mud puddle. Diamond walked around the mud puddle. Sugar walked around the mud puddle. Butterscotch walked around the mud puddle. But Foey was trying to get the hay from his face and did not see the puddle. He stepped right into it, splashing mud onto Jason's legs.

"Foey!" said Jason. "This stupid horse just splashed me with mud."



Next they came to a stream with two rocks to walk over. Diamond carefully stepped onto one rock and then the other rock and safely crossed the stream. Then Sugar carefully stepped onto one rock and then the other rock and safely crossed the stream. Then Butterscotch carefully stepped onto one rock and then the other rock and safely crossed the stream. But Foey had mud on his hooves and as soon as he stepped onto the first rock his hoof slid right into the water and Splash! Both Foey and Jason tumbled into the stream.

"Foey!" said Jason. "My dumb horse just fell into the water and now I'm all wet!"

Jason got back onto Foey and all four horses and children continued on their way.

Next they came to a pile of leaves. Diamond went around the pile. Sugar went around the pile. Butterscotch went around the pile. But Foey did not see the pile of leaves until it was too late. He walked right through them, getting leaves all over himself and Jason.

"Foey!" said Jason. He wanted to say more, but he had to pick the leaves out of his mouth, "Blech!" he finally said.



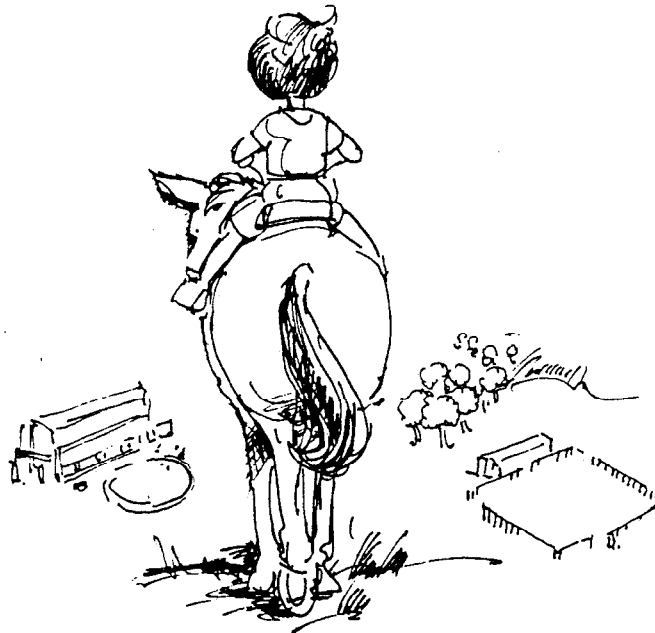
Next they came to a hill. First Diamond went around the hill. Then Sugar went around the hill. Then Butterscotch went around the hill. But Foey, of course, walked right up the hill.

"Foey!" said Jason. "My dumb horse just walked right up this hill. How could any horse be so stupid? Stop, Foey! Whoaa!" But Foey ignored Jason and just kept walking. Soon Foey and Jason were at the very top of the hill.

"Foey!" Jason said again. But then he looked down. From the top of the hill he could see miles around. There was the stables where the horses lived! There was the hotel! The little blue circle next to the hotel must be the swimming pool! And there was the apple orchard they picked apples at yesterday! "Wow!" said Jason. "This is a great view!"

"Hey everyone!" Jason called to Arthur, Nyssa and Molly. "Come up here, the view is great!" Arthur, Nyssa and Molly looked all the way up the hill and they saw Jason and Foey.

"We want to go up the hill, too," they told their horses. But the other three horses, which always went around things, never learned how to climb hills.



So Foey came all the way down, picked up the other three children, and climbed back to the top of the hill. "Wow!" all the children said. "This is a great hill. We are glad we came up here!"

"And my horse found it!" said Jason. "Foey is a great horse!" All the children agreed. "Yeah for Foey!" they yelled.

From then on, whenever Jason, Arthur, Nyssa and Molly came back to the stables, they all wanted to ride Foey, because he was the only horse that could climb the hill. (But they still wished he would not bump into so many things.)

