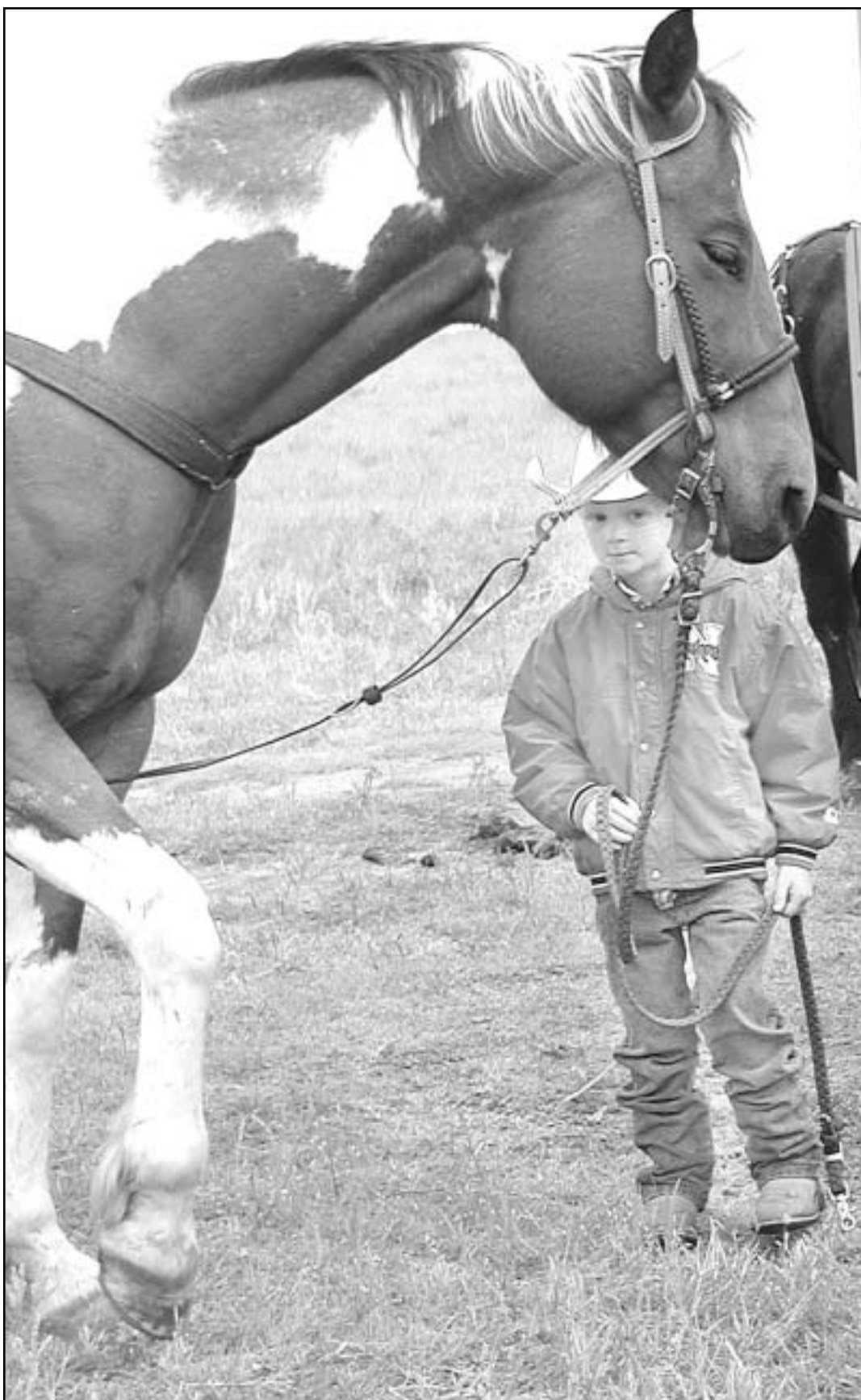




**IN THE LEAD**, Mick Glaze and his father Gorman (above) left the pasture on Friday, May 27 for the three-day wagon train from Oberlin to Curtis, Neb. Taylor Blackburn, 3, (below) peeked out from underneath his horse's head.



## Good ol' days brought alive

### Group drives wagon train to Curtis

Dressed in his rain gear, the driver climbed up to the bench seat.

With one foot on the floorboard and another on the board in front of him, he took the reins and lightly tapped the horses with them, telling them it was time to go.

Wheels moved round and round, but the only sound was the rain hitting the top the covered wagons, people talking and an occasional whinny from a horse.

It was a step back in time, when life may have been a little less complicated and people were carried around on horseback and in covered wagons.

The wagon train, made up of seven wagons and around six horse-

back riders, took off on Friday, May 27, a mile north and a mile east of Oberlin, headed to Curtis, Neb.

The whole thing started with Mick Glaze and Ron McDougal, both draft horse enthusiasts, talking about having a wagon train. The two started planning the Memorial Day event last Christmas, said Mr. Glaze. Most of those on the trip were family or friends of the two.

There were three teams from Kansas, two from Nebraska and two from Oklahoma, said Mr. Glaze.

Mick's father, Gorman Glaze, 77, was able to come in for the ride. He lives in Curtis now. Gorman's brother from Lexington came in on Sunday to ride for the day.

Mick said his brother and his wife came up from the Wichita area and drove a wagon, and there were friends from Curtis and their relatives from Oklahoma.

"Dad has always been a horse man," said Mr. Glaze, "and he isn't getting any younger. He pretty much drove the team and led the wagon train the whole way."

The group traveled around 15 to 16 miles the first day, 25 the second day and 21 the third day, about 62 miles in all. They got to Curtis around 5 p.m. on Sunday, said Mr. Glaze, and Monday, they trailered the horses and wagons back home.

Each night, said Mr. Glaze, the group would load up in one vehicle and drive back to the place they started in the morning and get their trailers and vehicles.

The first night, he said, the group cooked over a fire and camped out. The second night it was a little chilly, so they made soup in a trailer and most slept inside. The third night, the group had a hamburger feed at their destination, Harvey Cole's place.

For breakfast, they ate rolls and for lunch, sandwiches.

Mr. Glaze said they had rain throughout the trip and a bout with hail. For the most part, he said, the cool, damp weather was perfect for the horses, but they had to stop and wait out the hail.

"We had a good time," said Mr. Glaze, "and the guys who had been on other wagon trains liked this one better because it was small. He said they liked the roads better, too, because there weren't any sharp rocks, which are hard on the horses' feet."

Mr. Glaze said the youngest rider on the wagon train was Taylor Blackburn, 3, from Oklahoma. He is Mr. Cole's great-grandson. Taylor rode his horse almost the entire way, said Mr. Glaze. There were only a few times the little guy decided to ride in the wagon.

The group, said Mr. Glaze, is talking about this being the first annual wagon train. Next year, he said, they are going to look for places in Decatur County to go.

Mr. Glaze, who grew up in Curtis, said he didn't know a better way to celebrate the holiday weekend than with friends and horses.



**BEFORE THE RIDERS LEFT**, one man (above) got situated on his horse while Ron McDougal (left) moved his team and wagon into line.

