



Brad Petty and his two horses completed a return trip from Alaska in November of 1982.

Brad Petty dead; killed by horse

Brad Petty, the horseman who rode between Alaska and Watsonville twice for charity, died this morning at Watsonville Community Hospital after an accident involving one of his horses.

The accident happened shortly before 10 a.m. today at 471 Larkin Valley Road, when Petty was taking the animal out of a corral. It was reported that the horse turned, knocking Petty to the ground, and then stepped on him, crushing his chest.

The Freedom Fire Department and A-I Ambulance were called and Petty was taken to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead at 10:30, of "massive chest trauma," according to a hospital spokesman.

Petty, who was 62, was a retired school teacher, having taught for many years in Palo Alto. He moved to Watsonville in 1976 and lived on Old Adobe Road.

Petty's first journey to Alaska was in 1981, when he rode 3,700 miles north, soliciting donations for the Cancer Society. Selling his horses in Alaska, he returned here by air. In 1982, he drove to Alaska in late May, repurchased the horses and rode back to Watsonville, arriving in mid-November. On that trip, he



Brad Petty

was asking for donations to the Shriner's Hospital for Crippled Children.

Both journeys provided Petty with problems as well as adventure. One of his mounts was hit by a bullet and another was hit by a recreational vehicle. But Petty said on his return last year, "Meeting and talking to people was the highlight of my trips. I wouldn't take a million dollars for the trips, but I wouldn't give a dime for another one."