



*Reflecting Back*  
Wetumpka, Alabama  
Photo by Dan Hardison

## The Carriage Ride

*Dan Hardison*

She was six-years old when her fascination with horses began. She dressed in horse themed cloths, collected horse memorabilia, and dreamed of having her own horse someday.

One spring day, we took her on a horse drawn carriage ride that took visitors on a guided tour of the historical downtown. As we took our seats on the carriage, the driver noticed her enthusiasm with the two horses hitched to the carriage. He offered her the seat next to him and she jumped at the chance to sit upfront.

As we slowly made our way along the streets, the driver offered her the reins and asked her to lead the horses. Wide-eyed and smiling broadly, she eagerly took the reins and for the rest of the tour dutifully guided the team along the busy streets. The horses were old veterans of the tour and had made many a trip along the downtown streets. Unknown to her, they would have faithfully followed the tour path whether or not there were hands on the reins. After the ride was over, she beamed for the rest of the day.

Since that day, she has become an equestrian rider, competed in horse shows, owned her own horses, and is now preparing to enter college.

glints of sun  
on the water's surface -  
thoughts in time