

Novice Horseman Gets Some Tips

So you're thinking about buying a horse? Join the crowd. Horse owners are increasing rapidly in North Carolina and animal numbers are higher than at any time since the heyday of the plow-horse.

The rub is, many people buying horses these days have limited or no experience with the animals. The experience is probably more limited in selecting and buying than in any other area.

"This is a very critical area and one that can easily lead to mistake and disappointment," comments Jim Heird, extension horse specialist at North Carolina State University.

"Making a good selection of a horse can lead to a happy and pleasant experience, but a wrong selection can result in loss of interest and abandonment of horses altogether," he added.

Heird has some suggestions that may benefit inexperienced horse buyers.

The first of these: "If you do not know anything about selecting a horse, go to someone who does and get their help. Find someone who is experienced and trustworthy."

Next, select a horse according to the use that will be made of the animal: a big horse for a big rider, small horse for small rider; older, experienced horse for younger, inexperienced rider. The younger, less experienced horse is for the older, more experienced horseman.

"It's for sure," Heird cautioned, "one of the other horse or rider—should be experienced."

The sex of the horse can also be important. Specialist Heird points out that a gelding—a male that has been castrated—will likely be the most even tempered of the three possibilities. The mare, or female, is likely to be more unpredictable than a gelding. And the stallion is the most unpredictable of all and can be dangerous.

"I think the stallion is for the most experienced horseman only—particularly if it is a breeding stallion," Heird said.

What about breed? There are a number of breeds suitable for pleasure riding and showing. "Which one a buyer chooses will depend on what he wants the horse to do," the NCSU specialist said. "Disposition of the horse is more important than breed, I believe. But, of course, if you want a gaited horse, you probably wouldn't want a Quarter or Appaloosa. On the other hand, if the horse will be used strictly for pleasure, those two

breeds or any of the others would be acceptable."

Price is another factor. "It is tempting for parents buying their young son or daughter a first horse to select one that costs the least," Heird said. "The danger here is, the lowest priced animal is likely to be young and half-trained. The horse throws the child on the first ride, the child develops a fear of this and possibly all horses and the family ends up with a horse that isn't used and a potential horseman who is no longer interested."

Heird believed that, in most cases, "a few dollars more will get the kind of horse that a child or other inexperienced rider can enjoy for a long time."

Lost Records Are Trouble

A lost birth certificate or marriage licence no longer poses the problem it once did for veterans seeking veterans benefits, H. W. Johnson, Director of the Winston-Salem Administration Regional Office, reports.

Less formal proof of marriage and birth are now acceptable, under a regulation initiated last October, when this information is needed to establish claims for higher benefit payments.

A veteran's or a widow's certified statement of marriage is now sufficient for application for compensation and education benefits for veterans, widows and orphan children, provided neither he nor his wife has been married before, and VA has no contradictory information on file.

Johnson said prior to the changed regulations, VA required all statements of marriage and birth to be supported by formalized documentary evidence.

A certified statement is acceptable also regarding the birth of a child of a veteran's marriage, and as proof of age and relationship, Johnson said.

INSULATION TIP

A moisture barrier is an essential part of an omensulation system, according to North Carolina State University specialists. Most batt and blanket insulations have moisture barriers. But it is often practical cover the wall studs from the ceiling to the floor with plastic after the batt insulation is installed and before the dry inside wall is erected.

Distaff DEEDS

by Jan Christensen

By JANICE CHRISTENSEN

A comfortable and efficient house is the pride of the W. B. Stansbury family in the Littleton community, Warren County.

Last year, fire burned the Stansbury home and all their furnishings. Soon after the tragedy, the family began making plans for a new house.

By using the training she had received in the Home Economics Extension Program and by recruiting the help of a daughter who is a home economics graduate, Mrs. Stansbury helped plan and build the attractive new dwelling.

"I enjoy preparing meals in my new kitchen," the homemaker told Mrs. Emily Ballinger, home economics extension agent. "It's so small and convenient. Remember how large and poorly arranged the kitchen in the old house was? This one is a joy to work in."

The entire house is well arranged to suit the family's needs. And the colors and furnishings were tastefully selected, the agent adds.

The rooms are complete. Mrs. Stansbury observed, "Our family was anxious to move, so we are still in the process of completing the basement, which will add another bedroom, bath, utility room, recreation room and storage area."

BASKET MAGIC

When most of us see a picnic basket, we know there are lots of good things inside. And that was true of the picnic basket Durham County Extension Home Economist Martha Edmondson carried to an Extension Home-makers Club meeting recently.

From that basket she pulled salt, cereal, jello, and canned foods. Unusual foods for a picnic. Yes.

But as she pulled the foods from the basket, the agent used them to explain why additives are necessary to some foods... iodine to salt, vitamin D to milk, vitamins and iron to cereal and spices to foods.

The agent concluded by noting how many foods prepared for sale have coloring added. "Otherwise no one would buy them," she observed.

By hand tailoring suits for the men in her family, Mrs. Annie Neal of the Pembroke Community, Robeson County, accomplishes two major goals:

Her family is well-dressed and she can add to the family income by sewing for others.

"Once my husband and son began wearing the handmade suits and shirts, other people asked me to start sewing for them," the homemaker told Molly Briley, home economics extension agent.

Social Security News

Q.—After applying for social security retirement payments at 65, I returned to work. Will the wages from this work increase my monthly cash payments when I decide to finally retire.

A.—Possibly. If you earn enough to increase the average earnings used to figure your retirement payment, your cash payments would increase. Any increase would be figured automatically in the year following the year of additional earnings, and the increase would be retroactive to the first of the year in which the earnings occurred.

Q.—When I got married recently I wrote my new name on my social security card. Should I do anything else?

A.—Yes. You need to fill out a form to change your name on your social security record kept in Baltimore, Maryland. You can get the form from any social security office. After you send it to use, we'll mail you a new social security card showing your new name and the same number you were originally issued.

Have a question about social security and its retirement, survivors, disability or Medicare benefits? See your telephone directory for the phone number and address of the nearest social security office.

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BY

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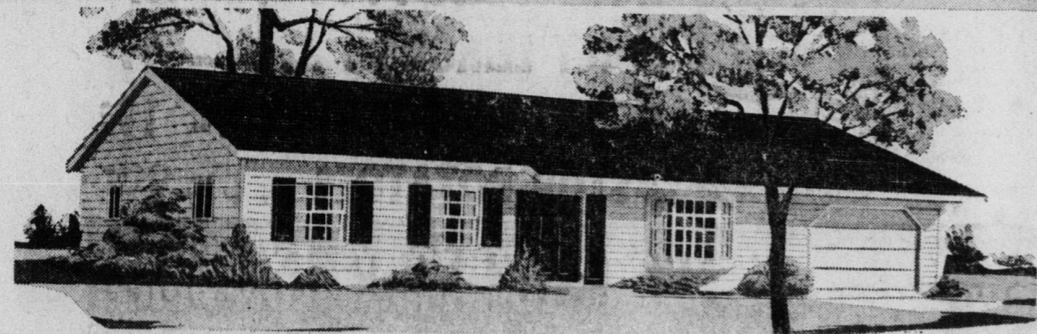
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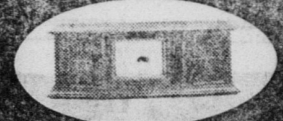
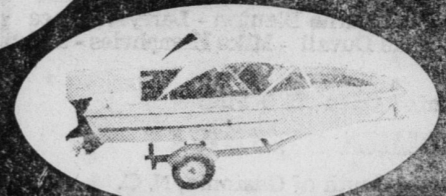
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