

Let's talk about horses

By Jennifer Barr
Question: My horse is coughing. During my absence this winter, my father fed hay some slightly dusty hay (about two months ago) and it made him start coughing. But strangely enough it didn't bother the other horses. I have tried wetting the hay, massaging the throat with some mild liniment, and finally my father bought me some mint and nettle leaves, these I mixed in his sweet feed. This works quite well but when I stop giving him these he starts coughing again (and I can't feed him this forever). When I ride him he coughs constantly, but I can't stop riding because he needs the exercise.

Do you have any suggestions?
Answer: It sounds as if your horse is trying to go heavy and needs a vet's attention right away. If you can catch heaves (equine emphysema) in the early stages, the disease can be controlled. Until your vet can visit, soak all hay in a large tub of water for several hours before feeding. This is messy but necessary. A large feed tub is ideal and will hold one ration of hay soaking for the next meal. Drain off excess water before feeding and place the next ration of hay to soak in fresh water.

Wet his grain also not just damp but quite wet. Continue using the sweet feed, the molasses in it will sooth him. The vet will prescribe a powder to feed to him daily.

Question: I am getting a saddle pretty soon and would like to have some advice. What kind of a saddle do you recommend for jumping and dressage?

Answer: Many saddle makers produce an all-purpose saddle which combines a modified knee roll for jumping with the deep seat required for dressage. These saddles are excellent for the all-round enthusiast who wants to do a little jumping and some low-key dressage. The competitive show jumper feels the true forward seat jumping saddle is a must, while the dedicated dressage rider requires a straight fronted German saddle.

Something in-between should suit you very well. Just make sure there's not too much padding or roll between you and the horse, you have to be able to feel what's going on underneath. Some of the older type hunting saddles were ideal for this purpose.

Please send questions to Jennifer Barr, R.R. 2, Acton.

Personals

Mel and Margaret McCullough arrived home again Saturday after a marvellous 28-day tour to Hawaii, New Zealand, Australia and the Fiji Islands. They were with a group of 18 Canadians including three from Milton, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Willmott and Mr. Bill Thompson. They covered 30,000 miles during the holiday and they were particularly impressed by the beauties of New Zealand. They like the islands, of course, but couldn't imagine living there year 'round.

Several from here took in sessions of the annual convention of Ontario Agricultural Societies, Feb. 20 and 21 at the Royal York in Toronto. The regular delegates were Acton Agricultural Society president Ken Murray, secretary-treasurer John Rowe, Mrs. Calvin Aitken and Mrs. C.W. Swackhamer. On the second day another group went. Mrs. Jesse McEnery, Mrs. Walter Linham, Mrs. George Cobhem, Mrs. Stan Morrison and Mrs. Isabel McDonald. There were 75 fair queens there, Ann Luty among them. They had a program of their own and enjoyed being together. They'll meet again at the C.N.E. for the final judging.

Post office patrons will be missing Alex Frank for a while. He's in Guelph General Hospital.

Choose it

from Canada's largest rental fleet of GM cars and GMC trucks.

& Charge it

Tilden honours most credit cards



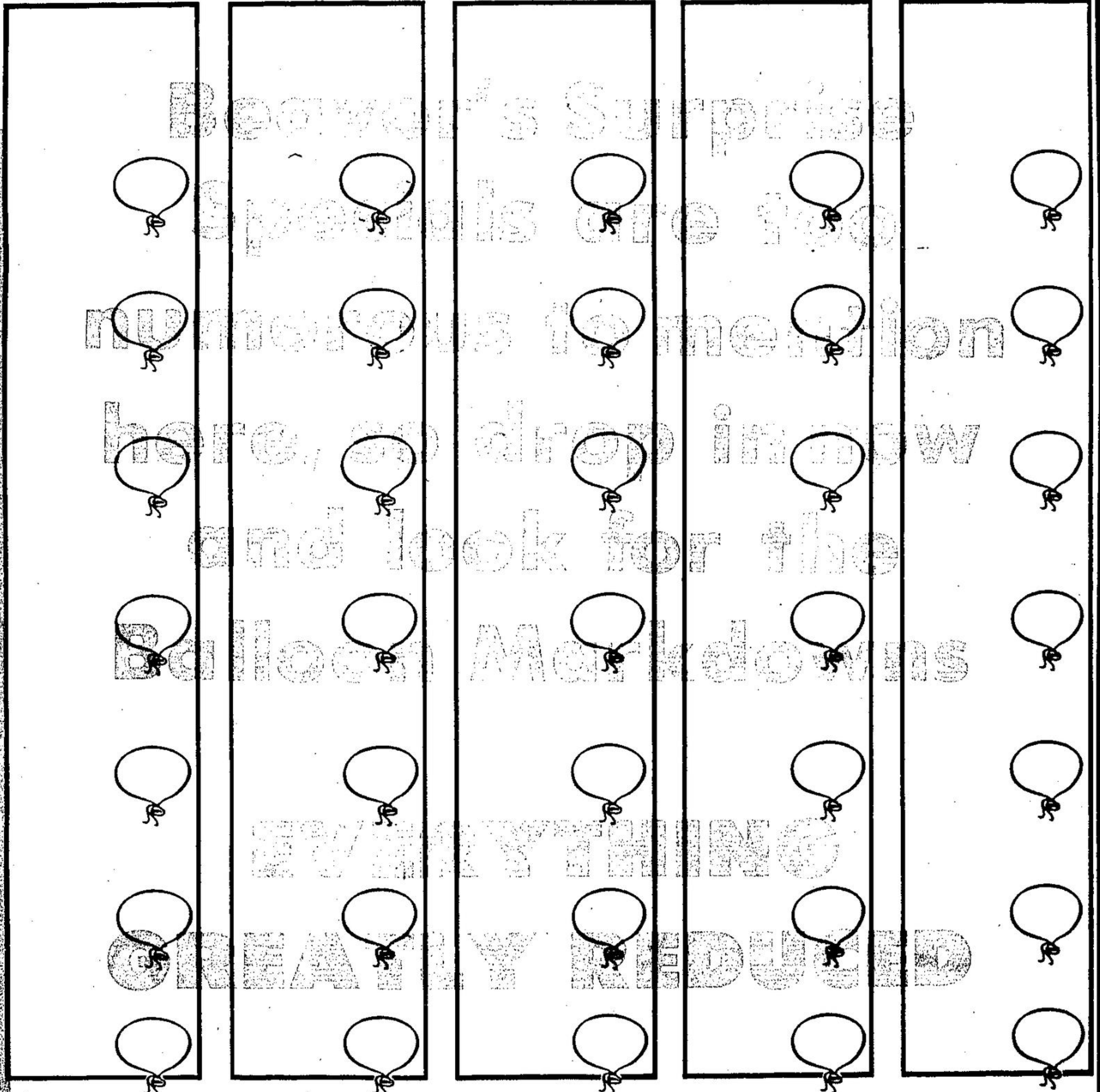
TILDEN ANDREW MURRAY MOTORS 45 Mountbatten Road N. 877-4944 GEORGETOWN

BEAVER

SURPRISE SALE



everything you need to make it on your own!



3204



OPEN

9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday to Friday Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. 316 Guelph Street E., Georgetown - 877-2334