

Let's talk about horses



By Jennifer Barr

Question: My mare's mane falls on the right side of her neck and I was taught it should fall to the left and that you should mount on the side of the mane. I can't get her mane to lie on the left side, what should I do?

Answer: The "right" side for a mane to fall on is a lot of hogwash. It was an old cavalry tradition to train the mane to the left in order to give the soldiers something extra to grab when mounting in a hurry. It carried over to hunting and it was considered the fashion to have a left-sided mane.

However, this is pretty passe now. People realize it is just as uncomfortable for a horse to have his mane changed as it is for you to change the part in your hair.

If the mane splits and falls on both sides, you can train it to one side by wetting and tightly braiding it for a few days. This procedure might have to be repeated every so often with a willful mane. But don't worry about a nice mane falling to the right side, it's quite unimportant.

Question: I have a nice little pony who's name is Sandy. When we took him to a horse show he went on the trailer to go but wouldn't go on when the show was over. We blindfolded him and put him in the trailer. What would you suggest?

My girl friend has a large pony that is afraid of men.

Answer: The pony may have had an uncomfortable ride to the show and was reluctant to repeat the experience on the way home. Very careful driving is the key to happy horse travellers. Corners and stops must be negotiated extremely slowly and evenly so as not to throw the pony or horse around inside. Try standing up in the back of a moving truck sometime and see if you want to get in again.

Now that pony is stubborn about loading it will take some patience to cure. Try to have another horse in the trailer first (if it is a double trailer). Many horses will step on when they see a companion already safely in.

If this is impossible have three quiet, strong people handy. One person calmly leads pony as close to the trailer as he will go, coaxing him with feed. Two other people place their arms around the hind quarters, grasping each others arms firmly. They will then be able to encourage pony onto the trailer. They will be too close to be kicked and the front end person can keep the head down and forward. Pony has nowhere to go but on the trailer—without a fuss.

The pony that is scared of men will become used to them if a quiet, kindly man feeds or handles him a little every day. These sort of fears often take years to overcome but perseverance is the key. Needless to say, he must never again be exposed to a rough man.

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

Train whistle keeps blowing

Residents of the Seventh Line and 17 Sideroad area will "hear the train blow," and keep hearing it.

Halton Hills council rejected an anti-whistling bylaw when they found out the municipality could be liable if there is an accident.

Councillor Dick Howitt maintained there was sufficient protection with flashing lights and gates and urged the anti-whistling bylaw be passed.

The administration committee disagreed and recommended the bylaw be dropped. Council later agreed with the committee.

May stop paying

On the agenda for Monday's meeting of Halton Hills finance committee, was the question of whether the municipality should continue paying for business telephone service to the private residences of police chiefs, fire chiefs and superintendents.

After a brief discussion on the validity of such a service, the committee decided to recommend to council that the policy should be discontinued December 31, 1974.

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