



Sideroad 5
with Jennifer Barr

Boarding a horse can be expensive. Most stables charge \$75 to \$100 per month depending on facilities, with this figure rising dramatically for top quality show stables. It costs as much as \$300 to \$400 to keep a racehorse in winter training for a month. People who call me for advice purchasing their first horse and stabling it are appalled when they hear the money they should budget for its keep.

However, for those who own the stables and take in boarders this figure usually represents precious little profit. The average horse costs around \$50 a month to feed and bed. Add to this the overhead costs of shelter, hydro and stall repair. Take the remainder and divide it into the amount of hours the stable owner spends cleaning the stall, feeding, watering, putting out and bringing in your horse and you'll see he's earning 75 cents or less per hour. Baby sitters make more than that.

Small stables take horses in merely as companions for their own horses or for riding company. Larger stables try to cut costs by making their own hay and buying bulk grain. Even so, the money they may make on the boarders usually only covers the cost of their own horses' keep.

States more expensive

An article in the July '76 Horseman quotes some average horse-keeping costs in various areas of the United States. They're frightening.

Stables described as full-service stables including rent, feeding, exercise and use of area (just like most of our stables) are charging anywhere from \$115 a month in Colorado to \$255 in California. Average cost was \$163.

Rent for stall when horse owner fed and cared for his animal ran from \$27.50 in Florida to \$95 in California and that's just for the stall!

The cost of riding lessons vary from \$5.00 to \$12.75 an hour. The cost of a well-known horse feed was comparable to the cost here, maybe a half a dollar to a dollar more, but the cost for a bale of hay was something else! A 50 lb. bale fetched anywhere from \$1.00 in Michigan to \$6.00 in California. Our hay fetches \$1.00 - \$1.50 and we have Arctic winters and a short growing season.

Obviously California is not the place to keep horses. Yet the horse population of California is second only to that of Texas. Must be all those rich movie stars willing to pay the prices.

Now look at your monthly board bill and appreciate your horses caretaker. Be glad you're not living in California.

Little trivia that'll hit home to all the equestrians trying to get horse riding trails in conservation areas: Rider looking grimly at filthy polluted river close to a trail sporting sign that says "Trail closed to horses" - "I heard they might do this, they are afraid hooves might cause erosion that will spoil the river."

Pupils must take Canadian courses

Ontario grade 9 and 10 students will be required to take one Canadian history and one Canadian geography course during the first two years of high school.

When Queen's Park first announced new core curriculum guidelines for high schools last year the province said students would be required to take two Canadian studies courses, geography or history, during grades 9 and 10. A student could take two courses in Canadian history without taking any geography.

At the prompting of Halton Board of Education and other boards, the Ministry of Education has changed the guidelines, requiring now that every student take at least one course in history and one geography course.

Thanking the board chairman Judy Alexander and the board for bringing its views to his attention. His letter said he hoped the province's decision pleased the board since it concurred with the trustees' suggestion. The board wanted to make sure every pupil was required to take at least one course in Canadian geography and history.

Manager out of work

Now that the Credit Valley Conservation Authority farm at Silvercreek is officially out of business, alternative employment for farm manager Alexander Keir is being sought.

The old Vaughn farm, now part of the Silvercreek Conservation Area, had been run as a beef operation until Dec-



Pet of the week

THIS BEAUTIFUL black and white bunny, Chuck belongs to Steve McGinn. Chuck likes to eat lettuce and pellets, and is spending the winter at his cousin's house, because it is warmer. According to Steve, Chuck has no brothers or sisters.

Supports teachers

Administrators after fame, glory-Hinton

Acton-Esqueing Trustee Bert Hinton thinks board administrators are pushing ahead with the switch in nine Halton high schools from the department head system to chairmanships in a bid for "fame and glory as innovators."

Thursday Hinton broke away from the board's united front favoring chairmanships. In a prepared statement for the press he said the re-organization "disturbs" him.

Six Halton high schools have voluntarily dropped the department head system in favor of chairmanships and now the board is ordering the nine high schools which haven't reorganized to switch to chairmanships next fall.

The Halton branch of Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation opposes mandatory reorganization. The OSSTF claims chairmanships aren't educationally sound.

Local federation officials enlisted the support of provincial federation officials last month and the OSSTF placed an embargo on the Halton board preventing its members from applying for chairmanship positions in Halton.

The board, in turn, has filed a grievance because it believes the embargo is a violation of its management rights and the whole question will be the subject of an arbitration board hearing.

In his statement Hinton noted chairmanships had been a major campaign issue with him and said he has gained further insight into the dispute between the board and its teachers following behind closed doors board meetings this month.

"This disturbs me as I'm sure it will disturb other trustees, especially those who voted against this change in 1973," Hinton stated.

He says many parents don't

agree with the change especially since they have become aware that the chairmanship system is experimental.

Noting the teachers are strongly opposed to reorganization, Hinton said teachers know the schools and the direction education should take.

He said parents are concerned about the change since it will hurt the quality of education in Halton.

Naming former Director of Education Jim Singleton and ex-Superintendent of Instruction Orin Gilmore as the architects of chairmanships, Hinton observed "the people who originally conceived this concept and those who have followed have not taught in the classroom for years."

"The thought which constantly runs through my mind at the staff's persistence and anxiety to rush through and foist this concept on our education system is are they

fighting for fame and glory as innovators."

Hinton suggested the quest for "fame and glory as innovators" is the reason the administration and trustees "cannot heed reason and take the time for evaluation" of reorganization at the six schools which have switched over.

He said he is trying his best to see both sides of the question and constantly "looking for a way which is reasonable, safe and responsible" to solve the mess.

The whole subject came up man he will provide what has to be still considered the board's view.

Morton said reorganization when Hinton tried to make a comment in response to a question to the board from an Oakville resident but was told unless the question was directed to an individual trustee the chairman responds for the board.

Hinton noted the views

Chairman Garry Morton expressed were those of the old board. Since there was a new board it was a whole new ball game.

Morton responded that until the trustees have a chance to debate the question as chair would provide better program co-ordination for the students and improve the quality of leadership in Halton high schools.

He stated the board believes with fewer leaders in each school planning will be easier and there will be extra money available at each school since not as much will be spent on responsibility pay. He said this extra money could be spent in a number of different, highly beneficial ways at each school.

Morton said the board feels the change is in accordance with the Education Act since the board is simply changing the title from head to chairman and substituting area of study for department.

Calculators cause worries

Use of hand held calculators in school may be getting a little out of hand, Trustee Bill Priestner thinks.

He called for a report to Halton Board of Education from the administration spelling out rules and regulations governing use of the small calculators. They have become popular in the classroom in recent years.

"For a lot of these pupils if the battery in their calculator ever runs out they will be in real trouble," Priestner predicted.

He said the more students use calculators the weaker their basic mathematics skills become. He expressed concern about pupils not being able to perform simple calculations in their heads.

Priestner said information he has received indicates use of the hand held calculators has greatly increased in various math courses at different grade levels.

The administration indicated a report on rules governing use of the calculators would be prepared for the board.

ember when the cattle were sold. Keir has been offered employment with the Authority union staff at current rate of pay but the ex-manager will have to pay rent for the farm house and services which previously were free. Or he could seek employment elsewhere, living in the house rent free in return for maintenance, the CVCA stated.

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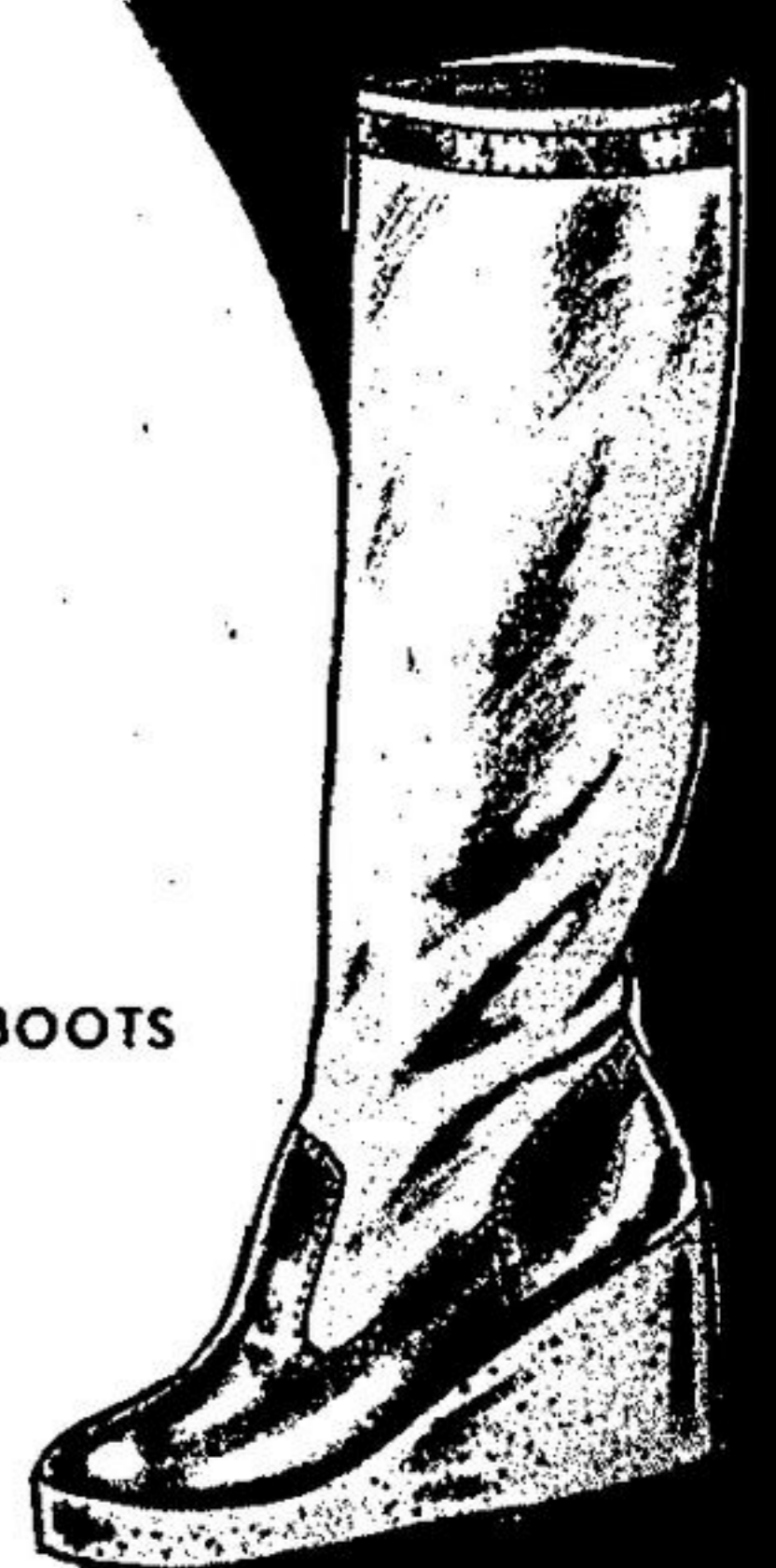
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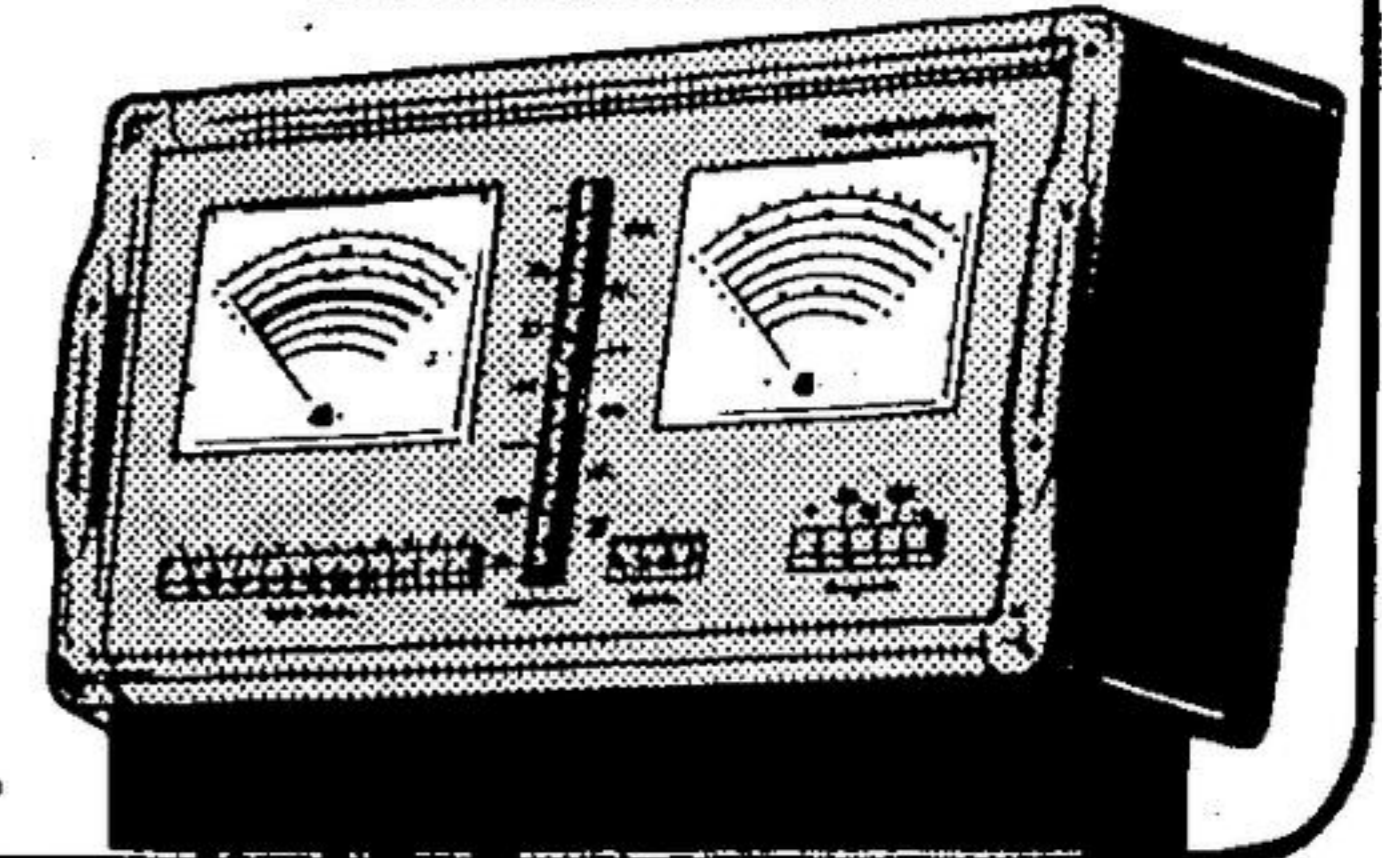
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