

Standardbred breeder popular in township

by Jennifer Barr
 Jack Hamilton may not be the richest Standardbred breeder in Eramosa township but he sure is the best loved. He's still training and racing at an age when most men have been retired for many years. "You gotta work to live," he says. "When you quit you might just as well lie down."

Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton live on the corner of Seventh Line Eramosa and Highway 24 just north of Everton. Their property measures less than an acre and consists of the house, a small barn, an old blacksmith's shop now doing double duty as a stable, two paddocks and a garden. Into this minute establishment, Jack manages to pack 12 or 14 horses, a couple of trucks and a car, and often a pig or a calf tucked in a corner.

Once a full time farmer with 100 acres near Belwood, Jack moved to Eramosa 24 years ago.

"I thought I could get out of work," he chuckles, "but instead I got more than ever."

He admits his property is small and too close to the highway but he's not about to move again, "not till they move me," he says.

Disgusting colt
 Jack was born the oldest son of a farming family and had horses in his blood. His father used to show harness horses and his boys just naturally picked it up. Jack's brothers Joe and Tom are also into Standardbreds.

While trying to remember how long he has been showing Jack asks his wife for help with the dates.

"Well, I showed horses before I got you," he remembers.

He also recalls the second

horse he ever owned, a two year old he bought for \$90. He got talked into buying him against his better judgment and says with awe, "You know, he was just about the most disgusting colt I ever had."

The colt would pace and trot at the same time, taking an hour to go the five miles to Fergus. One night the wind was blowing below zero and Jack recalls he could run home faster than that colt was carrying him so he took a whip to the horse and surprised the Dickens out of both of them. The colt ran like the wind.

"I took him to Elora Fair and won out of seven colts," Jack remembers.

Pretty papers
 In those days a Standardbred was the all-purpose carriage horse for a family. There were no breeding records and papers. If the family horse was a good one the young men of the family would enjoy racing it much like today's youngsters' hot rod.

Nowadays, Standardbreds have pedigrees as long as your arm and are used exclusively for harness racing. Jack's philosophy on registrations is epitomized by a phrase overheard as he was receiving a long list of complaints from a friend about a colt he had just acquired.

"But Jack," said the friend. "That horse is cow hocked and knock kneed; he's pigeon toed to boot, and his back is like a mountain range. He's got lice, mange and worms and he looks mentally retarded."

"Yea, I know," drawled Jack, "But he sure is pretty around the papers."

No saddles, please
 Jack rode a horse only once

and she threw him off. "She got into the running and I was only on the saddle but once. She threw her shoes and bent one. She sure could run. She made a sharp turn and tossed me off—I was never so glad to get off a horse in my life."

He used to get the "rangtang" to train but he says he doesn't get them anymore. There were only two horses Jack couldn't handle. He reminisces as he rolls a lazy cigarette.

"They were both stubborn—one kicked and balked and lay down in the traces. He wouldn't get up so we got our supper and he was still laying on the track all hitched up. We had to unharness him before he'd get up."

Jack is also something of a horse dealer, trucker, blacksmith and a one time self-styled vet.

"My vet bills in a lifetime wouldn't amount to \$1,000."

"Always did everything for my horses," he remarks, but he neglects to mention he's been available for help to anyone who's every asked him.

"That's my trouble—I just never could say no."

Jack Hamilton has always been on hand at any time of the day or night to help with a sick colt or a foaling mare. Ask anyone from Belwood to Rockwood. They'll tell you Jack Hamilton is the first to truck a horse or give you a hand with the haying.

"I always like to help out," he draws. "It may not do you any good but it never does a person any harm."

Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton now have four daughters and more grandchildren than they can count. Jack still has 12 horses, colts in training, broodmares, and two horses racing currently at Orange-

ville.

He drove himself up until a couple of years ago but now "It's just too rough."

He also has to ask more than the \$5 he charged for years to take a horse to Kitchener.

"Now it takes \$10, for gas—I can't get adjusted to these inflation times—I'm ashamed to ask people for the wages—everything disgusts me today—it's out of my way of living."

So Jack Hamilton will continue to do favors for his neighbors, to help out at haying, to enjoy his own horses, to stop for a chat and a smoke whenever the mood hits.

"You only go through this world once. You look ahead when you're young and it's a long way but it's really so short."

And Jack rolls another cigarette.



JACK HAMILTON—always ready to lend a hand where it's needed. The Everton Standardbred breeder prefers a slower life where people are more important than money.

There is abusive teacher absenteeism

Acton-Esqueing Trustee Bert Hinton says he's not "gullible." Thursday he told Halton Board of Education he doesn't agree with a teacher absenteeism committee report which says there isn't high absenteeism in Halton.

"I'm not so gullible to accept the report saying there isn't abusive absenteeism. We may not have a high figure or percentage of absenteeism but the abuse is still there," Hinton declared.

The board rejected a committee suggestion that supply teachers in Halton receive 10 per cent less pay when they teach fewer than two consecutive days.

Trustee Helen Howard-Lock lead the attack against the pay cut, noting supply teachers are the only board employees being asked to take a wage trim. She said

they are already underpaid and charged "we are taking on the small guy to cut down on teacher absenteeism."

If the board cut substitute teacher's pay for the first day it would be admitting defeat in the bids to make the first day in the class more effective and productive, Trustee Fred Armitage said.

Hinton was opposed to any

pay cut for supply teachers but advocated the administration cracking down and weeding out poor substitute teachers.

Trustee John Bradley, Halton Hills and Milton, announced many supply teachers simply don't want the responsibility of being full time. He said this kind of attitude disturbs him.

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TWO FRIENDLY MARES enjoy a pat from Jack Hamilton Eramosa Standardbred breeder and neighbourhood institution.

Hinton urges 100% pay cut

Acton-Esqueing Trustee Bert Hinton has called for a pay cut of 100 per cent for Halton school board members. Trustees receive \$6,600 a year.

He presented a notice of motion Thursday calling for trustees to serve without remuneration. Hinton asked that all previous motions dealing with pay for board members be rescinded but

4-H club studies stomachs

By Heidi Stadler
 The June meeting of the Halton 4-H Junior Dairy Club was held at the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Proud on June 13. Vice-President David Robinson called the meeting to order and it was opened with the 4-H Pledge.

Jeff Nurse went over the points of a cow, with special attention to the points important when judging a dairy cow. Two classes of dairy cattle were judged, first a class of mature cows and then a class of two-year-olds. Club leaders Jeff Nurse and Doug Wingrove gave the official placings and some of us even agreed with them!

This month's lesson was on the parts and functions of a cow's stomach. We were surprised to learn that the rumen part of a cow's stomach can hold up to 250 lbs. of feed. That would be a lot of pop and donuts! The 4-H'ers couldn't hold that much, but nevertheless they made short work of pop and donuts after the meeting was adjourned.

legitimate expenses be allowed. His motion will be dealt with by the board next month.

Hinton told the board after presenting the plan that he is "very serious about this."

In an interview later Hinton said he was bringing the idea to the board as fulfillment of an election promise.

Hinton said he didn't want to embarrass the board and delayed bringing the pay cut to the table for six months because he was a new trustee becoming involved in important board actions such as the budget and salary negoti-

ations. "I have served my whole life on councils and boards and received little or no remuneration. Remuneration shouldn't be the motivation for service," Hinton declared.

He pointed out he has served 10 years on the Sheridan College Board of Governors and has never received a cent and was paid very little when he was Warden of Halton County.

Hinton favors trustees being given money for expenses because "there is no reason it should cost trustees to serve."

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