

Leathertown Cutting Show Aug. 11 Talk about horse sense!

By PAUL DORSEY
If recollections of the Old West appeal to you, or if you just plain like horses, then cutting horse competition is something not to be missed.

Getting in a little practice Sunday for a meet coming up at his Osprings area farm Aug. 11, Acton chiropractor Tom Thompson looks for all the world like he just moseyed in off the range.

He's wearing a cowboy hat, old jeans and boots, he's chewing tobacco and he's slapping a horsefly off his mare while a radio speaker perched atop a corral fence blares out a song about the good old days of Hank Williams and Patsy Cline.

From the clouds of dust to the cackling of hens nearby, this has got to be as close to the roots of competitive cutting as anyone's likely to get this side of the Continental Divide.

Out there where the buffalo roam, more than a century ago, cutting was something that simply had to be done. A cowboy's horse had to be specially trained to work with the rider, pick out the cow that's ready for branding, cut it loose from the herd and keep it running separately until it could be roped.

Speed, stamina and an inborn cow sense set the cutting horses apart from the thoroughbreds, equestrians and plain old workhorses. Compared to most, their abilities once the rider lets the reins drop are nothing short of amazing.

And if the cutting horse is the true star of today's increasingly popular competitions, then the rider must be the awe-struck magician's assistant, guiding a little with the reins here, a bit with the knees there, and then sitting back to watch and admire along with the crowds lining the corral.

"It really is addictive," Thompson says, serving as one of two mounted "turn-back" men while Inglewood veterinarian Jim Henderson does some fancy cutting nearby. Founder of the annual Leathertown Cutting Show, Thompson plays host to the free Aug. 11 meet for which a number of local businesses have donated prize money. About 50 competitors from a wide area are expected to attend, bringing with them years of experience in seeing horses cutting cattle just like they did in the old days, but the competitions stop short of roping and branding. With a host of judges looking on, the horses must cut two or three different cows away from the herd during a two and a half minute time period.

Exactly how the horse goes about keeping the cut cow away from the herd is something to marvel at. The horse relies on instinct to anticipate the cow's every move, rapidly switching the position of its front hooves, darting to and fro to cut off the cow's escape routes and even turning in mid-air, every hop, skip and jump in conjunction with its rider.

The cutting horse owners have looked for the best stock, bred them accordingly and groomed and rehearsed them to the point of perfection. They know the horse that carries its head low and moves furtively toward the



"Cutting is downright addictive," says Acton businessman Tom Thompson of the increasingly popular sport that pits specially-trained cutting horses against a shy and slippery cow. Other area riders back Thompson's claim, and they'll be at his Osprings area ranch August 11 to show their skills and learn from the pros in a free competition open to the public.

herd is the best bred for the job. Two turn-back men wait nearby astride their own mounts to keep the cow from dodging off to the far end of the corral, thus keeping the pace rapid.

While Thompson's farm will see some of the finest cutting horses in Canada and the northeast U.S. Aug. 11, the cream of the crop spend most of their time on the cutting circuit of the southern states. Cutting has its own Fort Worth-based magazine, the *Cuttin' Hoss Chatter*, and regularly sees hundreds

of thousands of dollars change hands for one horse. Thompson says he's seen individual cutting horses so valuable they need an armed guard round the clock.

Local businesses helping out the Leathertown Cutting Show this year are Tyler Travel, Willow Lane Natural Foods, Acton IGA, Acton Photo and Camera, Acton Pharmacy, Beardmore, the olde Hide House, Shortill's Tack Shop, Country Mart, Biltmore Stetson Hats, Design Dynamics and Thompson Chiropractic Clinic.

Town approves new homes for Park Ave. site

Last night Council approved a zoning bylaw change so developer Berislav Skoko can build four two-storey, semi-detached units on the northwest corner of Park Avenue and Mill St.

The lands currently have a three-unit one-storey residential building which is aged and in disrepair, according to planning director Ian Keith in a report to council.

Skoko proposed to tear down that building and replace it with two buildings with attached garages. The public meeting last night was held to see if there were any public objections to the rezoning. There were none.

The change to Bylaw 1358 will allow an R-3 Special zone for the lands to have a reduced lot frontage requirement from 35 feet to 30 feet as well as smaller front and rear yards. The proposed rezoning does not change the residential zoning.

Halton NDP chooses Flynn to carry banner

The Halton Federal New Democratic Party Riding Association kicked off its election campaign Monday night by unanimously electing 29-year-old Kevin Flynn as its choice to unseat incumbent Progressive Conservative MP Otto Jelinek.

"We're on the verge of an historic moment," campaign manager Doug Black told supporters at an Oakville union hall.

"We are going to defeat Otto Jelinek at a third or a quarter of the cost Otto has spent on his campaign."

The Halton NDP has invested more than \$2,500 in Flynn's campaign.

Ontario NDP leader Bob Rae, guest speaker at the nomination meeting, praised Flynn as "a great candidate" but stressed that the battle must be won in the streets.

"We can only do so much, we golden-tongued leaders, but you people are the

association would be running a woman candidate, but the prime focus of Flynn's campaign will centre on women's role in society and the immediate implementation of equal pay standards for

women, should he be elected.

Flynn, a 15-year member of the NDP, has already made his mark in local politics, having run for the Ward 4 council seat in the 1982 Oakville municipal election.

Flynn's campaign will also concentrate on wooing Halton's undecided Liberal and Conservative voters who are disenchanted with their parties' performances, Black said.



KEVIN FLYNN

party," he said. "You've got to work for the victory. You've got to get out there knocking on doors."

The uncontested choice of Flynn as the riding's NDP candidate dispelled any notion that the

Built Ford Tough

RANGERS \$1500

ESCORT

853-2030
453-1761

It's tough to walk away from the great deals at L & L FORD. See why driving is believing.

We have the full line of FORDS and MERCURYS to offer at a Financing Rate or Leasing Plan to suit YOUR needs.

No frills, just great deals at L & L FORD.

So come in and see what we at L & L FORD can do to make YOUR car or truck buying chore a Pleasant Experience!

ASK FOR JIM WALSH OR LEE KELLEY

Driving Is Believing

TEMPO

TOPAZ LYNX

L & L FORD
ACTON MERCURY

45 Main St. North Acton (519) 853-2370 (416) 453-1761

"We do not want all the business in town... JUST YOURS!"

The light touch

"ALL YOUR LIGHTING & ELECTRICAL NEEDS UNDER ONE ROOF"

GERRIE ELECTRIC
Lighting Centre

877-2264

317 ARMSTRONG AVE. GEORGETOWN

HOURS:
Monday 9-4:30
Tuesday 9-4:30
Wednesday 9-4:30
Thursday 9-9:00
Friday 9-9:00
Saturday 9-4:00

Official Opening

P & G

PARTY HEADQUARTERS
at
38 Mill Street East, Acton
THURS., JULY 26 at 8 P.M.
OTTO JELINEK WILL OFFICIALLY OPEN THE HEADQUARTERS
Everyone Welcome • Refreshments

Lakeview Centre
"CARPETING & FLOORING SPECIALISTS"

Armstrong floor fashion center

126 Main St. N., Acton 853-1190

BUILDERS AND HOME OWNERS THE PLACE TO SAVE!!

DW Dominion Windows
QUALITY DIRECT FACTORY OUTLET

30% OFF MANUF. LIST PRICE
ENERGY SAVING WOOD OR VINYL CLAD
SAVE... ALL STYLES AND SIZES AVAILABLE
DIRECT FACTORY PRICES
ALL "IN-STOCK" AND ALL "CUSTOM" ORDERS
SPECIAL PRICES ON HOUSE LOTS

BRING YOUR PLANS & IDEAS

WOOD PATIO DOORS

5' SIZE - \$462⁸⁴
LIST \$661.20

6' SIZE - LIST \$733.15 - \$513²⁰

UNCLAIMED UNITS
SAVE UP TO **45% OFF** MANUF. LIST
ON WINDOWS AND DOORS

CONTRACTORS/BUILDERS WE HAVE *ESP*
*EXTRA SPECIAL PRICING
LET US QUOTE ON YOUR JOBS

BUYWISE
WINDOWS and DOORS

Visit Our Showroom Mon. to Fri. 9-8 Sat. 9-1 Friendly Help and Advice WE ALSO INSTALL

71 Mountainview Rd. N. GEORGETOWN 877-1186

THE PLACE TO SAVE!!
SPECIAL PRICES ON HOUSE LOT QUANTITIES

FINAL DAYS
OF
MOVING SALE

SAVE UP TO **70% OFF**

PRESENT STOCK AT

Aladdin LIGHTING

245 GUELPH ST. GEORGETOWN 877-0880

ORIENTAL RUG SALE

SUNDAY, JULY 29
7 HOURS ONLY
ALL ORIENTAL RUGS

1/2 price
OFF OUR RETAIL PRICE

NOTHING IS HELD BACK OVER 40%
HAND KNOTTED MASTERPIECES
FROM INDIA AND CHINA

Alexanian carpet

2222 South Sheridan Way Near Southdown 823-8410

6400 Mill Creek Dr. at Erin Mills Pkwy. 826-1262