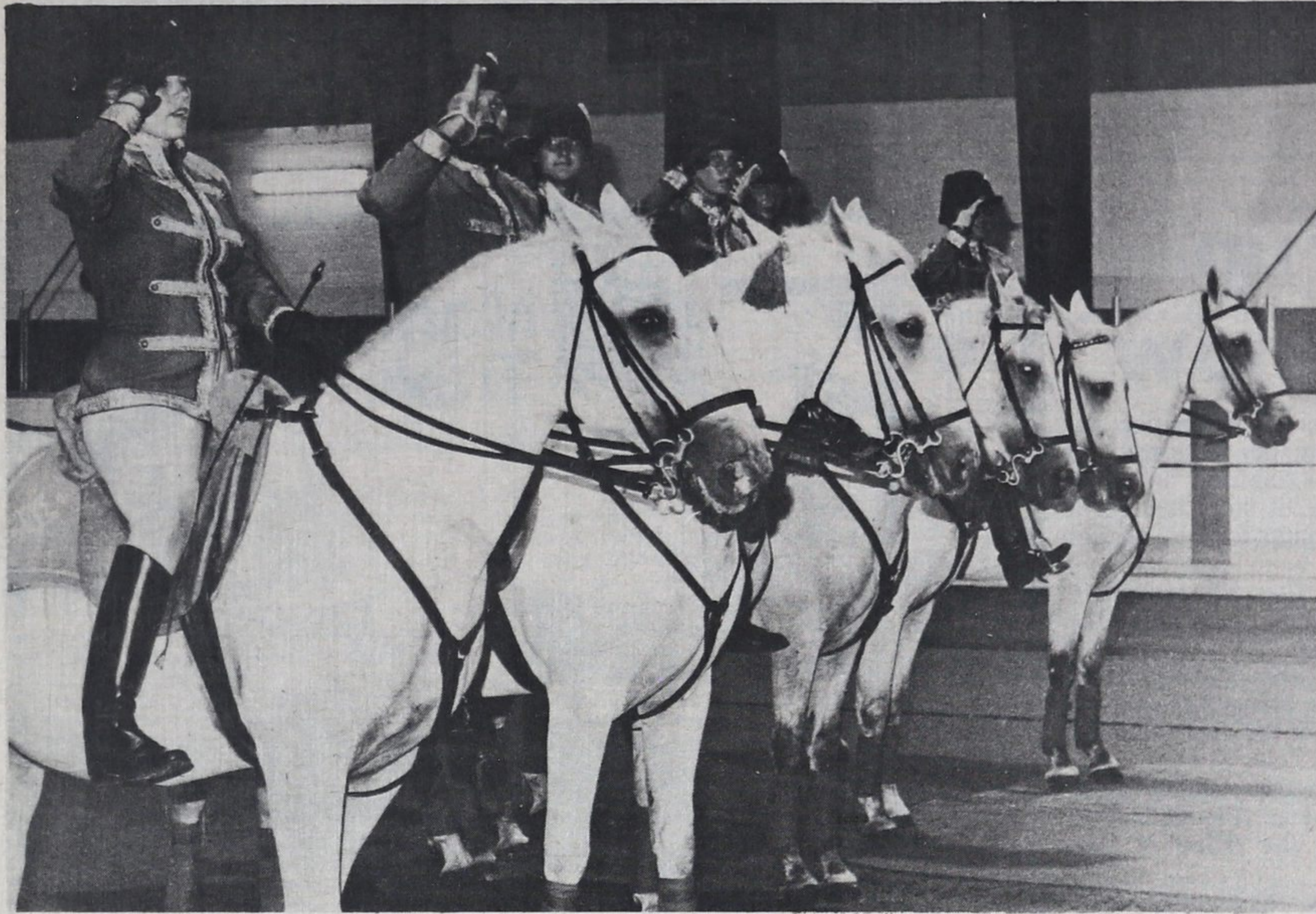


Stallions dazzle crowds



these horses
have unusual
history

by Bob Murray

Audiences in attendance at Midland's Centennial Arena last weekend were treated to a display of horsemanship and equine ability of the highest calibre.

The world famous Herrmann's Lipizzan Stallions presented four weekend performances of intricate horse-rider maneuvers second to none.

Under the leadership of retired Colonel Otto Herrmann, horses and riders demonstrated dressage and military techniques dating back to the turn of the 16th century.

The terms free walk, extended trot, collected walk, working trot and collected canter may not mean much to the ordinary person but when they are put into exhibition by the beautiful Lipizzan stallion they are a site to behold.

The Lipizzan stallion is known as the "ballerina of the horse world". A willing animal, with a high degree of intelligence and a remarkable memory make him capable of any purpose.

The Lipizzaner is the last descendant of famous Spanish horses that date back as far as ancient Rome. Many of these animals were used in European wars as cavalry horses and many hundreds were uselessly slaughtered. Trained to kill, they became feared by opposing cavalry in many clashes.

The Lipizzaner stallion is not an albino but a pure breed. Born black or dark brown it takes six to ten years for the Lipizzaner to transform from the dark colors to pure white.

Colonel Herrman has dedicated his life to the raising and training of these beautiful horses. The troupe has travelled the world from the Herrmann ranch in Myakka City Florida having entertained thousands of people.

A salute to their fans

A salute to the audience is always presented at the completion of each part of

the evening's proceedings when Herrmann's Royal Lipizzan Stallions perform.

It all started in 1792

Agricultural fairs extend hand of rural hospitality

The first agricultural fair held in Ontario back in 1792, brought friends and neighbors together for a community gathering and a little friendly competition.

Today, interest in agricultural fairs extends past the county boundaries to attract visitors from towns and cities hundreds of kilometres away.

The traditions behind the agricultural fairs are the same today as they were the first day Upper Canada's governor John Graves Simcoe opened the fair at Niagara-on-the-Lake in a clearing along the Niagara River. Neighbors still compete in the show rings and craft competitions, and the sense of com-

munity is as strong as it ever was.

The popularity of agricultural fairs has flourished with Ontario's population. Now, more than 230 agricultural societies in towns and villages throughout the province sponsor fairs each year.

Community pride is the element that makes every fair different. Each town injects a little of its own flavor. For example, the Chesterville Fair (August 26-29) features cheese and honey competitions, the Markham Fair (September 29 to October 3) is presenting a showcase of local products called Foodland York, and the Roseneath Fair (October 2 and 3) attracts outdoor enthusiasts at the

annual woodsman competition.

Although many agricultural fairs are held during the harvest period in the fall, an increasing number of communities are scheduling fairs in the summer. Now, visitors can enjoy fairs from May right through until November's Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto.

Agricultural fairs are part of Ontario's heritage. They offer an opportunity for city folks to enjoy rural hospitality while gaining a greater understanding of Ontario agriculture. A day's visit to the fair makes an ideal and inexpensive family outing.



A grand occasion

These three Genier sisters were born and raised in Penetanguishene. They are back here in Huronia this week on holidays. Between them they have 150 years of service as members of the Daughters of Wisdom. Sister Albertine Genier, D. W. is

shown at centre flanked by Sr. Albina, left, and Sr. Julien Marie at Sr. Albertine's recent golden jubilee. This photo appeared on the front of Vital Signs, a publication published by and for employees of St. Charles Hospital, Port Jefferson.

ENCOURAGING NEWS

Visitors to marsh are up 33 per cent

Month-end visitation figures released today by the Wye Marsh Wildlife Interpretation Centre, Canadian Wildlife Service, Midland indicate an increase of 33 per cent over last year.

Over 8,800 visitors were on site for the month of July. Most of these are family visitors but there were several childrens' camp groups, senior citizen bus tours from Toronto and individuals from overseas, southern Ontario, Midland and area.

"The canoe excursions continue to be a big calling card," noted Bob Whittam, biologist-in-charge of the Centre. "In addition, the guided nature walk at 2:30 p.m. each day and the nature demonstrations every afternoon between 2 and 4:30 p.m. are well attended.

"Our big attraction starting Aug. 22 will be the Visions art show displaying works of 9 local artists and photographers. We're hoping for a good turnout."

Wye Marsh Wildlife Interpretation Centre, located on Highway 12 just outside of Midland is open free of charge daily until Thanksgiving Day.