

HORSE BITS

With Lola Wood



Sportsman shoots moose by mistake — fined \$100

"...I hate English...", "...I hate Western...", "...Dressage people are clique-y...", "...Hunter people are snobs...", and so on, and so on. I'm sure you've all heard it. One place you won't hear it is at Pinetree Stables. They wouldn't dare!

I introduce all phases of horsemanship, and while I'm teaching I try to point out the similarities of style at every opportunity. If you're riding stock seat (Western), I remark that the long leg, and erect posture resembles the way you rode the dressage test in the spring. If you're riding Hunter Seat, I point out that your horse is using the same ground-covering gaits and natural head carriage, as in the Western Pleasure Class.

As far as I'm concerned, good riding is the same everywhere. I believe it's time we threw out prejudices and began to present a united front to the world. We have a dreadful image as horsemen in the eyes of the public because of our feuding and backbiting.

Don't you think that Christmas would be a good time to start spreading goodwill? You could start with the stable down the road!

**Xmas trees—
Natural is nicer**

By Hal Potter

Artificial trees just don't have it.

Nothing gives a home the smell and spirit of Christmas more than an authentic Christmas tree.

As it gets closer to that pinnacle of holidays, firs in the forests are plundered and transformed into timberland versions of Liberace.

"People have individual tastes in choosing a Christmas tree," says Bob Kerr of the department of Research and Development. "They choose trees much in the same way as they select a car. They take into consideration size and general appeal."

Mr. Kerr says the most popular evergreens are the Balsam fir with its bushy, flat needles, the spruce with its sharper, pointier needles and the aromatic pine.

"The size of the trees usually vary between six and eight feet in height," says Mr. Kerr. "The average age of a tree when it's cut down is usually between ten and twelve years."

Mr. Kerr couldn't estimate how

many trees would be axed in the area, but did have a couple of tips for Yuletide tree hunters in the nursing of their prizes.

"To minimize the drying out effect of trees, stumps should be kept in water. They present a serious fire hazard when they become dehydrated," he says. "They shouldn't be overloaded with Christmas lights and the lights should be out before bed or going out. Little children should

"I've always found that if you make a mistake, the best thing to do is admit it and wipe the slate clean."

So said Bill Rombough, ruefully contemplating the breaking up of a hunting party of Russell men in the Calabogie area when Bill accidentally shot a young moose.

So what's wrong with shooting a moose? Bill's shot was out of season and therefore illegal and liable to a fine.

In Bill's favour was the fact that it was a long shot — about a hundred yards — in a heavily wooded area with poor visibility. The moose was a young animal with antlers far from full grown.

Bill immediately reported the kill to the game authorities. They accepted his word for the accident but stated he would have to face a

charge even though he reported the kill and packed it out to the station, saving officials a lot of work.

"We bush-dressed it and packed it a mile and a half to camp and then eight miles down the lake to the biological station. I'm not complaining. I paid the fine and wiped the slate clean."

Bill was accompanied by his brother Barry, and Dennis Walsh, Stephen Armstrong, Gary Campbell of Russell.

Gary Campbell had shot a buck deer and yelled out at the others who were on station that the buck was coming their way. At that moment, a bull moose cut in front of Barry Rombough. Barry didn't

shoot. The second bull moose, a young one perhaps three years old, crashed through the woods a hundred yards in front of Bill who took it for the buck Barry had called out about.

"About all I could see was a shoulder and a suggestion of horns, so I knew it wasn't a doe and took my shot." The shot brought the moose down. As he fell, Bill realized this was no buck. But it was too late. The damage was done.

"He dressed out 365 pounds of meat which we turned over to the wildlife people," Bill said. "The next day I turned up in court in Sharbot Lake and paid \$100. That was a costly moose."



To all my pupils and Beauty Counsellor friends:

Merry Christmas from
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