

Farrier competition new to the Markham Fair

LISA CARTWRIGHT
Features

For the first time in the fair's history there will be a farrier competition. A farrier is someone who shoes horses, while a blacksmith (the commonly used word) is someone who works with any type of iron, said Carrie Purcell, the

fair's president. "Farrier is quite a foreign word to the general public," said Purcell. Which is why she wanted the competition at the fair.

"I wanted to have something different and new for this year's fair. I wanted it to be educational. I wanted it to be interesting and I wanted it to appeal to all ages and to have an agricultural basis."

And the event has all those elements.

A farrier is someone who shoes horses, while a blacksmith is someone who works with any type of metal.

People can view the farriers at work throughout the four days, but Thursday is Educational Day. People are encouraged

to watch demonstrations including trimming the foot, making the shoes and putting them on.

Friday gives the farriers a chance to learn new skills. Denis Leveillard, France's National Farrier Team coach, will be demonstrating different aspects of working with metal and making shoes. The public is encouraged to watch.

Leveillard will also be judging the Farrier competition Saturday and Sunday.

Saturday the novice (first time in competition) and the intermediate divisions will be competing while Sunday the competition is open to everyone.

There are many different aspects to the competition, but Leveillard is looking for workmanship, fit and in some events, speed.

"People should come out and look. (They will) be fascinated by the work that is done."

And there is a lot of work.

A farrier looks at the horse's foot, trims it and then starts to make the shoe itself. The shoe starts off as a straight bar of steel. By pounding the steel over top of a coal or propane fire they are able to mold the iron bar into a round shoe complete with holes. The farrier then puts the shoe on and files the foot to make sure it is smooth.

"(A Farrier) is something that you don't see everyday."

P16 WEEKENDER, SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 27, 1997

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Kennedy writes songs based on her experiences

From page 13

books and movies, things people say, her own experiences and the experiences of others.

Like the time Kennedy was at a Cincinnati airport and she saw a woman leaving her husband and child behind.

"I found it a very powerful (image) and I sat down and wrote about it."

The ideas are the easy part, the challenge is tying up the loose ends and making people feel the same way she feels about a subject, she said.

And song writing has taken her to another level and to allow her listens to get a glimpse of her.

"Pick an album and (you are) looking at a part of my life. It is saying something about me."