

# Leb. Co. agronomist trains world champ Morgans

By JOANNE SPAHR  
LEBANON — Jim and Peg Brown met over a horse when they were 14 years old, and today, after as many years of marriage, their lives are as closely entwined around that equine animal as they ever were.

Jim (James C.) is a nationally renowned horse judge who has ratings in Arabians, Morgans, Saddlebreds, and Tennessee Walking horses for about 20 shows per year, traveling from coast to coast doing so. Peggy, on the other hand,

prefers to stay at home on their seven acre tract of land in Lebanon County where she cares for young stock, 12 to 20 of which end up for training and resale by Browns' Hoss-Pitality Stables, located in Linesville, Crawford County.

To keep the string of horse tales going, the couple are partners in that family owned Crawford County stable which is also well known for the outstanding number of national winners they turn out each year.

Just last October at the

Grand National Morgan Horse Show in Oklahoma City, Hoss-Pitality Stables won five world championship titles at this "World Series of Horesedom," as it has been termed. Then, moving into the month of November, the stable's prize Morgan stallion, "Dobson," won both the park saddle and park harness championships at the Kansas City Royal, adding to a list of these impressive titles that stems back to 1974.

And, at Pennsylvania's own Keystone International

Livestock Exposition, the Lebanon County couple showed the reserve champion two-year-old Arabian stallion, S. A. Imprint, who was named the high point junior stallion in the Pennsylvania Arabian Horse Association for 1978.

Remarkably, this listing is only a scant representation of the outstanding titles won by this Arabian-and-Morgan-centered horse family.

What is it that makes the name, "Brown," almost a

sure fire winner in Morgan and Arabian horse circles? Sitting in their comfortable antique-and-horse-magazine-filled refurbished home at 2055 Cornwall Road, Lebanon, the Browns lent a partial insight into that answer when they explained the philosophy of the family stables.

"We don't train any animal here in Lebanon County," Brown explained, "but at Linesville we look at each animal as an athlete. Our job is to perfect their athletic skills.

And, just like humans, horses have different athletic abilities. Some of the Morgans perform well in harness, others under saddle, and still others in hand.

"We let the nature of the horse decide what type of showing he will do," explains Brown. Then the animals are worked out rigorously just as a football, soccer, or baseball player would be.

Of course, it takes top quality stock to produce national winners, and to insure that they train this type of animal, Jim and his two brothers, Gene and Guy, comb the country soliciting conformationally sound, potential winners from Chicago eastward. Jim handles the East from Atlanta upward, and Guy takes care of the mid-West,

which leaves Gene to "pick up the loose ends."

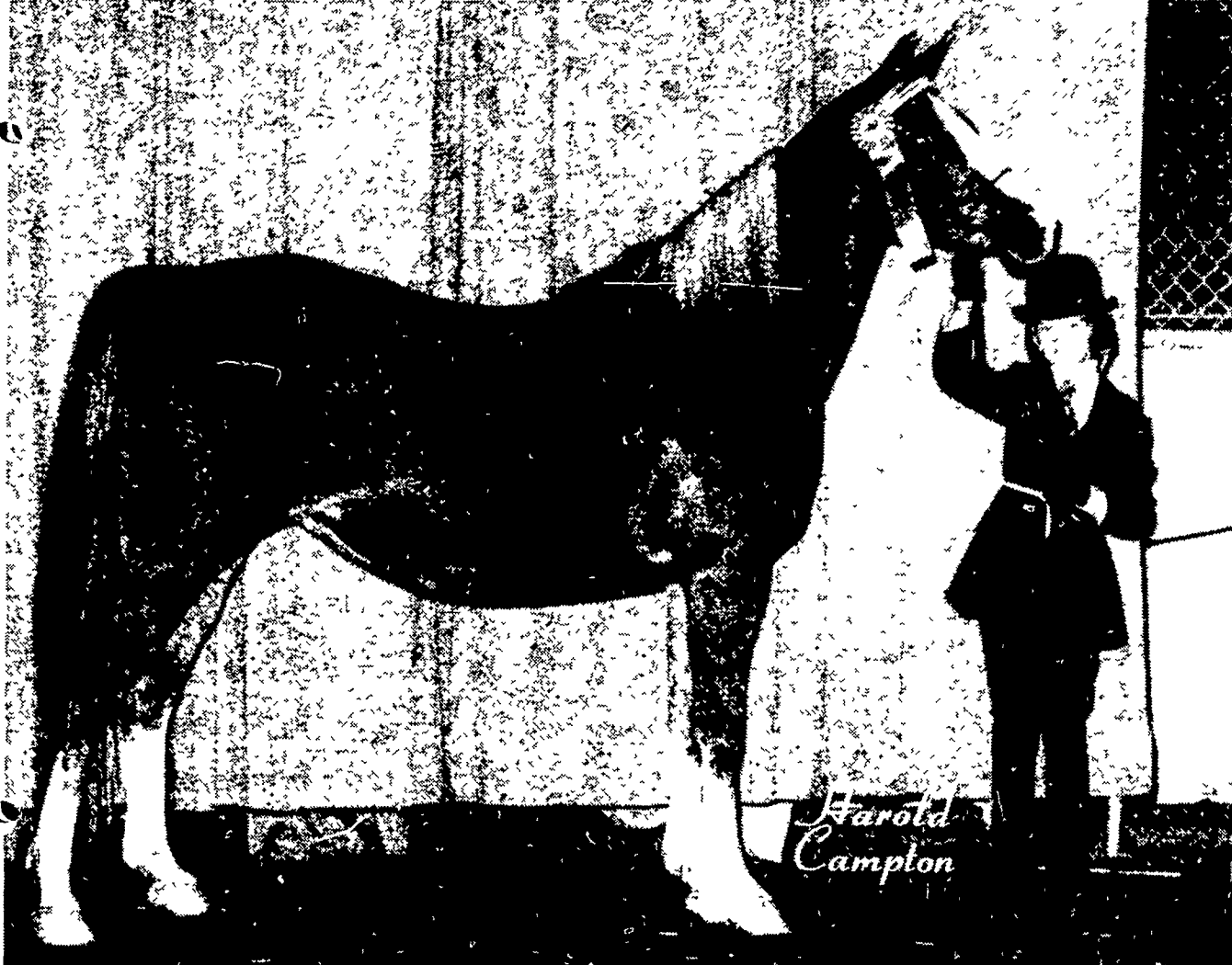
The stable, which is primarily a training operation, also breeds 60 to 90 mares per year with 35 to 38 horses in training. Jim's father, Cecil, serves as advisor to his three sons who are all partners in the business.

With the stable in the northwestern region of Pennsylvania, and the James Brown family in Lebanon, there are quite a few miles which must be logged in a year for them to keep up with business. While Jim's brother Gene lives in Linesville and manages the stable, Jim and Peg commute regularly on weekends.

Taking a rough estimate, Jim figures he logs about 164,000 miles per year in air and land travel. That estimate has added into it mileage for business, horse showing, and judging purposes.

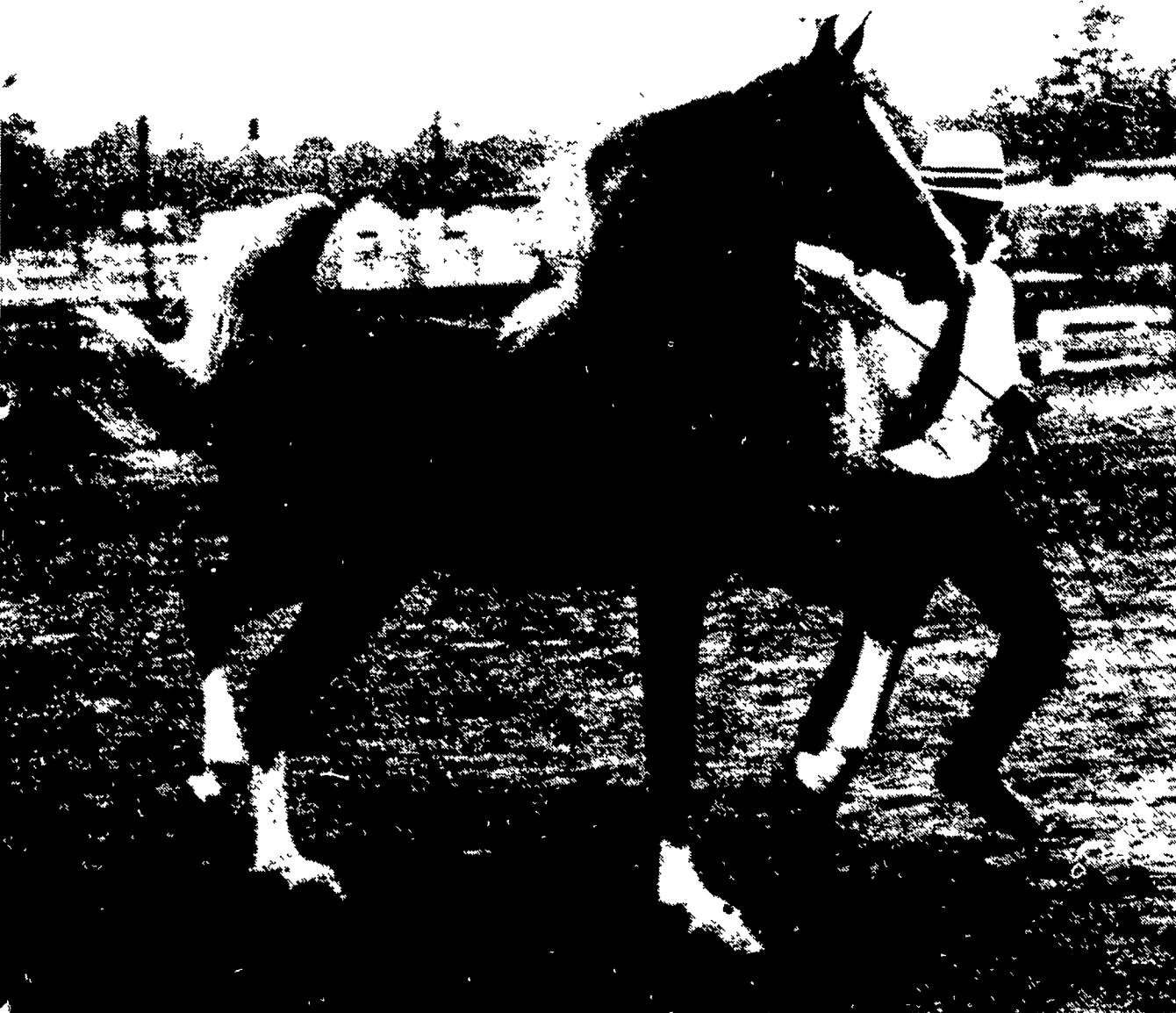
According to Brown, part of the stable's responsibility with training a horse is to show the animal, as well, if the client requests it. Their goal extends one step further than this, however.

"Our ultimate goal is to train our horses so that our customers can participate in the shows," explains Brown. But, this definitely takes a high level of training, and



A horse-loving family through and through, 12-year-old Shelly Brown took first in the state 4-H Arabian Broodmare Production class and first in

the state 4-H Arabian Fillies and Colt class in 1977. She is at the halter of Gamilla.



S.A. Imprint, a two-year-old registered Arabian stallion, took reserve champion two-year-old

honors for Jim Brown at Keystone International Livestock Exposition in November.

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Jim and Peggy Brown trim around the ears of Vigilmore Cavalier, a registered Morgan horse they are training on their Lebanon County farm.

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