

Lined up in the center of the ring, the riders pause to practice their exercises as directed by their instructor, Mrs. Carol Henkel.

Riding lessons used as a therapeutic tool

By KENDACE BERRY
 QUARRYVILLE — When you first see them in the riding ring, concentrating on their form, they look like any other group of youths learning to ride. Their instructor stands in the center, telling them how to sit up straight, put their heels down, and look straight ahead.

But on second glance, a person will notice that these

riders are concentrating harder, and are very intent on what they are doing. The young equestrians are learning to ride through a project of the Easter Seals Society.

Now that Spring is here, each week the Easter Seals Society sends out interested youth to the Hidden Acres Farm, owned by Mr. and Mrs. George Hassler III. Located near Quarryville,

the horse farm offers its horses and facilities for use by the group.

But many helpers are needed for the project for the riders need assistance as they learn to mount, ride, and guide their horses. And parents couldn't fill this role, for many of them know no more of how to handle a horse than their youngsters.

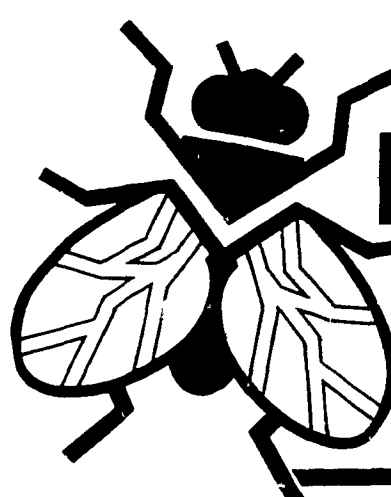
So the Rough Riders Club, headed by leader Mrs.

Mimi Rohrer, has taken on the job of being assistants for the riding class. Mrs. Carol Henkel acts as riding instructor. The riders are taught the equestrian skills, using English hunt seat tack.

"This isn't recreation, it's therapy," explained Mrs. Mary Jane Ferro, assistant instructor and coordinator of the Easter Seals therapeutic horsemanship program. "The riders are here to

improve their coordination and motor skills. These handicapped children are learning to use muscles and move different parts of the

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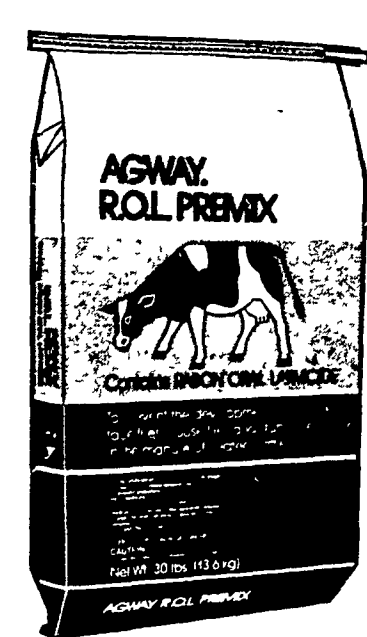


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