

# Leslie Sherman to compete at national



Lynn Sherman, on the left, and Leslie, are starting to work with the newest arrival on the farm. Seen with them, and looking willing to learn is Sahaar, a weanling colt born on the place.

By KENDACE BERRY  
LANCASTER — Leslie Sherman, Lancaster, the 17-year old president of the Broken Bit 4-H Club, has been involved with horses ever since she toddled up to one and had her first ride at age two. She's been in love with them ever since.

The Hempfield High senior now owns a Registered Half-Arabian mare, 11 years old, named Shelka. And from July 31 to August 6, the two of them will be at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center competing in the Arabian and Half-Arabian United States National Championships.

To compete in this event, one must qualify, Leslie explained. By showing in various shows, and winning champion and reserve championship points, one accumulates points. To go to the national competition, a person must have 30 points within that given show year period.

Leslie and her liver chestnut colored mare have managed to accumulate 64 points throughout the past year's show season. The class that they compete in is Half-Arabian Park Horse, with the amateur owner to ride.

The horse that Leslie now proudly calls her own was not always owned by the Shermans. Leslie recalled that she first saw the mare

several years ago, when visiting her aunt in Indiana. It was the first time that Leslie ever saw a show and Shelka won a class while she was watching. That was the day that Leslie fell in love with Arabians and the whole idea of showing horses.

But it wasn't until several years later that the Shermans heard that Shelka was up for sale, and Leslie, remembering the mare, and thinking of her potential, talked her parents into purchasing the animal.

But it was a far different horse that greeted her when Shelka stepped off the ramp ten days later.

"The mare I remembered was a powerful looking mare with big, brown eyes, alert, and in good condition," Leslie recalled. "What I saw was a skinny, worm-bellied, droopy eared, and dull coated skeleton of a horse.

And our veterinarian found that she had an iron deficiency, worms, and was severely anemic. Needless to say, we had our work cut out for us."

The good job that Leslie has performed with Shelka though has been apparent, just from the numerous awards the two have won.

In 1977, Shelka was the Region 15 Champion Half-Arabian Park Horse. Region 15 includes the states of Pennsylvania, Delaware,

Maryland, New Jersey, and Virginia.

Also, during the year of 1977, the team of Shelka and Leslie managed to win 53 first place and championship ribbons. And in 1978, the mare has already been named the Region 16 Champion Half-Arabian Park Horse. Region 16 covers the area of New York and the New England states.

Leslie related that the park class in a horse show is judged on the brilliance of the performance of the horse, at a walk, trot, and canter. Also taken into consideration is the quality of the horse, the confirmation, the manners, and the suitability of the horse to the rider.

"There aren't too many really good park horses," Leslie stated. "They must have natural ability and coordination."

At the national horse show, there will be three judges choosing the top horses among the 50 to 70 animals that are expected to be entered. To even place, Leslie explained, a person must be marked on two out of three of the judges' cards. Then an elimination is held to pick the champion and reserve champion park horse.

And how does Leslie think she will do? "Optimistically, we're hoping for a placing in the top ten," she smiled.

"But then I guess everybody thinks they're horse is good. But I know we'll do our best."

Besides, Shelka, at home she and her sister Lynn, 13, work with four other horses.

Leslie claims that a lot of her skill with the horses comes from her riding instructors, who helped her get to where she is today.

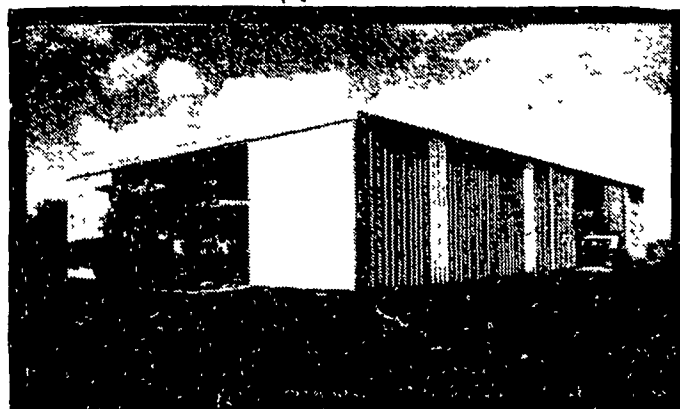
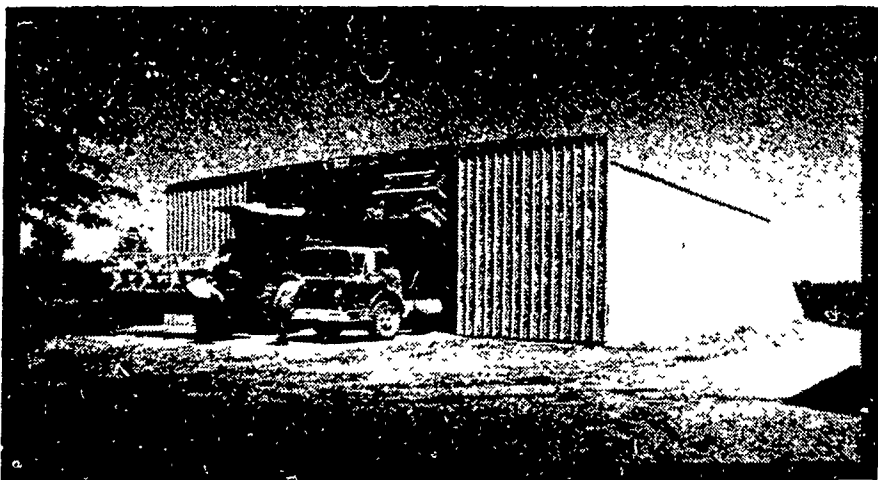
"Without the help of such people as Natalie Immel Kline, Mrs. Richard Dady, and Mrs. Barbara Lauger, I never would have been able to learn everything that I needed to know."

Thinking about the future, Leslie commented, "Horses are my life at the moment. I plan to go to college and study animal husbandry, and I want horses to always be a major part of my life. Somehow, I'm going to find a job that deals with horses."

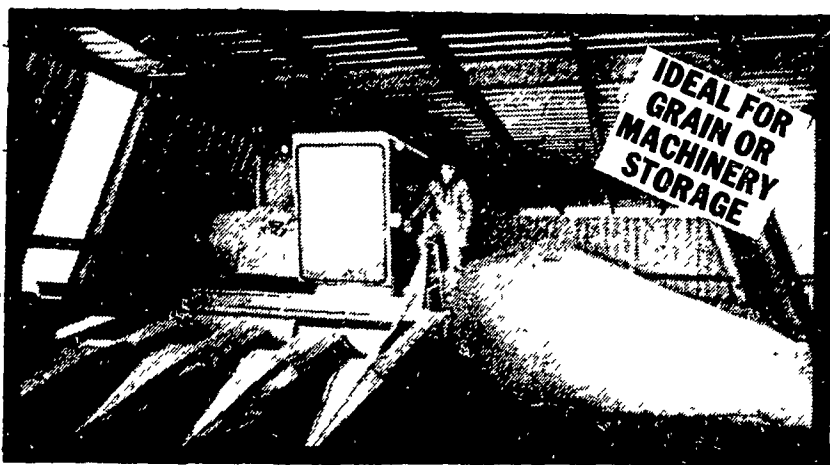
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