

Litman, Decker win horse pulling contests

By KENDACE BORRY
HARRISBURG — Still one of the biggest crowd pleasers at the Pennsylvania Farm Show, the teams of draft horses pulled and strained last Wednesday night to determine which pair of horses could pull the most weight the best distance.

Winner of the lightweight division was Vance Litman, Claysville R3, from Washington County.

He competed with a mixed team, his lead horse Tom, being a six year old grey Percheron, and his offside horse Bob, a five year old sorrel Belgian. The two horses weighed in at 3166 pounds.

He told that the two horses are the only ones he has on the farm, and he uses them at home for light work. This competition was only the second contest in which the two horses had ever pulled together. He stated that he started to prepare and work the horses for this contest in October.

Their winning weight pulled was 9000 pounds, which the team dragged a total of 16 feet, 9 inches.

Litman is a veteran of horse pulling contests at the Farm Show, having had the lightweight champions in

1961, 1962, 1964, 1969, 1975, and 1976. In 1968, he showed both the lightweight and the heavyweight champions in the horse pulling.

Winner in the heavyweight division of the horse pulling was Robert W. Decker, Garrett, Somerset County. This was his first championship in the horse pulling contest.

He used a Belgian team of horses, and related that the two had never pulled in a contest together before.

Having a combined weight of 4600 pounds, his lead horse Buck, a six year old, and the offside horse, Bud, a seven year old, pulled 8500 pounds a total 12 feet, 11 inches, narrowly beating the second placed team by a distance of three inches.

Judge for the event was Paul Wass, Indiana, Pa., who stated that he thought the horse pulling was an "outstanding contest, with some of the top teams in the state competing." Although he noted that winners and losers were chosen throughout the evening's performance, he thought that all teams were winners in one of the finest contests he had judged.

Second place in the lightweight division went to

Al Dodge, Jr., Little Meadows R1; third was awarded to Delbert Iseman, Cherry Tree; fourth place went to Tom Brown, Stahlstown; and fifth was taken by the Campbell Brothers, West Sunbury R2.

In the heavyweight division, Leo H. Zandi, Sheffield, took second place; Stan Lepley and Son, Meyersdale R4, placed third; Lynn Wagner, Jersey Shore R4, received fourth;

and Al Dodge, Jr. placed fifth.

A new event was added to the Farm Show this year, Pony Pulling, which took place on Thursday night in the big arena.

The contest was divided in

three categories, determined by the weight of the ponies.

Winner of the lightweight division was W. G. Braden, Springboro R2; second place went to Bill Howard, Jr.,

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Robert W. Decker's team, which had never competed as a pair before, won the heavyweight

division of the horse pulling contest at the Farm Show.

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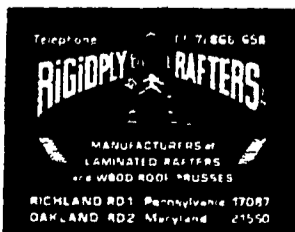
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