

Valley Animal Hospital team joins LF

BY SHEILA MILLER
LITTTZ — Beginning with the first issue of LANCASTER FARMING in the new year and decade a new weekly column will debut, Ask the VMD. This column will feature the expertise of three local veterinarians, Leon S. Riegel, VMD; C. Edgar Sheaffer, VMD; and Timothy P. Trayer, VMD.

Each week, the Valley Animal Hospital doctors will be answering a question on animal health and care. This column will deal with specific situations and concerns of LANCASTER FARMING readers.

The column will be designed to be educational and informative. Of course, it will not be able to answer questions that require diagnosis or emergency treatment. For those critical situations, it is essential to call for veterinary assistance as quickly as possible.

The Valley Animal Hospital team has been in the Palmyra area for over ten years. It was started in 1967 when Dr. Riegel went into practice with Dr. Henry Hanshaw Riegel was joined by Dr. Sheaffer in 1970 and in 1973, Dr. Riegel purchased the practice. Just this past year the duo became a trio when Dr. Trayer joined the staff.

Dr. Riegel is originally

from Hellertown in Lehigh County. He attended Penn State for five years and received his Bachelor of Science Degree. After graduation, he was accepted into the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine where he earned his VMD.

Riegel presently resides on a small 8.5 acre farm where he raises truck crops. He is married to the former Nancy Boyer of Reading, and they have two children, Alicia, 8, and Ludor "Dorie", 3. He is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association, and the Conestoga Veterinary Association of Lancaster County. He enjoys wood-working and gardening when relaxing in his "spare" time.

Hours of leisure in a veterinarian's life are few and far between. Dr. Trayer, the youngest of the trio, said that there are weeks when the average time he spends working is eighty to one hundred hours. The vets see each other in the office for about ten minutes in the morning while they share case information and determine client scheduling in between answering telephone calls and seeing office patients.

They keep in touch while on calls with CB radios.

Their vans are their supply rooms and hospitals in wheels.

Dr. Trayer is adjusting to the hectic schedule and life of a veterinarian since he graduated from Ohio State's School of Veterinary Medicine this past June. He was very impressed with the cordial atmosphere of the hospital and its clients.

"The farmers have made it easier for me," said Trayer. He also noted that he was pleasantly surprised with the amount of swine work in the area.

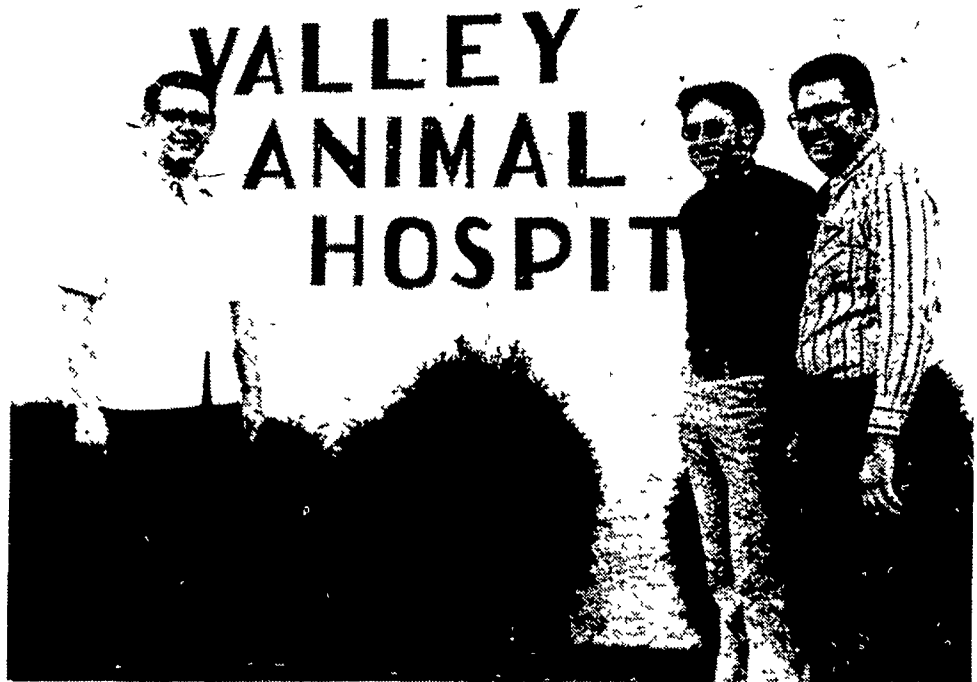
Since he has gotten out of school, Trayer said that he is constantly amazed at the healing ability of animals. He told of a recent case where a horse had a 7 inch by 9 inch cut, inflicted by a barbed wire fence.

"We couldn't do anything to the cut because it was around the horse's throat and it was too big a gash. The horse couldn't even be restrained," Trayer said. In two months, the horse has healed itself, and only a white scar remains where the cut had gaped. The horse did what stitches couldn't, in this case, with the owner keeping the wound flushed and clean.

Trayer is originally from Hershey and graduated from Hershey High School in 1971. While a student there, he was a three year letterman on the Trojans track and cross country team. He also participated in chorus and orchestra.

He left Hershey and travelled to Ohio to attend Wilmington College, an accredited agricultural school. Trayer stated that he became interested in veterinary medicine only after he started his college education.

The young vet is not at a loss on the farm, having grown up on a general farm



The Valley Animal Hospital trio is looking forward to helping LANCASTER FARMING readers answer questions on livestock health problems. Watch for their column, Ask the VMD, in next week's issue.

where they raised cows and sheep along with cash crops. He is the hospital's resident swine specialist, along with his other general practitioner duties.

Trayer is married to the former Debby Brock, from Ohio. He is a member of PVMA, AVMA, American Association of Bovine Practitioners, American Association of Swine Practitioners, and the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association. The Trayer's presently reside in Hummelstown.

Dr. Sheaffer, the third member of the team, described his life as a veterinarian as exciting but chaotic. There are times when the work goes on into the night.

The hospital takes care of all the shows in the Farm Show Complex except the All-American Dairy Show. They are on duty 24 hours around the clock during the

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Dr. Sheaffer discusses an urgent health problem with a farmer early in the morning. He gives the farmer instructions on what he should do until he arrives.



Dr. Riegel inventories the supply room. He says that farmers are more concerned in knowing what's wrong with a sick animal now that when he first started his practice 12 years ago.

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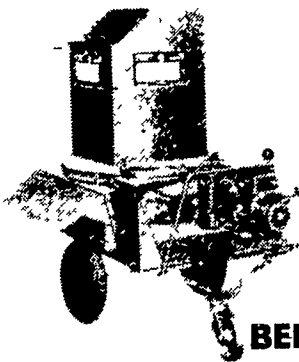


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