



This rig can be seen traveling the Harrisburg Pike whenever schedules are too tight to allow the 45 minute ride into Lancaster or at night when the ride becomes dangerous.

Horse Patrol

(Continued from Page C23)

of a third possible reason, unsoundness.

Fiber and Danger were donated by Mr. and Mrs. Norman Crouse, Dr. C. Deans Crystle donated Red, and Symbol Acres Farm donated Riley.

In addition to donations for the horses, Pennfield has donated feed for the animals, and the housings used on the horses were made and donated by Dombach Awnings.

When the department priced the saddlebags the officers needed, they received prices upward of \$40. With a little ingenuity, the officers purchased the skins, tools and needles necessary to do the job and made their own saddle bags for a net cost of approximately half that amount.

The blue vinyl coated

nylon bridles were purchased out of money donated for the mounted patrol. The nylon was chosen, Deibert explained, because it withstood the constant use with less care, and because it is extremely difficult to cut or tear.

The saddles the officers use were donated by a service club, and are semi-military English saddles.

And the hay for the horses is purchased from donated funds.

In addition, the local board of veterinary practice has donated a supply of medication to the unit that it anticipates will be needed during the year.

The horses, 1 chestnut and 3 bays will each receive routine parasite medications as well as a yearly Coggins test, shots for encephalitis and possibly even a rabies shot.

The officers noted that one of the things that they could still use is fencing for the lot in back of the stables. If this area were fenced, the officers would be able to turn the horses out for some additional exercise in the summer.

The equipment for the patrol is housed in a converted garage adjacent to the petting zoo. There with leftover and recycled materials, the department has created a tidy area where the tack is hung over wooden saddle horses cleanly and neatly.

After the initial grooming and stable chores, the officers change into their uniforms and either tack up their horses and ride into town—a 45 minute trek—or load their mounts and trailer the horses to headquarters.

The ride in is along the busy Harrisburg Pike, and while most places the side berms are wide enough to accomplish this without undue risk, two areas are particularly troublesome to the officers. The first is the small bridge not too far from the park, and the second is the underpass a little farther in the road. The underpass, Deibert said, he tries to take when the road is free of oncoming traffic. He noted that Riley prefers to walk down the middle of the road going under the pass, and that while he could always ride to the middle of the road and stop traffic, he prefers to wait until there are no cars in sight.

The officers carry in their saddle bags all the gear they

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The stalls in the petting zoo barn were built by the combined efforts of a city carpenter and students from the local vo-tech.

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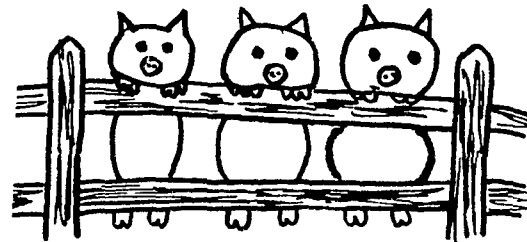
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