

Horse Patrol

(Continued from Page C25)

meant enduring the loud noises of firecrackers which were thrown to simulate shots. Balloons and flags were used to make the horses safe for pedestrians and their riders when exposed to strange noises on the street.

The impulsive moves of children have been anticipated in the training as well. Each patrolman was required to train the horse to stand quietly while he crawled under its stomach. In this way the animal becomes accustomed to the small child's unpredictable moves.

Lunch stops at the same pace every day are avoided that the horses do not learn a routine and follow it automatically.

A few problems presented themselves to the new patrolmen. The horses did not like walking over the white lines which designate street crossings. In addition, they are reluctant to step over manhole covers and construction guards. The officers when possible try to avoid asking the horses to step on these hazards as a precaution against leg injuries.

The horses have become a popular addition in downtown Lancaster, according to the patrolmen. And there are numerous businesses which have volunteered to provide watering spots for the animals. Each officer gives his animal a rest by hourly dismounting and briefly loosening the girth.

Parking meters, they noted, make perfect tie-up spots.

One question often asked is that of waste disposal. They noted that when a sidewalk is soiled, they simply call the city cleanup crew. They chuckled that those little trees downtown are going to be very large next year.

The horses are generally ridden at a walk, and are only rarely required to trot or canter.

The officers when questioned expressed enthusiasm for the chance to participate in exhibition drills with other city police departments. But they noted that Lancaster has only three mounted patrolmen, and that most teams require 5 participants.

Public acceptance and the work that these three officers do will largely determine the size and fate of the police patrol in the future. One thing is certain. In an era when many police departments are battling negative public image, and downtown Lancaster is up to its ears in revitalization, the new mounted patrol may be for both the police department and the city of Lancaster the best public relations move yet.

LEESPORT — Wednesday, April 30, is the deadline for Berks County farmers to appeal yield allotments to the ASC Committee.

Farmers have only 15 days after mailing of the ASCS 476, "Notice of Yields and Normal Crop Acreage," to appeal, according to Mark S. Balthaser, chairman of the Berks County ASC Committee.

Some farmers may feel established yields are low for their farm so they are welcome to provide facts and figures to prove a higher yield, according to Balthaser.

Although the 1980 Wheat and Feed Grain Program provides no set-aside requirement (and no additional voluntary diversion will be accepted) yields are very important for any farmer wanting to report their acreage and make themselves eligible for the 1980 program.

In the event of disaster, yields would be needed to figure losses. In the event of

Berks ASC deadline Wednesday

low prices, target prices could earn farmers deficiency payments. The acreage yields determine the number of bushels for possible earnings, Balthaser said.

After requesting the Berks County ASC Committee to

allow the farmer to prove his yields, the farmer then has 30 days to furnish the production data. Beginning with the 1980 proven yields, if any yield in the base period (the three years immediately preceding the current year) is adversely

affected by a natural disaster or conditions beyond the producer's control, the Berks County ASC Committee may adjust the yield for the particular year up to 80 percent of the current year's established yield, Mr. Balthaser said.

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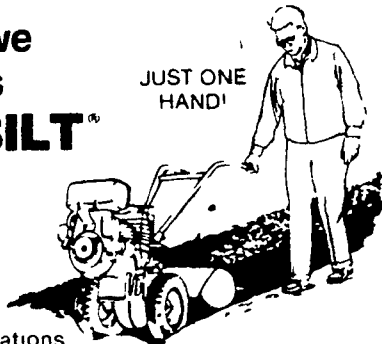
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