Lancaster Farming, Saturday, July 26, 1980-C29

Mini horses are big celebrities

(Continued from Page C28) in importing some to their

Pennsylvania farm. Now, those original Falabellas are 12 years old, and have helped increase the herd size through the breeding program at Gettysburg.

Schadel explained that getting a stallion from the Falabellas was almost impossible, but after some

purchase a stallion by the name of Don Franco. Imported in 1974, this brown and white Paint miniature has sired 22 foals at the Gettysburg Farm, 15 of which are a spitting image of thear father.

Ail the colts born at Gettysburg carry with them a part of Garula's life as a Merchant Marine. Each of their names are prefixed with the word Sea, like Sea

Star who at 8 pounds was the smallest foal born at the farm. Still at the farm, this three-year-old colt has joined the other stallions in the breeding barn.

The fillies, on the other hand, are given simple, feminine names, like Julie, Maria, Princess and Martino.

Just this past year, Schadel said, the farm imported some new horses

from the Falabellas in order to introduce some new bloodlines. These horses arrived at the farm this Spring, wearing heavy winter hair coats (the seasons are reversed in Argentina), she explained. They were quickly manicured and given a full body clip to rid them of their 3-inch long hair. Now they were ready to face the public.

One of the new arrivals that Schadel is extremely excited about is the new Appaloosa stallion.

'He's special," she said, pointing to four marks that look like smudged finger prints on his side. "Indian legend has it that any Appaloosa with finger markings has been touched by God and is sacred. Only chiefs and warriors could ride them - they were said to be good luck."

Out of all the horses at the Gettysburg farm, only four have remained less than 30 inches as mature adults ---two of them were bred by Garula's private cor-poration. These registered horses represent miniatures of many breeds, including Thoroughbreds, Arabians, Appaloosas, Pintos, Albinos, Buckskins, Clydesdales, and Quarter Horses.

According to Schadel, the horses under 30 inches high are used primarily as pets. But, the slightly larger miniatures are used to give saddle rides and pull carts.

"The miniatures that weigh about 175 pounds can carry kids that weigh up to about 60 pounds and can pull three kids in a cart," she said. "That's the size miniature the Falabellas bred for they wanted a horse that was just the right size for kids."

Schadel claims the gait of the miniatures is more like a normal size horse's gast then is a pony's. She said Lord Philip Mountbatten, the Duke of Edinburgh (recently assassinated during IRA conflicts) used Falabella horses for teaching the children in his royal court the fine art of horsemanship.

Anyone wanting to own one of the unique miniature horses has to hurdle some

time, Garula managed to

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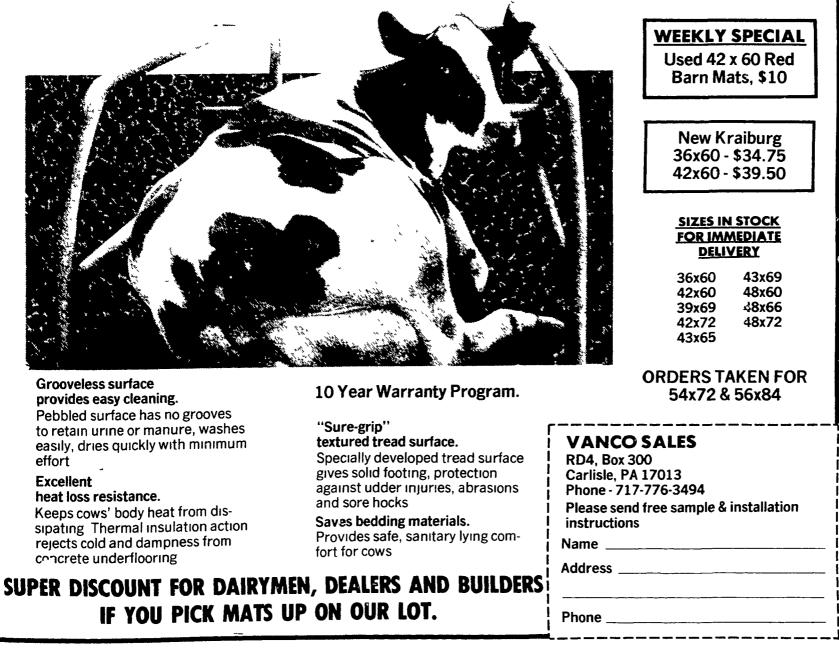
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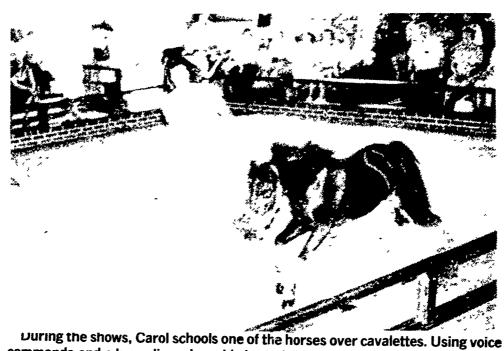
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commands and a lunge line, she said she trains the horses from the ground just

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