

Wild mustangs run "free" on Maryland farm

BY SHEILA MILLER
DAMASCUS, Md. — When young children dream about the wild West, pictures of cattle drives and cowboys, buffalo and Indians stampede through their minds. And, not to be forgotten in any little one's imagination are the herds of wild horses galloping proudly across the open plains.

Millard A. Oland, now 65 years old, had a dream of wild mustangs that became a reality six years ago. In 1974, this Maryland farmer and landscaper became the first Easterner to bring the wild mustangs home.

According to Oland, his interest in the wild horses was spurred by the controversial slaughter of the equines that took place in the early 1970's.

"I got upset when I heard over the radio and read in the papers about how people were running the horses over cliffs and selling the carcasses for dog meat," Oland explained. "Although I didn't do a whole lot to stop it

... I did a little. I just didn't want to see them destroyed."

His "little" effort was adopting and caring for three mustang mares and a stallion. Oland recalled how he contacted his congressman who got him in touch with the Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management, the Adopt-A-Horse program administrators.

Then in October of 1974, he received word that his horses could be picked up in Burns, Oregon. They had been gathered in the first wild horse roundup conducted in the Kiger Gorge area in southwestern Oregon.

His son and business partner, Dorcy, flew out for the horses and trucked them back to the 135 acre Damascus farm.

Oland remembered the horses as being "skin and bones" when they arrived at the farm. Other than that, they looked like any other horse — but wild.

In order to put some flesh on their ribs, Oland said he tried to feed them grain during that first winter. "They wouldn't touch the stuff — they didn't know what grain was. They also wouldn't eat hay at first."

Now the horses have learned to munch hay when forage is scarce or covered with snow. They feed side-by-side with Oland's commercial cattle herd with whom they share the pasture. The easy-keepers have grown "fat as butterballs" just on pasture, Oland pointed out.

What does Oland do with his wild horses? "Nothing ... I never did nothing with them. They're still wild."

Since they arrived on the Oland farm in 1974, the horses have been allowed to roam and retain their wild spirit. Even the foals are allowed to remain "free" until they are given away to good homes.

Of the four original mustangs that were trucked East, only one remains on

the farm, explained Oland. Just this past summer, one of the mares was killed by lightning and the original stallion was given to another farm near Frostburg, Maryland.

To replace the transferred stallion, Oland said he arranged to get another mustang stud through BLM. About two years ago, the white stallion that now runs with his mares arrived.

Oland said his interest in horses began when he worked with the draft teams on his family's farm near Brookville. "I had a show team of Percherons then," he recalled. "I always liked horses — I still do."

But now, said Oland, he has to be happy just looking at them. A smile crossed his face as he mentioned the two-week-old foal he checks on every day.

"It's a sorrel colt out of the original bay mare. The first time I saw it I thought it was

(Turn to Page C39)



Curiously scenting the air, the new born foal stays next to Mom and stretches his growing muscles. Safe on the Oland farm, the colt no longer needs to depend on his speedy, spindly legs for survival as did his dam who was born in the wild.

FARMERS' FRIEND BARN BOOT



For active farmers Rugged barnyard acid resistant uppers for extra long wear on hardworking feet. Come try on a pair

NO. 565

Width	A	B	C	D	E	EE	EEEE
Size	10-14	8-15	7½-14	6-16	6½-13	6½-13	6½-13



WAYNE'S DRY GOODS

HOURS Daily 8:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. Friday 11:00 P.M.

271 W MAIN STREET KUTZTOWN, PA PH (215) 683-7686

SAVE ENERGY

WITH
mfs REDEX
Continuous Flow GRAIN DRYER

7 Models
5,000 to 20,000 Bu/Day

★ **DESIGN EFFICIENT**

Enclosed Air System
Weather Shielded
Interlock Safety Controls

★ **MORE FUEL EFFICIENT**

Vaporizer *
Burner
Modulating Valve
Low Temp Drying

★ **OPERATIONAL EFFICIENT**

Automatic Moisture Control
Aux Auger Hook-up
Dual Fuel (LP and NG)
Portable

mfs Equipment Available
 Augers Storage Bins Wet Holding Bins Legs Bin
 Loading and Unloading Equipment Aeration Equipment

* Optional RX30 Model

DONALD E. LICHTENWALNER & SON
 R.D. 2, Macungie, Pa.
 Phone 215/965-5214

L14-779



MEYER'S Forage Boxes

● Check Our Quality

● Check Our Price

You will find quality is not always expensive — in fact, you will find that MEYER'S Forage Boxes are the best buy on the market today!

Model 1800 wood frame

GEO. V. SEIPLE & SON

R.F.D. No. 2, Van Buren Road,
 Easton, PA 18042
 Phone 215-258-7146