

Horse Lover

(Continued from Page B2)

When Ned was offered a job transfer to Lancaster County, they searched until they found a place that would be suitable for the business Donna was already involved in. They traded an 80-acre farm for the six acres they now have.

They've been in the area for three years, and Donna says, "It's difficult to get established. The horse industry is very competitive and we had no friends or family."

She says traveling to shows has found her many friends and contacts, and she knows five horse owners within one half mile of her home.

"With horses you get to meet people with horses," Donna says.

Now she is boarding five horses and has 10 students, ranging in age from eight to "grandfathers." Most of the students are simply learning to ride for pleasure, but Donna says she would like to encourage students to get into showing.

She also tries to be realistic with her students.

"You have to be devoted to it. It's a lot of hard work," she says. She stresses safety to the students,

and gives them ground lessons as well, where they learn to groom and tack up.

"It's really important to learn to care for the horse," she explains.

She says that the tack is really important, and adds, "Your life depends on it. I think you should get the best you can."

"I tell my students that they are not riding a saddle, they are riding a horse," Donna says. She feels students younger than eight cannot understand the importance of the legs and weight in riding.

"You have to have control of your own body to control a horse's body. You have to concentrate and pay attention," she says.

She feels children and horses are a natural combination.

"My philosophy about children and horses is that when I started working and buying things for the horse I never had time to get into trouble," Donna says. "Children need some kind of direction."

She was thrilled when one of her students wrote a book about the different breeds of horses and dedicated it to her. That helps her feel she is having an impact on the

students.

Last year Donna spent some time helping with the 4-H Therapeutic Riding program.

"I got a big kick out of seeing those kids ride," Donna says. "We take so much for granted. It is nice to see their progress."

Donna is very particular about the barn and how it looks. She and Ned took stanchions out to make the barn suitable for horses, and she says, "The first impression is so important. It is a reflection of how you care for your horses. I keep it clean and safe. I run a tight ship - sometimes I think the barn is cleaner than the house."

That attitude does reflect on her attitude toward her horses.

"When babies are due, I sleep in the barn," Donna says. "It is wise to be present and we have a cot here."

One future goal is to breed registered mares and sell the offspring. Asked about the market for horses, Donna says realistically, "It depends upon what you have to sell and what people are looking for. This is a good horse area because it is so close to cities and

even people from the south come."

Much of Donna's experience has come from practical work. "I learned and earned," she says. Most recently she worked in training and rehabilitating thoroughbred race horses, and states, "It helped me a lot. I gained a lot of valuable experience."

She also reads breed magazines and periodicals, and she is very knowledgeable about bloodlines.

"What I like about horses is that each is an individual and there are so many different facets to each. There is so much to learn," Donna says.

Her love of horses is reflected throughout the house, which features her miniature horse collection, begun as a child when she asked for a horse every year for Christmas. There are also needlework horses and pictures of horses. A prized possession is her first horse, a rocking horse which Donna got when she was two.

Building the indoor arena was an important step in Donna's horse work, but it was not one she had contemplated for a long time.

"The spring weather pushed me

over the brink," Donna says. The poles were set on Memorial Day and then, "We worked on it every spare moment. I would work on it after lessons." While she didn't relish some of the high work required, Donna reasons, "It had to be done. I didn't look down."

Looking down may have been a problem, but looking out wasn't because the view from the indoor arena is spectacular, with a long view of northern Lancaster County's rolling hills. Donna also became grateful for the perseverance in completing the building because it afforded shade from the relentless sun during the summer, and the hillside location brought cooling breezes as she worked the horses.

While Donna plans to continue with her own riding, and giving lessons, she says, "I would really like to train."

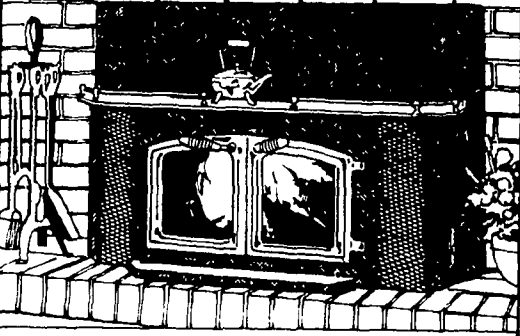
With the arena completed, lessons underway and the possibility of additional boarding space, it seems that Donna is on her way to doing just that. Her determination has clearly paid off, and will help her realize a lifelong ambition.

Woodcraft Shop
 CUSTOM BUILT KITCHEN CABINETS DESIGNED TO SUIT YOUR SPECIFIC NEED
 RAISED PANEL DOORS



IVAN FISHER
 98 LOOP RD.
 QUARRYVILLE, PA. 17566
 FREE ESTIMATES
 DROP US A CARD AND WE WILL CALL YOU

The best way to beat heating bills



Elmiria Stove Works The fireplace insert that's worth its weight in fuel savings gold now has 24KT doors to match

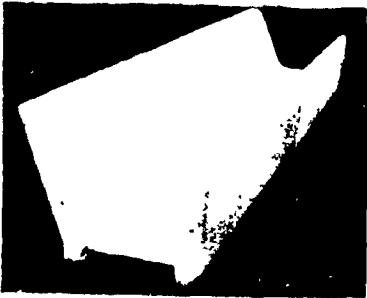
- Airtight design uses 2/3 less wood than an open fireplace
- 3 speed blower delivers up to 85,000 BTU's per hour
- Guaranteed never to tarnish 24KT gold plated doors.
- Large Corning Pyroceram windows for full fire view
- Unique air washed glass keep windows clean and clear
- Large cooking surface

AUTHORIZED DEALER:
LEACOCK COLEMAN CENTER
 89 Old Leacock Rd., RD1, Ronks, PA
 STORE HOURS: Mon. thru Sat - 8 to 5:
 Tues. & Fri. till 8:30


The Concrete Choice of Farmers for 21 Years
SMITH CATTLEGUARD® Farm Products



The Smith Cattleguard - No. 1 in the country. Save the time and energy of opening and closing gates.




Fenceline Feed Bunk - Smooth surface, rounded corners for less waste



Centerline Feed Bunk - Adaptable to all types of overhead feeding systems



Stock Tanks - Approved by Soil Conservation Service for a clean, reliable water supply



Freeze-Proof Waterer - No outside source of energy required to keep water ice-free, even in sub-zero temperatures

All products feature:

- Durable Precast Concrete
- Steel Reinforcement
- Simple Installation
- Low Maintenance
- High Quality

All products available from stock

12 Ft. Cattleguard	\$395
14 Ft. Cattleguard	\$425
16 Ft. Cattleguard	\$450
Freeze-Proof Waterer	\$250

F.O.B. Plant

Licensed by EAST-SEI Industries

Please send me free information on

Cattleguards Feed Bunks Freeze Proof Waterers Stock Tanks LF 10/1/83

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

CONCRETE SAFETY SYSTEMS™

Route 1095 Bethel, Pa. 19507 (717) 933-4107