

Buyers find 'the real thing' in horsepower

BY MONTIE TAK
Special Correspondent

HARRISBURG — With some people, horse power — the vintage kind — is still in vogue.

Farmers who prefer the feel of leather lines in their hands instead of steering wheels. Those who raise the oats to feed the teams who work the earth to feed the families. People who feel there's not much a man and a good team can't get done.

So when the auto show, the boat show and the motocross championship are merely memories in the Farm Show Complex, then the Pennsylvania Draft Horse and Mule Association holds its annual sale. On February 20, the fifth annual sale was underway, with auctioneers Steve Andrews and Dennis L. Brownawell presiding.

"There was good demand for teams and broke horses," says Elmer D. Lapp, Association chairman. He noted there were a number of buyers from Maryland, New York, Virginia, Connecticut and West Virginia as well as Pennsylvania. They vied in the bidding for the 53 draft horses who were sold for an average \$550.

Top price of the sale was \$1500 for the Belgian mare, "Windy Willow Katie," consigned by Ezra

Kanegy, Belleville, Pa., and purchased by John Rhodes, Alexandria, Pa. Top selling lion was "Conqueror Supreme Flash," sold by Donald and Janice Ruhl of Manheim to Franklin Harkins, Forest Hills, Md., for \$1150.

High priced gelding of the sale was "Dick," a three-year old Belgian consigned by Elmer Lapp, Kinzers, Pa., and bought by Daniel Dienner of Gap for \$1000. The top selling team was a pair of Belgian mares, "Polly" and "Nell," purchased by Ivan K. Stoltzfus of Narvon for \$2300 from Tom Stayer, Allegheny, New York. No mules were consigned to the sale.

"Only a few of the horses were grade horses," says Lapp. "The rest were registered. I didn't feel the sale averaged too badly." He noted tack sold well, with good used collars in demand. "People were also hunting good used harnesses but there weren't too many complete sets there."

One item Lapp did not anticipate seeing pass through the sales ring was a 36 year old photograph of himself driving a hitch of six Belgians pulling a Conestoga wagon. The photograph has been taken when Lapp drove the team from Lancaster to Wheeling, West



The top-selling team was a pair of Belgian mares, Polly and Nell, consigned by Tom Stayer, Allegheny, NY.

Virginia to commemorate the 200-year anniversary of the making of the Conestoga wagon. "We even had bells on the horses," remembers Lapp. "And we had

over 3000 letters in mail bags in the wagon. Each one had a special stamp on it, too."

He says during the journey, he and the Belgians spent a week in

the Pittsburgh area visiting different schools. For part of the trip, he drove 97 miles on U.S. Route 40. "That used to be an old Conestoga wagon trail," he notes. "That was all history."

Belgians have been central in Jacob L. Kanagy's life, too. He says he has been raising Belgians all his life as his father did. Kanagy also raises Morgan horses but uses them for road work since he has enough Belgians for draft use.

"I'd rather walk behind a team

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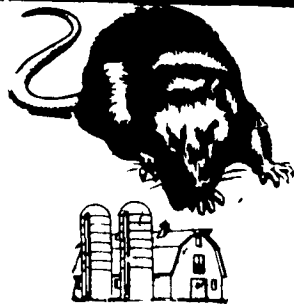
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