

Kids' Korner

Miniature Horse Racing Is Growing Attraction

BETH MILLER

**Cumberland Correspondent
NEW BLOOMFIELD (Perry Co.)** — Mister Lee may be small, but he certainly is fast.

Mister Lee, a miniature horse owned by Rosalie Boyer of New Bloomfield, is so fast, in fact, that he may end up being one of the stars in the growing sport of miniature horse racing.

"The more people clap, the faster he runs," said Ed Fach, Mister Lee's driver.

Boyer, who also breeds miniature horses, said Mister Lee really showed his potential on Aug. 8, 1993, at Falabella Downs in Gettysburg.

He ran the fastest time ever for a miniature horse under 34 inches by trotting over the quarter-mile track in 1 minute, 21.39 seconds while pulling Fach behind him in a small two-wheeled cart.

Boyer said she hopes Mister Lee sets some more records this year. She also hopes her horse will help build more interest in the sport of miniature horse racing.

That interest slowly has been

growing since the International Miniature Trotting and Pacing Association was begun in October 1992, Boyer said. She said one of her main goals right now is to form a chapter of that association in Pennsylvania.

Other states that already have miniature horse racing clubs are Florida, North Carolina, Texas, and Virginia, Boyer said.

To build interest in the sport in Pennsylvania, Boyer is trying to get more tracks in the state and this area sanctioned for miniature horse racing.

Boyer said her interest in miniature horses came years after she already had been interested in full-size horses.

"I've been around horses since I was 17, riding just for fun," she said. "My husband and I would buy quarter horses, keep them for a while, then sell them."

Today, Boyer has seven registered miniature horses. They include Mister Lee's mother, two of his full sisters, and a half-sister.

She said she started dealing with miniature horses in 1987, when she bought her first pair.

Boyer said she bought them just because she liked them.

Mister Lee is the only one of her miniature horses that she has raced. She had decided to race the four-year-old stallion because she didn't need him for breeding.

Her first year of racing last year was a real trial and error experience, Boyer said, but she and Fach had a lot of fun learning the basics, including the best system of harnesses to use.

All that improvising paid off, however, she said. She hopes the experience she gained last year will pay off some more this year since she has Mister Lee entered in a stakes race in Florida.

The racing season, which begins in May, could be pretty busy this year, if she is able to get more area tracks sanctioned for races.

In any case, Boyer said she plans to enjoy Mister Lee, even if it's just by practicing at tracks like the one at the Newport Fairgrounds or by showing him in local parades, where she plans to have him pull a miniature stagecoach.



Owner, Rosalie Boyer and Driver, Ed Fach get Mister Lee hitched up for the first time this season.



Mister Lee practicing for the first time this year at the Newport track.

Farm Safety 4 Just Kids

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Parents are you concerned that 8,000 kids under age 14 die each year from preventable accidents?

Instead of saying, "Isn't that a shame," which doesn't remedy the situation, learn ways to prevent accidents.

Farm Safety 4 Just Kids in Lancaster County is holding a safety session at the Farm and Home

Center on July 11, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Sherry Burgers, program director for the national Farm Safety 4 Just Kids, will be the speaker.

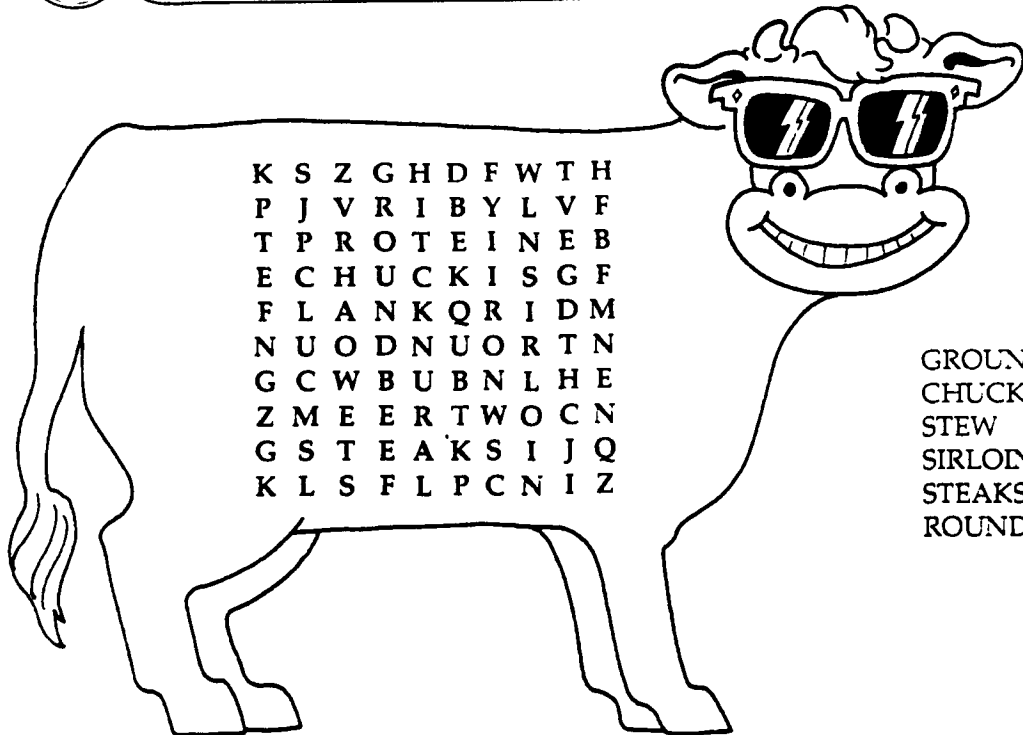
Dr. Albert Price, who heads the Lancaster Chapter, said, "If a disease came along that affected one in four children, we would spare no expense to find a cure and be quick about it."

Price is distressed that so few parents attend these type of meetings, which are held to raise safety awareness and educate parents about safety precautions. Discussion is also being held about developing a safety camp for children. This meeting is for any adult who cares about kids. There are no fees to join and you do not need to be a health professional.

For more information on Farm Safety 4 Just Kids, write or call Dr. Price, Roseville Pediatrics, Lancaster (717) 569-6481.



WORD SEARCH



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