

# National Belgian Hitch Coming To New Holland, Points West

(Continued from Page A18)

(the horses felt it first!), surviving a brief but hair-raising runaway in New Mexico, when a dog chased a pet rabbit under the team during a local parade, being struck by 85-mph tornado-like winds at a Kansas campsite, and narrowly dodging several rattlesnakes that struck at the horses along a rural road in Colorado.

But mostly, the Helmuths say, they experienced "miles of smiles."

**Thousands Came to Route**

"The trip proved to be a great experience not only for the crew, but for the many subscribers to our

company's magazines," says publisher Roy Reiman. "They feel a real sense of ownership with this hitch, and they thronged to the pre-set route all across the country.

"You could tell they were pleased and proud of their horses, and it gave us a chance to 'give something back' to them for their support and do something for thousands of senior citizens at senior centers and nursing homes at the same time. When you saw what it meant to people—especially seniors—to meet and pet this team, it made your heart swell."

The horses are now headquartered at Paradise Acres Farm near Nashua, Iowa—a town already famous for the Little Brown Church in the Vale. The farm is owned by the Helmuths; David and Vikki were married during the cross-country trip at Sugarcreek, Ohio on August 14, 1993.

During their appearance in New Holland the Helmuths will chat with the crowd about their one-of-a-kind honeymoon trip (how many newlyweds take a 16-month, 3,800-mile trip on a wagon looking over the backs of six Belgians?), answer questions

about the horses and autograph copies of the book and video covering the trip.

Souvenir items relating to the hitch are available at each appearance, with part of the profits going to benefit seniors. As an example, the sales to date have funded a free subscription of Reminisce magazine to more than 8,000 senior centers in the U.S. Each issue sent to these centers is accompanied by a "lesson plan" to help the activity director conduct a series of "Reminisce Hours" for the residents.

**Parade Through Town?**

"We're looking forward to seeing a lot of folks in New Holland," says Helmuth. "It'll give subscribers in the area a chance to see their hitch, and give us a chance to hand each subscriber family a Christmas gift of a free cookbook."

Two notes regarding this gift:

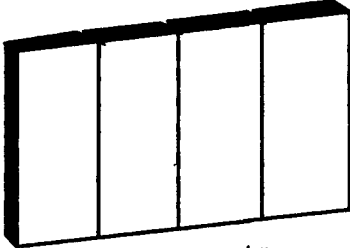
(1) to qualify for the free book, subscribers are advised to bring a mailing label or a recent issue of any of the company's magazines to verify their subscription. (2) Only one book will be given to each subscriber family, even if the family subscribes to more than one of the company's magazines.

The time-slot for viewing the horses and visiting the "hitch book mobile" for the free book and bargain books is from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 2 & 3.

If the weather and facilities permit, Helmuth and his crew will hitch up the team and give a few folks a ride in the custom-made wagon they pulled across the country.

He is also checking with local officials to see if they'll let him parade the team through downtown New Holland sometime during their visit here.

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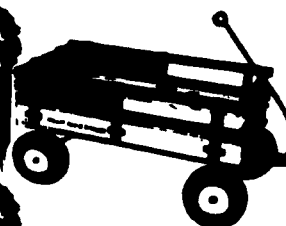
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