# Odd Jobs from page D1

one thing Baldwin definitely missed when he spent four months training for the mounted

one thing Baldwin definitely missed when he spent four mounted division, which hosts

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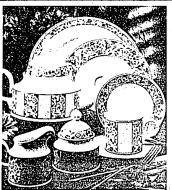


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training sessions in Rouge Park.
"At first we did bare-back riding and I was purple from the
waist up for that two months,"
recalled Baldwin. "Later we got
a saddle but it was cavalry style
with no pad and just wood coated with leather. That made it
horse friendly but not rider
friendly."
Friendliness was not something Baldwin had to worry
about once he took to the streets
of Birmingham on horseback.
"I can get a crowd in five seconsid if I stand long enough," he
said.

Q. Beyond attracting a

onts it is than long enough, no entitle.

Q. Beyond attracting a crowd, what exactly are your responsibilities on patrol?

A. My basic job is PR. I go out and I walk around the down town area and my primary job is public relations. People want to see it and they want to come over and pet the horse. We're over and pet the horse. We're oppose the people respond to that and we give out directions all day long to people that are lost.

Q. So is law enforcement a big part of the job or no?

A. The actually looking not for hings that are going wrong but things that are going wrong but hings like that. I also the park or things like that. I also the park or things like that. I also the reports at the station that people walk in off the street to file. (The report could be an accident or stolen property.) We are police officers first so I've got to do that so I'm in and out doing that all the time.

Q. I hear you're enjoying a ride aboard a brand now horse. How are things going between you two?

A. 'She's doing good. I brought her in to town four months ago

and she just did her first parade, the Halloween parade and she did phenomenal during that. She's a Perchen thoroughbred mix. Her name's Moondancer.\*

Q. Are the horses trained just like you?

A. "Well yesh. We have another guy that's been to school for actual training of horses and he goes out and gets them used to our type of riding. The horse workouts six months to a year. We still consider them in training until they've done it for a year but it depends on the horse. Like (Moondancer) still has problems with trucks backfiring.

Q. How many horses have you worked with so far?

A. "This is our third horse. We had Spanky that we just sold two months ago he's in semi-retirement. And the other horse M&M, we had to retire because he had narcolepsy and he kept falling asleep and falling over when he was tied up."

Q. Do you only patrol on horseback during milder seasons?

A. "We ride all year round

A. "We ride all year round unless the weather doesn't permit. Temperatures limits are over 90 or under 30 degrees. Like today we've got 30 mph winds and gusts up to 50 that's not ideal horse aire things that really carry in the wind and horses are pretty spooky to begin with."

Q. Havo you ever been tossed out of the saddle?

A. "Only in training. I got tossed twice."

Q. So how much time do

tossed twice."

Q. So how much time do you actually spend riding the horse?

A. "Conservatively, I'm in the saddle maybe four hours a day.

We have to groom the horse and I have to drive out to the club and go to the stables and pick the horse up and put him in the trailer.\*

Q. Does the riding keep you in good shape?

A. "Yeah you build up certain muscles and you find out quick why horse people are bow-legged and kind of holy our knees in position kind of like a Thighmaster.\*

Q. What's the most unusual thing that has happened to you out on the street?

A. "Well, one day I was on M&M and he was a huge horse, really big, tall and good looking. Was had been the street of the stree

## Microsoft unveils new online travel service for web surfers

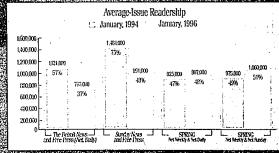
travel business.
The software and media company launched Microsoft Expedia last week, a free travel booking service, on the Web.The service is part of Microsoft's accelerated Gifust to expand its presence on the Web. This fall

Microsoft has entered the ravel business.

The software and media commany launched Microsoft Expelia last week, a free travel beservice is part of Microsoft's received in the result of the result of

Expedia will let travelers book air travel, rental cars and hotel rooms through the Worldspan reservation system and pay for them via credit card. They also can browse a library of multimedia travel guides with maps and information.

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