

Just Learn Blacksmith Trade

Big Money For One Who Likes Horses

ANN ARBOR—A young person who likes horses, is strong, and would like a high-paying job has one waiting for him.

Horsehoofing.

According to Ross J. Wilhelm, business economist at the University of Michigan Graduate School of Business Administration, a top-flight blacksmith who specializes in shoeing race horses often earns \$30,000 a year and may go as high as \$40,000.

The reason for the high wage, Wilhelm says, is that the number of horses in the United States is increasing more rapidly than the number of blacksmiths and the high wages reflect this short supply.

Horses declined in number with the coming of the automobile and tractor at the turn of the century. However, with incomes rising since the mid-1950s, he explains, the number of horses used for hunting, hocking, and pleasure riding has been galloping upward. The supply of blacksmiths has not kept pace.

Wilhelm explains why a horse needs a blacksmith's attention:

"A horse's hoof grows about four inches a year with the heel growing about a half-inch more than the toe. Given the proper conditions a horse may not need shoes. Unshod horses may do easy work on soft, dry soil.

However, even unshod horses require the regular attention of a blacksmith to trim the hoof and to check any splitting or cracking of the wall."

Under most other soil and climate conditions, he adds, it is almost impossible for a horse to do a day's work without shoes. The horn of the hoof becomes soft and pulpy, absorbs moisture, and wears excessively. This will cause the horse to go lame or become tender footed.

Wilhelm estimates that a three or four-year old horse under normal conditions will require that his hooves be trimmed and his shoes be refitted about every three weeks. Older horses may go a bit longer.

In the Midwest, blacksmiths charge about \$12 per horse for trimming and putting back on the old shoes. If new shoes are made the charge may be about \$14. It usually takes up to an hour to shoe a horse.

A skilled blacksmith will insure that the hoof is trimmed and the angle of the hoof is such that a level ground surface is maintained. If proper weight and fitting of shoes is not achieved, the result may be a lame or sore horse.

"Horsehoofing is hard work and really is a young person's game," Wilhelm says. "There always is the danger that the shoe will be kicked and some horses do not like to be shod. The big problem encountered by most older blacksmiths is that their legs and arms give out and are not up to the arduous work."

Some racetrack blacksmiths offer courses and a number of agricultural colleges and universities also have blacksmith programs.

"I have often wondered why some of the larger schools that offer such courses do not use this as a means for providing their football players with skills that would enable them to have very lucrative summer employment," the economist adds.

A football player would meet all of the physical requirements, of course, and this would provide a means of helping him through school without giving him money."

Boehms Wins RADA Award

Lewis W. Boehms, 35811 Minton, no longer is a retail gas dealer, but neither is he a forgotten man.

A long time ago Boehms switched over to the business of distributing automotive parts, doing business with many of his old business associates and friends.

He remained active in their organization's interests and became an associate member under the name of Garfield Auto Parts.

As a reward for his efforts

Boehms Wins RADA Award

and interests, the Retail Automobile Dealers Association of Michigan gave him the Meritorious Service Award for 1967, at a dinner at Detroit's Sheraton Cadillac Hotel. It read:

"In recognition and appreciation of his outstanding contribution to economic progress and the highest standards of service in the retail petroleum industry in Michigan through his leadership and vigorous support for the ideals and programs of the association."

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HUMOROUS INCIDENTS of his long career with American Motors are discussed by Retiree Russell Foley (center), of Garden City, with Carl Burke, master of ceremonies, and Vice President John Adamson (right) during the retirement party at Roma Hall.

Amer. Motors Group Honors Area Retiree

Russel D. Foley's 37 years of work in the automobile industry were honored at a retirement party for him at Roma Hall.

Foley, 3141 Sheridan, Garden City, retired after 23 years with American Motors Engineering. He was supervisor of heater and air-conditioning development, and had been one of a group who pioneered front-mounted air-conditioning.

Prior to joining American Motors, Foley had been a Carl E. Burke, 11035 Auburn, chassis and engine draftsman for 11 years at a Graham Paige, a year at General Motors Diesel, and two at Ford.

He was presented with a stereophonic record player and some small humorous gifts, such as a fan to spoof his work in air conditioning.

Principal speaker was John F. Adamson, Vice President of Engineering, in American's Auto Division.

Master of ceremonies was Carl E. Burke, 11035 Auburn, chassis and engine draftsman for 11 years at a Graham Paige, a year at General Motors Diesel, and two at Ford.

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Development Group Plans Brochure

Westland's Industrial and Commercial Development Corp. is planning to distribute a four-page brochure in the near future with a larger one expected to be completed as soon as the necessary information is completed.

Gerald T. Harris, president of the private corporation, said that the four-page brochure will "spell out the reasons why industry should locate in Westland."

He also said that the group, formed last December as a non-profit organization to attract more business and industrial firms to the city, has already advertised in Detroit newspapers to accomplish this purpose.

The corporation has been holding a survey among owners of vacant properties in Westland to see if they would be interested in having their land sold for future commercial or industrial use.

The results of that survey, which includes pertinent information about the properties which potential buyers would want to know, will be incorporated into the larger brochure, Harris said.

The corporation president also urged local businessmen to support the organization as more funds could be obtained to promote more industrial growth in the city.

In separate action on the same topic, the Westland City Council met in closed session last week with Mayor Thomas H. Brown to discuss the formation of an industrial development department within the city government.

Discussion centered around the location of the office and the proper procedure in getting personnel, Brown said.

"Another meeting will be held in the near future with people experienced in this field attending," the mayor concluded.

The city budget for the fiscal year which starts Saturday included a \$15,000 appropriation for industrial development commission within the municipal government.

In other development news, Harris told The Observer that the present development corporation received praise from Richard Warfel, Detroit director of the Michigan Dept. of Economic Expansion, who said that the Westland group "should be hailed as one of the finest and best in the state."

He has seen in a long time with the members doing an excellent job in the short time they have been together."

MSU Summer Enrollment Up

EAST LANSING—Preliminary figures indicate more than an 11 per cent increase in Michigan State University's summer term enrollment, and it may climb to 15,000 students, reports Registrar Horace C. King.

Summer term is part of a year-round, four-quarter system that has been in effect for many years at MSU. In addition to a full 10-week term and two half-terms, more than 40 special institutes, workshops and sessions are also conducted.

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