

Buggies are gone but horses are still around

By FRANK BENSON

There's more to caring for a horse than on its back and riding. (Ed. Dept.)

"And the horse is alive and well in more places than Old Western movies. According to the American Horse Council, there are more than 10,000 horses in Michigan and perhaps 20,000 in Wayne and Oakland counties."

Dr. Hall teaches horse care courses to growing numbers of students at Oakland

Community College and Schoolcraft College.

Detroit Race Course and Northville Downs are home for about 1,000 horses, but many persons in the area own horses as pets.

There has been a phenomenal rise

in the number of horses owned as pets in the last 20 years or so," said Hall.

I'm not sure of the figures, but I do know there are more horses in the United States today than ever before," he said.

What's the secret of transportation? Work with Dr. Ken Gallagher and Dr. John Keating. Dr. Hall teaches a course at OOC dealing with care and handling of horses. Called "Advanced Equine Seminar," it's designed to help horse owners deal with the many problems of equine veterinarian become "anishi" when clients always call telling us their horse is sick when often it is only a minor cut. When a real emergency occurs, we may not be as quick to respond.

The course is basically to let the horse owner become aware of our job," said Hall.

ANOTHER COURSE taught at OOC's Orchard Lake campus is Farmington Hills is "Horse Care and Management." That means it is designed to help care and feeding. It is taught by Dr. Bill Markley who is a veterinarian and a trainer.

At Schoolcraft College in Livonia, Dr. Hall teaches "Equine Podiatry," a detailed study of horse limbs and the problems of lameness, including serious injury to horse tendons and ligaments. It will be offered in the winter semester beginning after the first of the year.

People are fascinated by the problems of a lame horse and what to do about it.

But the everyday, more likely problems of horse caring and vaccines are probably just as important to the horse owner, said Hall.

ANYONE WHO CAN should have a horse for less. And it has become a status symbol in Detroit.

But before buying a horse, would be

owners should recognize two important factors, he said.

First, they should not be afraid to work with their horses. Discipline is a must, and the owner should not be afraid of it if it is used.

Second, the horse owner should be aware of the problems that can arise and the costs.

The initial purchase cost will be relatively small," Hall pointed out, but warming must be done four to six times a year as well as dental care and so on.

Hall said the horse courses at Schoolcraft and OOC help owners realize these problems and make them better owners.

There are many old wives tales about

horses and horse care that need to be cleared up. Trainers while they are supers-

hors are not aware of medical problems that may plague horses.

After all, he said, with a smile, horses are not just big dogs.

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The reconstruction of M-59 in Oakland and Macomb counties will again be delayed by the Michigan Department of State Highways and Transportation. The Humble Oil stretch from US 31 at Livonia Center to H-21 Road in Oakland County to Highland is currently a two-lane highway.

A public meeting at Highland Junior High School, 3333 John St., Highland, at 8 p.m. Dec. 14 will discuss a change in reconstruction plans to do 59 M-59 as a four-lane highway with a divided travel/execute path.

The revised plans call for the existing two-lane highway to serve as the eastbound lanes with a new two-lane highway to be constructed north of and parallel to the existing road serving as westbound lanes.

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