

FEATURE AT - 6

Horse habit requires much hard work

By Josh Shepherd
OF The Carlisle Mercury Staff
Lee Miller works very hard to support her horse habit.

For the last two years, she and her husband, Rick, have pushed to put Camp Willow Wind on its feet and, so far, she said, it has been somewhat of a success.

Rick and I have a dream. When he gets out of the army, we do not want to end up working for the man from 9 to 5. All we want to do is work and train horses and riders for the rest of our lives, Miller said.

Her MMI class has been very successful. All spots have been filled and a waiting list has developed of students wanting her instruction.

Horse back riding is offered as an extra-curricular activity, like football or basketball, but it has grown so much in popularity I have been forced to limit the number of kids I teach. I began with about ten students, which

is about the limit I can accommodate, but the enrollment has grown to 16 with a fairly long waiting list. When Rick and I expand the camp, we'll be able to take on more kids, Miller said.

The camp, located about a mile off US 66 on Short Shoney Road, is on its second year. The idea is to run a camp where MMI Cadets would tell us if their brothers or sisters or friends interested in taking lessons.

We held two camps last year, one girls and one boys, for a week. There is not a whole lot of difference keeping girls and boys. The only real difference is in the camp and to pack more stuff.

Boys, all they seem to need is a couple of changes of underwear and that's it, though it is sometimes difficult to get them to take a shower. But, when you get right down to it, all the children seem naturally pulled toward riding on the creek to catch tadpoles or chasing my

trick and cats across the yard, Miller said.

The camp attracts boys and girls from 7-14 and Miller teaches all riders from beginner to advanced.

The horses we use are schooling horses. They are used to beginner riders and really do about 90 percent of the work. But to learn what a rider must know to position themselves in the saddle before doing any advanced jumping. We also teach them how to fall without hurting themselves.

This year I have two girls who have never been on a horse before. In eight days, they have come along to the point one is beginning to learn how to handle a center properly and the other is starting to learn the jumps.

Within a couple of weeks a rider can learn how to handle a walk, trot, canter and beginning jumps.

The trick is learning how where most good riding comes from. I mean, look at me. I don't have much upper body strength but I can kick a mule down with my legs, she said.

Next year, Miller said, there will be a two week boys camp in July, one for boys and one for girls, and a two week girls camp in August.

Miller said, I used to compete a lot. I won I feel really good. But I have received greater thrills from teaching. When a student of mine wins a blue ribbon it feels so good to me.

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Riders from Camp Willow Wind near Elizaville display their developing talent. Above, Lila Hinkle, an advanced jumper from Augusta, Kentucky, takes one of the jumps at the camp. Left, Nikki Boush of Carlisle displays her balance in the saddle. Below, Monica Swartz, front, practices riding as Lee Miller gives Hinkle pointers on jumping position. Josh Shepherd Photos.

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PROFILING HISTORY - AUGUST 8, 1974

More than 15 years later... Nixon's resignation called good and bad

Editor's Note: Headlines across the country announced the resignation of then president Richard M. Nixon.

By Mike Feinsilver Associated Press Writer

Fifteen years after Richard M. Nixon resigned as president to avoid the disgrace of removal from office, historians and political observers say the episode and a price but ultimately benefited from the actual.

Washington lawyer Philip M. Hushon, who served as an adviser to Nixon's successor, Gerald R. Ford, says that in retrospect Nixon's resignation was "absolutely correct."

Political scientist John Campbell, author of "Managing the Presidency," says the experience left Nixon's successor "pretty attached for a while."

Historian Richard S. Kirk, head of the University of Washington says that while the event damaged the presidency, "it would have left us with very serious problems if Nixon had been able to get away with it."

Political scientist Jim Buckley of the Brookings Institution says the founding father's "pretty clearly expected that the impeachment process would be used more often than it has."

He says Congress "has been intruding an executive function" since it found the strength in 1974 to move toward the removal of a president.

A dissent comes, however, from Bob Hartmann, who served as White House counsel to Ford. He says the resignation was unfortunate.

There are other political remedies which are more routine and which can make presidents to the mark and put the foot of God in them if they're over-reaching, Hartmann contends.

Congress, for instance, can deny funds for presidential projects. "Congress can do its job that he can't do anything," Hartmann says.

Hushon, however, says Nixon's continued tenure in office "was having an adverse effect on the morale of the country and its status around the world. It would have led to a threatening international incident. We did not have a president who was actively governing."

On the night of Aug. 8, 1974, Ford finally came to Nixon's second term. The resignation was announced on the night of Aug. 8, 1974, a few days after the House Judiciary Committee had recommended impeachment.

Nixon went on television to announce that he would resign, becoming the first and only president to have done so. He said he no longer had "a strong enough political base in Congress to carry out the duties of office."

Three days earlier, he had surrendered the "smoking gun" Watergate tape. It revealed that within a week of the break-in at Democratic Party headquarters at the Watergate in 1972, he had ordered an end to the FBI's investigation. Whatever remaining support Nixon had in Congress collapsed.

The morning after Nixon's speech, he resigned in a letter to the secretary of state and Vice President Ford took the oath. "Our great republic is a government of laws and not of men."

With the passage of time, a sampling of historians and political observers shows agreement with Ford's assessment and these two

post-mortem attempts, but he finds Reagan's escape "unfortunate," says Feinsilver, adding to the files of the report.

Feinsilver, chairman of the political science department at the University of California at Berkeley, said the difference between Watergate and the fact that Nixon knew what was happening, says Feinsilver.

At the time he told every member of the House Judiciary Committee that an amount of support for his impeachment, Mann said.

The legacy of Nixon assures us that some warning signals are present for successive presidents. "I've been a strong proponent like Reagan found himself unfortunately constrained by an active Congress and a Senate more apt to strip presidential powers," he said.

Watergate resulted in laws in these areas - freedom of information, limits on presidential war-making powers and a president's ability to impound funds appropriated by Congress, and limits on campaign contributions.

Campbell, a Georgetown University political scientist, said he finds it "almost alarming that it came to the point that we almost had to do the same thing with Ronald Reagan."

He said the president's age, his popularity and his nearness to finishing his term saved Reagan from an impeachment attempt, but he

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