

## Breeding stallions don't come cheap

# Horses not just a hobby for Doug Halls

Doug Hall is used to the pitter of feet — and the clip-clop.

The fifth grade teacher at Evergreen Elementary School and his wife Judy breed horses.

It was horses, in a sense, that brought them together. Both were raised on farms

and both rode the animals as youngsters. Doug is a native of the Yale area, in St. Clair county. Judy is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Tuckey of Elmwood Road, Cass City. She said her father had her on a horse before she could walk. They met when both were

attending Bethel College in Mishawaka, Ind. "Even when we started dating in college, that (horses) was one of the subjects we discussed," Hall said.

He and his wife have been married 14 years. They have three sons, Brent, 9, Bart, 6, and Blake, 3.

Hall taught nine years in Marlette and is now in his fifth year at Evergreen.

The school is only a few miles from where the family lives, on M-53, south of Deckerville Road.

IT WAS 10 YEARS AGO that the Halls bought their first two quarter horses for riding. "We weren't even interested in showing at that time," Hall explained.

"One thing led to another and we started breeding," Hall explained. Their first two horses were mares so they had one of them bred.

From that beginning, his wife explained, "Each year we try to upgrade the quality."

Their present breeding horse, Super Roan Bar, which they have had a year, is their fourth stud. Their previous ones, Hall explained, produced average foals, but not the outstanding ones that were their goal.

Their last one produced excellent working horses, but not excellent halter (strictly for show) horses, whereas the new one, provided the mother is of equal quality, produces horses that are good for both.

IN THE WORLD OF horse shows, there are two basic categories, halter classes, where the horses

are judged strictly on looks and the performance classes, where the horses are ridden and are judged on how well they (and the rider) perform. Some horses are better at one or the other.

"It's the goal of every breeder to breed for both... a good all-around horse," Hall explained.

With Super Roan Bar, he feels he has a horse that can do both.

THE SEVEN-YEAR-OLD horse was born in North Dakota and "discovered" in Iowa. Jim Miller, a Romeo trainer, saw the horse there and some of its offspring and

decided it had excellent potential as a sire so purchased it for a Canadian.

The horse never went to Canada but was shown last year in Michigan, along with some of its offspring, by Miller for its owners in order for it to become known.

Miller told the Halls of the horse's availability and after a few weeks of negotiations, it was purchased by them a year ago.

Hall won't say how much money he and his wife paid for the horse, only that it was VERY expensive. (The price was in the five digit range.)

"We didn't buy it as an income tax write-off," he explained. "We bought it as an investment."

THE HALLS ARE RE-couping their investment, and paying off the loan needed to buy the horse, two ways. One is through stud fees and the other is through breeding it with their own mares and selling the offspring.

In a season, from late February to June, their prize stud can service 40-50 mares, as many as three a day.

That can mean long hours for Hall, who takes care of the breeding. If the time is right and there are three mares to be serviced, that means getting up early to take care of the first one before school and doing the other two afterwards, the second late at night.

The two horses simply aren't put in a pen together and told, "Go to it." Each must be cleaned beforehand and the mare's tail wrapped.

Although that aspect of the operation means long days during the school year, Hall finds that teaching otherwise fits in well with the horse business.

Summer vacations give him lots of time to do his farming. On the 40 acres he and his wife own, he raises all of the hay needed and some corn and oats, al-

though most of that is purchased.

SO FAR, THE FARTHEST anyone has brought a mare to be bred is from such places as Utica and Oxford, north of Detroit, although the Halls did receive a call once from a man in Iowa who was interested. He finally decided it was too far to trailer his horse.

Owners of mares seeking a breeding partner often come for a visit to inspect the stud. They can also trace his pedigree. Super Roan Bar's has been traced back to 1940.

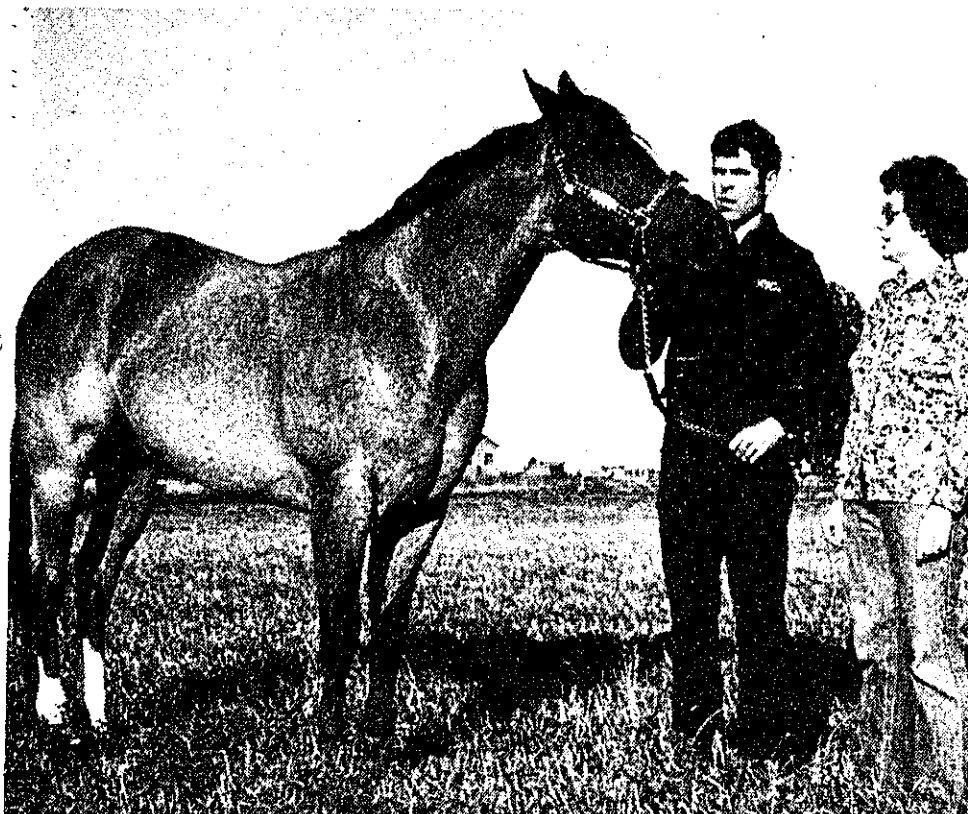
Some stallions can breed until they are as much as 20 years old. Their peak usually lasts five or six years.

DESPITE ITS VALUE, Hall does ride the animal, which he describes as a very good riding horse. One reason it is ridden is that it needs to be exercised at least every other day.

Mr. and Mrs. Hall don't see themselves as ever going into horse breeding as a full-time profession.

Mrs. Hall, in addition to the normal duties of being a wife and a mother, helps with the horse operation and is also a supervisor-distributor for a household products company.

As for her husband, "I enjoy teaching too much to give it up entirely."



DOUG AND JUDY HALL AND 'SUPER ROAN BAR'

## 3 jailed in Tuscola district court cases

Three Deford men were sentenced when they appeared last week in Tuscola County District Court.

At a trial Thursday, Judge Richard F. Kern found Daniel Spencer, 20, of 7633 Mushroom Road, guilty of charges of driving with license suspended or revoked and possession of open intoxicants in a motor vehicle.

On the first charge, Spencer was fined \$33, assessed \$22 court costs and sentenced to three days in the county jail. On the second charge, he was fined \$63, assessed \$37 in costs and sentenced to a concurrent three days in jail.

Spencer was arrested on the charge April 5 in Caro.

Michael McKenney, 20, of 286 Crawford Road, pleaded guilty Tuesday to a charge of larceny under \$100, in connection with taking of a pair of boots Sept. 21 from Fisher's Big Wheel store

near Caro.

He was fined \$63, assessed \$37 court costs, placed on probation and sentenced to three days in the county jail.

James A. Nicol, 18, of 7314 Deckerville Road, pleaded guilty Tuesday to driving under the influence of liquor. He was arrested on the charge Sept. 26 in Caro.

He was fined \$100, assessed \$150 court costs, placed on six months' probation and ordered to attend alcohol education classes and other classes as may be deemed necessary.

Thomas McGee, 32, of 6225 Lakeside Drive, Cass City, pleaded guilty Tuesday of last week to a charge of impaired driving - subsequent offense.

He was sentenced to four days in the county jail, fined \$100, assessed \$150 court costs and placed on probation.

He was arrested on the charge Aug. 1 in Cass City.

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## Long distance intra-state phone rates up

All Michigan telephone customers who make long-distance calls to other locations within the state are affected by the recent rate increase approved by the Michigan Public Service Commission for Michigan Bell, according to General Telephone Co.

An across-the-board increase of 8.37 percent went into effect for Michigan Bell Sunday. It applies to all intra-state long-distance service.

The increases for the first minute of a call range from a penny for calls up to 25 miles, 2 or 3 cents for calls of 26 to 100 miles and 4 cents for longer distances. Additional minute rates were similarly adjusted.

Intra-state long-distance rates established for Michigan Bell, which handles nearly 90 percent of the long-distance calls placed, are applied to customers of all companies to ensure rate uniformity.

## Final rites Thursday for J.C. Hutchinson

J.C. Hutchinson of Cass City died Tuesday at Provincial House.

He was born May 27, 1904, in Elmwood township, the son of Smith and Eliza Ann (Andress) Hutchinson.

He married Pearl West Frantz July 23, 1949, in Cass City. They made their home here until 1968, when they moved to Tucson, Ariz., then returned to Cass City in 1976. Mrs. Hutchinson died March 27, 1977.

Hutchinson was a member of Trinity United Methodist church, Farm Bureau, Tyler Lodge No. 317, F. and A.M., and Echo Chapter No. 337, Order of the Eastern Star. He is survived by three nephews, Don Hutchinson

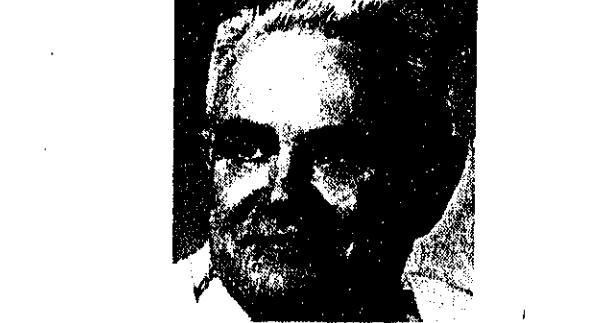
and Dean Hutchinson, both of Cass City, and Norman West of Bow, N.H.; one niece, Mrs. Nancy Bauer of Jackson, and 13 grandnieces and nephews. Two brothers and two sisters preceded him in death.

A Masonic memorial service was to have been held at 8 p.m. Wednesday at Little's Funeral Home, Cass City, under the auspices of Tyler Lodge.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home, with Rev. P. Thomas Wachterhauser of Trinity United Methodist and Rev. Eldred Kelley of Salem United Methodist church officiating.

Burial will be in Elkland cemetery.

## Lawrence R. Smith Write-in County Clerk



10 years as a deputy clerk that has never worked in the clerk's office is NOT EXPERIENCE, IT IS SENIORITY.

13 years as city clerk and 4 years as county clerk "THAT'S EXPERIENCE".

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