

12 Week Course

WPCC Offers Horse Shoeing This Fall

By DOROTHY CABLE

(From The News-Herald)

Something new is being added at Western Community College — a 12-week course in what is almost a lost art.

The course is Horse Shoeing E-19 and will be taught by R. C. (Johnny) Plemmons from Mocksville. Right now Plemmons is teaching a seven-week condensed version of the course at the new McDowell Technical Institute in Marion.

The class there is mostly made up of professional people who own pleasure and show horses and are often hard put to have them shod. They also realize that shoeing is a big item in their budget — say \$10 for keg shoes or \$25 for show shoes.

Actually show shoes are not as simple as finding \$25.

Area people with one or two fine horses know this to their sorrow. They have time and again experienced the frustration of trying to get an experienced farrier to do the work. For the most part they don't.

Some have hauled horses to considerable distances to get the job done. Sometimes they went early to horse shows where they could count on finding a farrier and might have the job done on the show grounds.

There was the possibility of sending the horse to some large training establishment where it might be kept until someone would come there to shoe a large group of horses. Or some farriers would suggest that several owners get together to provide enough horses at one place to make his trip worthwhile.

With horses needing shoes at different times and owners with varying working schedules, that idea is not altogether practical.

The man with a pleasure horse desiring only protective shoeing or minor corrections to its way of going a might fare a little better. The short foot shod without leather or plastic pad between hoof and shoe is an easier matter.

A lot of cold shoes have been tacked on horses by people who have taught themselves a bit about shoeing. If the person is a keen observer and watches carefully at every opportunity to see a horse shod, sooner or later the idea comes to try it himself. Some do it better than others and some do it poorly.

However, shoes for horses can be a real art.

It starts with awareness of the anatomy of the horse, or what is normal structure and what is not, and the engineering facts of weight, angle, and stress.

There is consideration of the immediate condition of the hoof. If there are cracks or chunks broken out of it, considerable trimming may be necessary to get a smooth level foot. And one hoof doesn't stand alone. It's half of a matched pair.

Properly fitted shoes can make a tremendous difference in the movements of a horse, the length and height of stride, and whether or not the foot moves straight forward or swings inward or outward.

Shoeing of this sort is an art.

There are several farrier colleges in the United States. The number receiving such training isn't keeping up with the horse population in the nation. Most of these are in the category of light horses and are used for racing, show, and recreation. Altogether, horses are regarded as a multi-billion industry in the United States. A study last year revealed a tremendous number of saddle horses in North Carolina.

Now horse shoeing is being taught in community colleges and technical institutes of the state where instructors can be found.

Plemmons, a native of the clinchfield section near Marion, has 32 years experience in shoeing horses. He recalls his first efforts at shoeing when he

was about 12 years old and used such tools as a claw hammer and a drawing knife.

Now he is stable foreman at Clover Valley Training Stables near Reidsville. He has done parachuting, auto thrill show driving, and has ridden in rodeos during his life, but his main love is horses. At Clover Valley he breaks, trains, and works with horses in every aspect.

He has taught shoeing at Surry Community College in Dobson, Catawba Valley Tech in Hickory, and now there is the course at McDowell Tech. The school in Marion expected possibly half a dozen students and now has close to 35.

Registration for Horse Shoeing E-19 at Western Piedmont will be Sept. 8-11 with classes starting Sept. 29. Late registration will be permitted through Oct. 8. The course will end Dec. 27.

Classes will meet from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The first session will be held at Western Piedmont. After that the class will move to the Burke County Fairgrounds.

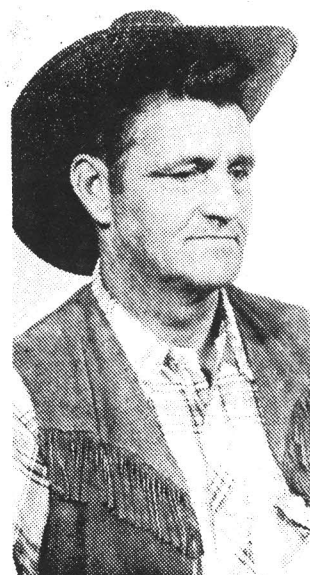
"The Horseshoer," a reprint of the War Department Technical Manual No. 2-2220, will be used as the textbook, Plemmons said.

First there will be classroom instruction of the structure of the horse and such problems of the feet as founder, ring bone, thrush, and contracted heels. Then actual shoeing will begin.

Students will be taught the right way to trim a foot and to set shoes. They may shoe their own horses in the class.

While Plemmons specializes in quarter horses and pleasure horses, he also teaches students how to pad walking and gaited horses.

Students will be required to purchase the paper backed manual. In addition there will be a \$10 fee for basic materials payable to the instructor the first night of class. For this he will furnish nails, keg shoes, and tools.



Johnny Plemmons

Those wishing pads or special shoes will pay for these separately.

During the time they are enrolled students may order tools and other equipment for horse or rider through Plemmons at a 60 per cent discount.

Plemmons is not unknown here in Morganton. He still carries a yellowed clipping from The McDowell News of June 17, 1948, which pictures him in flying clothes as a featured attraction for the air show at the Francis Marion airport where he was to make a parachute jump.

He did quite a bit of jumping in Burke County from planes owned by J. H. McCombs and piloted by three local men at various times. Plemmons said he made 27 jumps at Riverside Air Park and also jumped at the Antioch Air Field.

Some of his proceeds went to Grace Hospital for badly needed equipment.



Horse Shoeing Is Fun At Western Piedmont

Horsewomen as well as horsemen are enjoying the class in basic horseshoeing offered by Western Piedmont Community College. The class, taught by Johnny Plemmons, meets each Tuesday and Thursday in the exhibit hall at the Burke County Fairgrounds. Students are busy shoeing their own and each other's horses. The class will also shoe a few outside horses at cost to cover shoes and nails. Students are still being accepted for the evening class and also a day class will be organized if enough are interested. That

would be from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. on the same days. Visitors are welcome at the shoeing classes. Here students are busy shoeing a harness pony and a registered Quarter Horse mare owned by Miss Carolyn Yeager who teaches riding and horse management but had never before had the opportunity to learn shoeing. Left — The ladies took the pony (tall men find a pony an ordeal) and shod him in front. They also trimmed his hind feet. Doing some of the

trimming is Mrs. Helene Stevens. Others (left to right) are Miss Terry Thorpe, Miss Dorothy Cable who had just put on the front shoes, Mrs. Jane Clontz of Marion, and Miss Yeager. Right — Fitting a hind shoe for the mare is Donald Lawing. Others (left to right) are Clarence Justice, Plemmons, and David Majors. (Staff photos)