

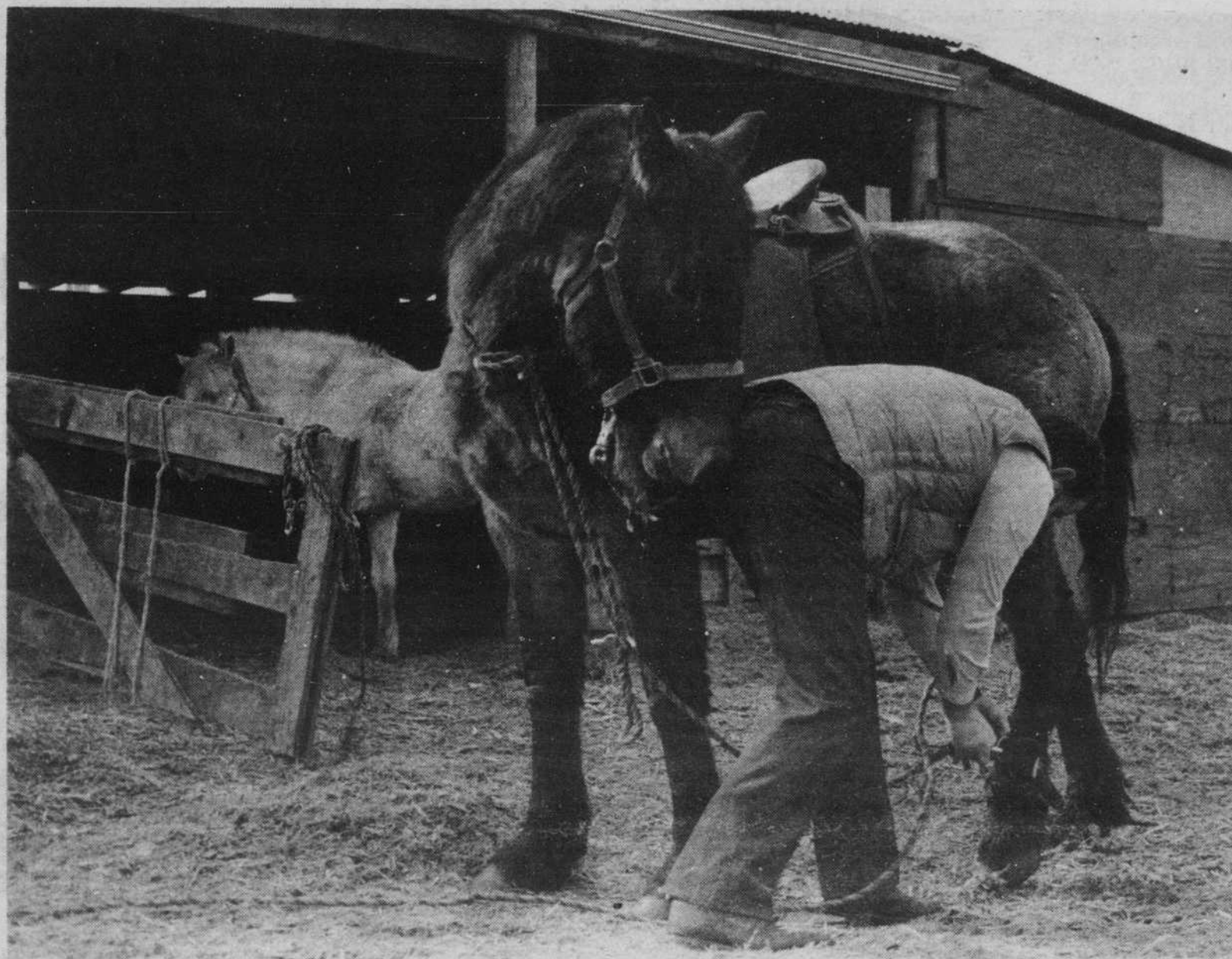
Oregon daily emerald

An Independent Newspaper

Vol. 79, No. 105

Eugene, Oregon 97403

Tuesday, February 21, 1978



Chuck John turns wild horses such as this into domestic and gently broken, these wild animals can be quietly assimilated into the horse community. Once saddle trained, these wild animals can be quietly assimilated into the horse community.

Trainer readies horses from the wilds for adoption

Story and Photo
By ANAMARIA BELL
Of the Emerald

Blue is ready to be adopted. She's tall, sleek and four years old. She's also a wild horse.

Her caretaker is Chuck John, who for four years has trained wild horses for the public to adopt.

"I was too old to rodeo and win, so I thought I might as well go on to a different field where I could be just as good," he says.

John acquires the horses, for almost next to nothing, from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which rounds up the horses in Eastern Oregon.

In turn, he trains them for two to three weeks and makes them available to the public for \$40.

"My goal is getting wild horses to the public in a way that the public can handle them," says John.

"Patience, along with good common

sense, is very important. By being gentle and patient, you'll never have to fight the horse," he adds.

One of his first objectives is teaching the horse to "sit tight."

He explains, "You just tie them up, get them to eat grain and drink. Then, you brush them. Gradually, the horse will relax and become used to you."

The next step is to saddle the horse. John leaves the saddle on continuously for three or four nights until the horse gets used to it.

But mounting the horse is a more precarious undertaking.

"You move around as little as possible but just enough to let him know you're up there," says John. "Otherwise, the horse will become startled and probably jolt you off."

John plops the stirrups gently, shakes his hand around until the horse gets over the fear of having him on his back. He rides the horse in small circles and gradually widens them, until he can ride normally.

John's project is different from any other of this type because it is not publicly funded. If there is a problem once the horse has an owner, John will work with it for nothing. He says he tries to find time to assist the people with any tips they might need.

John spends about 40 hours a week at the barn, although he holds a full-time job as a foreman at Georgia Pacific.

"My job there comes first," he says. "The wild horse project is just a side interest."

When asked if any person can adopt a horse, John replies, "Yes, as long as they have the ability and the facilities to adopt."

John trains horses for adoption, but he's been known to keep horses for himself.

"Sugar," a chestnut-colored Shetland pony was one horse he could not part with.

"She has seen all my kids grow up," says John, and he says she is just as much a part of the family as he is.

Amazon 'Surplus' in repair fund really deficit

By MARY BETH ALLEN
Of the Emerald

The blame for a sudden deficit in the Amazon Student Housing Project building repair reserve fund has been placed by University Housing Office officials on a misinterpretation of complicated University accounting systems.

Robert Minshall, Student Housing business manager, said in a Feb. 15 memo to Richard Romm, assistant housing director, that an Amazon repair fund surplus of \$36,270 reported in December to the Amazon Family Policy Board was incorrect and that the Amazon budget really showed a deficit of \$45,810.

Minshall's memo states that the deficit is "due to a difference in the fund balance shown on controller's report and what had actually been funded and a change in the estimated percentage reserve required for future repair projects."

The "estimated percentage reserve" refers to the 2 percent rate of replacement value of Amazon that the housing office has decided to use for budget purposes. The State Board of Higher Education had recommended a 1 percent replacement value rate.

Judith Barker, president of the Amazon Community Tenants, says, "I'm not sure how that surplus showed up and then went away."

She says current housing office figures on the Amazon budget conflict with office budget recommendations submitted to the state board last spring.

Barker says she is bothered by the fact that even though the housing office knew last spring the repair reserve fund was in the red, no money was designated for that fund, while \$10,000 in debt service funds were earmarked for Westmoreland.

"There was not a surplus in actual money," Romm said. "It was the way the controller credits the account," that the credit showed up previously.

According to Romm, Minshall, who was hired last fall to fill the newly created position of housing office business manager, met with the Amazon policy board in December and reported the surplus. "On paper, it looked like a reserve," Romm said.

But after becoming familiar with the apparently unconventional accounting procedures used by the University Housing Office, Minshall reported that the Amazon budget actually showed a deficit, according to Romm.

"It was an accounting sort of thing," Romm said. "There was no loss of money or change of income or way the money was spent or even allocated." The budget figures were "interpreted differently" by Minshall this month and the "matter in which the budget was read," accounts for the deficit, according to Romm.