

A Wild Ride: *Galloping students*

TIMOTHY A. BELL
Design Editor

When considering a P.E. class, most people envision endless hours of running, sweaty locker rooms and barking coaches. Few would imagine that an invigorating ride on a horse would count as a P.E. credit. Yet just a few short miles away lies Horsemaster Farms, a unique alternative to the traditional gymnasium-orientated classes.

Horsemaster Farms began at a location near the Portland Airport in 1966. They moved to their present location in Beavercreek in 1981, where over 125 candidates competed as a part of screening trials for the Olympics. The farm has been working with the college for the past five years in teaching students English-style horseback riding.

The farm offers a beginning, intermediate and an advanced course that are each worth one P.E. credit. The beginners' course focuses on teaching students to control the horse at a walking pace and at a trot.

"Most of the time by the end of the first ten weeks, a student can get into the canter and even start jumping," said Janet Adler, co-owner of Horsemaster Farms.

The intermediate and advanced courses teach students more refinement of position and control of the horse. Students also learn how to position the horse in order to get a more accurate take off on the jumps. Dressage, an individual test that determines a rider's compatibility with a horse in terms of doing maneuvers and circles, is also included in the classes.

"I could compare it [dressage] to figure skating," said Adler.

Adler is a Certified Horsemaster and a Certified AI instructor from Porlock Vale Riding School in England.

"They used to have the English Olympic team there," said Adler. "It's very hard because you have to pass all kinds of examinations."

Adler also has a degree in Education from Portland State University with a minor in Psychology and Music. Her husband and co-owner of the farm, Mike, also has a degree from PSU, but their love of horseback riding led them in a different direction.

"We put those degrees in the drawer and started doing this," said Adler.

Both Mike and Janet rode for years professionally, winning numerous Divisional and State Championships.

"I came back from England and my big dream was to go on to the Olympics," said Adler. "But it got to the point that I finished school

Class: Horseback Riding: Beginning/Intermediate/Advanced

Cost: Tuition+Gen.Fee: \$40, Fee to Horsemaster Farms: \$170

Instructor: Janet Adler

Location: Horsemaster Farms, 24780 S Beavercreek Rd, Beavercreek

and either I keep going in that direction or I make it into a living. So I turned pro at 19."

Janet still intends to be involved in competitions, but the farm keeps her occupied most of the time.

"Most of my adventures [these days] will be as a professional teacher and coach," said Adler. "It's just as rewarding to have your students do well."

Safety for her students is also a priority of Janet's. At Horsemaster Farms, students are required to sign a waiver and wear protective helmets while riding. When students ride outside, they are also required to wear protective vests that pad the upper torso including the collarbone, shoulders and tailbone.

"The most important thing that we start out with on a beginner is getting them to be relaxed and familiar around a horse, teaching them the safety factors on the ground as well as being on top," said Adler.

Horsemaster Farms also offers daily riding lessons, horse shows and summer camps.

"We have beginners up to advanced riders as well as professionals who come in and take it [summer camps]," said Adler. "It's a condensed course designed after the courses that I took in England for my Horsemaster degree that can progress a rider up to six months in one week."

In addition to the horses and teaching, the Adlers are one of the largest breeders of Poly Jack Russels (dogs) on the West Coast.

"We saw our first Jack Russel in England in 1966," said Adler. "It was going after rats in hay, and I just couldn't believe it. It pulled this huge rat right out from practically underneath my feet."

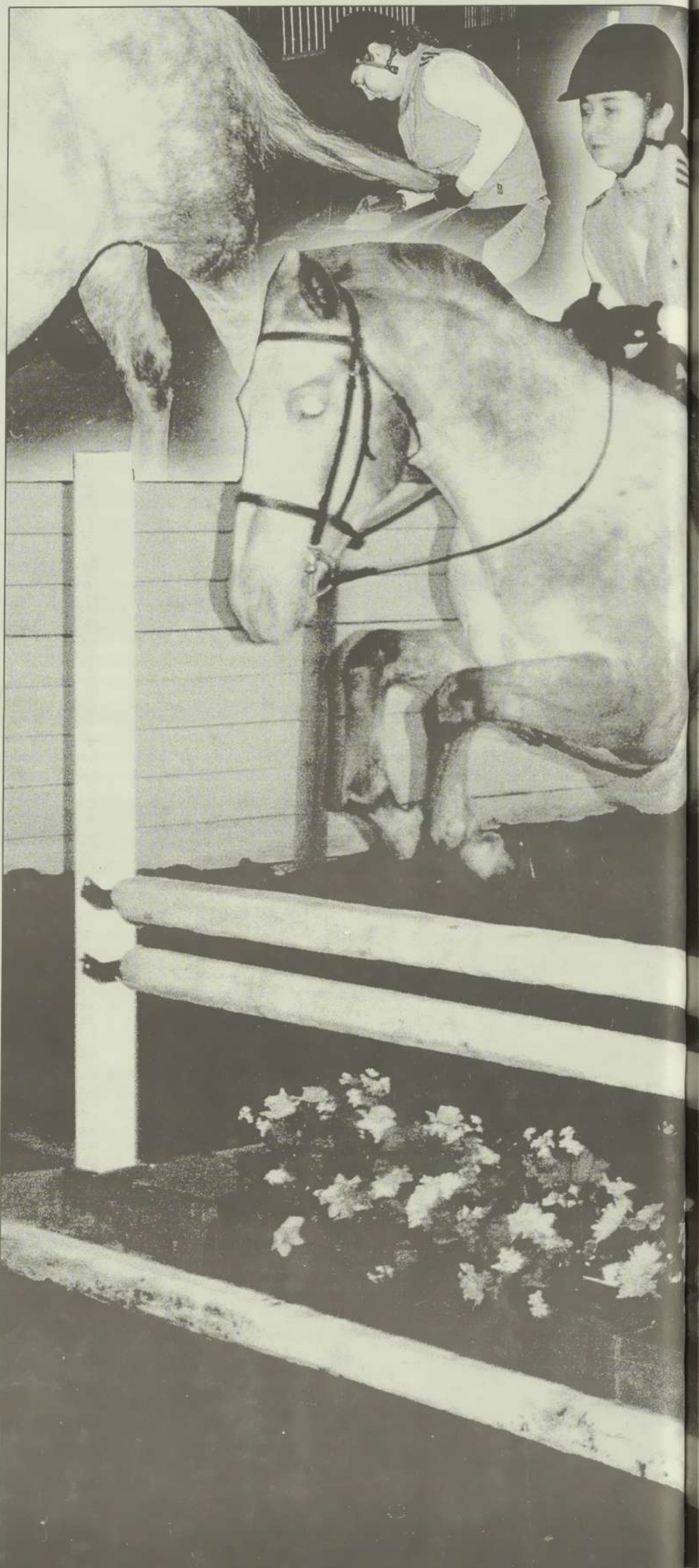
Horsemaster Farms is about 80 acres, including a facility for up to about 32 horses, and a large kennel with 20 dogs for breeding and several puppies.

"With animals you have to be here for them," said Adler. "Often times when we go we have to have several people stay here to watch everything because they are dependent on you."

"It's not just a job, it's a lifestyle," Adler said.

The most important thing that we start out with on a beginner is getting them to be relaxed and familiar around a horse...

Janet Adler
co-owner of Horsemaster Farms.



Ayesha Ali, student, jumps Katrin over a fence. Ali, like all other students, brushes Katrin before taking