

# Horse barn is almost completely restored at late 1800s

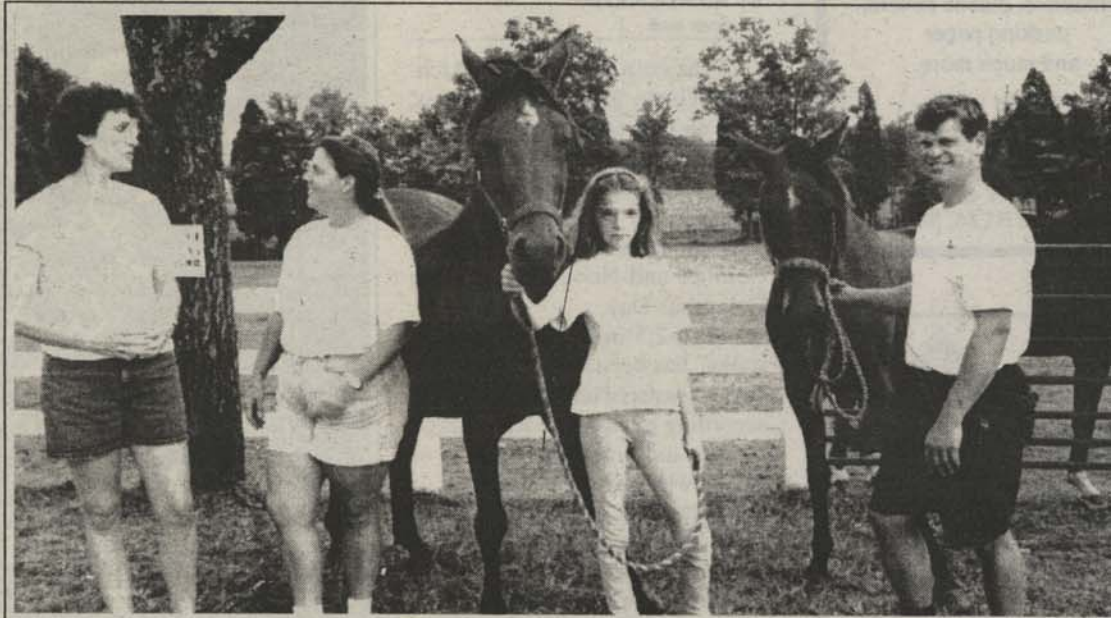
By GAIL WILLIAMS  
 Observer staff

Six years ago, what is now Boxwood farm was an abandoned dairy farm. Joe and Carol Hostetter needed a place to keep their horse, and perhaps even acquire more, as



they both enjoyed riding. Now, Boxwood farm enables Mrs. Hostetter to stay home with the couple's two children and run a business centered around the animals she loves—horses.

She teaches basic horsemanship to children ages four and up. In one-on-one lessons on ponies, she provides instruction in walking, trotting, cantering and jumping. Children must also learn how to care for the horse, including feeding, grooming, checking over and tacking up. After they've learned the basics of riding and maintaining a horse, the students are ready to move on to other instructors to pursue the style in which they're particularly inter-



Visitors can see some of the horses that board at Boxwood Farm with Carol, second from left, and Joe Hostetter, right, in scene from 2001 Western Prince William County Farm Tour. The barn is almost completely restored and visitors will enjoy strolling the grounds of this historic farm at the free Farm Tour Sept. 28-29.

Randi Reid / the Bull Run Observer

ested. The Hostetters also offer stall and field boarding of horses year round. Mares and geldings in the field are kept separate during their stay.

There was a lot of work to do to convert the 70-acre property into an operational boarding and training facility. They first cleared a good part of the field, put in a new well and built fencing. The pre-1900s barn had been configured to accommodate cattle, with a large open area and troughs. To remodel

the barn, the Hostetters filled in the troughs to level off the floor, built stalls and made a tack and feed room. The barn was just completed in August, though there are still some changes to be made.

The couple did most of the work themselves, including the fencing, stalls, riding arena, run-ins (three-sided shelters) and barn floor. Mrs. Hostetter's father did the electrical work for the arena to allow its use at night.

Particularly for Mrs. Hostetter, the normal work day revolves around animal care and riding lessons. She and two assistants start feeding the horses about 8:00 am. All horses in the stalls get grain; the field horses that get grain are also brought in to feed. That routine is repeated at 4:00 pm, but hay and water are provided throughout the day. Also over the

course of a day, Mrs. Hostetter and a helper will hold horses for visiting farriers and veterinarians.

In the evening, the Hostetters clean stalls, provide fresh bedding and clean water buckets. Some horses are let out at night during the summer and brought in during the winter. Even the two young daughters help out as they can.

After the horses and numerous barn cats are fed, it's on to beef cattle and emus. Crafters buy the teal-green eggshells from Mrs. Hostetter blows out the yolks. She also sells the soft white hair from her Angora bunnies, which is used to make sweaters.

Mrs. Hostetter and her assistant Kim Thompson conduct riding lessons in mid-day and in the evenings in the lighted arena.

Carol Hostetter became interested in riding before the couple

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