

Cathy Zahm's Clinic

By Lisa Kharalampiev

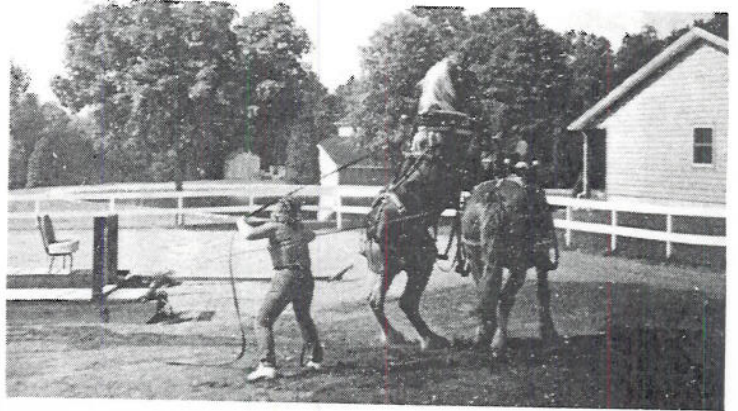
Attending this clinic was the best money I have spent since I have been involved with draft horses. The clinic, which was held in early June, was limited to ten people and gave practical hands-on experience in starting and driving green colts. It's a lot different driving green colts since they tend to weave and wander more than the experienced team. During this clinic we took colts that had never been in harness from the round pen in the biting rig, to the sled as a team, and finally to the streets of downtown Huntington, complete with fire engines and barking dogs for effect.

A basic piece of equipment for starting the colts is Cathy's biting rig. She puts them in it and leaves them in the round pen for an hour or so and the colt actually teaches himself to give to the bit. Time and again the importance of having the right equipment and the right harness in good repair was stressed. Although we shared a lot of laughter over how we had all tried to improvise or figure out just what piece was missing from that used harness that seemed like such a great bargain at the sale.

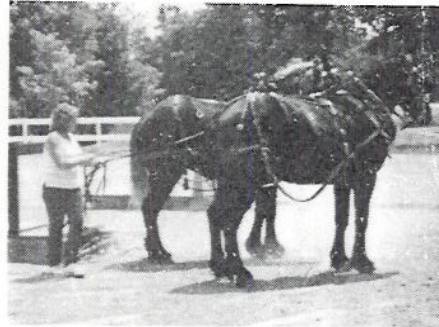
Cathy will be holding two more clinics in the fall. But, if your fall social calendar is all filled up, you might want to refer to the article on Cathy Zahm's training method in the Spring issue of the Draft Horse Journal.



This colt just can't accept the idea of having another horse so close. Cathy really kept him moving so he was soon too busy and tired for such antics.



This sorrel percheron stallion gave a fine demonstration of how things go wrong, but Cathy was right in her element and soon had him under control.



Hitching a team of Percherons to the sled for the first time.

Cathy Zahm



Cathy's sled weighs about 800 lbs.



Cathy's wagon is a familiar sight on the streets and in the alleys of Huntington.