



Sparrow and his 15-man crew took the 40-horse hitch on a trial run earlier this summer. The lead team is 125 ft. from the driver so the crew uses walkie talkies to communicate.

ONLY ONE OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD

Spectacular 40-Horse Hitch Ready To Go Out On Parade

"My 40-horse hitch is the only one of its kind in the world," says Paul Sparrow of Zearing, Iowa, who will take his hitch on the road this summer starting with a big parade in Milwaukee, Wis., in July.

Sparrow's horses, all Belgians, are hitched four wide and 10 long. Sparrow has been training them this summer on his farm. He started training the horses in four-horse hitches that he used to haul manure on over 40 acres and to seed 80 acres of oats. He later drove teams of 12 and 20 and by mid-May had hitched 40 horses for practice.

Sparrow is following in the footsteps of his father, Dick, who in 1972 put together a 40-horse hitch. Paul assisted his father at the time. After that, the Sparrows took their 40-hitch across the U.S. until 1977 when their

sponsorship was discontinued. General Foods Corporation approached the family about reassembling the 40-horse hitch two years ago.

Until the 1970's, a 40-horse hitch hadn't been driven since 1904 when the Barnum & Bailey Circus drove one in a street parade pulling the largest circus bandwagon ever built. Paul's hitch will pull the same bandwagon. It's 29 ft. long, 15 ft. high, and weighs 14,000 lbs.

Sparrow says he looked at about 5,000 horses before assembling 57 of them and selecting the hitch from that pool. General Foods is paying him \$120,000 to do the Milwaukee parade. "When you consider the cost of the horses, feed, labor, transportation, equipment and insurance, I've spent

a lot more than \$120,000," says Paul. Each horse eats 15 lbs. of grain and 30 lbs. of hay a day.

Paul began hiring men last January to train the horses, and he will use a 15-person crew for the parade. He'll have three people in the wagon with him and several men on saddle horses outriding along the hitch. In addition, about 150 friends and relatives will be there to lend support.

"It's important to have people who know what to do if something goes wrong. For example, the horses could act up, the lines could get tangled, or a child could run out under the horses. When we're in training the crew drives by the horses with cars, honking horns and lighting firecrackers, to prepare them for the crowded parade route. The lead

team will be 125 ft. from the driver, so there will be times while turning corners when the driver won't be able to see the lead horses. We'll use two-way radios to maintain continuous communication between the driver and outriders."

Paul says the preparation for driving 40 horses is a little like the preparation for flying a 747 airplane. "The mechanic and pilot have to have done a lot of complex little things three months ago so that it works today."

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Paul Sparrow, RR 1, Box 9, Zearing, Iowa 50278 (ph 515 487-7549).

FUN NEW SNACK FOR KIDS

"Honey In A Straw"

"It's a high energy natural food source and a great alternative to candy. Kids love 'em," says Brooke Freeman, of Lewes, Del., who's marketing "Honey Sips", a new honey-in-a-straw snack treat.

Each "Honey Sip" consists of one teaspoon of honey in a clear plastic drinking straw that's sealed at both ends. You bite on the end of the straw to open it and squeeze out the honey.

"The idea for Honey Sticks originated on the West Coast," says Freeman, a beekeeper who also does commercial bee pollination and bee removal. "I discovered Honey Sips a couple of years ago and began buying plastic straws and natural flavoring so I could do my own packaging. Last fall I began test marketing Honey Sips in Delaware. "Weight watchers like Honey Sips because each one has only 20 calories. Another advantage is that Honey Sips aren't sticky. Many parents tell me they'd rather see their children eat honey as a snack instead of candy because honey is healthier. When you store Honey Sips in a refrigerator they come out like crunchey honey. When you store them in a freezer they come out like taffy."

So far Freeman has been marketing Honey Sips mainly at shows and road stands, but now he's marketing by direct mail and hopes to market Honey Sips through convenience stores.

Sample packages contain five Honey Sips, including four different flavors: lemon, peppermint, licorice, cinnamon, and a natu-



Photo by Sharon Morgan, The Delmarva Farmer

"Honey Sips" are clear plastic straws filled with honey and sealed at both ends. ral flavored one. Freeman is also test marketing blueberry, strawberry and peach-flavored Honey Sips.

Currently, Honey Sips contain clover honey. "Eventually, I hope to use tulip-poplar honey, which is widely produced in Delaware. I'd also like to try using the honey from bees pollinating watermelon fields because of its unique flavor," says Freeman.

A pack of 100 Honey Sips sells for \$15 plus \$2.50 postage. Freeman is looking for distributors.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Freeman Apiary, Inc., R.D. 2, P.O. Box 49A, Lewes, Del. 19958 (ph 302 645-2078).

GLASS-ENCLOSED TABLE MINIATURES MAKE GREAT FAMILY HEIRLOOMS

Artist Custom-Builds "Mini" Models of Farms

A custom-built "miniature" model of your farm, built with meticulous detail and set inside a glass-covered table, makes a great family heirloom and an unusual conversation piece for your living room, according to artist Darren Schmidt, Langenburg, Sask.

Schmidt custom-builds small-scale farms in his spare time. His models, built on a 1/87th scale, are set inside an oak coffee table with a glass top. Schmidt visits your farm or works from detailed photographs, and maps out all of its features, including such details as manure piles, flower beds, toys in sandboxes, sways in roofs, trees, gardens, power poles, livestock, people, equipment, fences, junk piles, and the weathering of buildings. Then he constructs the miniature model from scratch, board by board, window by window.

Cost of the miniaturized farm scenes depends on the number of buildings, equipment, size of yard, etc., but generally it's around \$2,000 to \$3,000. "It's very labor intensive work because the buildings, including siding, windows and doors, are all made from scratch," explains Schmidt.

When possible, Schmidt travels right to the farm and takes 8 to 10 rolls of photos,

with an assistant holding a 6-ft. measuring stick posed in front of two sides of each building. "The 6-ft. measuring stick gives us a relative indication of the actual building size. When we look at the photo of that building later, we use an ordinary ruler to calculate the actual height and width of the building."

Schmidt uses wood, plastic, cardboard and metal to construct the buildings. Once the buildings have been constructed, he glues them to a board, then adds the landscaping which he makes from colored foam. Shrub cuttings glued to twigs become coniferous trees. "We generally use commercial toy vehicles," notes Schmidt. "However, we have to specially construct a lot of equipment because it just isn't available to buy."

The last step is building the coffee table to house the model. "It generally takes us about 6 months to complete a farm model," says Schmidt.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Darren Schmidt, Land of Miniatures, Box 941, Langenburg, Saskatchewan, Canada S0A 2A0 (ph 306 743-2903).