Hey Neighbor

For The Love Of Horses

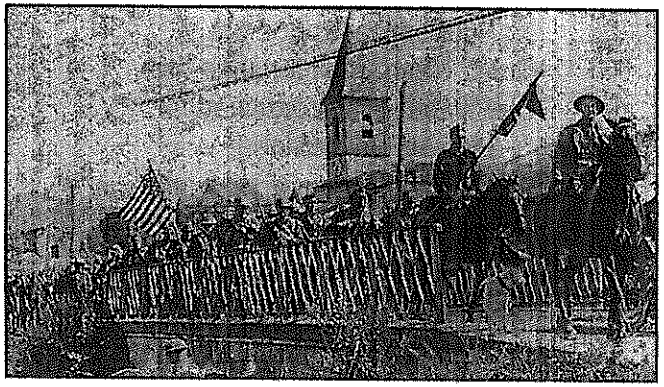
By Frank J. Buchman

Horse care of WWI comparable to present

There's nothing new under the sun in horse health care.

While horse owners are sometimes puzzled by a problem they think is something that's never occurred before, in reality it's probably been around ever since horses have.

A veterinary guide for horse soldiers serving in World War I indicates today's problems were around then, and there was a proper treatment. Some of those recommendations, however, might seem quite simple, compared to what might be prescribed by modern-day veterinarians.



Horses were the main mode of transportation during World War I. A special Army veterinary guide was used for training soldiers in personal horse health care.

Ringworm (hair falls out in circular patches) treatment: Clip affected parts and burn clippings, wash animal with disinfectant of cresol at 1 part to 80 water, apply tincture of iodine, paraffin or soft soap to spots, disinfect saddle and tack.

Mange (contagious, thickened skin irritation, hair comes off in patches) prevention: Isolate cases with their equipment, men tending them should not go among healthy animals as they can carry infection in their clothing. Treatment: Clip, burn clippings, dress with mixture of paraffin 1 pint, soap 1 pound, and water 1 gallon, exercise, picket in open, repeat every third day, work by themselves if must be used.

Tick treatment: Pull out with head intact, touch with paraffin, turpentine or carbolic acid.

Sprain treatment: Rest, apply cotton wool and linen bandage, stand in cold water or apply layer of soft clay, renew when dry.

Heel rope galls prevention: Keep head rope short. Treatment: Grease when marching, on return to camp wash with soap and warm water, dry and apply bran poultice.

Cracked heels and mud fever prevention: Do not wash legs when muddy, but leave until dry then brush dirt out. Treatment: Clean and dry (if greasy, apply dry bran poultice), dust on boric acid or powdered starch.

Thrush treatment: Clean frog, poultice or soak foot, dress cleft with boric acid, plug with piece of tow, stand on driest ground, shoe with tips.

Dirty sheath treatment: Draw out penis and wash it and sheath with soap and warm water or dirt will accumulate and maggots may appear.

Bullet wounds treatment: Observe cleanliness in treatment of wounds, dust with boric acid, cover with clean pad of lint, wool or bandage, which must not be applied tightly unless to stop bleeding.

Broken knees treatment: Grease when marching, do not poultice, clean with soap and warm water, dry.

Cuts and tears treatment: Grease when marching, on return to camp wash with soap and warm water, dry, apply bran poultice.

Bit injuries treatment: Work in snaffle or with bri-

tle over nose, improvise martingale, rinse mouth with clean water after feeding.

Girth galls treatment: Lightly smooth over swollen surface with hand in direction of hair for 15 minutes at a time, treat chafed skin as for wounds, to work horse strap girth back tying in under the belly to circingle which should be placed over fans of saddle, when healed must place piece of sheepskin under girth.

Sore backs and saddle galls prevention: Careful supervision and fitting of saddle. Treatment: Keep saddle off back until healed, bathe with cold salt water, dust with boric acid.

Sore withers treatment: Keep arch of saddle well clear of withers, bathe with cold salt water, dust with boric acid.

Coughs and colds treatment: Isolate, heat liniment or mustard and apply to throat from ear to ear for 15 minutes, give soft food, keep warm with rugs, plenty of fresh air.

Fever (off feed and dull with temperature over 100 degrees) treatment: Isolate, give soft feed, ample water supply changed frequently with epsom salts, keep warm with rugs, plenty of fresh air.

Exhaustion treatment: Give pint of warm beer, or half tumbler of rum or whiskey in pint of water, rest, frequent small quantities bran mash, steamed oats, oiled linseed, oatmeal and gruel.

Colic (bites at sides, lies down and rolls, stamps with hind legs, kicks at belly) treatment: Walk, give chloral hydrate ball or two ounces turpentine either with linseed oil or eggs and milk, in absence of drugs give half tumbler of rum or whiskey in warm water or 1 1/2 pints warm beer with teaspoonful ginger mixed in, hand-rub belly, frequent enemas of soapy water through a large bottle with the bottom knocked out as a funnel.

Sand colic prevention: Give clean feed off blankets. Treatment: Chloral hydrate balls and linseed oil.

Constipation treatment: Soft feed, green feed, regular work, frequent enemas.

Diarrhea treatment: Feed dry bran, keep body warm with rugs.

Strangles (swelling at the back of jaw and difficulty swallowing) treatment: Isolate, rest, soft food, warm with rugs, fresh air, foment swelling and treat as wound when bursts.

Glanders (thick nostril discharge, ulcers inside nostrils, enlarged glands on lower jaw) treatment: Rigid isolation of affected cases as is very contagious to horse and man, rest and time for recovery.

Farcy (skin form of glanders appearing as string of running sores on inside of hind legs and sometimes on neck and face) treatment: Isolation, rest and long period for recovery.

Epizootic lymphangitis (like glanders and farcy forming on wounds) treatment: Like glanders and farcy.

To shoot a horse: Lift up forelock and place it under brow band, place muzzle of revolver almost touching skin where the lowest hairs of the forelock grow. squeeze trigger

Horse Health Care Practices Of World War I Comparable To Present

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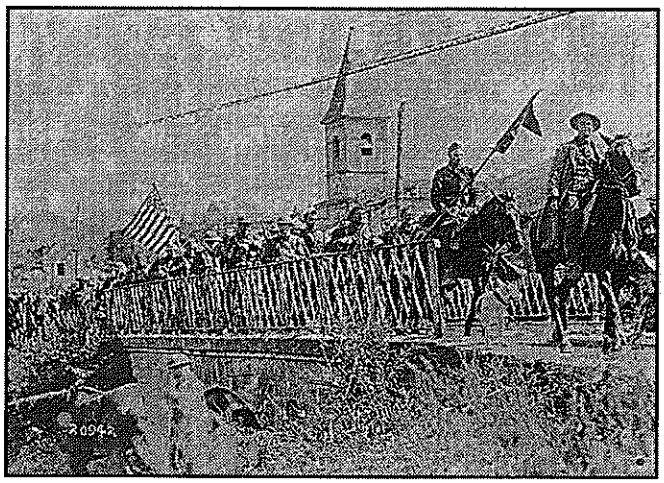

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