

“A Horse is a Horse, of Course of Course ...”

Get a horse!

It has occurred to me that our solution to the high gasoline prices is to get a horse.

As I was driving around today, I had this vision....

Suppose that instead of steel horsepower we used real horsepower?

All of the highways and byways would be the same, but everyone would be riding instead of driving.

Just imagine it . . . as you steer the steed into the acceleration lane you spur him to get up to speed as you merge in with the other steeds. Horsepower of all colors and markings, big and small, some fast, some slow. Some with flowing manes some with stubby tails.

You exit at the big shopping center and gee and haw your way into a parking space in front of J. C. Penney, but instead of the usual striped parking space you find a nice stall with a place to secure your pony. You put a dollar in a slot and out drops hay or oats, and water, to calm your animal down and feed him while you go into shop.

You come back out, put your packages in your saddle bags and trot off to your next destination. You come to a traffic light and the guy next to you is on a big, yellow horse and he seems to want to race you to the next stop light. You demure, knowing your trusty companion is short on speed.

You speed up to a slow run and merge back onto the freeway, where you see a Greyhound bus pulled by a team of eight Clydesdales as it passes an RV pulled by a couple of old gray mules.

I am sure that OSHA would find some way to equipment these new means of transportation with seat belts and air bags. Where would they put those stop lights and turn signals, and how about headlights?

Instead of car washes we would have horse washes, where you could get the old gray mare spiffed up for Sunday.

Just think of it, my friends, no more dependence on foreign oil, no more running out of gas on the freeway. Horse insurance is sure a lot cheaper than automobile insurance!

Horses have better sense than most - - they are not prone to running into each other, or rear ending each other.

Now some changes would have to be made in our lifestyles. We would move at a much slower pace - - life would be good again. You would only make a trip when you really

had to and you would probably walk more.

Automobile dealers would have to become Horse Emporiums with folks who knew how to merchandise horses. Each would have a staff of veterinarians to check out the beasts, give shots, etc. A scary thought - - those loud mouthed car hawkers on TV selling horses.

Instead of home garages we would have stables and hay storage buildings.

We would, however, create a whole new industry. Horse manure disposition. The good news is that it is wholly biodegradable and has many uses, not the least of which is fertilizer for your garden and flower beds. Talk about recycling your waste products.

I think that this would eventually fix the hole in the ozone layer, and those rich oil guys over seas would cry and cry.

Street cleaning, as we have known it would take on a whole new meaning and would be required much more frequently.

Saddle manufacturers would have to be really creative to make our current society of soft butts comfortable when riding . . . probably something with springs and shock absorbers. Of course we would need saddles for two, with maybe a place to hook on the kids. Former automobile body shops could now customize our pony to fit our fancy, pin stripping and all. How about white side wall hooves?

A whole new line of clothing would be required, and we would need something, maybe with air conditioning, to cover up with when it is hot.

The horse comes with its own supply of body heat for those cold days.

Ford, GM, and the others would come out with new lines of surreys and buggies that we would marvel at each year as the new models came out.

Our need for blood pressure medications and tranquilizers would go down and our sense that everything has to be instant would soon abate. Horses have calming effects on everyone.

Now, the big question, where would we attach the license plate?

Yes, my friends, get a horse!

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