

state

Tenants call out 'cavalry'

United Press International
DALLAS — Smith Protective Services thinks old-fashioned horse cavalry is the best way to protect one of the most densely populated areas of one of the world's most modern cities against muggers, burglars and rip-off artists.

Each night, Smith security guards Jerry Jones and Bill Richardson saddle up and patrol the sprawling 12,000-unit singles-only Village Apartments in Dallas' posh northeast side.

The company, which has done business in Dallas since 1903, started the service two weeks ago. Company vice-president Larry Flannery said the cavalry was conceived to answer several problems.

"We've been providing security to the Village for about two years," Flannery said. "They wanted to increase their security, but they couldn't afford a car and a man on foot wasn't very efficient over such a big area."

The answer was two 1,200-pound quarter horses — Lincoln and Smitty — each an imposing 16 hands high, with Jones and Richardson in the saddle.

The two horses have been trained much like cavalry mounts of the last century, Richardson said. For example, both have had firearms discharged around their heads to get them used to sudden noises. Also, there have been drills around the complex's stairstep landscaping.

"I haven't found a place yet where Smitty won't go," Jones said.

Flannery said the results have been "excellent." Aside from the deterrent offered by an armed, radio-equipped man in a campaign hat, sitting astride a half-ton animal, a guard has a much better point of observation on a horse than from inside a prowler car.

The horses also have big economic advantages over patrol cars, Flannery said.

"The Village built us a stable. The other costs are our problem. Cost-wise there's no comparison; a squad car, by the time you count insurance and upkeep payments, it costs about \$650 a month to operate. The horses cost about \$150 a month."

Not only are they cheaper, but the mounted patrols have reaped some unexpected public relations benefits.

"The only thing we were not ex-

pecting is this: security guards are usually looked on as the heavies. The tenants see a patrol car or a uniform and they think, 'There's the pigs. They're watching us,' Flannery said. "Suddenly, here's this guy on a horse, and the tenant is standing

there washing his car or something, and people come up and talk to the guard. Something about the horse makes people happy. He's a friend. "They're very energy efficient. You just got to be careful not to step in the exhaust."

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Gold affects insurance too

United Press International
AUSTIN, Texas — Skyrocketing silver and gold prices may have increased the value of jewelry and silverware beyond the insurance coverage of many Texas homeowners, a spokesman for the insurance industry said Tuesday.

Jerry Johns, president of the Southwestern Insurance Information Service, said many consumers may not be aware that the total value of their jewelry and silverware may not be covered by their standard homeowner insurance policies.

"With the rising cost of gold and silver, consumers need to be aware of how much insurance coverage they have on jewelry and other precious items before a major loss occurs," Johns said.

He said many homeowner policies provide limited coverage for loss by theft of jewelry, watches, furs, precious and semi-precious stones, silverware and goldware.

"Consumers should begin by getting a current appraisal on their jewelry. They should then contact their insurance agent to see if they need additional insurance protection to cover the full value of these items," Johns said.

Bias inquiry OK to police

United Press International
HOUSTON — Police chief Harry Caldwell said he would welcome a federal inquiry into black officers' complaints of racial discrimination in hiring, assignments and promotions within the department.

"If there's any evidence of discrimination," Caldwell said. "It's my intention to act on it immediately."

Anthony Comeaux, president of the Afro-American Police Officers League, has leveled racial discrimination charges and called for federal investigation.

Within the past few days, blacks have been assigned to the department's planning and police academy divisions. Caldwell said "everybody has a chance at all of the jobs."

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