

# the San Mateo **HORSEMAN**



Summer 1990



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## COVER STORY

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Last year, the SAN MATEO HORSEMAN featured an article written by Doris Lantz about her travels to China. Seems as if her and Bruce Baker plan on doing a trip every year! They have just recently returned from a horseback riding trip in Chile and have written about their travels for us!



## CUSTOM COVERS

*by Cheryl*

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## POACHING POSES IMMINENT THREAT TO CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE

Submitted by Patti and Amos Dana



Most people are aware of the illegal killing of the African elephant, but few know the scope of the poaching problem right here in California. Statistics reveal that twice as many deer are illegally killed than during a normal hunting period. In 1987 eleven mountain lions also fell prey to the poacher's gun. The actual count on cougars could be higher. The DFG estimates that only 2% of all poachers are apprehended. The low apprehension rate is partially due to an insufficient number of wardens to patrol areas.

Poaching is a widespread and profitable crime. There is great demand in the Asian market for elk and deer antlers, bear claws, and lion gallbladders because they are believed to have medicinal value. For the profiteers the penalties of poaching are not severe enough to deter them. The maximum fine for poaching deer or mountain lions is \$1000 and one year in the county jail. In most cases the maximum penalty is never assessed.

Poachers have diverted their business activities away from bear hunting because the maximum fine for illegally killing a

bear is \$5000 and up to one year in jail. They are now believed to be directing their illegal hunting activities toward mountain lions.

The California State Parks and Recreation Department recognizes poaching as the third largest threat to California wildlife. With our dwindling natural lands and low apprehension rate, it is critical for California citizens to report violators. Duncan Snell of the Department of Fish & Game states: "The public needs to be aware that wildlife belongs to us collectively. When someone kills an animal illegally, they are stealing from all of us."



# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT


Well, we are now half-way through our 50th year. Time certainly has a way of passing by rather quickly. We have already managed to put on a couple of 50th events this year, the first being the fashion show. The men, ladies, and children of our organization did an outstanding job in putting on the show. The tack auction was financially successful with a showing of great generosity by our members in donating their tack and time.

Thanks to the efforts of Rick Payne, Jill Silva and Bill Hopper, the club now has it's own cook trailer. I understand it is large enough to feed the crowd from the super bowl. We are all looking forward to seeing it at our next cook-out.

The horse show committee members are all hard at work on the various shows for the summer. The western clinic is as popular as ever with our members. At this time, it looks like we are going to have our 50 riders for the 4th of July parade. Our 50th committee is already hard at work on the October 6th banquet, it should prove to be quite a gala affair. We can still use some help, so don't be bashful, volunteer and have some fun.

We've had 74 new members join since January 1st of this year. SMCHA must be doing something right to continue to attract new members, so everybody keep up the good work, you are all doing a GREAT job.

Dick Convery  
President, SMCHA



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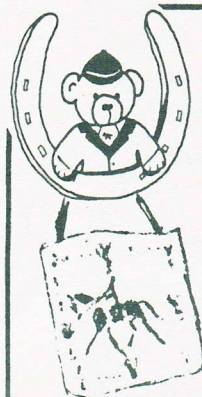
Gay-Lynn Mann

This year certainly has been a banner year so far! The number of events so far have been many and the response from the general membership to pitch in and help has been wonderful! Membership apparently is on the rise and it seems that our "word of mouth" reputation has been our biggest referral! All of the events have been well-planned and organized and we certainly have had a lot of great people helping. Where else can you find an IBM executive working the back gate of a horse show or a police captain watering down the arena before the Western Clinic?

Horse Shows, Western Riding Clinics, Group Rides, Fashion Shows, General Meetings etc. etc. fill the pages of the calendar and our President Dick Convery has been doing a great job of keeping all of us on track! He's doing two jobs this year... as if being president isn't time consuming enough, he's also the Co-Chairman of the 50th Anniversary Committee.

Lots of good articles were submitted by the membership this issue and I want to thank all of you for your interest.

Most of you have already met our little ANNIE ROSE since where I go, she goes! She's starting to wonder what her room looks like during the day! Congratulations to Denise Eubanks on the birth of her son, Justin and to Connie and Robert Stuckey who had a son also, Ryan Stuart. I'm trying to get all three together for a cover shot for our next issue and it looks like SMCHA will be in good hands when they grow up!



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## WESTERN FASHION SHOW AND TACK AUCTION

On April 23rd 1990, the SMCHA held a fashion show and tack auction to benefit the 50th Anniversary Fund. The club had not put on a fashion show in many a year and we soon found out why! There was a tremendous amount of planning (and that meant meetings), rehearsals and a great club effort to put the fashion show on. But, it was sure worth it! The participants and the audience really had a great time. I am already hearing talk of doing it again next year. We will have dreamed up a new cause by then...

Special thanks to a whole lot of people and merchants who really put it all together: Laurie Figuth arranged for the fashions from Winchester Western Wear, coached the models and wrote the script that Barbara George so professionally read. Thanks Laurie, for a lot of time and effort! Thanks a lot to Mary Lee Twisselman who designed the stage setting that looked so beautiful behind our models. To Doug Moody for doing his usual great job as Master of Ceremonies. To Noel Moody for writing the script for the skits, so aptly played out by Lew Reed, Walt Kirk, Ron Harris, Bruce Baker, Tex Rowan, John Cardinale, Cheryl and Mariah Fike, Deanna Marchi, the Moon brothers, Ken Brush and Keith McCleod. The models were: Nancy Crowley, Cheryl Chandler, Debbie Casinelli, Holly Winnen, Heather Winnen, Patrick Winnen, Elizabeth Hopper, Michelle Hopper, Bill Hopper, Melissa Convery, Dick Convery and don Palus. Ginny Marshall went to a lot of trouble to bring her miniature horse JUST JAQUAR to display at the show. He was great. Other members who helped out were: Rick Payne, bob Hydorn, Lisa Dixon, Eileen Borzone, Karen Rowley, Doris Lantz, Gay-Lynn Mann, Christine Epstein, Libby Armanino, Ken Lansdowne and our chef Jill Silva. As you can see by the long list of names, it was truly a united club effort. This display of willingness by the membership to get in there and help is the main reason for the success that we are now enjoying. I apologize if I accidently left anybody's name out.

We collected over \$5,000.00 at the tack auction that immediately followed the fashion show and were able to keep \$3,400.00 from the auction. The generosity of Dale Ryman and his wife Beverly really got the auction off to a good start. They donated over 100 items of tack and clothing to help out the horsemen. Thanks Dale and Beverly, we really appreciated it! Bruce Doran also came to the rescue by donating some items and selling others at his cost from the WOODSIDE MERCANTILE. Bruce and his friend Frank, who is a professional auctioneer, really put on a performance and made everyone eager to buy anything that moved. Nicole Chagniot, the owner of CAROUSEL SADDLERY generously donated were Ross Meredith, Doug Moody, Rich Payne, Dick Convery and Bill Holmes. Helping the auctioneer were; Doug Moody, Bruce Baker and John Cardinale. Donna Tozzi helped keep the purchases in order, while Michele Payne and Lisa Dixon handled the money.

We had a "Clean Up Tack Day" at my house in April and those hearty volunteers were: Noel Moody, Mary Jo and Ron Harris, Karen Rowley, Walt Kirk, and of course Melissa.

The auction was a great money maker for our 50th, THANKS to all who helped and those that made the purchases. The big spender award went to Bill Jabs, whose Ferrari was overflowing with tack when he left. Anybody interested in buying a heart bridle, please see Dick Convery. Thanks again to everyone.

Richard Convery



# COLIC

Submitted by Rick Payne  
Reprinted from the Miniature Horse Journal

Colic, unfortunately, is a year round problem; however, more cases occur during the fall and winter months. Horses are generally stabled at these times, which is probably a contributing factor. Colic refers to a wide range of conditions affecting the intestinal tract resulting in pain or discomfort. Colic usually indicates an obstruction to the flow of ingesta through the intestine no matter what the cause. It is a very difficult condition to treat at times. Consequently, the best method of treatment is prevention. This article will present some of the causes of colic and, most important, some measures which can be taken to prevent colic from occurring.

Management directed at these causes can greatly aid in the prevention of colic.

## INTESTINAL PARASITES

Intestinal parasites are the number one cause of colic. It is estimated that 70-80 percent of colic cases can be traced to parasites. The parasites can cause a blockage in the digestive tract. The immature larval forms migrate through the body and are frequently found in the muscle of the intestine, the arteries to the intestines, and the wall of the abdomen. Muscle damage may be so severe that a section of the intestine may stop moving, resulting in the backup of ingesta. The blood supply to the intestine can be blocked causing the "death" of a section of the intestine, resulting in the loss of mobility and even death of the horse. Parasites migrate to the lungs and other organs, producing pneumonia and chronic coughing.

A regularly scheduled deworming program is essential to reduce the intestinal parasite infestation and lower the possibility of colic. It is recommended to deworm at least four times yearly. More frequently deworming (every 4-6 weeks) is necessary with young horses and where a large number of horses are kept on small acreage.

It is advisable to develop a routine deworming program with your veterinarian. A wide range of products are available, some of which are not effective against all the major internal parasites of horses. A rotation of active ingredients is important to prevent parasite resistance. Paste, tube, feed and injectable forms are available.

## OVEREATING

Feeding management is undoubtedly the second major cause of colic. Any rapid or radical change in the horse's feeding program can be a serious threat.

Horses that are fed too much grain or get into the feed room and consume excessive feed are going to develop colic. Consumption of large amounts of grain will cause a blockage and an increase in the bacteria which produces gas, resulting in bloating.

## RAPID CHANGES IN FEED

Changing from a low energy feed to a high energy feed can cause colic, particularly if done rapidly. The problem does not occur as readily when going from a high roughage diet in most horses could be done over a short period of time. Example, rapidly changing from a grass hay to alfalfa hay can result in colic. The bacterial population of the intestinal tract must have time to adjust to changes in feeds. If not, improper digestion occurs with excess gas production.

## MOLDY, DUSTY OR SPOILED FEED

The intestinal tract of the horse is sensitive; moldy, spoiled or dusty feeds will irritate it. These damaged feeds result in digestion disturbance.

## OVER-EXERCISING

Horses that are not cooled out properly after vigorous exercise can become colicky. Unconditioned horses that are worked hard will also become colicky. Allow one hour after feeding before riding. Do not feed a horse until it is properly cooled out.

## LACK OF ACTIVITY

Horses that stand in a stall most of the day do not have proper muscle tone and blood circulation to the intestinal tract. They are more prone to colic.

## INADEQUATE WATER SUPPLY OR INTAKE

Without proper water intake, impactions can occur. Impactions are more likely to be a problem during the winter months. Cold weather usually results in lower intake. It is especially a problem if extremely steamy, dry hay is fed. Water keeps the contents of the intestinal tract moist and prevents drying and blocking of ingesta. Salt encourages horses to drink more water. About 0.5 to 1 percent salt should be added to the grain ration. One breeder adds a small handful of bran once a day beginning early in the fall as the weather begins to change.

## BAD TEETH AND BAD EATING HABITS

Horses with bad teeth do not chew their feed properly, which may result in impaction. It is advisable to check a horse's teeth at least once each year and more frequently after they become about 13 years old. This is more likely to be a problem with older horses.

Some horses have bad eating habits such as "gobbling" their feed. This problem may be alleviated by: 1) feeding small amounts of grain several times a day; 2) using a large feed box where feed can be spread in a thin layer resulting in a horse getting only a small amount with each bite; and 3) placing smooth fist size stones in the feed box to reduce the horse's intake per bite.



## OTHER CAUSES

Other situations which can result in colic include: 1) pregnancy; 2) sand ingestions; 3) enteritis (inflammation of the intestinal tract); 4) tumors; 5) poisoning; 6) diarrhea (irritation causing staining which could displace bowel segments); and 7) some conditions produce colic - like symptoms but are not actually digestive problems (such as bladder stones, etc.).

It is important to know how to recognize colic before it becomes too severe. The signs may appear gradually or suddenly, depending on the cause. Some of the common signs include: 1) uneasiness or restlessness; 2) looking at the flank area; 3) getting up and down; 4) some horses may sweat; 5) shifting weight from one foot to another, etc. Horses that are colicky for a long period or those with severe problems will: 1) lie down and roll; 2) have an increased pulse and respiration rate; 3) have congested mucus membranes (gums); 4) strain as it to defecate; 5) sweat; 6) bloat or have distention of the abdomen. Generally there will be no bowel movements, although at times the fecal material in the rectum may be eliminated. This does not mean that the horse is not obstructed.

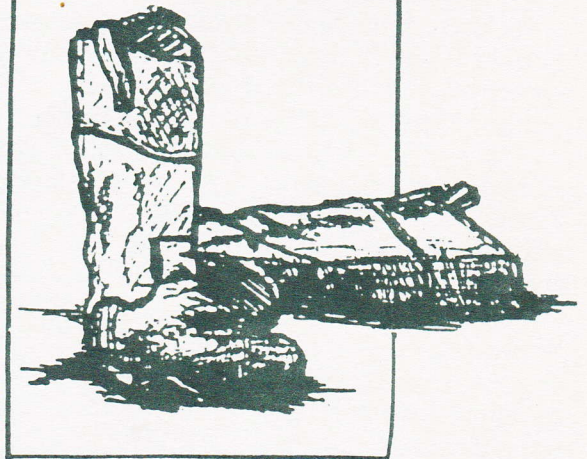
What should you do when colic occurs? Do not panic! Call your veterinarian. Colic is always an emergency situation. Time is extremely important as most colics can be dealt with successfully with prompt treatment. Until the veterinarian arrives, constantly observe the horse and report any changes or symptoms to the veterinarian. Horses which want to lie down and roll, should be kept moving. Those not wanting to lie down should be left alone. Periodic walking is alright, but in some cases it only tires a horse. If surgery is required, a tired horse is a poor risk. Remove all feed from the horse. Water can be given is it will drink. Note any change after drinking, because it may influence the outcome.

Colic can be a most unpleasant and expensive experience for the horse owner. A good deworming program combined with careful feeding management will prevent the majority of colic cases.

# CLEM'S

# ORNER

Clementine Carroll



On a hot Saturday one day in May, I attended a dog "show" in Palo Alto because the story written up about it sounded fascinating. It was called THE GREAT PALO ALTO MUTT SHOW, it's second year, and having some five or six classes, all mixed breeds, all sizes, all together. I viewed some three hundred people, each family with children and a dog, sitting closely on the lawn awaiting their respective classes and never once a confrontation between the dogs. The event that brought me to the show was titled "Fly Ball Relay Racing". Two pairs of dogs competed at a time. They raced forward over four jumps, stopped a moment on a small moving platform which released a tennis ball. Every participant caught it in their mouth and raced back over the hurdles to their waiting owners. High Points were easily scored... some did a clean "sweep" while others dropped the ball or ran around the hurdles. The crowd yelled and clapped each time and that was a test itself in "obedience".

Some of the other events were MATCHED PAIR (Costumes, owner and dog), BIGGEST DOG, BEST COSTUME DOG - that was a good one - a bull dog wearing a black leather vest, silver studded also wearing black leather hat! So many entries wore goggles and they "stayed put"!

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The obedience classes were a far cry from the American Kennel Club rules. The handlers and their pets were having FUN! One Dohberman upon command to "heel" literally did a dance each time and there was a lovely blonde cocker spaniel who came to a standstill after a jump - looked over at the audience awaiting applause and then continued. All were awarded tasty bits during their performances. Was a fun afternoon...

A few weeks ago, I flew to El Paso, Texas, to start a bus tour of New Mexico ending in the north at Taos and returning from Albuquerque via South West Air.

While driving over miles and miles of desert, the tour director told us a story of the Road Runner (a bird that is a native of this area). During courting season the male looks under trees where the snakes are, waits for their first "strike", drags them out on the hot sand and there presents a cooked dinner to the female. She doesn't sit on the nest but on a branch above, with spread wings, the hot desert air incubates the eggs.

Spent some time at Carlsbad Caverns National Park. The entrance is on top of a mountain where an elevator takes visitors down 750 feet to view the monumental stalagmite and stalactite formations, truly a "star wars" presentation.

We drove through a little town called Ruidoso, and was told that every year horsemen bring their Quarter Horses to race. All summer long eliminations are held and on Labor Day, the final twelve horses run. One race, one million to the winner!

Had lunch in the first Hilton Hotel, in a little town called Socorro. Grandpa Augustus Hilton decided this was a good location. He was first a merchant and noted that when the people brought in their wares, they didn't have a place to sleep so he opened the loft of his warehouse.

We then followed the Rio Grande to Santa Fe, a lovely town, all homes in adobe from one room hogans to million dollar mansions. in the downtown area five stories is the maximum.

My great thrill was the Museum of American Indian Art. I viewed old, old Navajo rugs, baskets, pottery and all kinds of tools and molds the original silversmiths used. I saw a mold made of stone with the design of two silver bracelets I've owned for years. This work is called repose - the pattern worked out from the inside of the bracelet. in another museum is a cavalryman, horse and foot soldier dressed in European armor of the Spanish Conquistadors. How did they ever cross a desert in those outfits? Santa Fe was discovered in 1540. Throughout the tour we stopped at a number of haciendas turned into fine restaurants, one called Rancho de Chimayo which was written up in Gourmet Magazine. This lovely setting seemed to be in the middle of "nowhere" but does it ever draw tourists to eat it's perfect Mexican food. Was told Robert Redford stops by frequently.

Then to Taos, visited the enormous pueblo which is still inhabited by the Taos Indians for nearly 1000 years. Wish we could have gone to the Colorado border, heard the Farmington area is beautiful. Oh well, next time!

Doug and Noel stopped by to check in about my journey, having themselves just returned from the Los Viajeros Four Day Ride at the Grant Ranch which is about half way up to Mt. Hamilton. They reported the riding was great, weather perfect and the catered food plentiful and excellent. BUT every nigh bands of half wild pigs "rooted" their way through camp... papas, mamas and little piglets. Some males were estimated to be near 600 pounds. At midnight, Brandy Cocker was heard shooing them away from her supply of bran she faithfully gives to ROCKY every night. Ed Ver Linden's cooler was opened by this 600 pounder and beer cans smashed open. some of the horses must have gone crazy!

Would like to say how professional the Western Fashion Show was and what a wonderful job everyone did! A big thanks to Laurie who did a tremendous amount of work organizing all the models! And to the models - you all looked wonderful, so professional!



# RIDERS in the MIST

Ron Harris

April 8th was our first ride of the new year. Sixty riders turned out to follow trail boss Ron Harris through the beautiful trails of the Windy Hill Open space Preserve. Under the able-bodied supervision of parking directors, Bill and Roni Turnbow, the parking lot at the Portola Valley Town Center was filled to capacity. It was a grey overcast day with a hint of rain in the air, but we all kept our fingers crossed and no rain gear was needed except for a brief period of heavy skyline dew that we encountered when we arrived at the top of Windy Hill. Ever ready, Walt Kirk was awaiting our arrival at the hilltop rest stop with an abundant supply of liquid refreshments. After a brief and chilly pause the hearty group began their descent via the Spring Ridge Trail. It wasn't long till we had left the dampness behind and everyone had warmed up enough to thoroughly enjoy the panoramic views. Paul Bjoring, SMCHA's official cameraman, was very busy with his camcorder. He kept popping up everywhere, from the Portola Valley parking lot to a hilltop along Skyline Blvd. Rick Payne served as official drag rider and kept in contact, via radio, with the trail boss.

Meanwhile, back at the Portola Valley Town Center, our own galloping gourmet, Jill Silva and her able-bodied crew had been busy preparing a hearty lunch of BBQ'ed ribs, chicken and all the trimmings. The hottest item on the menu had to be the flaming tortillas! Seventy hungry horsemen joined us for lunch, including many from the San Francisco Horsemen's Association and the East Bay. Also joining in the festivities were a couple from Marin County that Bruce Baker and Doris Lantz met while in Chile vacationing on horseback.

I hope all of you first-timers enjoyed yourselves and will be able to join us again at future events.

Convery's clean-up crew finished off the day by returning the parking lot to it's pre-ride condition.

Thanks to everyone, too numerous to mention all by name, who helped to make this ride the great success that it was.

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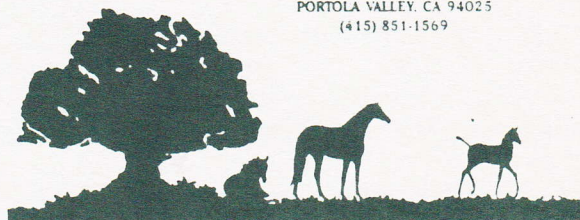
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# TRAIL TIPS

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Lew Reed

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Have you wondered about our trails? Where did they come from? How did they come into existence? Certainly trails do not appear by a flick of your horse's tail.

First, someone has to want a trail. They talk others into wanting such a trail. They form a committee. They look over the land. They walk or ride the area to form an opinion and decide the pros and cons. Then they go to the jurisdiction over the land whether it be town, city, county, state or special district and discuss it with their staff. The appropriate staff then looks at the land and decides if it is ecologically a sound idea. Sometimes months go into this planning process. Having decided that the proposed route won't damage the land or wildlife, the route is flagged trying to keep all the land contours and construction is about to start. Who is going to construct the trail? Will the public agency? Do they have the money? Sometimes they do out of special funds of the jurisdictions. Sometimes they have to apply for grant funds to the State after the people have voted an appropriate bond issue or perhaps to an independent charitable trust. What if no money is available? This is where the individual comes forth as a VOLUNTEER.

Now the sweat starts to roll. The grunt work starts. Out on the trail, these VOLUNTEERS put in their hard work, day after day or weekend after weekend. Hard hats shovels, McClellan, saws, rakes, gloves, long sleeves and clippers are some of the tools. Sawing branches, shoveling dirt, moving trees, lifting boulders and resetting them - the work goes on... Trail work moves at an inchworm's pace. Switchbacks are designed. Drainage is built in. Water bars are placed. Bridges are built. The trail tread emerges.

But it is not all drudgery. Eating their lunch on the trail. Hiking in through beautiful scenic views. Comradery prevails. And most of all - that feeling of accomplishment.

A splendid example of such a regional trail built this way is the Tahoe Rim Trail, 150 miles of trail affording a spectacular view from an elevation of 6,400 to 9,600 above Lake Tahoe, one of America's largest and deepest alpine lakes. The goal is to have this trail finished by the end of 1992. There are about 60 miles left to construct. Volunteers have done so much already. Financing came from private donors and many fund-raising plans. It will take about 2 weeks to ride or walk the full length when completed. It will be a great long circle on the rim around Lake Tahoe.

Underway is another similar regional trail, THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA RIDGE TRAIL commonly called BART (not to be confused with the rapid transit system...) is a trail completely surrounding the San Francisco Bay on the ridge tops, a 500 mile venture. At this moment it is in the planning stages and the various jurisdictions involved are slowly working the plan through the governmental problems. Committees of the nine counties involved are meeting regularly to plan, to lay out, to seek public support from individuals, support groups and the many cities through which this trail will pass. San Mateo County and all 20 cities in San Mateo County have adopted supportive resolutions. The San Mateo County Committee has investigated miles of trail and for the most part, walking them to determine the best route through our county. Several miles of this trail are presently in existence by utilizing existing trails and the appropriate jurisdictions have accepted responsibility for them. Thus about 20 miles in San Mateo County are already dedicated.



When completed BART will connect 75 parks managed by 40 different agencies and nonprofit organizations. In the first year of implementation, some 72 miles of trail have been successfully dedicated and signed connecting 20 parks managed by 14 jurisdictions. Hundreds of hours of dedicated devoted hardworking individuals have been given to this project so far. More to come. Isn't this dramatic and impressive? In San Mateo County, many segments were dedicated in 1989 - Skyline Trail from Huddart to Wunderlich, Purisma Creek Trail, Soda Gulch Trail, Harkins Ridge Trail, Mori Ridge Trail, Sweeney Ridge Trail and Milagra Ridge Trail.

1990 work projects include exploring new links, building trails, developing public education, trail signage, trail inventories of length, availability of parking at trailheads, restroom facilities along the trail, telephones, emergency access and water along the trail. And the preparation of a management guide so all the jurisdictions follow similar rules. BART is a most exciting and interesting concept for a trail so closely adjacent to a large urban area and still preserving the wilderness experience.

Another regional trail is the BAY AREA TRAIL - The Ring Around The Bay. This is a trail surrounding San Francisco Bay as close to the water as possible. It is well on it's way. Several miles are already in use. This was mostly supported by individuals who convinced the state, county and cities to participate and finance and manage such a trail. It is primarily a hiking and biking trail.

Once again, there is another group of individuals who are just now exploring the possibilities of a Coastal Region Trail along the Pacific Ocean shoreline from Oregon to Mexico.

The Pacific Crest Trail on the top of the Sierra from Oregon to Mexico is an excellent example of a regional trail. It is in existence for it's many miles and is very popular with hikers, some of whom have the full length. To do this takes a whole summer of steady walking up and down the ridges. Those who have this exclaim "It was fun!".

Trails. Trails. Trails. Are you supporting them with your committee work, with your finances, with your labor or just plain talking them up?

Woodside Trail Club reports that they have repaired the fencing on the Monkey Trail from Webb Ranch to Sandhill Road with new posts and barbed-wire. It is reported that some horsemen do not approve of the barbed-wire. It should be realized that this was a requirement of Stanford University via the Biological Preserve. Let's hope that it will remain in place. Vandalism on the trails creates problems for everyone and may be the only excuse landowners need to close off some of our permissive trails.

Woodside Trail Club Captain, Harry Williams, is relating that he is receiving a rash of phone calls about unlocked gates. It seems that the number of gates left open and unlocked has significantly increased in recent month. The latest incident concerns an unlocked gate on one of our most important trails. As a result, the property owner's 2 dogs got out. They were picked up by the SPCA and it cost the property owner \$40 to get them back. And to add to the story, this has happened to the same owner twice in a year. Now he is threatening to close the trail. Closing and locking gates is an action that has been preached to horsemen ever since there were riding trails across private property. Are today's horsemen not thinking? Why not follow the rule? They promised to close and lock gates when they joined the Club. Will their sponsors be requested to go out and pick up the key of the offender?

A committee of MPROSD is meeting monthly to work out the district's policies about trails. Each word of the document is reviewed, discussed, promoted or rejected. The bicycle enthusiasts are at every meeting making sure that their right to ride on District Land is permitted. Hikers and runners are present. Representing horsemen is one individual, Lew Reed. He is a constant monitor of these meeting being sure that



horsemen are not left out of their trial systems. So far the Committee has made no exact recommendations as to whether certain users will be eliminated from some trails. This problem is to be discussed in their next meetings. The Committee is meeting at their District offices at 7:30 in the evening. Interested horsemen are invited to attend.

Summer is upon us and the trails are dry and the Woodside Trail Club and park rangers strive to keep them brushed out. Let's ride. Ride and enjoy one of the finest riding areas in the several states. Enjoy the experience!! Commune with nature! Enjoy the solitude or the companionship of your fellow riders!!

Trails are everywhere and more are coming...



SMCHA signed up it's youngest member!!!!

At the general meeting held on April 25th we received an application for membership and a signed check from one ANNIE ROSE ARMANINO who was a mere 8 days old. This makes her the youngest member in the history of SMCHA. Her parents, Rod and Libby Armanino are both proud members of SMCHA and would like Annie to follow in their footsteps.

Richard Convery



**BRIARWOOD VETS ATTEND EQUINE CONFERENCE**

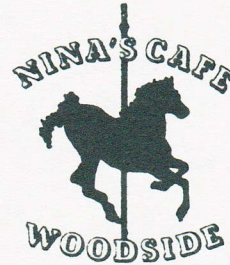
Portola Valley, CA, April 5, 1990 - Drs. Wayne Browning and Gary Hanes, veterinarians at Briarwood Equine Clinic, Inc., attended the Western States Veterinary Conference February 18-29, 1990 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Various equine topics were discussed, including lectures by Dr. Ric Redden, one of the country's foremost experts on laminitis (founder) in horses.

"Continuing education allows us to keep current on the latest findings and treatments in equine medicine" said Dr. Browning. "I felt the lectures on the eye and acute/chronic phases of laminitis were particularly valuable."

Dr. Hanes added, "It was nice to be able to send two of us to the conference. Many of the talks overlapped, and it enables us to attend them all and bring the information back to our clients."

MICHAEL VAN NOY, D.V.M.  
Briarwood Equine Clinic, Inc.

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# HORSES ACROSS THE ANDIES

Doris Lantz

You cannot imagine a better way to experience the breathtaking scenery of the Andes Mountain range in Chile than from the back of a sure-footed Chilean horse. Gentle, intelligent and keen, they provide a great ride.

Bruce and I arrived in Santiago after a 24 hour travel time and needless to say we were happy to get off the plane and get to our first destination, the Carrera Hotel. The hotel was great, and in the lobby we started meeting the different members of our group, a real collection of horse people from all over the U.S. and the world. There were 15 of us total: Wilfried from Germany, Anne from England, Kathy and Bill from Alaska, Charlotte from Baltimore, Byard and Mel from Wyoming, Byard Jr. from Texas, Don and Laurie from L.A., Ann from Chicago, Susuan from New York, Richard from Menlo Park and of course Bruce and I.



On our first day we toured the city and that night had a "get-acquainted" dinner. Everyone was anxious to get underway and get to riding.

The next day we were off on a 6 hour train ride to Chillan, a city South of Santiago. The train ride was quite interesting. Seeing the sights of Chile, lots of farms and everything so green. This was the end of their summer and just about the start of their fall.

After the train ride, the 15 of us together with our guide Alex and the driver all piled "squeezed" into a little van (suitcases on top) and made our way on another 2 hour drive to the Parador owned by a man named Don Emilio. There we had dinner and a briefing on the Andies and were handed supplies: a sombrero, spurs, saddle bags, towel and soap and of course toilet paper. That night we had a good nights sleep in a bed and a shower...the last for the next 8 days!

The next morning after another hour ride in our little van, we went to the trailhead and met up with our horses. There they were, all saddled and waiting for us to begin our 8 day 7 night adventure across the Andies. The saddles were very different, just a couple of pieces of lamb's wool wrapped around a metal and wooden saddle tree. The stirrups and leggings were thin pieces of leather attached to a rubber tire made into a stirrup. To be honest, that was the most comfortable saddle I have ever ridden in and I regret not buying one and bringing it back. Once mounted, our adventure began. We rode along a deep and scenic valley leaving farms behind. We penetrated far into the mountains. While riding along on the first day we saw a flock of conures (a small parrot type bird). We crossed rivers and streams and by mid-afternoon we reached our first camp. The staff had already reached the camp before us and had the tents up and the campfire going. All we had to do was unroll our sleeping bags and roll them up in the mornings. The tents were always taken down and put up by the staff, who always had our horses ready for us in the morning for that

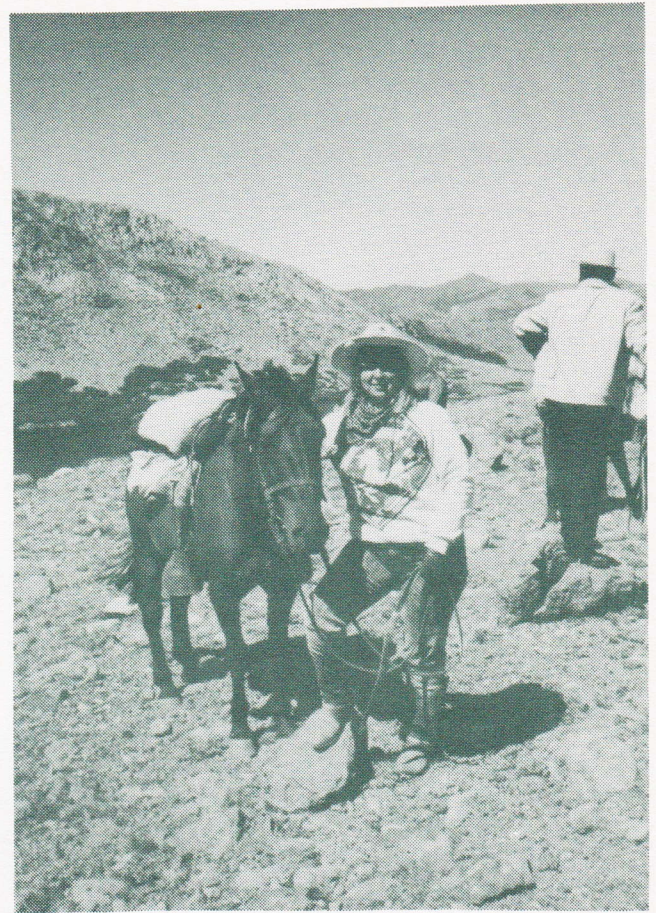


day's journey. All the supplies were carried by pack horses (they even had one horse that just carried 2 large kegs of wine, one red and one white).

The first night took a little getting used to...sleeping on the ground. But as the days went on, I became an old pro at it. Bruce wanted to try his hand at fishing and unfortunately lost half his fishing pole the first night. In the evenings they let the horses graze. They then rounded them up in the morning for the days travel.

The first couple of days the breakfast, lunch, and dinners were great. Fresh bread was always cooked daily (in the coals) which was always wonderful. But as the days went on the meat that was served was only lamb. The reason for this was ranchers graze their sheep herds in the Andies and that was easiest for the staff to get and serve (it was definitely fresh) and was always cooked over an open fire pit with a wooden stake through the center for easy turning.

As the days went on, we traversed mountain ranges, rode across plains, and descended through a forest into the Los



Peucos valley and found ourselves in the heart of the Andies. One day we rode to a natural hot springs for a restorative bath. Because the Andies are volcanic, there were several places with very hot water coming out as springs.

As we headed East towards Argentina, we made a detour to Laguna Del Lobo (Lake of the Wolf). To reach this lake we rode 3,000 feet up a sandy mountain (here you really appreciate the horses strength and stamina). The higher we went the farther we could see, until finally Argentina came into view. Then suddenly the slope gave way to a view of a crater lake with a majestic backdrop of soaring cliffs. There we saw wild geese and the great condors with their 12 foot wing span. The condors have a white ring around their neck. Their backs are also white while the rest of their body is black and they have a bald head. They were a real thrilling sight to see. That afternoon we descended towards the border and camped near the police post of Las Aguilas.

The next day we rode back through the Polcura and Los Peucos Rivers. We then entered a deep gorge and climbed through





Vice President Quayle was even there. Thousands and thousands of people were lined up outside our hotel watching people come in and out. It was a little scary. The next day when we went to the airport, I was actually glad to leave because of all the hustle and bustle. But the adventure didn't stop there.

We then flew on to Rio De Janero. There were many government officials on this plane who were going to Sao Palo. I sat next to a very nice man in the Brazilian government that had been to the inauguration of the new Chilean President. He was telling me that now Brazil is changing leaders and he was going to Brazilia for that inauguration. I thought to myself that I was glad I wasn't going to Brazilia (the capitol of Brazil)! I was glad I was going to Rio and not have to bother with the confusion. Rio definitely wasn't what I was expecting. It's a very dirty and smoggy city with lots of graffiti on the buildings. The beaches weren't much either. We did the typical tourist stuff, but I wasn't impressed at all. Because of the leadership change in Brazil the banks were closed. The new President was going to get inaugurated on that Friday and they weren't going to open the banks 'till the following Monday which made the exchange rate bad. From Rio we were flying to Manaus in the heart of the Amazon. I was really looking forward to seeing this tropical place and all the wild life you hear so much about. On the way there as luck would have it we had a stop over in Brazilia (I couldn't believe it). There at the airport were all these airplanes of the world leaders - it was a sight to see. Each plane had men with machine guns standing around guarding it. I was glad when we flew out of there and were finally on our way to Manaus.

When we arrived at Manaus one of Bruce's shippers, Asher, met us at the airport and took us to our hotel. There we checked into our room and made arrangements to meet Asher and his wife for dinner that evening. We were waiting in the hotel lobby (the name of the hotel was the Tropical) and I noticed about a dozen or so men and two women walking hurriedly around in front of where we were sitting. I thought to myself,

"isn't that strange?" Some had earphones on and some had walkie-talkie radios attached to their wrists talking into them. Bruce and I were the only ones in the lobby besides these people (who by the way were in suits and ties) and it was very hot and humid out. So I knew something was up. I walked up to one of the women who were running around and asked her what was going on. She said the Vice President was coming here for dinner. I asked her what Vice President and she said of the United States. Well you can imagine I was in shock. I thought I was finally away from all of that. Then low and behold here comes Quale walking right in the front door. He really had an entourage with him. He walked right past me. A little while later, Asher and his wife arrived and we had a nice fish dinner. We had ARAPIMA local fish of the Amazon River. Asher's wife is a doctor in Manaus. She works at a government clinic and only makes \$50 US a week which is good pay. The next day Asher took us to his fish farm, where he packages and ships tropical fish from the Amazon River to all over the world. It was really interesting seeing all the fish. We even went to one of the boats that goes out into the Amazon tributaries to collect the fish. On the way we passed by the local dump... that was a sight I couldn't believe! I would say at least a hundred local people were there fighting off the buzzards for the food dumped there, it was real sad.

We then went on to an Indian artifact store and was looking around when I heard a couple of guys speaking English behind us. I was surprised since everyone in Brazil spoke Portuguese. So I went over to talk to them and asked them where they were from. They were from Washington and were in Quail's entourage. That night we had dinner with these two guys and found out the story of why Quayle was in Manaus. It seems that Dan Quayle's wife was staying at the same hotel as us, so he made plans to meet her for dinner at the hotel. Sounds nice but can you imagine what that dinner cost the U.S. tax payers. True he was in Brazil anyway, but Brazilia not Manaus. These two guys were in Quayle's bomb squad and they had been there for 2 weeks prior checking out the place as well as many other government agents. The hotel bill and dinners were picked up by the U.S.



the Piedras Malas (Bad Stones) to reach Los Barros, a death trap swamp to the unwary. A long trot took us across two valleys where we reached a forest to camp.

By this time all of us were so tired of eating lamb that Bruce once again decided to try his hand at fishing. One of the staff loaned him another pole and this time he was successful! He caught plenty of trout for all to eat. Everyone was quite happy.

We started the next morning by climbing to a ridge about 10,000 feet high from which there were spectacular views of the Nevado and Chillan volcano. A long and steep descent took us down to the Diguillin river where we once again made camp. Here we slept under the stars with no tents. The next morning we went up, up and up until we reached Aguas Calientes, a crater (with many large hot springs) which gives birth to the Diguillin river. Here we enjoyed hot baths in one of several of the hot rivers. That afternoon's ride was like an extraterrestrial landscape. We skirted the slopes of the active Chillan volcano until far away and way below we saw the Parador. After a 6,000 foot

descent through lava and then a welcomed forest we finally were back at the Parador. The first thing I wanted was a coke since all we had to drink on this adventure was stream water, coffee or wine. Bruce had a beer. Everyone was glad to be back to a good shower, clean clothes, a steak (not lamb) dinner and a real bed.

This was the first year that this ride had been opened to the world and we were one of the first groups of non-local people to be able to do this. I really feel privileged. While we were on this trip we had no contact with the outside world at all, a major catastrophe could have happened and we would have never known it.

The next morning after a good night's bed rest, we all piled back into that little van and headed back to the Chillan train station to head back for Santiago. When we arrived back in Santiago, BOY was that a culture shock! While we were on our trip across the Andies, the Chilean government changed leaders, going from a 17 year dictatorship to a democratic government and Santiago was the headquarters for the whole transformation. In fact, all the world leaders were staying at the same hotel as







for these people plus their airfares. But what was really unbelievable was that they flew in two black limos and a bronco to drive him from the Manaus airport to the hotel just for dinner. I asked these guys how much it was costing to have dinner with his wife and they just laughed... they couldn't even imagine!

The next day Asher picked us up from the hotel and we drove out to his country place on the Amazon River. Here I was hoping to see some wildlife (parrots, monkeys etc) but saw nothing. I asked him where all of the animals were that we had heard so much about and he said that they had all been killed for food, everything but

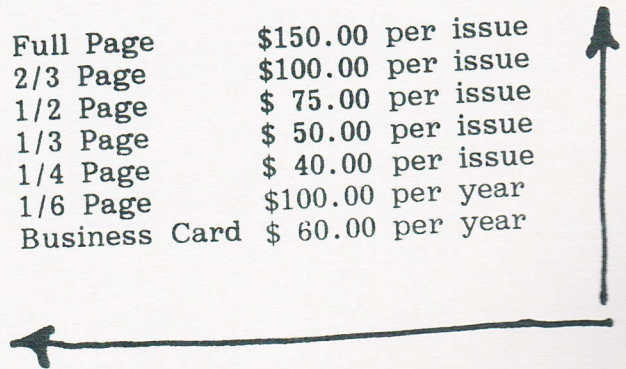
the buzzards. There are just too many people. Again I was sad. Then in the distance I saw a tug boat pulling a lot of logs down the river.

That evening he took us to the airport and I was glad to be on my way home from this South American Adventure.

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We invite you to grow with this magazine by promoting your service or product through paid advertisement. Word of quality products travels quickly in a friendly organization such as this one. If you are interested in advertising, please send a camera ready copy of your ad and your check to San Mateo County Horesman's Association C/O Libby Armanino PO BOX 620328 Woodside, CA 94062 For more information, please phone 415-851-5317

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# 1990 EVENT CALENDAR

## JULY

- 1 Los Viajeros Ride
- 4 Redwood City July 4th Parade.  
WE NEED 50 RIDERS. Contact Doris Lantz at 366-5475
- 12 SMCHA Western Riding Clinic at Mounted Patrol Info: Karen Rowley at 365-2229
- 13-15 VHP Overnight Ride at Jack Brook Horse Camp.
- 14 SHOESTRING FARM English Schooling Show sponsored by Nancy Van Zwol at Webb Ranch. Call 967-8752
- 15 Western Schooling Show sponsored by Joan McLaren at Webb Ranch
- 19 SMCHA Western Riding Clinic and B.B.Q. at Mounted Patrol. Info: Karen Rowley at 365-2229
- 22 CTETA English Schooling Show
- 27-29 SMCHA Overnight Ride at Jack Brook Horse Camp. Info: Ron Harris at 365-0704
- 28-29 CROSS RANCH Rodeo. Info: 726-2925

## AUGUST

- 5 SMCHA English Schooling Show at Webb Ranch. Info: 967-8752
- 5 Los Viajeros Ride
- 8 SMCHA Board Meeting. Lemon Tree 7p.m.
- 12 SMCHA Western Open Show. Norcal Mounted Patrol Grounds.

- 15 General Meeting at Webb Ranch
- 26 SMCHA Western Schooling Show, Webb Ranch
- 26 VHP Clinic

## SEPTEMBER

- 1-3 Los Viajeros Ride
- 7 SMCHA Night at the Races. Info: Libby Armanino at 851-5317
- 9 English Show sponsored by the PV Pony Club
- 9 VHP Bar-B-Que
- 12 SMCHA Board Meeting, Lemon Tree 7pm
- 16 50th Anniversary Ride in Huddart Park
- 30 SMCHA Junior and Senior Play Day

## OCTOBER

- 6 SMCHA 50th Anniversary Dinner. Villa Hotel in San Mateo. Info: Barbara George at 851-3134. George
- 7 Los Viajeros Ride
- 10 SMCHA Board Meeting, Senior Rec Center 7:30pm
- 14 SMCHA President's Ride. Info: Ron Harris at 365-0704

## NOVEMBER

- 2 SMCHA Night at the Grand National. Info: Karen Rowley at 365-2229
- 4 Los Viajeros Ride.
- 9 SMCHA Barn Dance co-sponsored with Mounted Patrol at Mounted Patrol Grounds. Info: Libby at 851-5317
- 14 SMCHA Board Meeting, Senior Center 7:30 pm
- 28 SMCHA General Meeting and Election of Board Members. Info: Libby Armanino at 851-5317

## DECEMBER

- 14 SMCHA Board Meeting and Election of Officers

## NEW DATES:

- Aug 5: GENERAL MEETING
- Sept 16: ANNIVERSARY RIDE
- Sept 30: JUNIOR and SENIOR PLAYDAY

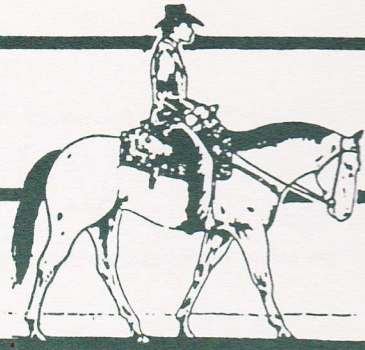
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# VOLUNTEER HORSE PATROL

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STEPHANIE ANISE

## CALIFORNIA TRAIL DAYS

by Sivad Anig

Saturday, April 21, 1990...California Trail Days and one short of EARTH DAY. Close to 35 people got together at Wunderlich to do our day on trail repair. Los Altos Trails Club was represented, also Los Altos Hills Horsemen's Association, SMCHA, and of course, the Volunteer Horse Patrol. There were also quite a few others whom I couldn't identify, but were very welcome.

We divided into two groups, ours to repair the top end of the Bear Gulch trail. On jumping out of the truck, ready and willing, within minutes we were soaked. It wasn't exactly rain, but substantial quantities of moisture dropping from the trees prompted a decision to work the trail lower down.

There was such great enthusiasm that the work expected to take 'til 3:00 p.m. was finished by 1:30. We raked, pruned poison oak, etc. and placed about 20 8' x 6' poles secured by two 3' metal pipes. Swinging that sledge hammer was definitely men's work. Some of us "had a go." After bashing in one pipe, I didn't mind at all passing it to the nearest man with a "your turn!" A couple of the young women put some real umph into that hammer, but it was hard work to sink the pipe. We also shored up a bank to stop further erosion.

We finished early, a little weary and certainly wet, but thanks to our expert trail builders, **Bob Stutz** and **Larry Faber**, we came back to base happy and satisfied with a job well done. Then followed a great BBQ and wonderful camaraderie with hamburgers, salad and sodas provided by the Trails Center and the Parks Division. **Stephanie Anise** coordinated the BBQ and cooked the burgers for equestrians, hikers, and bicyclists alike (all great people). Trail working County Mounties included: **Bruce Baker**, **Cheryl Chandler**, **Linda Cummins**, **Gina Davis**, **Donna Richeson**, **Harriet Tucker**, and **Terry Tucker**. It was a happy and satisfying day...we plan on doing this again next year.

## VHP TRAIL CLEARING RIDE

by Cheryl Chandler

The first annual VHP Trail Clearing Ride was held on Sunday, May 6, 1990 at Pescadero Creek Park. It was a lot of fun and very successful. We had twelve hardy volunteers to tackle the task of trimming the trails back, removing overhead hazards, and pruning that wonderful poison oak so that everyone can enjoy the trails in good health.

With gear bags containing radios as well as lunch, each group rode out to their designated trails. **Ron** and **Mary Jo Harris** worked the Tarwater Loop. **Kitty Haddix** and **June Irhazy** cleared trail on Butano Ridge. **Stephanie Anise**, **Maureen Hagan** and **Sharon Lann** cleared sections of the ubiquitous Pomponio Trail. **Cheryl Chandler** and **Nettie** and **Rene Klein** took on the Brook Trail Loop. Rene was horseless, but hiked the whole way, nevertheless. **Bruce Baker**, **Doris Lantz**, and **Rick Payne** worked the Bear Ridge and Canyon trails.

The day was sunny and warm, a perfect day for riding in the park and working. As we all rode off, we all said "See ya later!" to our camp cook and ground crew, **John Hagan**, husband of new member Maureen Hagan. John stayed in camp and cleaned up the breakfast mess, kept an eye on all the rigs, and spent the afternoon stacking all the wood in the woodshed. That wasn't enough, so he split several large pieces with just a small hand axe. Special thanks go to John; we definitely hope he will join us again.

For those who didn't attend, well you missed another outstanding potluck BBQ after the work ride. There was plenty to eat and drink (especially when we got out of uniform). Each group had a good report on their trails, which were in good shape when the work was done.



## HISTORICAL NOTES ON WUNDERLICH PARK

by Ranger Merrilynn

At the Cross Roads, there are two metal directional arrows on a tree indicating "To La Honda" and "To Skyline." These are historical markers which date back to the late 1800's.

The Folger's property was the first on the Peninsula to have electricity. This was done by water running from the Alambique Creek through a series of turbines. One of these foundations is easily observed from the Loop Trail approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from the Park Office on the left side. From the turbine foundation, look uphill directly across the trail (approximately 400 feet). There you'll see a barely visible green building which also houses a turbine foundation.

On the Bear Gulch Trail, as you leave the Park Office area, look right as you come to the first bridge. The underground rock tunnel opening (headwall) was built by Chinese laborers in approximately 1904.

On the Alambique Trail, approximately 1- $\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the Park Office on the right side of the trail, you'll find a virgin Redwood (stump), burned out, but still growing. This is one of three in the area. The tree doesn't have a name.

## HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW WUNDERLICH?

1. How many acres are there in Wunderlich Park?
2. What are the eight trail entrances to Wunderlich Park?
3. What is the most direct route to Huddart Park by trail?
4. Which five trails intersect with the Bear Gulch Trail within the park?
5. The Redwood Trail intersects with what three trails?
6. How did Salamander Flat get its name?
7. The Meadows is located near a park boundary. What is the name of the private residential road that runs by it?
8. Many equestrians enjoy following a loop pattern during their rides. How many loop rides can you find in Wunderlich Park beginning at the main entrance?
9. If you start riding the Madrone Trail from the Redwood Trail and follow it to its end, where will you be?
10. What is the shortest route from the park entrance to the Meadows?
11. Are there any public telephones in the park? If so, where are they?
12. Are bicycles permitted in Wunderlich Park? If so, where?

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# horseMASTERship

Nancy Van Zwol

You've heard of horsemanship, but what in the world could horseMASTERship be? Is it S & M with horses? No. It's a promote good riding and general knowledge about horses. Originally limited to junior riders, there is now a separate division for those over 18 years of age.

Regional eliminations take place in July and August all over the state. Each region's champions then go to Turlock in October to compete for the title of State Horsemastership Champion. Our area is Region VI, comprised of Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, San Mateo, and San Francisco, counties. There are 4 categories of competition: English, Western, Combined (English and Western) and Gymkhana. Each category is divided into separate divisions for boys, girls, men and women, making 16 championships in all.

The competition is based on 4 tests, each assigned a point value, with a total possible score of 1000 points. The first test is a written examination covering parts of the horse and skeleton, breeds and markings, common diseases, feeding and nutrition, stable management, horse show rules, and trail riding and safety. This test is worth 350 points. It is provided by the CSHA State Horsemastership Committee and identical tests are given to all competitors in all divisions at the same time. This year it will take place on July 25th. All answers are based on material which may be found in the Horseman's Handbook published by the CSHA and available at local tack and feed stores or directly from the association.

The grooming and handling test is also the same for all competitors in all divisions. It is worth 50 points. Each contestant leads a horse up to a grooming judge and demonstrates correct tying, grooming, tacking, untacking, and blanketing of the horse. Fifty points may not sound like much, but total scores are often less than ten points apart among top competitors and forgetting to sponge the lips, mouth, ears, eyes, and face in proper order might lose a championship.

Riding is worth 600 points, broken down into 300 for equitation on the flat in the style appropriate to your division, and 300 for performance in your specific division's specialty. Western riders perform a modified stock pattern, English riders jump a course at 3 feet (3 feet 6 inches for the state finals), combined riders do both, and Gymkhana riders four gymkhana events. The riding and handling test for our region will be held August 4th at Webb Ranch.

Competition is free for juniors and costs an nominal entry fee for seniors. There are prizes in all divisions at the regional and state levels. State prizes for juniors are small (\$400 to \$500) scholarships to be used for their education.

Regional committees set up clinics and study sessions to help riders prepare for the events, or you may prepare on your own or with your instructor. This differs from pony club where members are taught on a regular basis and compete at rallies for their ratings. Horsemastership is open to all juniors and amateur seniors residing in the region.

For information on becoming a champion, or to help with the program, or just to watch the tests (absolutely no coaching allowed) call Paul and Karen Lavrischeff at (408) 259-1976.



## ODDS AND ENDS...

Lew Reed

San Mateo County Horsemen's Association does not presently belong to California State Horsemen's Association. The reason is somewhat historical. At one time, CSHA recommended an insurance firm that could arrange economical club liability insurance but a club had to be a member of CSHA in order to take advantage of this savings. As dues cost to CSHA were expensive and when added to the cost of the insurance policy, this advantage disappeared and membership was discontinued. Of course, CSHA does a lot more than provide an insurance brokerage. They have a lengthy program of competitive events. Some of their competition programs are Drill Team, Endurance, Equestrian Patrol, Equine Medical Research, Gymkhana, Horsemastership with scholarships, Parade, Miss CSHA Queen, and Stock Team Competition. Individual memberships are \$25.00 per year which includes their publication, the New Horsemen. While it might be expensive for clubs to join it really is inexpensive for individuals which will also qualify such individuals to vote at their State Conventions and to be a member of Region 6 serving this immediate area.

Club dues are \$3 per member. Maximum cost per Club is \$450. Since SMCHA membership is over 150 our cost for membership as a club would be \$450. As a club member we would also have voting power at their state conventions.

Their recommended insurance brokerage is Deadrich Insurance Equine Insurance Box 3205, Garden Grove, CA 92642. SMCHA has received an application form and will be getting quotes soon. Their application form is identical to those of other brokerages.

The two most frequently used brokerages are Rollins, Burdick and Hunter of Sacramento and Weick Insurance Services also of Sacramento. SMCHA and Los Viajeros are presently insured thru Weick and have been for the last 3 years. Prior to that time they were insured with Rollins, Burdick. Contact with Los Altos Trail Club and Los Altos Hills Horsemen's Association indicate they are presently insured thru Rollins Burdick.

SMCHA will continue to research insurance costs in an effort to hold our costs to a minimum.

It is most interesting to note that all the application forms seem to indicate that they will include an exclusion if a rider is wearing sneakers. For years, most riding clubs had a house rule that riders must wear boots or shoes. Then, when the costs for boots rose so dramatically many riders complained about the rule and it was relaxed and now several riders are wearing sneakers. No matter what your personal preference might be, the rule is going to have to be enforced that no riders are to be allowed wearing sneakers. Like it or not!

Another universal exclusion is no riders riding stallions. And there is the usual exclusion indicating that the policy is not in effect if liquor is served or consumed during the ride. This will eliminate boda bags and bottles from your saddle bags. Apparently after the ride is OK.

Insurance seems to be getting more difficult to obtain and the costs appear to be rising and the exclusions more prevalent with all the underwriters following the same rules.

All of this means the Officers of any Club will have to be hardnosed about the riding rules and the general membership of any club will have to be cooperative.

As a separate side light maybe we should mention a practice about which you might have an opinion. Remember when no rider was ever seen without wearing a cowboy hat. Now what do you see? Lots and lots of baseball caps, not only on our local horse club rides but the real cowboys on the ranches. What do you think about this?



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