

the San Mateo **HORSEMAN**



Winter 1991

!!! PICTURES, PICTURES, PICTURES !!!

SMCHA has recorded some memories of the 1990 50th Anniversary celebrations for all members to enjoy! Thanks to our official club videographer, Paul Bjoring, many of our events are available on VHS video tape for members and friends of the Horsemen. This is a wonderful way to remember all the great times we had this year, and see yourself and your horse in action!

Each video is available for a \$15.00/copy donation to SMCHA, plus a \$2.00 mailing charge.

Tape Number & Event

1. Spring Ride & BBQ, Portola Valley
2. Spring Fashion Show & Auction, Woodside Elementary School
3. Western Riding Clinic - June 3, 1990, Mounted Patrol Grounds
4. English Show - June 10, 1990, Webb Ranch
5. July 4th Parade, Redwood City/Partial NOTRA, Mounted Patrol Grounds
6. National Old Timers' Rodeo Association (NOTRA), Mounted Patrol Grounds
7. Western Schooling Show - June 24, 1990, Webb Ranch
8. Western Riding Clinic - July 19, 1990, Mounted Patrol Grounds
9. Nor-Cal Show - August 12, 1990, Mounted Patrol Grounds
10. Western Schooling Show - August 26, 1990, Webb Ranch
11. SMCHA Jr. & Sr. Playday - September 30, 1990, Webb Ranch
12. 50th Anniversary Banquet - October 6, 1990, Villa Hotel, San Mateo
13. Barn Dance - November 9, 1990, Mounted Patrol Grounds

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Thanks and enjoy the memories!

Questions? Call Laurie Fieguth at 415/369-7749

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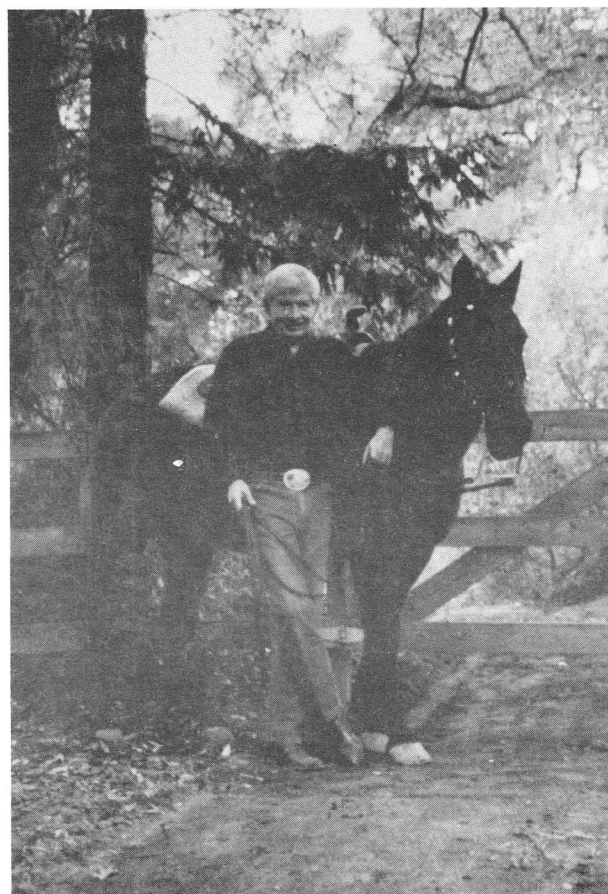
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Cover Story Horsemen's 1991 Elected President

by Melissa Convery
 Photos by Sharon Lann

Doesn't that guy on the cover look like last years President Dick Convery? Well, your right, it seems that Dick has been elected to another term in office as our 1991 President. I understand after all the work involved last year in celebrating our 50th anniversary, he wants to experience what a normal year is like for the President. Knowing Dick he will have a lot of interesting and different events coming up this year, along with all of the normal activities of the Horsemen. His goals have always been to keep the club progressive and growing, so we should have another great year with Dick at the helm.



ELECTION OF 1991 OFFICERS
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Officers & Board of Directors 1991

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C/O Doris Lantz(editor)

**Deadline for Ads and articles for
The Spring 1991 Issue is
March 1,1991**



The San Mateo Horseman

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Richard Convery
Cynthia Stagner
Martha Lantz
Lew Reed
Harry Wellman
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1991 MEMBERSHIP

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Message from the President

BY RICHARD CONVERY

Well, we have all reached the twilight of the 50th year of our organization. Some of our members will even be around for our 100th year celebration (I hope you will speak well of us folks back in these dark ages.)

We have just concluded I believe, a great year in the history of the Horsemen. We have seen more special activities, celebrations, and remembrance of our beginning as a horse group, and hopefully a renewed dedication in perpetuating the San Mateo County Horsemen's Association as one of the finest in the state.

There are so many people to thank this year for their dedication and time that it would fill the pages of the magazine, but this individual dedication is what has made this group so strong and able to endure the past 50 years. I must thank my officers, board of directors, the 50th committee again for all of their untiring devotion of time and energy to the association and to the members who are the reason we have a horsemen organization.

Now to correct some oversights of members who did not receive their proper recognition for duties per-

formed on behalf of the horsemen and the community. First, there is Harold Zwierlein who was in charge of the 4th of July Rodeo for the many years when the Horsemen were running this event. Thank you Harold for all of your hard work in handling a difficult job and being so good at it.

Secondly to Dale Ryman, who some of us are not aware, drew up the architectural plans for the facilities at the Jack Brook Horse Camp and spent one summer along with Grant Bennion in building the restrooms and showers. Also, thanks to Gary Pearson and Frank Goff for all of their efforts in this project. Lastly, to Clementine Carroll who was overlooked in the last magazine as a recipient of the special Horsemen Award at the 50th banquet.

I probably could go on and on with names of people who have helped build the club over the past 50 years, but each of them knows who they are and they can feel personal satisfaction for all of their contribution to the association. I am now at the end of my year as your president and I can truthfully say I have enjoyed every minute of it (almost every minute) and I feel proud to have served the SMCHA during this year of the 50th. May the club continue to grow and prosper over the ensuing years and it can, with all of your enthusiasm and support.



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The Peruvian Paso Horse

By Sharon Lann

A good horse is a good horse is a good horse. . . as is a good Peruvian Paso, a good Morgan, a good Arabian or a good quarter horse etc. This article is hopefully the first of many different breed profiles.

The Peruvian Paso horse is the breed I am familiar with (I own 2^{1/2} of them.) I'll start by answering some of the questions that I am asked most:

The #1 all time question is:

Q: What's wrong with their leg ? (this usually follows their first long look at a moving Paso)

A: Nothing . . .this is a Peruvian Paso. . . they're supposed to walk this way.

Q: Do you have to train them to do that?

A: No even the babies walk like this as soon as they start to walk. . .they're born like this (or if I feel like a smartalec "NO, we break their knees when they're born!" I know that's not nice but, sometimes I can't help myself!!) (love the looks we get!!!)

Q: Is the ride as comfortable as it looks!?

A: Yes! Yes! Yes! (there I go again. . .Sorry!)

Q: How come you don't see many of them on the trails.

A: I guess not too many people realize that these horses are more than just a pretty face and fancy show horses. They were bred to carry their rides comfortably through the Andes Mts. and the desert planes of Peru and I know of one Peruvian who successfully completed in endurance rides and completed the Tevis Ride.

The following article is written by a foremost authority of the Peruvian Paso horse, Verne Albright. Verne is well known among Peruvian Horse officials for having ridden a Peru-

vian Horse from Peru back into the United States. Should you have any questions there is a Caballo Magazine or first ask one of us on the tanglefooted horse.

CABALLO PERUANO DE PASO

by Verne R. Albright

When a modern horseman sees a naturally gaited horse, he looks upon it as something unusual. But at one time it was the horse that trots that was considered rare, and it was an everyday occurrence to see smooth, easy-in-the saddle, naturally gaited horses.

Prior to the seventh century, most of the world's horses were naturally gaited. Horses that trotted or "bone-shakers," as they were called, were considered suitable only as pack animals or mounts for servants. Almost all travelling was done on horseback, and since most people knew very little about riding, a smooth riding horse was a necessity. Even a knight-who required a trotting horse for battle- often kept a naturally gaited horse which he would ride when travelling, leading his trotting horse along behind.

As the seventeenth century opened, it was unusual to see a horse that trotted. At the close of the same century, for a variety of reasons, it was equally as unusual to see a horse that did not trot. It was the most complete transformation that horse breeding has ever seen.

As the world's other horsemen moved from naturally gaited horses to trotting horses, the Peruvians continued to esteem and breed their naturally gaited Caballo Peruano de Paso.

The Peruvian Paso horse descended from bloodstock introduced into Peru

by the Spanish, at that time the foremost horse breeders in the world. For several centuries no outside blood has been introduced into the Peruvian Paso breed, and it is now the only naturally gaited breed which can guarantee its gait to 100% of its offspring. Every purebred Peruvian horse, without exception, inherits the gait which is the trademark of the breed.

It is interesting to note that the Peruvian horse is a far older breed than most of the breeds with which North Americans are familiar and is, in fact, the first breed developed in the hemisphere.

Due to his way of going and conformation, the Peruvian horse is able to gait with virtually no movement of his back between the withers and the croup. In addition, the distance between the ground and the stomach of the horse will not vary, even at fairly high speeds. The result is the smoothest ride in the equine kingdom.

Because of an inner pride and energy which make him travel as if always "on parade", the Peruvian Paso is also one of the most showy of all horses. Thanks to a long standing Peruvian practice of not breeding animals which have an unsuitable disposition, their temperament is one of the world's best.

In addition, the Peruvian is the only horse in the world with *termino*, which is a graceful, flowing movement in which the forelegs are rolled toward the outside as the horse strides forward, much like the arm motions of a swimmer.

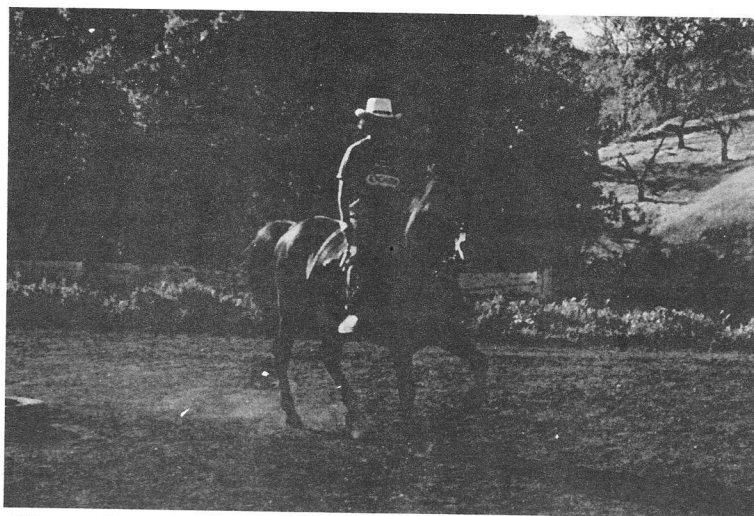
Both the gait and the flashy leg action are completely natural. They are not induced or aided in any way by artificial training or devices. In fact, in both Peru and North America, national show rules require Peruvian horses to be shown without shoes and with a short, natural hoof.

Peru has developed a traditional tack which is used with the Paso horse, and this tack is in wide use among Peruvian horse owners in North America. This tack is unique

and unusual. However, the Peruvian horse can also be ridden English, Western and Plantation gear.

At the present time, there are approximately 4,000 Peruvian Horses in North America and no more than 8,000 in the world. This practically guarantees that the demand for these horses will exceed the supply for many years to come. They are an excellent investment as evidenced by a long, steady climb in prices which has become particularly sharp in recent years.

Do you have a favorite breed? We would like to hear about it. Contact Doris Lantz, editor.



Sharon Lann on her Paso Alex

Horse Quiz

Everything you DON'T need to know about horses.

By Robin Martin

1. What was the name of Tonto's horse? Dale Evans' horse? Gene Autry? Hopalong Cassidy?

2. Who is the patron saint of farriers?

Okay, you're warmed up enough. . . try these:

3. Who's listed first in the AQHA stud book? (No fair looking. And if you don't even know what the AQHA is, go straight to question 4!)

4. Peruvian Paso horses weren't brought to the United States until 1965. What state did they come to first?

5. In Claremore, Oklahoma (you've been there, haven't you?) there is a statue of a Quarter Horse and rider. Who is the rider?

6. What year were saddles and stirrups invented? (We know you weren't there, just give an approximate date.)

7. What American movie literally featured a cast of thousands - including 8,000 horses (the largest number ever assembled for a movie? Think about this next time you complain about how many mouths you have to feed)

8. While we're on the subject, what western movie made the most money, ever?

9. What color was Steel Dust? (A famous Quarter Horse sire - and no, he wasn't grey)

10. Napoleon insisted all his horses be a particular color. What color?

11. Man O' War, considered by many to be the most outstanding thoroughbred to come from the U.S., ran 21 races. What was his win record?

12. In what year were the first equestrian events included in the Olympic games? (Hint: They were held in Stockholm. Okay, I knew it wouldn't help.)

13. What year did the U.S. take its first Olympic gold medal in an equestrian event?

14. Who won the first individual Olympic gold medal?

answers on pg.7



Paso trainer Solvano on Sharon's horse Madrid



BOARD OF DIRECTORS DINNER & ELECTION OF OFFICERS

By Doris Lantz

December 7, 1990, was the board of directors dinner and election of the new club officers. It was a lot of fun and enjoyed by everyone that attended. Special thanks to Rick Payne for the use of his house once again this year, it is such a beautiful place and was decorated so nice for Christmas. Also extra special thanks goes to Jill Silva for preparing a wonderful prime rib dinner with all the trimmings, you really out did yourself this time. Entertainment was provided by Ron Harris with his magic accordian. Boy can he play a mean song.

The new officers that were elected were. . .

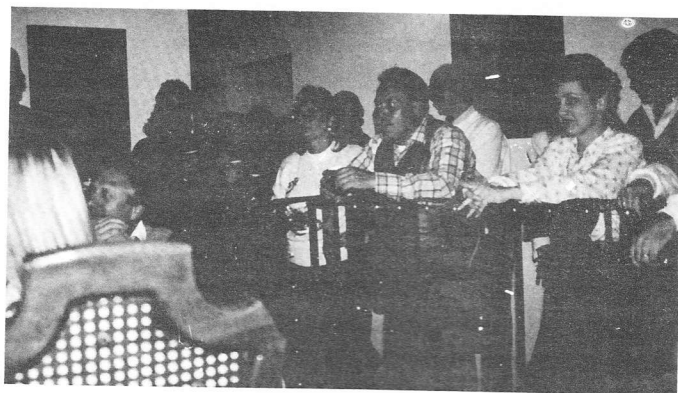
PRESIDENT	Richard Convery
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT	Amos Dana
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT	Don Palus
TREASURER	Lisa Dixon
SECRETARY	Nancy Crowley
HISTORIAN	Doris Lantz
SERGEANT AT ARMS	Jill Silva

Also present were the 5 new board of directors. . . Sharon Lann, Mary Lee Twisselman, Carolyn Rice, Laurie Fieguth, and Regina Davis.

Remember, you don't have to be a member of the board of directors to help with our meetings or any special event. Show your interest and commitment to the San Mateo County Horsemen's by volunteering your services.



New Board Members L-R
Sharon Lann, Carolyn Rice,
Mary Lee Twisselman,
Laurie Fieguth, Regina Davis



Board of Directors
Electing the New Officers



Entertainer Ron Harris

BARN DANCE

by RICHARD CONVERY

We had our second barn dance co-sponsored with the mounted patrol on November 11, at the mounted patrol grounds in Woodside. There was a total of 127 members representing the two groups who enjoyed a great tri-tip dinner prepared by SMCHA.

The square dancing was once again lead by Gene Brakemen and his wife Mary Lou who did a great job of directing all those horse people in squares and circles. Not since last year at the square dance have I ever heard so much laughter and seen so many people having such a great time. This event has been so successful that we will try and repeat it next year.

It is also great to see the members of the mounted patrol and the Horsemen interacting with each other, just like it was in years gone by.

Special thanks to Mary Lee Twisselman for making all of the cute square dance figures for the center pieces and the many members of both groups for decorating the night before.

The dinner planned and executed from a cruise boat somewhere out in the San Francisco Bay by Jill Silva (she was helping to celebrate Bruce's birthday). She left behind a capable group of cooks and servers, with John Hagan overseeing the operation with help from Amos Dana, Bruce Baker, Walk Kirk, Bill Hopper, Maureen Hagen, Eileen Borzone, Melissa Convery, Cathy Bryan, and Diane Fruehling.

The revenue and expense of the evening was split with the mounted patrol. So we had great evening of dining and fun, plus made some money to boot, \$334.00 each.

Special thanks to Captain Bill Jabs, Dave and Barbara Burlingame and Mary and Bob Hydorn for all of their help that evening. Thanks to Rick Payne for providing his prize winning chickens and Denny Duncan for donating the hay.

For those that attended try and remember what you learned and we will see you and the rest of you out here next year.

GENERAL MEETING NOVEMBER 29TH

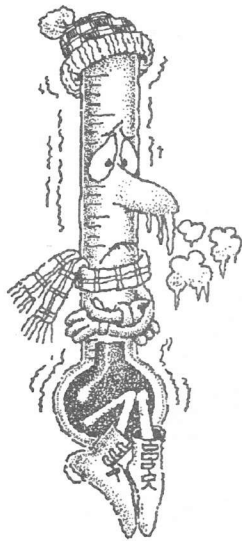
by RICHARD CONVERY

We had our last general meeting November 29th at the Woodside Elementary School Auditorium. Its was entitled Ice Cream and Videos. The ice cream was to entice the members to come out and vote for the new members of the board of directors for 1991. Those who were elected and will be joining the board next year are:

Regina Davis, Laurie Fieguth, Sharon Lann, Carolyn Rice and Mary Lee Twisselman. Congratulations to all of you new board members.

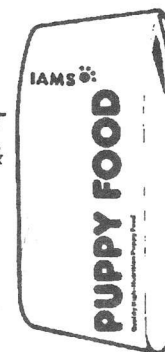
Harry Wellman started the video part of the show off the slides and they maybe purchased individually from him. Paul Bjoring showed the videos that he filmed during this our 50th year. Paul's videos may also be obtained for a small donation from a list that Laurie Fieguth has put together. They both should be commended for doing a great job capturing on film, for posterity, our 50th year celebration.

Thanks to Bob Hydorn for providing all that great ice cream and condiments and to Mary Hydorn for the cookies. Also, thanks to Laurie Fieguth for handling the video equipment rental.



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Answers:(from page 3)

1. Scout, Buttermilk, Champion and Topper, respectively.
2. St. Eligius
3. A horse named, believe it or not, "Wimpy"
4. Arizona
5. Will Rogers
6. 300 A.D.
7. "War and Peace," of course.
8. "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid."
Good movie, but not enough horses.
9. Bay
10. Grey
11. Twenty wins, one second. (Still better than Perry Mason)
12. 1912. The individual gold medal went to France, the team gold to Sweden.
13. Not until 1932, the U.S. won the team gold.
14. Tad Coffin, on "Bally Cor"

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San Mateo Horseman's Annual Playday Sept. 30, 1990

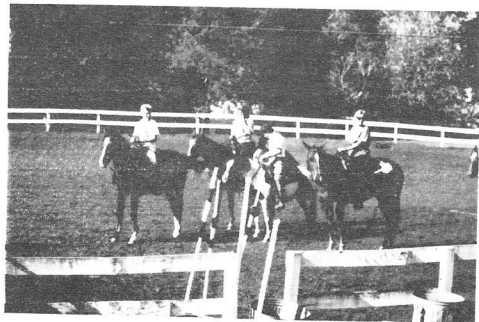
By Cynthia Stagner

There's no fun like playday fun! It was a great turnout at Webb Ranch. Over 30 Western and English riders came to play musical tires, spear potatoes, and race in traditional gymkhana events.

There were those that were successful in galloping while holding a glass of water, or an egg on a spoon. In the dollar bill race, a small jump was set up to help loosen some sticky dollars placed under the riders right leg. In the backup race, it was a surprise to see how fast horse run backwards!

High Point winners of the day were Michelle Hopper in the 12 and under division, Galen Stagner 13 to 17, and Cynthia Stagner 30 and over. The patient Judge was Cheryl Fike. Coincidentally, these people mentioned are all active 4-H members and leaders. Look for more on 4H in future issues of the San Mateo County Horseman.

Note: In this upcoming CSHA show season, Region VI will have a gymkhana division! If you are a SMCHA member, you are automatically eligible to join the Gymkhara High Point Program. To get the latest news and developments call Chelan Pinental (408) 945-03040, for free training (yes, FREE!) tips and literature call Cynthia Stagner (415) 593-9940.



Participating in Junior Division Age 13-17

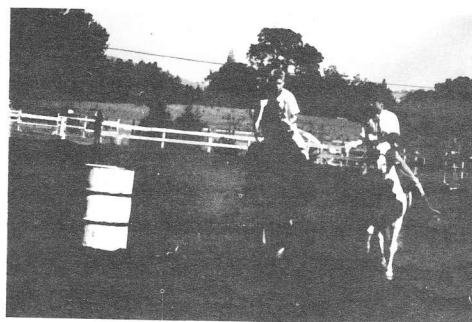
Q & A

Question: *Our trail riding group had a problem recently when we came to a tree that had fallen and blocked the trail, and we had to turn around. It was one of those steep, narrow mountain trails, uphill on one side with a sharp drop on the other. We all got turned around okay, but not without a lot of discussion regarding whether it was safest to turn around so we faced the drop, or turn facing the uphill side. Which way is the safest?*

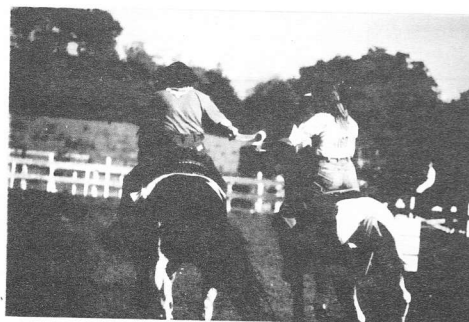
Answer: Although it's scary for the rider to face the drop-off side, that's the safest direction in which to turn because the horse sees where the edge is and will be careful with his feet. If he's turned in the other direction, his back feet could slip off the trail. 🐾

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Ribbon Race 13-17 Age Division



Donna Tozi & Cynthia Stagner - Ribbon Race

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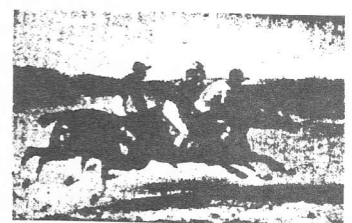
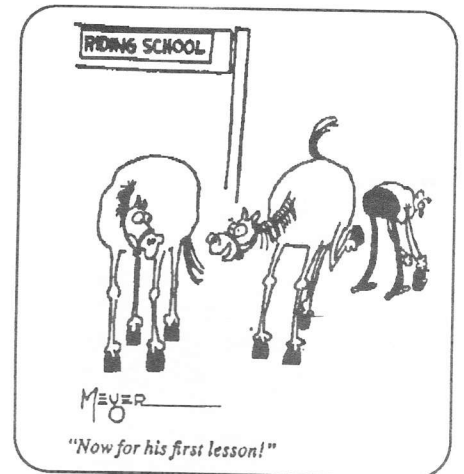
By Martha Lantz
415-858-2857

Equi-sage is body therapy for your horse. Equi-sage is an approach that you can use to support your horse's performance. If you horse suddenly goes off and there doesn't appear to be any physiological reason the veterinarian can find, it could be because of knotted muscle tissue.

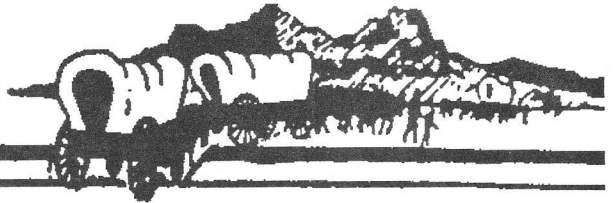
A horse's body is a unit. Tight muscles are shortened muscles; they cannot release as completely or quickly. Tightness reduces flexibility by the degree of the shortening. Muscles that are tight do not remain in isolated areas or states. They transmit from one muscle group to another. As one group of muscles tighten, they stress the next muscle group in the line thus potentially causing such conditions as uneven or shortness of stride, sore or stiff backs attitude changes. If your horse has tight muscles, Equi-sage can help relieve the tightness allowing you horse to continue regular work.

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TRAIL TIPS



by Lew Reed

Local residents have wondered and asked about the status of the trail across the former Hitch Rack property from Glen Grag to Cañada Road. The town of Woodside ordered a title search and the title company certifies that the 10 foot wide trail is actually owned by the Town of Woodside. In the meantime the parcel consists of 3 lots which the present owner is trying to develop. The developer presented a plot plan indicating a potential exchange of the present 10 foot lane to an easement along the entire south side of the property. This was reviewed by the Town Trails Committee and upon walking the property discovered that the proposed new location was unbuildable for trail purposes. They recommended the trail be relocated along the north side of the property. The developer proposed that the trail be retained in its present location up to the lot where the Hitchrack building was formerly located, that that lot be widened southerly and that the remainder of the trail be relocated to the south edge of this lot. The Trails Committee is now awaiting the developers more recent plan and will review it when presented. There will be a trail from Glen Crag to Cañada and horsemen's rights will be protected. Your Town Trails Committee is ever vigilant.

On October 31st the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Commission dedicated with a full ceremony the Montara Mountain Trail from the entrance to San Pedro Valley County Park to Montara for a distance of 3 miles. This is a fine addition to the San Mateo County Trails Plan.

The Rails to Trails program is working. This fall, a 7 mile stretch of the San Ramon Valley Iron Horse Trail

opened to all trail users linking Walnut Creek, Alamo, and Danville and eventually the trail may extend southward to Pleasanton and north to Suisun Bay. The completed section is paved, mostly level and easy for cyclists, walkers, joggers and equestrians -- even after winter rains. Rails to Trails is a nationwide program. Isn't it wonderful that it is being applied locally?

On October 13th, another section of the Bay Area Ridge Trail was dedicated with appropriate ceremony and BBQ. This section is along Coyote Creek Park Chain.

Bay Area Ridge Trail has received a commercial grant of \$10,500 from IBM to help cover the costs of researching, photographing and publishing a series of maps. POST will administer the funds. This is a tremendous assist to Bay Area Ridge Trail which is striving to precisely locate the 400 mile proposed trail around the Bay on the ridges.

Mid Peninsula Regional Open Space District and Bay Area Ridge Trail Council are constantly conducting hikes on various local locations in order to acquaint the public with their many trails. Watch your local papers under current events for times and places. While many of these are hiking trails, most are open to equestrians. Walk or Ride. Go and Enjoy!!!!

Do you wonder about your legal rights and obligations as you cross public or private property with the permission of the owner? What is the liability of the public or private landowner who opens its lands to trails. Answers may be found in a most recent publication.

Contact Bay Area Ridge Trail Council at 116 New Montgomery Suite 640, San Francisco, 94105, or 543-4291. Lew Reed attended seminars on the new pamphlet. Western Horsemen had a series of articles also.

The President and Director of Trail Center were in Sacramento on the 3rd receiving an award reading "In recognition of outstanding volunteer stewardship of California's precious and irreplaceable natural and cultural resources" from the State of California Parks and Recreation.

Many volunteers were at the offices of the Trail Center stuffing envelopes, putting on stamps and labels recently as the Trail Center sent out over 3000 letters to their members and friends soliciting contributions to their many activities. As you receive your letter please make a contribution. They have so many activities ongoing all the time to improve your recreation trail systems throughout the area. Some volunteers work on the trails with their hands. Others contribute in the office and many more make financial contributions. Your volunteerism has made the Trail Center a powerful, effective player in recreation and open space issues in our area.

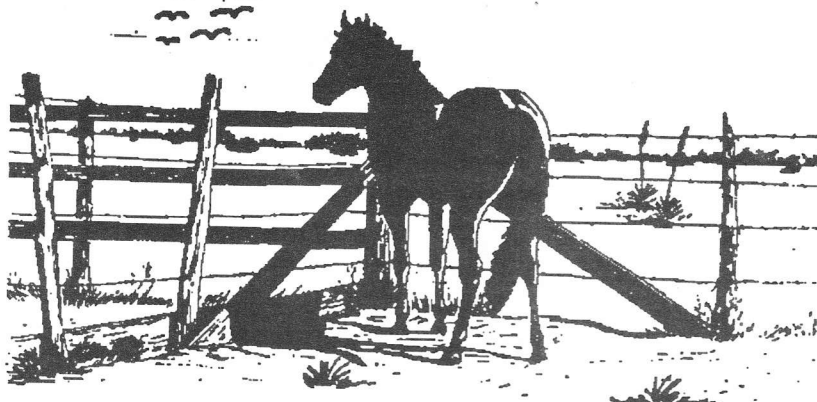
Trail Advisory Committee meets monthly at the Trail Center. On their agenda this month is a report about a request to use Pack Goats in MidPen preserves. They would be used on hikes on district trails.

San Mateo County Parks and Recreation lacked a quorum for its December meeting. Action of the request to amend the county ordinance concerning bikes will be postponed until next year.

CLEM'S

By Clementine Carroll

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The Board Members of the Los Viajeros Riding Club planned and executed a new "Ride 'n Tie 'n Eat" affair, and I mean EAT in capital letters. Some 50 horsemen started at yours truly Cañada Road digs; plenty of parking for horse trailers and fence post ties. Brandy Cocker served juices, fruits, muffins, croissants, danish and coffee. The next stop was at Stew and Carleen Whittelsey's for lunch, but first a rambling ride through Huddart Park--two groups, a fast moving one and a walk one. Brandy served lunch with Sue Sheehan who made the dips, lasagne, and chili rellenos; Carleen doing a marvelous salad. Many of us sat on their lawn, eating, relaxing and petting two of the most friendly black labs and a solid black cat, all three going from person to person to be petted. So again we take off for an hour's ride through the "black roads" of Woodside, trails quite new to lots of the members. The last stop was at the Richeson's on Kings Mountain Rd. for dessert and coffee. Sue and Claire Rittenhouse-Barr were the "pastry chefs" plus pies and ice cream donated by Donna. We returned before dark, some 50 horsemen, well pleased and looking forward to a repeat next year. John Olivier and Tex Rowan drove in for breakfast but didn't last out the day. Next time we see John he'll be able to talk.

Carole and Ralph George and Dr. Mark Campell were some of the guest having a good day.

Doug Moody was pleased with his "go-around" at the Cow Palace. He rode NU WAVE, came in seventh out of a class of 37 entries, this the NCHA, non-pro division. He placed fourth in the A.Q.H.A. amateur class and third in the A.Q.H.A. senior class.

One day, Don Palus was at the shack alone, tying his horse, when suddenly it spooked, whirled, kicked Don and took off. He started walking to CTETA field to phone, was picked up, X-rays showed a broken clavical. Wearing a brace, Don had to take off the next day for San Diego to attend a naval training course. Hope you heal quickly.

Sorry to report Ramona Martinez and Sue Butler had bad spills off their Arabians. Each ended up with broken ribs, and Sue was thrown into poison oak brush. This happened on the steep trail in Runnymede that leads out to the bottom of Albion Road. Something spooked the horses and Ramona remembers bailing out rather than run into a tree. How they ever managed to walk to their respective stables! Half way in, Tracy saw the women and drove them the rest of the way. Men placing Mr. Rosekran's sculptures corraled the horses. The only way in and out of the 225 acres is with a Woodside Trail Club key. If you ever have had broken ribs, it's impossible to lie down for quite some time. Our best wishes for a speedy recovery to Ramon and Sue.

Riding in Runnymede with Noel one weekend, I mentioned reading in the Chronicle a condensation of a new book entitled "Big Alma"-- a story of John Rosekran's grandmother, Alma Spreckels, and her early days in San Francisco. The Runnymede acreage off Cañada Road was named after a famous trotting horse belonging to Grandfather Spreckels. In 1937, Lurline Roth (of Filoli fame) was riding her horses at the Santa Barbara Horse Show and Alma went along to observe. As the story goes, Mrs. Spreckels fell in love with the horses and especially the handsome men who rode them.

Note to dogs living in the country--if you should happen to meet up with a skunk and be "sprayed," have your owners use Massengill Douche, rub the powder in, it works every time, far better than tomato juice. This information was in one of Herb Caen's columns.

Doris Lantz, our new editor, leads a busy and interesting life. She owns a fabulous shop in San Bruno, catering to people who have dogs, cats, birds and fish. To one side of the store, behind a glass wall, are many beautiful Macaws, Parrots, Cockateils, Love Birds, and Canaries, all for sale. Also, she cares for special birds whose owners have gone on vacations, business trips or for some reason need temporary home.

It's fun to watch the routine of bathing a big dog, or a little dog. After careful soaping, rinsing and towel drying, fluff drying completes the "beauty" treatment. Up to 30 dogs a day can be handled. At home, she raises and shows Bouviers des Flanders, large French working dogs.

Under a shaded roof in the front of her home is a rock garden, and in the center, a pond holding 110 Koi (large Japanese gold fish.) I asked about the racoon problem, but not to worry, landscape gardeners had the answer--the pond is six feet deep! Hasn't lost one.

Doris makes time to ride her horses, and in 1991 plans to go with Bruce on a safari in Africa -- on horseback! We enjoyed her story in the Summer 1990 issue in which she wrote on her experiences of the South American eight day horseback ride through the Andes.

So proud of Lew Reed -- he has lost 30 pounds and looks great.



JIM BORZONE
EILEEN BORZONE

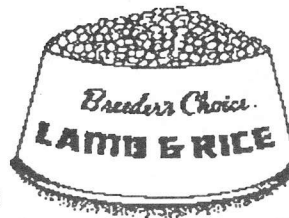
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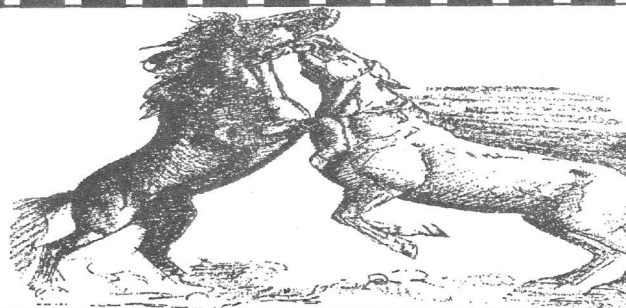
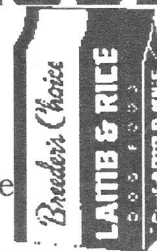
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QUICK BITS

by Doris Lantz

BEFORE MOUNTING up, always check your horses hooves. They often get small rocks or other debris wedged into their feet, and it hurts. The short amount of time it takes you to pick out their feet before and after each ride could save horses the pain of stone

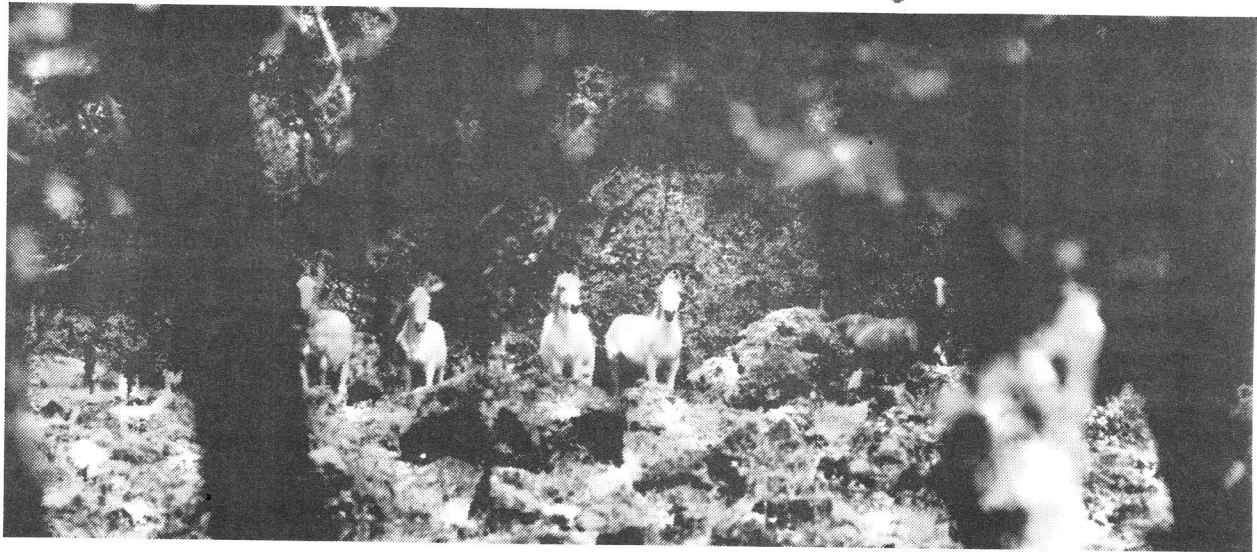
bruises or other hoof ailments. Their well being is in your hands. Take care of their feet.

NEVER NEVER. . . wrap a lead rope around your hand or arm. If a horse were to become frightened and bolt, you could easily be dragged and accidentally injured. When leading one of your equine friends, always use a lead rope that is 6 to 10 feet long. Hold the lead with one hand, approximately 6 inches from the halter. Hold the line not the snap or chain. Fold the excess

rope back and forth across the palm of your hand and hold on to it that way. Then if a horse shies, you have plenty of lead rope to help calm it down. If the horse pulls away from you, the lead will safely pull loose from your hand.

NEVER TIE your horse on a long rope. Most horses will easily become entangled. A proper length of rope is one which, when hanging straight down from where it is tied, the snap will be three inches from the ground.

Wild Horse Sanctuary



by Harry Wellman
Photo by Katey Barrett

It's amazing what you can find if you get off the main roads and take an occasional "scenic route." Judy and I were visiting Judy's daughter in Chico and we decided to take a short trip to Lassen. We were driving up scenic route A6 when we passed a large sign saying "WILD HORSE SANCTUARY."

We stopped and soon met Jim Clapp who is a founder and current president of the Sanctuary. Jim took us on a brief tour of the facilities and introduced us to a couple of the sanctuary residents. It was interesting to learn that the "tame" horses will not associate with the wild horses. No one is sure why—maybe they don't speak the same language.

The sanctuary started ten years ago when Jim and his wife Dianne decided to adopt all of a 60 horse herd the Forrest Service had decided to kill. Since that time, with the expansion of the original group and the adoption of additional horses slated for slaughter, the herd they are caring for has grown

to more than 250 horses and burros.

THE CRUCE HERD

There are so many interesting things about the sanctuary it's hard to avoid babbling on. One of the most interesting was the rescue of the Cruce herd. This herd (4 stallions and fourteen mares) was being evicted from their centuries-old home in Arizona. These are Spanish Barbs descended from Spanish colonial days and persist as purely Spanish to the present day. They are probably descended from the horses purchased 150 years ago from Jan Sepulveda of Mission Dolores in Magdalena, Mexico. They now live in the sanctuary.

VISITING THE SANCTUARY

Scheduled visiting hours are Thursdays and Saturdays from 10:00am to 4:00 pm. But there is a better way. The sanctuary has scheduled rides and pack trips. You can B.Y. O. H (Bring Your Own Horse) or use one of theirs. (Unless you are really into trailering I

would recommend using one of theirs. Saves gas and besides it's always fun to spoil someone else's horse.)

MORE INFORMATION

There is much more to the ranch than a home for displaced mustangs. Studies are being done on wild horse impact on the environment and natural inbreeding control in the wild to name but two areas. You can write Jim Clapp, Wild Horse Sanctuary, P.O. Box 30, Shingletown, CA 96088 for more information. Or phone:(916)474-5770.

Contributions are needed. For \$50.00 you can become a Friend of the Sanctuary or a member for \$15.00. Contributions are deductible. This is a fascinating and worthwhile project. Let's give it some support.

To My Veterinarian

Dear Doc:

I called you just as soon as I seen Ol'Buck was sick.
He's been a little poorly but he never missed a lick.

Last winter he got picky and wouldn't eat his grain
So I gave him Doctor Bell's; tied garlic in his mane.

Then several months ago when he started losin' weight
I gave him Copenhagen and a pound of Catfish bait.

He come down with the splatters and all his hair fell out!
So I fed him Larramycin and a couple of smoked trout.

Then last week after ridin' he got stiff as pine!
His navel needed "smokin'" so I used some turpentine.

He went plum down on Sunday. His kidneys, so I guessed.
I doctored up his water and tied him facin' west.

Last night I got to thinkin'. You were here two years ago.
You gave him some concoction for a cough and runny nose.

I wondered if your treatment, which then improved his luck,
Had later turned against him and poisoned my Ol' Buck?

Anonymous

Did You Know...

by Robin Martin

- that upon his death, Napoleon's war horse was presented to the Royal United Service Institution (whoever they might be)—and his hooves were made into snuff boxes? (Handy Hint: remind your horse of this next time he gives you trouble)
- Moroccan Saddles have remained unchanged for centuries, and that since Moroccan boots usually have very thin soles, stirrups are made with a flat surface large enough for the entire foot?
- The Mongol armies put slabs of beef under their saddles while riding so it would be easier to chew later? (Luckily, each soldier had 20 horses— I imagine that sort of thing could get on a horses nerves after a while)
- The original pony express route (from Missouri to California) covered about 1,850 miles— and horses were changed 190 times en route?
- 80% of women riders entered complete the Tevis Cup race, compared to only 50% of the men — and the only person to have won the cup 5 times is a woman, Donna Fitzgerald? (Same horse, too - an Arab)

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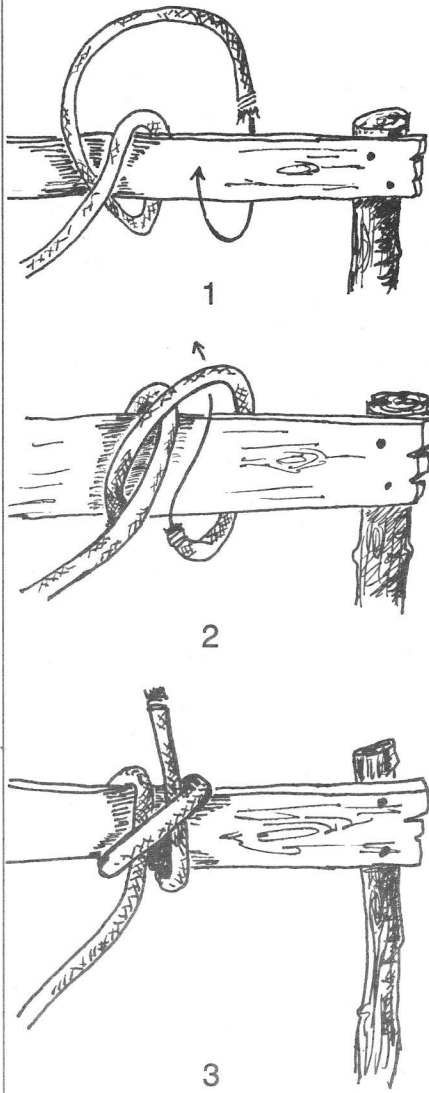
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CLOVE HITCH



Clove Hitch and Bowline

OVER the last 10 years or so, we have done a lot of camping at state parks with our horses. Most of the time we go to a state park that is nearby. Each camping spot has a hitch rail for campers to use. Since it is forbidden to tie to trees, we find ourselves leaving our horses tied to hitching rails for long periods of time.

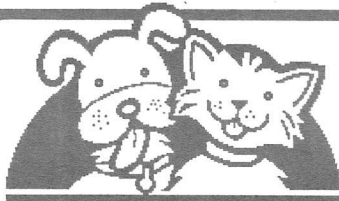
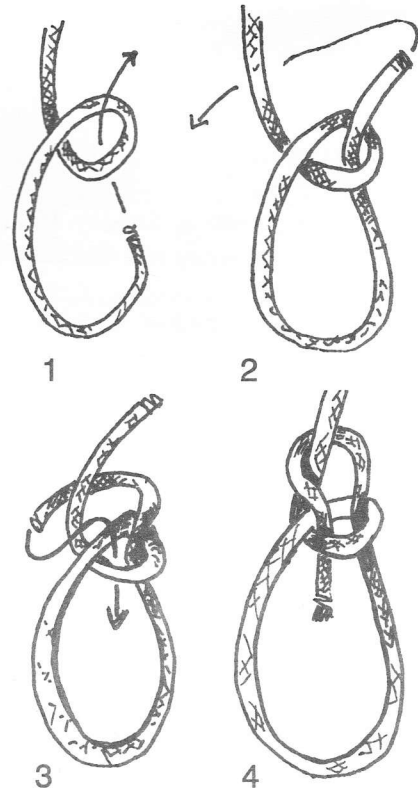
It is not unusual on any given weekend to see other horses get loose as well as tangled up in their lead ropes. The biggest mistake people make is that they tie their horses too long to enable them to eat off the ground. The horses sometimes get their feet over the ropes, or they are tied in such a manner that the rope slips to the end of the hitch rail and slides down the post.

After trying all kinds of half hitches, slip knots, and bowlines, I have settled on what I think is the best method for this situation. The first step is to tie a simple clove hitch in the middle of the hitch rail. This keeps the lead rope from sliding back and forth along the rail. I've found that just taking a couple of wraps works almost as well, and kids seem to pick that up a little quicker. The next step is to take the two ends that are left (one is hooked to the horse) and tie a bowline in it. This is a non-slip knot, and no matter how hard a horse pulls back, it is easy to untie.

I've tried tying a slip knot in the place of the bowline, but after several hours the knots slide together. We've all seen these slip knots pulled down so tight it took two men with vise-grips to get them apart. So if you don't know how to tie a bowline into a rope, take a few seconds to learn it and then practice for a while. It's simple and a must for all horse people.

—Don Straight
Webster City, Iowa

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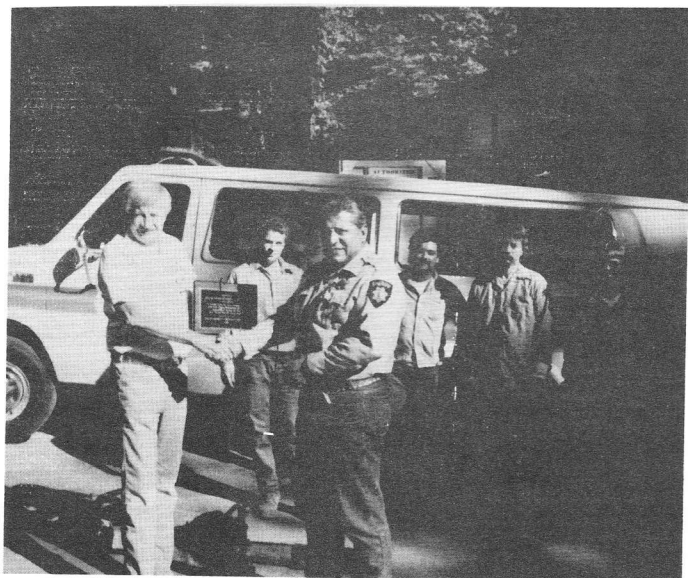
Presentation At Honor Camp

By Amos Dana

"Go directly to jail, Do not pass go, Do not collect \$200." On Friday, November 9, 1990 Dick Convery, Ron Harris and Amos Dana did not pass go, did not collect \$200. but did go directly to jail, the San Mateo County Men's Correctional Center, more affectionately known as the "Honor Camp." A few meetings ago the Board voted to "honor" the men of the Honor Camp, both previously and presently "in residence" there, for the fine work performed on the equestrian trails of San Mateo County. A beautiful plaque was presented to a Deputy Sheriff and his work crew who graciously accepted it on behalf of all the present and previous inmates who have worked on the trails. One inmate commented "All this work really isn't for nothing, but is appreciated." That comment made the effort very worthwhile.

In addition to the presentation Convery, Harris and Dana were provided a very nice lunch and a tour of the facility by Lt. Ken Frank, superintendent of the facility, which is one of the jails operated by the San Mateo County Sheriff's Department. In addition Deputy Joe Macias explained the operation of the facility and the many projects the inmates work on throughout the County in addition to the equestrian trails. This work includes much of the general maintenance work on San Mateo County parks, which are unparalleled in the State for beauty and quality, work for the California Division of Forestry, work for nonprofit agencies, and maintenance on much of the Honor Camp itself. Of particular interest is a very nice park-like setting, including a playground for youngsters, where the men may visit with their families on Sundays of each week.

Those of you who take advantage of riding the trails in Pescadero County Park are riding very close to the facility, probably unbeknownst to yourselves. All of us owe a great deal of gratitude to these men for the fine work they perform on our trails and in other areas of the county.



DICK CONVERY, LT. KEN FRANK



L - R, RON HARRIS, LT. KEN FRANK, AMOS DANA

EQUINE HEALTH CARE

By Douglas Novick, DVM

As unbelievable as it sounds, now is the time to start making decisions about breeding your mare for the year. If you want to breed her early in the season you may want to put her under lights now. If she is difficult to predict her heats, you may want to consider hormonal manipulation of her estrus cycle if she is pregnant you need to decide if you want to breed her on her foal heat or not.

The first decision to make is when do you want to breed your mare. The natural season for mares to breed is May through August. The reason for this is the gestation period for horses is eleven months. Thus, foals are born in spring and summer allowing them to feed and grow while food is plentiful. For showing and racing purposes all horses are considered to get a year older on Jan. 1.

This means that if you are showing your horse in halter or racing you want your horse to be born as close to the new year as possible so it can be as developed as possible when it enters competition. For this reason in the racing industry and for those people trying to breed halter horses, the breeding season is usually February 15 until the middle of June. Unfortunately, this means you are trying to breed horses during an unnatural period. The result is mares with irregular cycles, prolonged heats, not going into heat, etc. By understanding the biology of your mare you can improve your chances in the early breeding season.

The first method to enhance early breeding involves taking advantage

of the signals a mare receives which tell her when to breed. The mare knows it is time to breed, not by a change in the weather or temperature, but by an increased exposure to light. Knowing this, it has been shown that exposing a mare to a constant day length of 16 hours starting 8 weeks prior to the proposed breeding time will cause her to start regular heat periods to accomplish this one or two 200 watt light bulbs are placed just above eye level at 7 to 8 feet in the stall with the mare. The 16 hours of light per day should be controlled with an electric timer. This artificial light combined with natural light will exert the desired affect.

A second method of decreasing irregularity of heat cycles in the early breeding season involves the use of hormonal therapy. Progesterone therapy has been shown to be effective in inducing heat cycles in mares which are in the transition period between winter/fall period without heat, and the springtime as they regularly come into heat. A synthetic progesterone analog, called REGUMATE, has been very effective in this way. It is given orally for 15 days after withdrawal of the drug. Mare's should then be bred every other day until heat ends. Ovulation will occur between 3-5 days after the onset of heat.

Prostiglans are also used to manipulate heat periods after an egg is ovulated a corpus luteum is formed on the ovary. This corpus luteum helps to maintain the early pregnancy in the mare. About 5 days after heat ends this corpus luteum becomes sensitive

to a group of drugs known as prostiglandins. By giving a prostiglanoin to your mare after the 5th day post heat you will break down the corpus luteum. A heat period will occur roughly 3-5 days after the onset of heat.

A last trick which owners may want to know about is called the foal heat. Mares which give birth will typically go into heat between the 9th and 11th day post-foaling (although it can occur anytime between day 5 and day 20 post-foaling). They can be bred at this time. However, conception rates on this heat are 15% to 20% less at the foal heat than in other estrus period. Recently, studies have indicated that conception rates at the foal heat can be improved by delaying its onset for 7 to 10 days through the use of a combination of progesterone and estroneol injections, presumably the delay helps to give the uterus center a chance to recover from pregnancy.

By understanding that light induces regular heat periods, by using hormonal therapy, and by understanding the foal heat, you can increase the chance of breeding your mare this season.

About the author:

Dr. Novick is a local equine practitioner. He owns The Altos Equine Practice in Palo Alto, which services horses throughout the peninsula. If you have any questions on sports medicine, reproduction or general medicine, he can be reached at (415) 855-9626. He also is available for lectures to interested equine groups.

Problems With Lameness

by Dean McIntire

I've been shoeing most of my life. I've learned to recognize and treat many of the causes of lameness. Some of the more common causes are abscess, laminitis, and navicular disease. With corrective shoeing and/or therapy these causes can be helped.

Abscess is a puss forming infection of the hoof and maybe characterized by severe lameness, one of the most painful things that may happen to a horse. The most common cause would be some type of puncture wound. The first thing to do would be to locate the infection with hoof testers or clinchers. When located, the abscess must be opened with a knife so it will drain. Then, soak the hoof in epsom salts and hot water for 20 minutes and wrap the hoof for a few days. You don't have to treat the wound with iodine or anything else, just drain, soak, and wrap. Sometimes a horseshoer or veterinarian will want to shoe the horses with a boiler plate shoe as a protective measure.

Founder, or laminitis, is caused by any upset to the system that causes a histamine release. Common causes are: overeating, spoiled moldy feed, hard work on hard roads (road founder), drinking cold water when overheated, or failure of the placenta to separate from the uterus when delivering a foal (foal founder). Histamine is a chemical carried by certain cells of the body that causes small arteries to dilate and small veins to constrict when a horse suffers a shock to its system. Release of histamine will cause swelling of the sensitive laminae in the hooves. The horny laminae which surrounds the sensitive laminae is immobile and when the sensitive laminae swells it becomes detached from horny laminae. The sensitive and horny laminae do not have the ability to reattach and the

coffin bone will rotate downward. If the problem is found immediately, it will respond reasonably well to medical treatment. If you think your horse might be foundered, call your vet immediately. He will probably treat the problem with anti-inflammatory drugs, antihistamine and nerve blocks. If you miss the first symptoms and the process continues for several weeks, permanent laminitis can only be treated by corrective shoeing. There are three major causes of pain which occur with chronic laminitis. One is when the hoof breaks over, the horny laminae is pulled further from the sensitive laminae which causes the typical stance of the foundered horse, with front hooves in front of the horse and most of the weight carried by the back legs. Second if the coffin bone rotates the horse is then forced to walk on the sensitive sole. Lastly, a foundered horse is extremely prone to the development of abscesses and must be treated accordingly. Your veterinarian may prescribe appropriate antibiotics. The steps in corrective shoeing may vary depending on which stage treatment starts. Remember that laminitis will not go away by itself and without proper care and treatment, will only get worse.

Last, navicular disease is a lameness that can happen to almost any horse, but it is more common in running and jumping horses and can be prevented with proper trimming and shoeing. Two things that might put your horse in jeopardy are leaving the toes too long and the heels too short. The cause of the disease is undue pressure placed on the navicular bone by the deep digital flexor tendon when the leg is over-extended. Like many other lamenesses of the hoof, your horse will tell you what is wrong, if you know what to look for. With

navicular disease the typical stance is with the affected hoof pointing in front of the body and the heel slightly raised off the ground. Also the pain will be shown just before the horse breaks over the toe when walking. Navicular disease can be helped by corrective shoeing. Things your horseshoer will do after your veterinarian has examined and confirmed the disease will be to stand the horse up as much as possible. Most likely the horseshoer will prepare a shoe with raised heels and rolled toe. The horse will probably have contracted heels that must be helped at the same time.

Well we've looked at some things that might help you better understand your horse when he's trying to tell you there might be a problem. The best advice however is, if you think you see any problem or discomfort with your horse, don't wait to see if it's better tomorrow call your veterinarian immediately and you might prevent your friend from permanent damage.

About the author: Dean McIntire has been a horseshoer since he was 16 years old. He has shod horses from the race track to dude ranches & most every type of horse including draft. He has also done overnight pack trips and hunting parties. He is now hoping to make his home in the Bay Area along with his wife Amy. They have just moved here from Kennedy Meadows where he was head shoer for all the horses at the pack station there. If you would like to meet Dean he can be contacted at 366-5475. . . . He is offering a get acquainted price for your first shoeing of only \$45.00. His regular price will be \$55.00. Give him a call he knows horses.

YELLOW STAR THISTLE

Submitted by Amos Dana

A few times a week, somewhere in the West, another horse comes down with unmistakable signs—its facial muscles draw back, its lips quiver, it becomes frantic with hunger and thirst.

The horse behaves this way because it can no longer eat. It has “chewing disease,” a horrifying poisoning caused by eating quantities of yellow star thistle, a nasty imported weed spreading like wildfire across millions of acres throughout the West. In California alone, its range has quadrupled in 20 years to 8 million acres.

It's an explosion in slow motion, choking pastures, rangelands, roadsides, grain fields, orchards and vineyards, tormenting hikers, impoverishing ranchers and killing horses. An incredible 40 percent of the enormous Sacramento Valley drainage is now colonized; so is a fifth of California's breadbasket, the San Joaquin Valley, and 35 percent of the North Coast.

To stop it, entomologist and weed scientists are now assembling some of the world's most ambitious high-tech weed control strategies — finding and releasing natural star-thistle enemies. Some regard these biocontrol methods as ideal; others are concerned about biological mishaps. New pests introduced to devour the star thistle, for example, might inadvertently develop an appetite for two distant but friendly thistle cousins, the safflower and the artichoke.

The star thistle, a spiny 3 foot tall plant, is a relative newcomer to North America; researchers have looked for

its seeds in early Spanish adobe bricks and found none. Sometime between 1824 and the Gold Rush, the first star thistle probably arrived in shipments of contaminated alfalfa from southern Europe.

Since yellow star thistle probably came to the West as seeds, none of the natural Eurasian enemies that keep it in check at home — beetles, flies and fungus — came along with it. Once established in the arid, pest-free rangelands of the West, the weed thrived. An aggressive pioneer, perfectly spread to 209 counties in 23 states. “Ecologically, it's really been smiled upon,” said Don Maddox, an entomologist who's worked with star thistle for 30 years and who recently retired from the United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service in Albany.

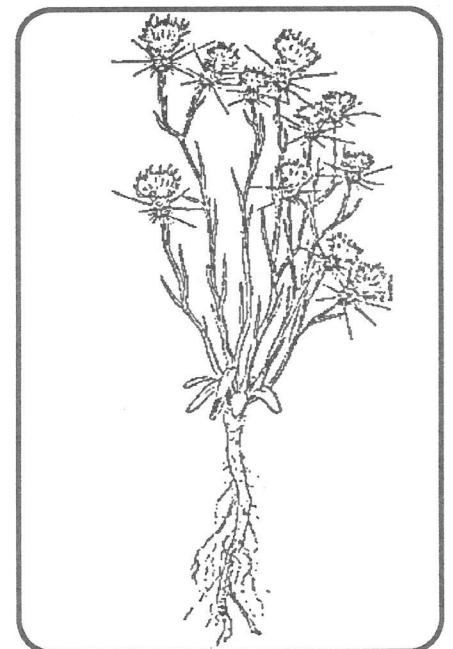
Cattle ranchers, major victims of the thistle, have contributed significantly to its spread. Without cattle and sheep, whose hoofs break down cryptogam (the delicate fungal mat that once covered most western soils), botanists say, the star thistle's seeds probably wouldn't have outcompeted the West's native perennial grasses and couldn't have grown to choke enormous, unbroken fields.

By the 1970's and 1980's, the thistle was a real hazard, not only poisoning horses with a mysterious nerve toxin but also hurting ranchers by injuring cattle and crowding out better forage. Ranchers couldn't hack it back fast enough; the nylon-tough stems stalled farm machinery; the necessary herbicides were too dangerous and expen-

sive to apply over the vast western rangelands. Today, the worst infestations are in California, Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. In Idaho, it now covers a third of a million acres, and Bob Callihan, a weed specialist with the University of Idaho, said it could multiply in his state by a factor of 10.

Even hikers are feeling the pinch. “If you get one of those spiny seedheads in the back of your legs and sit on it,” rues Don Joley, a pest management specialist with California's Department of Food and Agriculture, “you know it in a hurry. It's miserable — you can get pus building up and the spine can stay in there for a month — and it smarts.”

Ironically, the star thistle has had a considerable amount of intentional help as it has colonized the West. Star-thistle honey, intensely sweet and pure, is among the world's most prized, and beekeepers were quick to take advantage of the new source of food. Western beekeepers now truck thousands of hives to star-thistle stands each spring — and, consequently, help pollinate and spread it. In fact, star thistle isn't self-pollinating; it needs bees and other insects to do the job.



Other industries, too, help spread the weed. "We know that logging landings established the yellow star in Northern California, Oregon and Washington because we've found diffuse weeds established near logging areas," said Maddox. And as cattle are moved from low to high pasture land, he said, the weed usually goes along. "When they sweep out the hay in the trailer, it usually contains some yellow star."

Nor did it help when the forest service accidentally seeded some 6,000 acres of northeast Oregon's rugged Hell's Canyon with grass seed contaminated with star thistle. Although a crew of 35 quickly handpicked thistle heads in hopes of stopping a new infestation, the accidental seeding will probably become just one more patch in a continent-sized invasion.

The star thistle has earned its horse killer reputation in thousands of heart-rending incidents.

"It's a terrible thing to watch, because there's virtually nothing that you can do for it," said Alex Ardans, director of veterinary lab diagnostics at the University of California at Davis. "This is one time when euthanasia is truly merciful."

When horses eat the weed, an as-yet unidentified chemical works to destroy the part of the brain that controls mouth movement. The horse remains alert and strong—but slowly starves or dies of thirst.

"The horse needs its lips to pick up the grain but it can't use them," said Ardans. "You'll see horses—and it is agonizing to watch it—you swear they'll bite chunks of concrete trying to swallow the grain. If a horse like that sees a faucet or hose it will bit it in a frenzy to drink." Sometimes horses stagger into streams and drown trying to quench their thirst.

Star thistle's toxic effect is irreversible: The brain lesions it produces lead inevitably to death.

Though official records aren't kept, scientists believe the weed kills between 20-100 horses each year—just in California. Many more deaths probably occur in other Western states.

In dense star-thistle country there are occasional reports of mass horse poisonings, such as one in Sacramento in the 1950's, when a dozen horses died after being pastured in thistle country.

"I used to joke about the thistle with a horse owner just west of Davis," recalls UC Davis veterinarian Murray Fowler. "He had a beautiful field of star thistle on his pasture. But this local rancher said my warning was baloney. One day three of his horses came into the clinic with poisoning—they all died."

Horses, ironically, must acquire a taste for the bitter, thorny weed. Vets aren't sure if horses get chemically addicted to the thistle or simply develop a taste for it after eating thistle-contaminated hay. Several hundred thistle-pounds later, the fatal malady, often called chewing disease, sets in.

Some veterinarians think star-thistle poisoning will become more common as the weed invades the increasingly popular "hobby-horse farms"—small family ranchettes with a couple of acres and a few horses. The boom in these ranchettes means that many horses are being cared for by relatively inexperienced owners, people unlikely to know about star-thistle poisoning. If these owners don't feed their horses twice a day, horses may resort to eating the thistle, developing a fatal craving for the weed.

"People with those small acreages don't have equipment to treat weeds," explains Idaho's Callihan. "They don't

understand why they can't just spray them once. Many of them don't even believe it's toxic to horses. They say, 'Look at my horse—it's not dead.' But their horse's gait may not be what it should be; it may have low-level symptoms."

The danger is particularly strong in fall, after horses may have cleared their pastures of other forage crops.

The thistle is also a thorn in the side of the West's multibillion-dollar beef cattle industry. By the 1980's, ranchers were trying to feed cattle on rangeland with several hundred thistle heads *per square yard*. Cattle don't get chewing disease, but the pincushion-like stands discourage cattle from grazing, damage cows' faces and mouths, and crowd out more nutritious forage.

Ranchers, hard-pressed by declining sales and foreign competition, are finding that thistle-infested acreage can't support as many cattle as it did only a decade ago—and they can't afford expensive mechanical eradication programs on vast areas of marginal rangeland.

"It's a big problem," said John Ross, executive vice president of the California Cattlemen's Association. "It is raising the cost of producing quality beef."

Early this July, however, a promising skirmish in the war against thistle was fought in the hills near Placerville and Grass Valley. A USDA scientist, Charles Turner, released several hundred insects imported from Greece in an attempt to confront California's star thistle with an enemy it hasn't seen since it left Armenia and Turkey around 125 years ago.

Turner's plan is simple—in theory: Find bugs or diseases that hurt star thistle, and spread them around. After perhaps a decade, the pest might

to the point where herbicides and weeding methods could bring it under control. If the new thistle pests attack untargeted commercial crops however, the cure could prove even worse than the disease. Scientists are particularly concerned that safflower, ornamental cornflowers and artichokes — distant relatives of the star thistle — might be attacked by newly introduced star-thistle pests. So before any insect can be released, it must undergo strict quarantine testing to be sure its appetite is so host-specific that it'll harm only star-thistle.

But where on the planet do star thistle enemies live? Weed specialists — not noted for their exciting lifestyles — had to become entomological Indiana Joneses, searching remote corners of the Earth for thistle enemies.

Biologists had a few clues: Thistles are native to Eurasia and the Middle East; the closer to Eurasia that scientist looked, the more specialized thistle-related insects they found. Might the sought-for star thistle pest be found there?

Working out of field offices the USDA operates in Italy and Greece biologists found their first thistle-eating fly and introduced it into California in the 1960's and 1970's. Despite repeated efforts, the fly failed to spread. A picky eater, it preferred the Italian rather than the California strain of the yellow star thistle.

Weed scientists began wondering if better thistle enemies couldn't be found away from Greece and Turkey. They began getting tantalizing reports that there were highly evolved insect thistle pests farther east — in closed regions of the Soviet Armenia and Iran. In the 1970's and '80's, those were among the most politically re-

stricted regions on the planet.

But if the thistle were native to Armenia, entomologists reasoned, that's where the best pest should be found. In the 1980's, a few researchers were able to travel to the Soviet Union, but Armenia — bristling on both sides of the border with sensitive electronic listening posts, missile bases and rebellious minority populations — just couldn't be examined.

"We had three excursions over there," recalled entomologist Maddox, "but it only resulted in going to collective farms and drinking vodka with commissars — that type of crap." Similar attempts to explore northern Iran were called off because of Kurdish rebellions and, later, the Iranian revolution.

Despite these problems, a special USDA Agricultural Research Service team was able to find and release a few promising bugs from nearby eastern Turkey. One, the Bangasterius weevil, has been released for five years in dozens of locations in four western states. The weevil is surviving winter and slowly multiplying on a few acres, according to preliminary research, but at best the insect only cuts thistle seed production by half.

That's not good enough for a plant that can produce as many as 4,000 seeds per square meter, some of which can remain viable for up to 10 years. "The weevil could help a little bit," said the ARS's Charles Turner, "but if those preliminary figures hold we'll need help from additional agents."

Those agents include two new insects from Greece, a gall fly and a seed fly. Released last year, these flies will likely put additional stress on the plant if they live and prosper.

Turner also has hopes that a fourth imported pest, a weevil called *Eustenopus*, or "hairy weevil," will be

even better at munching thistle seed heads. A colony was released in early July. "*Eustenopus* looks most promising because it is a double threat," said Turner "The larvae feed inside the seed heads and the adults puncture young flower buds; they can outright kill the buds."

On the horizon is a fifth insect, *Larinus curtus*, another Greek weevil that Turner is now testing in the ARS's Albany quarantine facility. Should the weevil's appetite be proven restricted to yellow star thistle, Turner hopes to release the weevil in summer of 1991.

Though these five insects may make a dent in seed production, entomologists still don't have a knockout blow — nor have they found any bugs that attack star thistle roots or leaves. But they have up their sleeves a novel and controversial weapon: fungus.

Research on imported plant fungus is so dangerous that it can be carried out only in the one custom-built escape-proof containment greenhouse in the country — Fort Detrick, Maryland. This old Army biowarfare center once concentrated on studying nasty crop diseases that might be used in biological warfare; today it's looking for new work and star thistle control is among its new directions.

During the old biowarfare days, though, in the late 1970's, civilian biologists collected samples of a thistle-attacking fungus from Turkey. The fungus, called *Puccinia Jaceae*, appeared to attack star thistle leaves only. For 10 years, though, the fungus lay dormant, deep-frozen in liquid nitrogen waiting for the day the Army might use it if war turned biological.

By 1989, however, glasnost had reached even Fort Detrick, and the frozen spores were exhumed, examined and found to be a good star thistle threat — and, happily, only a

minor danger to its profitable cousin, safflower. The fungus gave thistle leaves rusty-looking pustules and powdery spore masses. That's just the kind of additional plant stress that a weed scientists dream about.

Assuming the U.S. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and CDFAS grant approval to field-test the fungus, a process that is taking years, the release will mark only the third time in history that botanists have risked using a fungus to control a noxious weed.

The plan calls for a small experimental field trial in a isolated patch of thistle near Riverside to study the rust's efficacy and safety. "Hopefully, it won't get on the rest of California's yellow star," said Bill Bruckart, research plant pathologist with the ARS at Fort Detrick, who explained that he chose the remote test site "so if something goes wrong we can get rid of it and shut it down."

Bruckart's agency has already put the fungus through extensive greenhouse testing at its ultra-secure containment greenhouses in Frederick, Maryland. The tests found that the fungus poses only a very minor threat to safflower. Greenhouse testing of fungus, Bruckart explained, has already been done safely on two other noxious plants, musk thistle and skeleton weed. In both cases, he said, the rust stayed on the weeds and didn't affect commercial crops.

If the fungus doesn't succeed, a group of agronomy and range scientists at UC Davis have yet another solution. They're testing cattle — the beasts that spread star thistle in the first place — as a kind of hooved vacuum cleaner. By forcing cows to graze pastures before the thistle has gone to

seed — and forcing them to graze much more intensively than they usually do — the scientists hope to control thistle in small, heavily used pastures.

So far, experiments done last year show that three heavy grazings of the thistle reduced seed production to about 1/30th of normal — a good start. The researchers are finding that star thistle, eaten at the right time, is even a fairly acceptable cattle food. Though these strategies sound prom-

ising, they're slow, tedious and underfunded. California, for example, has only committed \$50,000 this year for biocontrol of all varieties of thistle.

"All we can do is limit the spread of the weed," concluded weed scientist Callihan. "There are no years in which noxious weeds don't spread — it's their biological nature."

Meanwhile, in thousands of summer meadows throughout the West, a few trillion yellow star thistles are just beginning to set seed.

Editor Note: This weed is very common in the Woodside area. I see it on almost every trail and in lots of pastures—even when entering the water department.

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The Horse's Mouth

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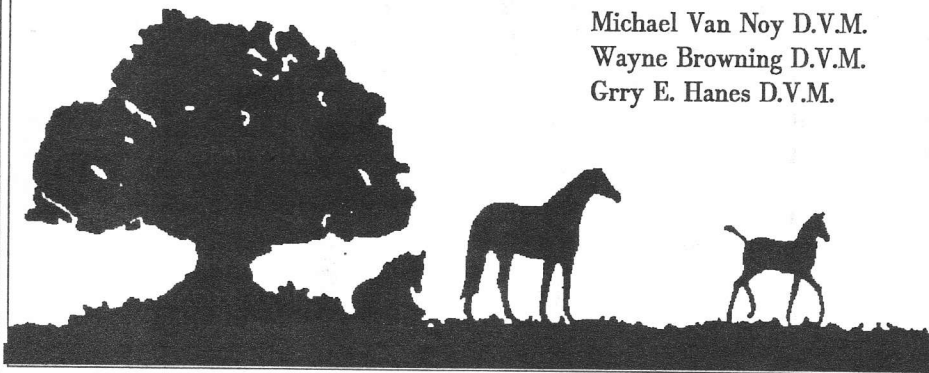
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Making a Pair of Horn Bags Out of Your Old Cowboy Boots

BEFORE throwing away your old leather cowboy boots, you can make a handy pair of horn bags. All you need is an old pair of leather boots, a hole punch, two small buckles, some rivets, leather lace (three strands about 3 feet long), and some spare leather strap (about 3 feet long). You use this piece for your strap and buckles. Imitation leather boot tops won't work.

Step 1/ Cut the tops off your old boots; be sure that you measure 7 to 8 inches from the top of the boot.

Step 2/ Punch holes across the bottom.

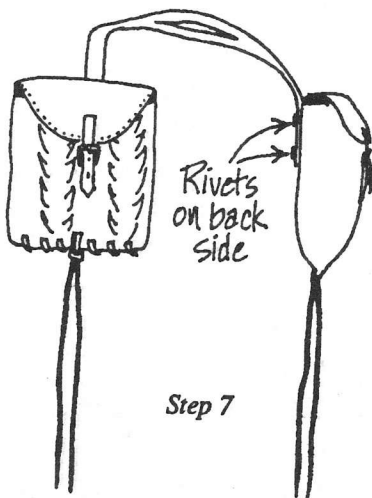
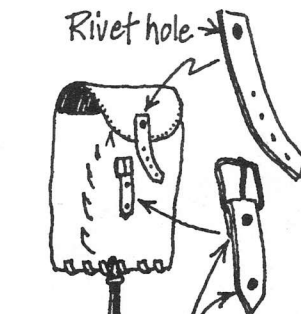
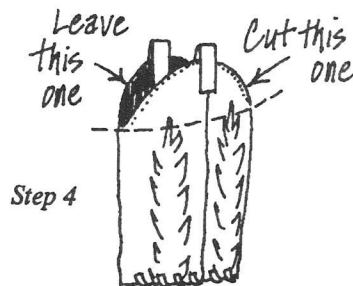
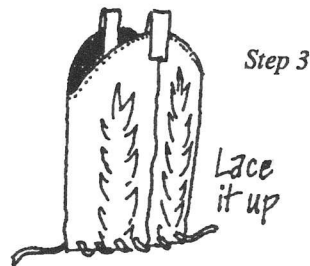
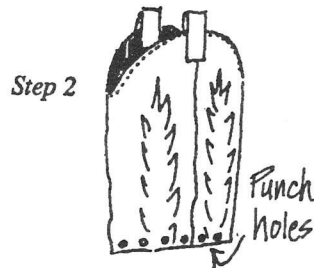
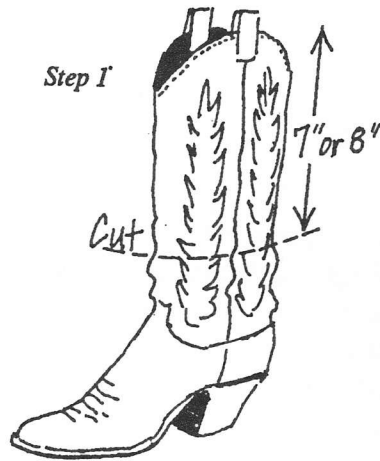
Step 3/ Lace it up using the holes you just punched. Make sure it's tight.

Step 4/ Cut off one of the rounded tops of the boot, so the other one can flap over.

Step 5/ Rivet the buckle and strap on.

Step 6/ Punch a hole and put your tie-down lace on. This ties to a ring on your saddle.

Step 7/ Repeat these six steps for the other bag, then hook them together with a 1½-foot strap. Cut a slice down the middle of the strap big enough to fit over your saddle horn. Hook the strap on with rivets.



Trails In The Presidio?

The most recent opportunity for the horse community to participate in creating equestrian trails is in planning the future of the Presidio in San Francisco, as it is incorporated into the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Horses were once an integral part of the 214 year old Presidio, and there are many horsemen who would like to once again have access to the 1400 acre estate.

The Marin Horse Council has already requested re-activation of the bridle paths and restoration of the beautiful, brick stables (that have been converted to offices) to their original use. Trails created in the Presidio will not only serve horsemen and other recreationists in San Francisco, but provide another link in the chain of the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

To put your name on the mailing list for more information about the project, write to:

National Park Service,
Presidio Planning Team
Building 177, Crissy Field
Presidio of San Francisco
San Francisco, CA 94129



The Cowboy as Beefeater

More stories have been told about the American cowboy than any other character in American history. Many of the stories can be considered wild steak stories, because the cowboy was, in the first place, a man delivering meat . . . a teamster. The cowboy was part of the system that brought meat to the markets. His job required courage and skill and hard work but not as much gunfire or drinking or rescuing maidens as Zane Grey or Tom Mix or John Wayne had us believe.

The history of the cowboy as beefeater is interesting without embellishment—without the potatoes and the salad or even the A-1 Sauce. Here is a brief summary.

After the Civil War, the meat industry in the U.S. became more specialized. Instead of cattle being raised in each region for its own needs, the cattle for the whole country began to be raised in the West. There was more room for grazing and better grazing plants in the West. Also, there were thousands of Longhorn steers roaming wild in Texas and perhaps even a few oxen! There is a story that during the

Civil War, a government train with several freight cars of oxen became blizzard bound and had to be abandoned. The next spring, the trainmen returned and found that the oxen had not only survived the winter but had fattened by foraging on wild plants. This, they concluded, was a place to raise cattle.

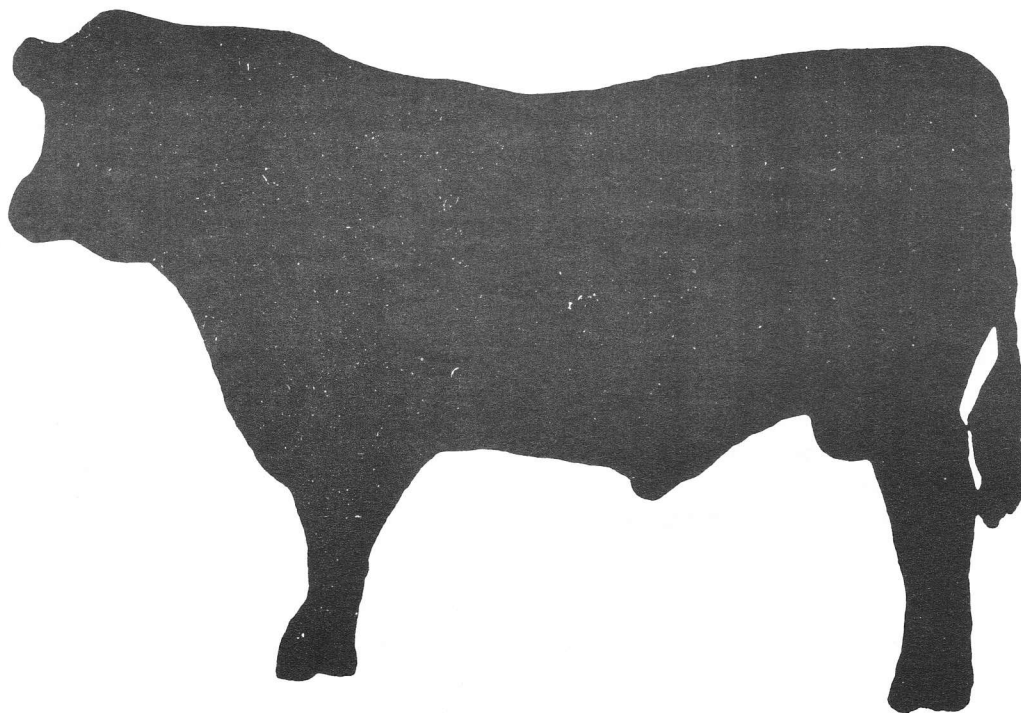
The American cowboy flourished in the second half of the nineteenth century as a part of the chain that brought the Western cattle to the East. After the Civil War, the railroads expanded and the refrigeration car was invented. Most of the Southwestern cattle were herded to Abilene, Kansas, put on trains and shipped to slaughterhouses in Chicago and Kansas City. Then the meat was shipped east in refrigerated cars.

The job of herding the cattle was monotonous and dusty, and it was hard work. A cattle drive could consist of 2500 animals and cover 1200 miles. The job required dangerous horseback riding, difficult lasso work, tough trailbosses, and songs to keep the cattle calm at night and less likely to stampede. It was on these skills and on the

presence of a gun, which they didn't often use, on their hips that the stories of the cowboys grew.

The vast herds of longhorns and the cowboy died out through the 1880's. The land over which the drives travelled was being made into farms. The places of passage became narrow and overgrazed. Then the railroads reached into Texas, and because it was cheaper, the cattle were then moved entirely by rail.

Today, of course, the steak you eat in the best steakhouses arrives in a different manner. But shipping steak is still a big business. A pound of meat travels an average of 1000 miles from open range to kitchen. The meat is shipped from Western and Midwestern states in refrigerated trucks. Many of the strips of beef are vacuum-sealed in plastic and shipped in boxes. It takes only about five days from the time of slaughter for the meat to arrive in our area. Some distributors then age the meat as much as two weeks longer before then sending it to a restaurant; other distributors will not age the meat at all.



CALENDER OF EVENTS

JANUARY

Sat 26 Installation Dinner, Elks Club, Redwood City 6:30 PM

FEBRUARY

Wed 13th Board Meeting Goldstar room Senior Rec Center 7:30 PM

Tue 19th General Meeting, White Elephant pot luck dinner Woodside Village Church 6:30 PM

MARCH

Wed 13th Board Meeting Goldstar room Senior Rec Center 7:30 PM

APRIL

Wed 10th Board Meeting Goldstar room Senior Rec Center 7:30 PM

Sun 14th SMCHA Spring Ride

Thu 25th General Meeting

MAY

Sat 4th Woodside May Day Parade

Wed 8th Board Meeting Lemon Tree 7:00 PM

JUNE

Sun 2nd SMCHA Western Schooling Show, Webb Ranch

Thu 6th Western Riding Clinic, 1st night Mounted Patrol

Sun 9th SMCHA English Schooling Show, Webb Ranch

Wed 12th Board Meeting Lemon Tree 7:00 PM

Thu 13th Western Riding Clinic, Mounted Patrol

Sat 15th SMCHA ride to Skyline

Thu 20th Western Riding Clinic, Mounted Patrol

Thu 27th Western Riding Clinic, Mounted Patrol

JULY

Thu 4th Redwood City Parade

Thu 11th Western Riding Clinic, Mounted Patrol

Sun 14th Shoestring Farm English Schooling Show, Webb Ranch

Thu 18th Western Riding Clinic and Bar-b-que, Mounted Patrol

Sun 21st SMCHA Western Schooling Show, Webb Ranch

AUGUST

Sun 4th SMCHA English Schooling Show, Webb Ranch

Wed 7th Board Meeting Lemon Tree 7:00 PM

Sun 11th SMCHA Western Open Show & Pancake Breakfast, NORCAL, Mounted Patrol

Fri 16-18th SMCHA Overnight Ride at Jack Brooks

SEPTEMBER

Fri 6th SMCHA Night at the Races

Wed 11th Board Meeting Lemon Tree 7:00 PM

Sun 15th SMCHA Playday

OCTOBER

Wed 9th Board Meeting Goldstar room Senior Rec Center 7:30 PM

Sun 13th SMCHA President's Ride

Fri 25th SMCHA Night at the Grand National, Cow Palace

NOVEMBER

Fri 8th Barn Dance with Mounted Patrol

Wed 13th Board Meeting Goldstar room Senior Rec Center 7:30 PM

Thu 21st General Meeting and Election of Board Members

DECEMBER

Fri 6th SMCHA Board Meeting and Election of Officers



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	\$30.00

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HOT NEWS

Coming Events

White Elephant Pot-Luck Dinner
Tuesday, Feb. 19, 1991
Woodside Village Church
3154 Woodside Road
6:30 pm

This is the best time to grab that old "White elephant" that you can't bear to throw away, but don't want it hanging around anymore and pass it on to another member. There will even be a chance to "steal" a better one. Dinner will be pot-luck with lots of good dishes to sample. Watch for your flier in the mail for more details.



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