

The San Mateo HORSEMAN

FEBRUARY / MARCH 1975

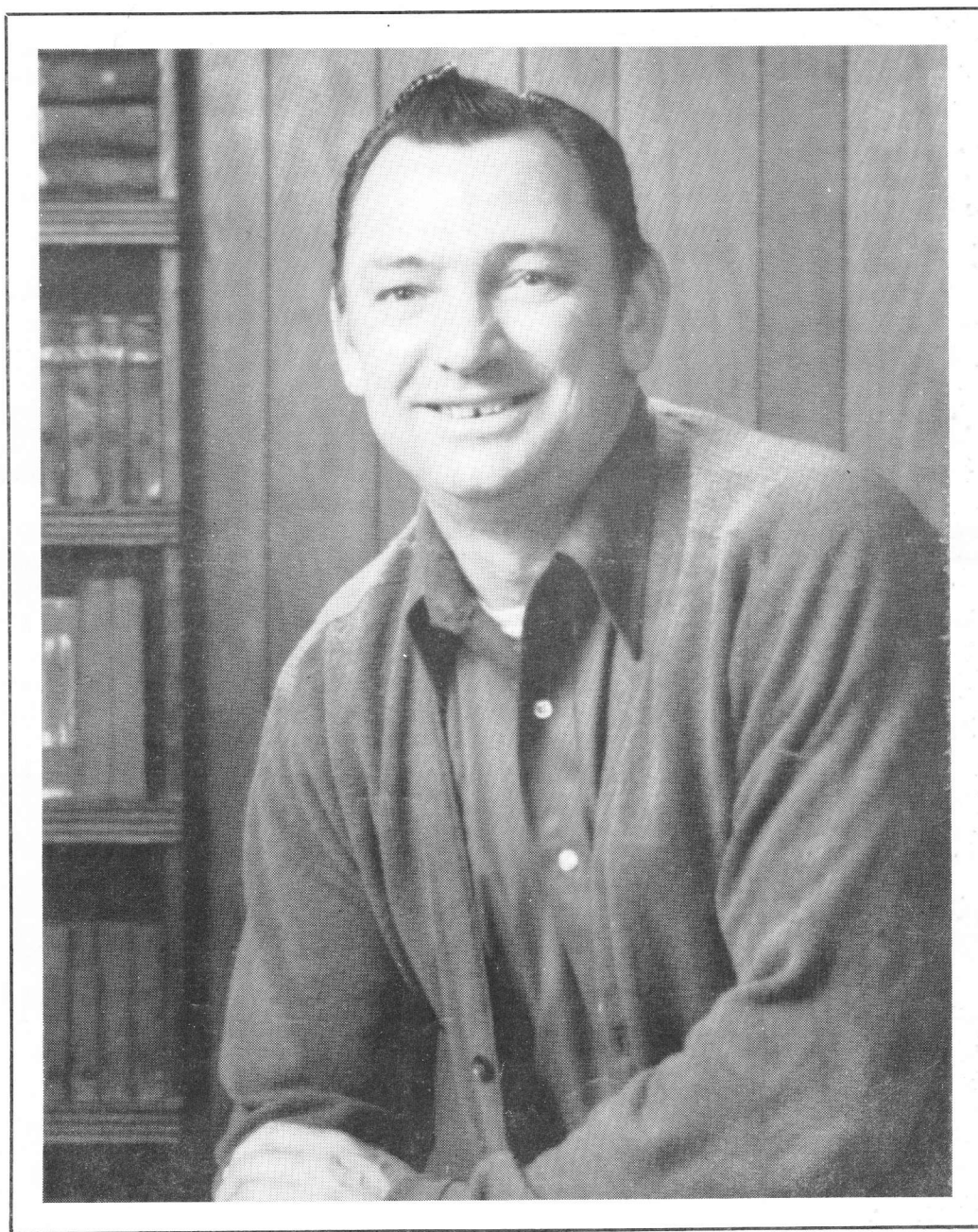


Photo by Heritage Studio

1975 OFFICERS SAN MATEO COUNTY HORSEMEN'S ASSN.

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Photo by Jim Collier

New President Pat Grady accepts the gavel from '74 Prexy Ed Hansen.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well here we are at the start of another year. By all indications we should have another good year.

The Horse Show Committee has ten shows planned. The first a two day schooling show on March 22nd and 23rd.

The Rides Committee have twenty rides planned, to be highlighted by an overnight ride at Memorial Park.

Other committees are formed and have high goals set for the year.

Much help will be needed, so please try to attend the general meetings the last Wednesday of the month. Notify me or any of the committee chairmen if there is a specific job you would like.

Our Program Chairman, Phil Ray, is planning some really great programs for our meetings.

Hope to see you all at the meetings. Pat Grady

MARCH MEETING FEATURES SINGING DUO

Hitchrack patrons will no doubt remember the young couple who will be at our general meeting in March. They are Sue Scott and Steve Chapman. If you like popular country songs with a little old-fashioned folk music thrown in along with some real expert guitar pickin' you won't want to miss this meeting. Steve and Sue have a repertoire that would fill the Library of Congress and their rendition of those good country and western tunes is truly captivating.

It was good to see some long-absent faces at the February meeting and we hope more of our members will be at the Woodside Elementary School in March. Bring a friend. President Grady promises to dispense with club business posthaste so we can get on with the show. Remember the date: Wednesday, March 26, 8:00 p.m.



SMCHA's trophy case occupies a prominent place in Woodside's favorite coffee house, the Stage Stop cafe.



Photo by Jim Collier

Members of the SMCHA Color Guard smile their thanks: Avilada

Raymond, Joanna Watson, Cheryl Kreuzer, and Lynn Walker.

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THEIR TIMES

VIRGINIA SIEGFRIED & FRED KEMM

In recent months, two long time members of SMCHA, Virginia Siegfried and Fred Kemm, left us for their permanent green pastures. It was through the devotion and loyalty of such people as these that the Association planted deep roots. Both were always available for assistance when needed and represent an era to be well remembered.

Virginia and her family moved from San Francisco to Atherton in 1940 and to an acre complete with barn and pasture on Berkeley Ave. in Menlo Park in 1944. Later the family lived on Winding Way in Woodside for a number of years prior to moving to Poppy Ave. in Menlo Park, where Virginia lived until her death. However, it was from the Bayshore-Willow Road area in Menlo Park that Virginia had the opportunity to pursue and develop her life-long interest in horses. It was from here that she rode to Woodside through what is now the Stanford Shopping Center and became the avid trail horse woman she remained until recent years. For fifteen years she and her bay mare "Muffet" could be found high-lighting just about all SMCHA trail rides. After Muffet's retirement it was her palomino "Captain."

It was in the late 1940's that she joined SMCHA when the meetings were held at Carpenter's Hall in San

Carlos. In 1949 she became a charter member of the Saddle Bags.

In the late fifties and early sixties her activities included exhibiting in the local trail classes and going on several annual Yosemite Trail Rides. In the late fifties, Virginia was one of several local people who joined with Santa Clara County Horsemen's Association and rode to the CSHA Conventions and Horse Shows, which were then combined. Prior arrangements were made with ranchers for them to "put-up" overnight with their horses and sleeping bags. A Chuck Wagon met them at designated areas for lunch as well as at the ranches. They were "trailed" home after several days of activities which "in those days" included an elaborate cocktail party hosted by SMCHA.

Up into the mid-sixties, Virginia served in various offices and chaired various activities. She was editor of the magazine for several years.

Fred was born in Sacramento. His early contact with horses began with "Dolly," a grey mare that transported the Kemm family into the Colusa County mountains on camping trips.

As a young man and professional accountant he moved to San Francisco, met and in 1926 married Marie.

Before long the Kemms started vacationing at Dude Ranches, the first being in Willits, Calif. where Fred took his first horse back ride. Marie became so enthusiastic about riding that she joined a group at the old St. Francis Riding Academy on Seventh Ave. (in San Francisco) to take "flat saddle riding" instructions. Fred accompanied her to the stables and became the devoted supporter of equestrian activities that he remained for the rest of his life. It was through these associations at the old St. Francis Riding Academy that the S.F. Horsemen's Association was born

in the early 1940's with Fred as a charter member. San Francisco was the seventh Association to join CSHA, thus beginning activities which led to his appointment as Treasurer in 1953, a position he held for seventeen years. He was a long-time member of the CSHA Horse Show Committee as well as the American Horse Show Association. He attended their annual conventions as a CSHA representative.

In 1947 the Kemms moved from San Francisco to San Carlos and joined SMCHA. Fred's first job with this Association was serving hot dogs at a Play Day at the late Ed Zwierlein home on what was then called Portola Ave., now Olive Hill Lane. His next assignment was Secretary of the first Senior Horse Show in 1950 held at the old Gymkhana Club in San Mateo on Twentieth Ave. It was a one day show with 150 entries. He served in this position for the next eight years.

In 1957 and for several years following, Fred was Secretary of the Junior SMCHA Horse Show and was an ardent supporter of all Junior activities.

Fred was also prominent in Region Six in the late fifties and early sixties and served as Chairman of the Horsemastership Eliminations as well as the State Horsemastership Committee.

In 1955 the Kemms moved to Martin Lane in Woodside where Marie still resides.


Margaret Barbera



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Tack Auction in April

Done your spring cleaning yet? Well, when you get around to the barn and tack room and find a lot of old things you haven't used for years and probably never will, remember SMCHA. Bring them to us and we'll auction them off. This sale was a big money-maker for the association last year and we hope to equal or better it this time. The 1975 sale is scheduled for Wednesday night, April 30, at 8:00 p.m. at the Woodside Elementary School, immediately following our general membership meeting. Whatever it is — an old curb strap, a rope halter, an old belt buckle or a silver-mounted saddle — somewhere there is someone who can make use of it. So don't throw it away; take it to one of several drop-off locations we've arranged for you.

Woodside residents can take their contributions to the Hitchrack at 835 Canada Road.

For you coastsiders there are two convenient locations. **Bob Hopper** says he'll be glad to store your tack until meeting time. His stable is at the west end of Reina Del Mar in Pacifica. If you're closer to Half Moon Bay, Ernie Sanchez will keep your items safe at his **Sanchez Adobe**, 2901 Coast Highway.

If you're in the Palo Alto-Menlo Park area you can leave whatever you have for Phil Ray at **Fay Humphries' Stable** at the Webb Ranch, 2720 Alpine Road. And if you just cannot get away from home give Phil a call at 326-6762 and he'll be glad to pick up whatever items you have.

Better yet, come to the meeting on April 30 and bring that old Pelham you haven't used for years with you. We'll have our golden-throated auctioneer chant it into pure cash. All proceeds go to SMCHA, a non-profit organization.

On the other hand, if there's something you need in the way of tack, don't forget our April meeting. You'll probably find a rare bargain.

LOCAL RIDER WINS BARBARA WORTH MEDAL CLASS FINALS



Photo by Ponds

BARBARA WORTH MEDAL FINALS

L. to R. — Bill Steinkraus, Betty Kilham, Elizabeth Kilham, Robin Halford, Thea Nielsen, Nancy Turrill, Tommy Lowe, Barbara Worth Oakford.

Gold Medal — Robin Halford, Atherton

Silver Medal — Liz Kilham, Portola Valley

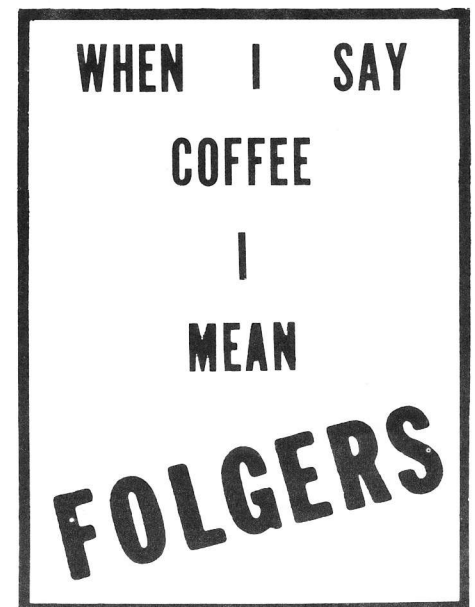
Bronze Medal — Thea Nielsen, Westlake Village

Robin Halford of Atherton is the 1974 winner of the Barbara Worth Medal Class Finals open to junior hunt seat riders who are members of the Pacific Coast Hunter, Jumper and Stock Horse Association. Robin, 17, is also a junior member of the SMCHA and is trained by Tommy Lowe at the Charter Oak Farm in Woodside. She rode her thoroughbred gelding, Broadway Clown, during the two day competition held at the Barbara Worth Stables near Sacramento, on January 4-5, 1975.

Two other local riders placed in the top ten during the competition. Placing second was Elizabeth Kilham, Portola Valley, who rode her horse, Festival Prince, and tenth place winner was Noel Detwiler, Menlo Park, who rode Apollo, owned by the Charter Oak Farm. Sixty-four riders from all over California showed during the event which was open to winners of Barbara Worth Medal classes during the year. Judge for the Finals was Bill Steinkraus,

president of the United States Equestrian Team.

Robin has been riding for ten years and started showing hunters when she was nine. She received the Barbara Worth gold medal and a college scholarship. A senior at Castilleja School, Robin plans to attend Colorado State in September.



HORSE CROWD HAPPENINGS

Spotted at the SMCHA dinner dance were ED BACCIOCO, newly installed Supervisor of San Mateo County, and his wife DANICA, an accomplished horsewoman and fighter in her own right for horsemen's interests ... with them, (he's the Chairman of the Supervisors), the Jim Fitzgeralds.

Reminiscing at the same festivity was horseman BOB O'NEIL, who recounted what the very first installation was like — he was there as a junior in high school. After the dinner, yours truly accompanied BOB to his mini-horsefarm and was treated to the sight of three yearlings. One of these is a big lovely filly, SHELLIE'S PRIDE, a T.B. mare that PAT HOLMES has just sold to a customer in Whittier. By the time the mare arrives at her new home, she will have been re-bred to NO HOME ATALL, a winner by the Australian-bred No Home. ATALL is standing his first season at Laguna Seca.

During the January lull in horse shows, there have been several clinics for hunters and jumpers at CHARTER OAK FARM in Woodside. The first, conducted by GEORGE MORRIS, famous as the coach of many if not most National Medal Winners at New York and Harrisburg, had sections for all age groups and proficiencies. The clinic that followed was more specialized. It was for Open Jumpers, or those horses whose owners have Grand Prix type ambitions for them. It was of broad interest though for spectators too (as Morris' also was) for the instructor was none other than KATHY KUSNER, one of the all-time big stars of the International scene, both on our Olympic teams and as an individual. KATHY is also the first American girl to get a jockey's license at a recognized track, and has ridden steeplechasers and hunters as well as the Open horses.

Speaking of steeplechases, it appears they are beginning to catch on out here. We hope you still have one whole EDITOR by the time this

is printed, for one of the contestants in the first LADIE'S RACE at GOLDEN GATE FIELDS this month will be NANCY KRAMER and her KAHLUA. This first race will be trophy and garland to the winner, but starting with the next one, the purses will be \$2500! There will be more steeplechasing at Bay Meadows this season also.

What's this we hear about NANCY BOONE and some of her conspirators getting together a Color Guard for their part in the festival to be held at the MOUNTED PATROL GROUNDS in May for the benefit of the Children's Home Society? More brave ladies around these days!!

Well January IS the bottom of the year, when the winter winds blow, and the horses (hopefully) get a rest ... so, the next best thing is to go to all those award dinners and installation banquets. Since we've attended a very representative number of these, a severe diet will have to be resorted to, to right matters ... In San Francisco we caught up with the HACKNEY people during the ASHA convention. The annual meeting was attended by such Hackney fanciers as MRS. WILLIAM P. ROTH of Hillsborough, the JOHN COSTELLOS of Missouri, and the President of the ASHA, ALBERT G. HART. The following week we tagged along with MARGARET REESE and PAT SCHNIER to the CALIFORNIA REINED COW HORSE ASSN. dinner, which followed the annual meeting at the Holiday Inn in Monterey ... what a place for a meeting, too. It has everything ... and we had the fun of seeing MARGARET's great little horse, BAR ETCH, honored for his championship in the green bridle section of the stock horses. MARGARET, accompanied to the rostrum by ETCH's trainer, BENNY GUITRON, received a most impressive sterling belt buckle, with rubies in it, yet! Among the crowd we ran into BOB and PATTY KNUDSON, (Bob picked up an award for the WHITNEY's great campaigner,

CHO CHO PLAUDETTE), the CONLEYS, and MARY REESE (there to root for the home team), accompanied by JOHN BETIOLL.

It's great to have one of our own good juniors from not-so-long ago back in the area. BETTY LU WHITMORE THOMAS and her husband GRAEME (BUTCH) are the new trainer-managers at WILLOW TREE FARM. Both outstanding hunter-jumper riders, LU and BUTCH have brought some exciting horses from their former stable in Washington, plus a lot of know-how and great personality. We wish them and their juniors much success in the new season....

MMB



Spring Ride

Plan now, please, to join us at the annual Spring Ride, April 27, 1975! We will leave Woodside Stables, on Canada Road, at 10:00 A.M., sharp. The ride will be most interesting and varied from previous years, but will stop for lunch at the Horsemen's Retreat in the water property, as in the past, where a catered lunch will be served.

Lynda Walker, Spring Ride Secretary (851-8709) will take reservations anytime for the luncheon. If you wish to bring your own, or skip lunch, don't call, simply meet us at Ross's stables. We will be returning via a different route and trail from the retreat area.

The Spring Ride, an annual tradition; a good chance to meet old friends, to try your horse with a large group. We expect beautiful weather, on beautiful trails with beautiful fun-loving, horse-loving people.

Let's have a 100 horses and riders, at least for this fabulous ride!!!

Hugh Bryson,
Spring Ride, Chairman
SMCHA Rides Committee

Rides, Rides, Rides, Rides, Rides we've got em!

Sunday Pleasure, overnight, out of town, moonlight, plus the regulars — Spring, Fall, President's!

The SMCHA Rides Committee, chaired by Barb and Art MacDonald have come up with a new rides format selected to meet the every changing requirements of pleasure riders.

The dates of the rides are shown in the schedule with leaders and specific ride information. This will be advertised in the future magazine and "flyer" issues.

The second Sunday of every month will be an informal "Sunday Pleasure Ride" — no reservations required. Just show up at the designated starting place before 10 A.M. We leave at 10 A.M. for a 3 hour ride. This year the rides will be starting in different locations: Woodside Central (Canada Corners), North Woodside (Hitch Rack), and the Portola Valley area. We need more ride leaders who have favorite rides in these areas who can share them (their trails, experiences) with SMCHA trail riders and friends. If you have a favorite ride, phone Barb and Art MacDonald at 851-7685.

Some 1975 HIGHLIGHTS: Lynn Walker and Hugh Bryson are planning and leading the Spring Ride. Details on this to come out shortly.

Ralph Podesta will lead two rides in the north — Woodside Water Department area. Barb and Art MacDonald are scheduled to take on the overnight ride (San Mateo County Memorial Park). There will be a "Cross the Bay" a one hour trailering jaunt.

Please watch for your rides information in the magazine and flyers.

SMCHA RIDES COMMITTEE

Barb and Art MacDonald	851-7685
Lynda Walker	851-8709
Hugh Bryson	851-8266
Lew Reed	851-1714
Bob Krensky	851-1954
Ralph Podesta	344-3992
Merilyn and John Blake	854-1183
Noel Ruhberg	322-6545

RIDES SCHEDULE — 1975

April 13	Pleasure Ride
April 27	SMCHA Spring Ride
May 11	Pleasure Ride
June 8	Pleasure Ride
June 21	Moonlight Ride
July 13	Pleasure Ride
July 19-20	SMCHA Overnight Ride
August 10	Pleasure Ride
August 17	Colagasilucchienze Ride
August 22	Moonlight Ride
Sept. 14	Presidents Ride and Playday
October 12	Pleasure Ride
October 19	SMCHA Fall Ride
November 9	Pleasure Ride
December 14	Pleasure Ride
January 1	New Years Day Ride

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THE *San Mateo Jr. Horseman*

Junior President's Message

I wish I could say this year started out with a bang, but unfortunately it was more like a fizzle. It appears that when the 1974 officers left office there was only one Junior to receive all five; me. I am pleased and let's say "challenged" to be your Junior President this year.

Ordinarily Jr. officers are elected in January. We decided to change the elections to June as we feel more juniors have time and interest in the summer. From now until June, our main goal is to get our remaining members to the meetings. I was encouraged to find about twenty enthusiastic juniors at our first meeting. Due to their participation we now have a Secretary, Debbie Worley, and two co-editors, Dora Raymond and Cathy Icenogle.

This year we hope to have more B point horseshows and fewer back-alley shows and playdays. Perhaps a few inner-barn shows will be possible. We also discussed field trips to Davis and a race track and an acquaintance picnic in late Spring.

I can't stress enough how essential it is that you all come to the March meeting. We will be discussing some very interesting and vital events coming up in the future.

See you then,
Kathy

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Thoroughbreds Can Do Anything!



A six-year-old Thoroughbred mare, Mudpie, has been conditioned and trained by 11-year-old Robin Kirby of Pacifica, California for the past two years. Although the mare was trained to race as a 2-year-old, she has shown great ability in adapting to the slow paces required in Western schooling shows. She is a good using cow horse, but her best has been shown in her endurance in competition trail riding.

Competition trail riding is governed by the North American Trail Ride Conference, and covers some 30 to 40 miles of rugged trail through ordinarily inaccessible areas with obstacles sufficient to eliminate the weaker horses and less experienced riders. The horses

are vet-checked and judged before the ride, all through the ride, and during and after the cooling period. Horses accumulate points toward national championships on these rides.

Mudpie's complete confidence in her rider plus her remarkable endurance has enabled her and Robin to win 1st place in the Junior Division at Swanton with a score of 99½ out of a possible 100! They also placed 2nd in the Jr. Div. at Oakland, and 1st in the Jr. Div. plus 1st in over-all horsemanship at Calistoga.

Topping their season, Robin and Mudpie were 2nd in the Jr. Div. and 3rd in over-all horsemanship at the famous Black Bart Ride in 1973. Quite a record at eleven years old.

Betty Greer

34th INSTALLATION DINNER DANCE



New officers for '75 are Hap Harper, Judy Magrin, Pat Grady, Cheryl Kreuzer, Phil Ray, Gloria Scheid, Bob Clements.

Photo by Jim Collier

The work of another good year was wrapped up and saluted the last Saturday night of January, when the association met to dine and dance, and honor the new officers,

The Elk's Club in Redwood City, where they serve the best prime rib in town, was the setting for a great party, with black tie and ruffles, long gowns and color the order of the evening. Art Coladarci, traditional voce Italiano of the SMCHA, M.C.'d the goings-on, as only he can do it. The arsenal of jokes, both Italian and otherwise, never seems to run dry, nor does the stream of comment directed at those brave souls who must come up to be awarded...

First of these was Howie Sonnicksen, a choice that was greeted with more than polite applause. This is the guy who's like the Corps of Engineers in the Army — without him, the shows just wouldn't go. He was thanked with a beautiful pair of custom boots from Creed's OLSEN NOLTE. From all of us, thanks, Howie.

Another presentation that everyone took to their hearts was to a couple who have for years lent their time, talents, hard work, and

facilities to the organization, Glen and Mickey Burks. Proprietors of Willow Tree Farm, Glen and Mickey have contributed so much to us we'd be writing a book to cover it all. Suffice to say, there are no finer neighbors, no nicer people, and no associates in the horse business to compare with them.



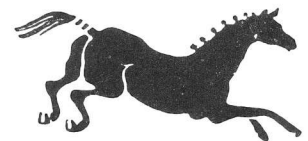
Howie Sonnicksen accepting his award from out-going president, Ed Hansen.

Photo by Jim Collier

Distinguished Horseman of the Year was Harold Zwierlein — it couldn't be anyone else. Harold is one of our own from so far back, he probably can't remember himself when he wasn't involved with SMCHA. If you've read the magazine over the years, you'll get the idea. Twice president of SMCHA, son of a president, chairman of every activity at one time or another, active civic and horseworld leader — well, what else can we say, other than, until this year, anyway, he's been the BEST HORSESHOER IN WOODSIDE! Congratulations to a great guy!



Glen and Mickey Burks, displaying their "Distinguished" Award.



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Our handsome "Distinguished couple," Art and Barbara MacDonald display their trophy.

Photo by Jim Collier

The other Distinguished award went to a couple whose combined years of activity, enthusiasm and devotion make them truly a part of SMCHA's backbone ... Art and Barbara MacDonald. Barb has been secretary, chairman of all kinds of committees, horse show staff, and not least of all, Art's right hand (and dare we say, his memory bank?) Art is chairman of the Rides Committee, a hard worker in the ring at horseshows, and a most generous business associate in Woodside. A landscape contractor and owner of the Woodside Nurseries, Art's brains have been picked on numerous occasions, his equipment borrowed, and his nursery stock lent. As contributors in the finest sense, Barb and Art certainly deserved the "distinguished" accolade.

Out-going president ED HANSEN then took over the mike, looking smashing in his white tuxedo(!) and thanked everyone for a super year, which he doesn't realize would not have been nearly so super without him, and then made a few last pleasant acknowledgements. Cheryl Kreuzer (alias Guggenheim) was called to the podium to present her thanks and awards to the SMCHA color guard Joanna Watson, Lynda Walker, Avilda Raymond. She reported

another winning year (we're so used to it, what'll we do if they ever lose?) and introduced her successor, Donna Veteran.

Ed also presented the first of the bound volumes of SMCHA history, which the historian Irma Goldsmith has graciously made up and donated, to Dale Ryman. As a former president, Dale is the first of such to receive this memento. One will be given every year.

THEN the great moment arrived. Ed called his successor PAT GRADY to the mike, and with a huge (and well concealed) sigh of relief, passed the president's gavel over to this most promising new President. Having been privileged to watch Pat in action well before this occasion, we know what kind of a leader he's going to be. A great personality, good organizer, and loaded with energy, Pat now takes over for '75 with some other tangible assets: a super backer-



Distinguished Horseman of the Year Harold Zwierlein, accepting the traditional plaque from M.C. Art Coladarci.

Photo by Jim Collier

Barbara Clements, and Sargeant at Arms Bob Krensky. Irma Goldsmith will continue as Historian.



Outgoing officers Hap Harper, Pat Grady, Ed Hansen, Cheryl Kreuzer, Barbara Clements, Nancy Boone, and Bob Krensky.

Photo by Jim Collier

upper in his wife Aggie, a conviction that you can move worlds with hard work, and, if he can get away with it, the label of THE BEST HORSESHOER IN WOODSIDE!!

Honored for their year of service were the out-going officers, 2nd Vice President Hap Harper, Treasurer Carol Parker, Secretary Cheryl Kreuzer, Treasurer Jr. Acct. Betty Greer, Registrar

Pat then introduced the new officers for '75. They are: 1st Vice President Hap Harper, 2nd Vice President Phil Ray, Secretary Cheryl Kreuzer, Treasurer Gloria Scheid, Registrar Judy Magrin, Sargeant-At-Arms Bob Clements, Historian Irma Goldsmith, Corresponding Secretary Helen Ryman. We wish them all well!

MMB

THE STOCK SADDLE

ANATOMY AND EVOLUTION



Illustration by Lee Rice

by Phil Ray

"I See by Your Outfit..."

In a small Mexican village in 1554 a Spaniard named Alonza Martinez began making saddles for the horsemen and horses who were, by that time, arriving in Mexico with almost every ship from the Old World. It was the beginning of a great cattle empire; already there were vast estancias being stocked with tough Spanish cattle and the wiry little Moro-Spanish horses. Senor Martinez had brought his saddlemaking talents and knowledge with him and he prospered as did those early-day stockmen, for there was a great demand for his product. Martinez made his own trees as well. One of them hung over the door of his shop to advertise his product. When it disappeared one night he was perplexed and angered at such petty thievery. However, a fortnight later it was mysteriously returned to its place in front of his shop. Again Senor Martinez was puzzled; but he continued to manufacture his saddles and to prosper.

The mystery was cleared up some weeks later when several Indians came to his shop and offered to sell

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him some saddle trees. They were exact replicas of the one hanging over his door.

This was the beginning of the stock saddle industry in America. The saddles we use today — direct descendants of the war saddles brought to Mexico from Spain — are basically little different from those Mexican saddles of 400 years ago. They are made of the same materials and they are used in much the same manner as the first Mexican vaqueros used theirs. Saddlemakers in the United States have added their own special touches from time to time, of course, for the Anglo cowboy would occasionally incorporate some Yankee ingenuity in the form of some special gimmick. Western stock saddlemakers have traditionally taken great pride in making a strictly custom product. Every now and then a cowboy would doff his Stetson, scratch his head, and come up with a minor adjustment that would be tantamount to revolutionary change.

Case in point: Lee Robinson was a Texas cowboy. Born in the nineties, he worked on his father's ranch until he was big enough to work for other outfits. Hometown Fourth of July rodeos brought out Robinson's talents as a roper and steer wrestler and before long he was making the top shows in the country and beating the best. In those days cowboys were still pounding the old five-inch cantles. Robinson had Porters make him a saddle with about half that cante shaved off. With less "wood" to get in his way on a dismount, Robinson began shaving some time off his performances as well. This was back in the early twenties and the Robinson tree is still popular with cowboys today.

A few years later another colorful cowboy named Bob Crosby came along and had the same maker give him a similar tree, but with a wider

swell in the fork. Crosby did considerable steer roping and he wanted just a bit more height and a swell that was slightly undercut to give him support. Another minor change, but in the world of contest roping where tenths of a second count it is these little things which so often give a cowboy the edge. (Ironically, both Robinson and Crosby, who spent much of their lives on horseback, later met the tragic fate of so many twentieth century cowboys: they were both killed in auto accidents).

The story of custom stock saddle making in the United States begins in the mid-nineteenth century. The oldest firm still in business today (although it no longer makes saddles) is the George Lawrence Company of Portland, Oregon. This firm, established in 1857, introduced the Ellensburg tree shortly after the turn of the century. This tree had a wide fork with high swells. It ushered in the era of "freak" bronc rigs. Contest bronc riding was becoming popular and standards for bronc saddles were yet to be defined. Every bronc rider in the country was looking for a new gimmick that would keep him in the saddle just a second longer. Saddlemakers were bringing out items with swell forks as wide as 24 inches (Frazier of Denver made one) before the Rodeo Cowboy's Association was organized and limited the swell to a width of 14 inches and the cante to a height of five inches. Hamley's of Pendleton, Oregon, made the first Association saddle on a modified Ellensburg tree. This was in 1920 when representatives of the Walla Walla Frontier Days, Boise Frontier Exhibition, Cheyenne Frontier Days and the Pendleton Roundup

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(in back of Ernie's Liguors)

formed a committee and met to draw up standards for the Association tree. This tree is still the legal standard today for all RCA-approved events.

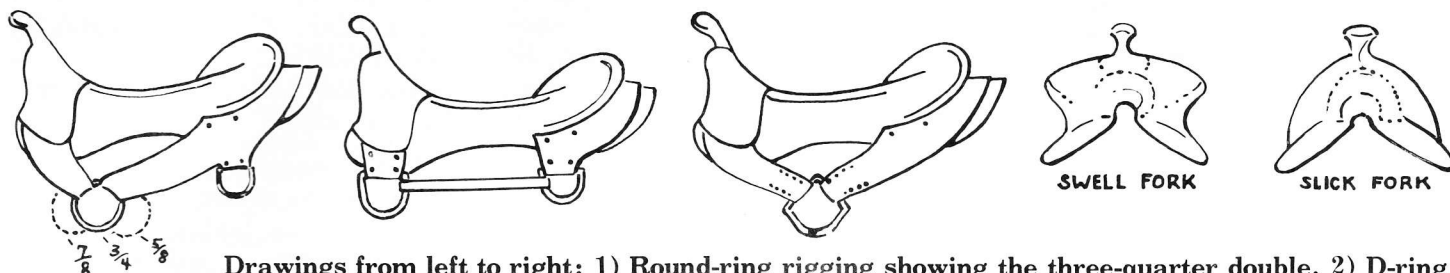
Let's take a look at the modern stock saddle and see how it is made and why it is made the way it is. There is enough wood, rawhide and leather and hardware in the complete working stock saddle (don't call it a western saddle; there is no such thing) to give it a weight of 30-40 pounds. This might

There should be clearance between the top of the horse's withers and the top inside of the fork or gullet. This should be checked with the saddle cinched down and the rider's weight in the saddle.

Basically there are three types of rigging: D-ring rigging in which the D-shaped ring is attached to a single piece of leather hung directly over the fork; round-ring rigging which allows for placement of the cinch ring anywhere from the centerfire position to seven-eighths;

the tree (see illustration) and does not place all the pull directly over a horse's withers.

Most saddles made today are double-rigged; that is they are equipped for a front cinch and a flank strap. The sole purpose of a flank strap is to keep a saddle from tipping forward during roping. It is never tightened. If it is not brought up fairly snug, however, it can form a hazardous loop in which a horse can hang up a hind foot. A number of riders have simply discarded it.



Drawings from left to right: 1) Round-ring rigging showing the three-quarter double. 2) D-ring rigging, full double. 3) Old-fashioned centerfire.

seem excessive to the casual rider, but remember we are talking about a working instrument which may be used to withstand the sudden jerk of a 400-pound calf or to bring a half-ton of steer around sharply in his tracks. Even if your saddle never feels the sharp pull of roped stock, it should be stout enough to take some hard pounding or perhaps the solid pull of a dragged log, which means that some weight is necessary. The life of a well-constructed stock saddle is measured not in years but in generations. Properly cared for, it will last well into the third and perhaps the fourth. After that you may not want to ride it any more since it qualifies as a museum piece. So far as the animal carrying it is concerned, the important thing is not so much the weight as the fit. The first thing a horseman should do when trying a saddle on a horse for the first time is make certain the bars of the tree rest comfortably on his back without pinching. The angle of the tree should roughly match that of the horse's back (good padding and blanketing will take care of minor variations). The longer a saddle is to remain on a horse (endurance riders take note) the more exacting should be the fit.

flat-plate rigging in which the ring (usually a C-shaped bar) is sandwiched between two pieces of leather and riveted in. The latter style is a more recent innovation, coming into common use about twenty years ago. The bar can be attached to conventional rigging leathers hung on the tree or can be riveted into the skirts, eliminating some bulk.

There is a great deal of controversy over rigging styles. Most southwestern ropers prefer the full double with the flank cinch placed well back because they do a great deal of heavy roping with the rope tied hard and fast to the horn and, as they say, like to get as much horse as possible between the girths. Old-time California cowboys who dallied the rope around the horn and played an animal out rode a centerfire rig with a single wide cinch. But the centerfire is seldom seen today. West coast cowboys now seem to prefer the ring rigging at the seven-eighths or three-quarter position. It can be either single or double rigged. The argument is that this style gives a better balance and more even pull over the horse's back since the ring is attached to both the fork and the rear bars of

Often it will tend to hang up a rider's spur or merely be an impediment to some of the subtle aids required in many of today's showing classes.

Single-cinch riders among the old-time cowboys were confined to the west coast and parts of the northwest. The double-rig was an innovation (about 1850) of the early Texas cowboy; the centerfire had been used by the California vaquero since Spanish colonial days. As the cattle industry moved into the northwestern states from Texas first and then from California, Wyoming and Montana cowhands adopted the customs of one or the other — or a combination of each. Often it was a matter of personal choice; sometimes regional conditions had some influence. Cowboys were apt to be extremely discriminatory, however, and the rider whose outfit and working style did not conform to local conditions was often the subject of derision. (Perhaps because of the isolation of early-day ranches, the cowboy has always felt strongly tied to regional traditions). The Texas style of double-rigging and tie-hard roping dominated in the southwest. California's single-cinch school,

... continued from page 11

combined with long reatas and dally style roping spilled over into Nevada and Oregon. Before this hemogenetic quality began to disappear (shortly after the turn of the century) cowboys were not only generally identifiable ("I see by your outfit that you are a cowboy," as the words to that sad ballad go), but it was often possible to pinpoint habitats from rigging styles and other gear.

Changes in saddle styles have nearly always been influenced by working conditions. The swell fork, for instance, first appeared in 1902 in Oregon and the northwest. Here many ranchers had introduced draft and coach blood to the wiry mustang stock to obtain more size. The result was a big, stout animal that could turn it on hard when, in the range country tradition, he was taken up as an unbroken 3- or 4-year-old. Those old slickfork saddles were full of "leaks" and the cowboys who rode those broncs began looking for some way to stay inside. Somebody invented the idea of tying his slicker across the fork of the saddle to give him some purchase. Someone else might tie a stick in there for the same reason. Saddlemakers gave some refinement to these crude innovations and began making bucking rolls — leather pads which could be strapped to the fork and give a rider some bulk into which he could lock his thighs. Finally, saddlemakers decided to build the swell right into the saddle. Thus the swell-fork style and its many variations — high and low swells, undercuts, back swells — came into being. Hamley's built their first swell-fork with an undercut in 1907. This was an extremely popular style with ranch cowboys and with rodeo riders until the RCA outlawed it in 1920 and developed the Association tree.

But California, by and large, stayed with the slick-fork. The vaquero's style of breaking and schooling, which was a much slower method and called for finesse more

than hard-riding skill, did not place so much demand on him for the use of riding aids.

Occasionally a saddle maker was responsible for changing styles if the change was merely superficial and did not influence working methods. Guadalupe Garcia was a California silversmith and saddlemaker who moved from San Luis Obispo to Elko, Nevada, in 1893 where he opened a small shop. The saddles in eastern Nevada had, until then, been large, heavy, square-skirted models in the Texas and Rocky Mountain tradition. Garcia introduced the smaller California-round skirts which soon became fashionable in that part of the country. His fancy inlaid silver bits and spurs also became popular with the Nevada buckaroos. This was one of the ways in which a regional tradition made inroads into another area.



Illustration by Lee Rice

Before 1920 there was little tooling and seldom any silver on saddles made and used in the Rocky Mountain states or in the southwest. Most custom saddles had some design in the way of a border stamp or a bit of work in the corners. But California saddlemakers were producing fully hand-tooled saddles for many years before. Silver conchas and other silver trim were commonplace on west coast saddles. It merely represented a dif-

ference in taste and temperament between the cowboy influenced by staid Anglo traditions and the vaquero whose heritage was the more romantic Spanish school.

Most custom saddles made today are completely tooled. There are advantages to this in addition to giving a saddle some esthetic quality. Carved leather is harder and tougher than unworked leather. The design worked into it will make it somewhat impervious to scratches and abrasions. And the sharp edges of carved leather will give the rider's seat and legs the advantage of traction which smooth leather does not afford,

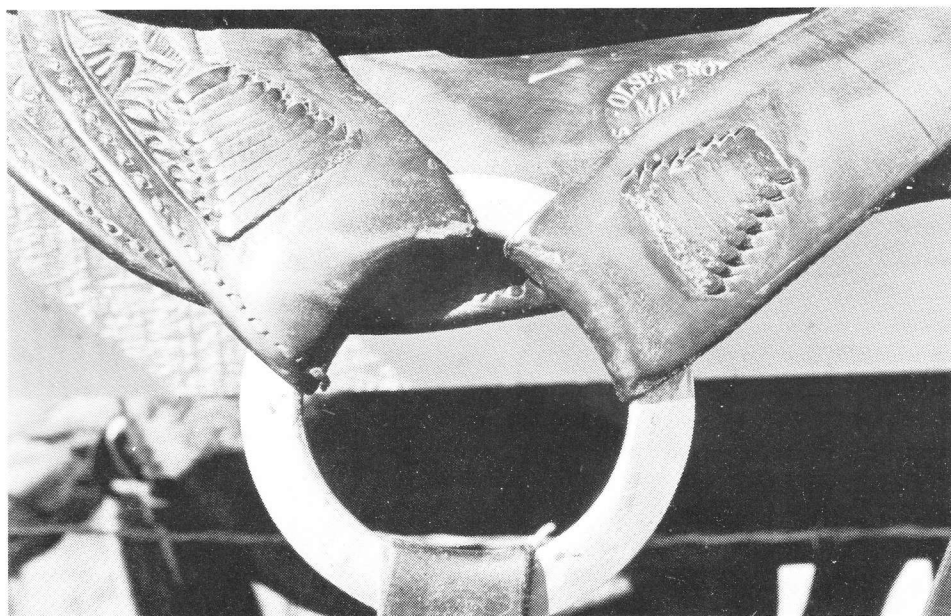
When examining a saddle for purchase one should check first the quality of the leather. If it is a custom saddle it will have good leather. It will be thick and heavy where it counts: in the skirts and housing to prevent eventual warping; in the seat jockeys and fenders where there is most wear; in the stirrup leathers and rigging where strength is needed. Lighter leather can be used to cut down on weight over the fork and cantle where there is less wear. The quality of the leather can be seen in the tooling. Good leather will take a sharp stamp; the design will stand out clearly and the edges will be clean and definitive. Tooling on poor quality leather will be vague and dull.

Look beneath the surface too for touches of quality. Rigging rings should be in precisely the same relative position on each side. Unevenness will cause the saddle to twist on a horse's back and will eventually make him sore. The edges of skirts, fenders and jockeys should be rubbed smooth. The ends of rigging leather and stirrup leathers should be beveled or skived to make an even finish and eliminate bulk. Check the ends of rigging leather especially where they are attached to the cinch rings. If they are held together merely with a piece of latigo or a couple of rivets, the saddlemaker hasn't done the best he could. Look at the detail

photo of the round-ring rigging shown here. The leathers are folded back, beveled down so they lie flat against the skirt, sewn together and given permanence and finish with the traingular-shaped French lacing.

Basic changes in saddlery have been, over the years, few and far between. Most horsemen are slow to accept change and will often refuse to accept a new product even though it might be an improvement over the old. About ten years ago Rex Ellsworth designed and built a plastic saddle that was probably ten times as strong as the conventional wood and leather variety. It was practically indestructible. But the departure was too great. Horsemen simply would not accept it.

Over the years there have been a number of custom saddlemakers who made a quality product. Some of their names became household words. In California, for instance,



Detail photo of round-ring rigging in the three-quarter position. Courtesy Don Naas.

Photo by Dale Jennings

"Visalia" was almost synonymous with saddle. The "Meaneas" enjoyed similar honors in Wyoming

and Montana. We'll discuss these and others in the next issue. (to be continued)

**WOODSIDE SPRING SCHOOLING SHOW
MOUNTED PATROL GROUNDS**

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Lois Siedenburg
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Sunday, March 23, Western

Judge: Carolyn Crocker
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THE HORSEMAN'S COOK BOOK

"The Horseman's Cook Book" was introduced via Jim and Jane King when they were living in Indiana. Gene and Jeanette Rettig visited them and brought back some copies in 1970. I was one of the lucky friends to get one. The Triangle Hunt in Bahama, North Carolina, put it together, and it consists of recipes for Hunt Breakfasts, Tailgates, ideas to take to Horse Shows, etc., and some really great Stirrup Cups and Punches.

Art and Barbara MacDonald gave a cocktail party before the Board of Director's Dinner in December, 1974, and I asked to bring these Sausage Puffs. Several people asked for the recipe. Thanks, Nancy, for the opportunity to do this and include some color about another famous Hunt! Connie

SAUSAGE PUFFS

Triangle Hunt
Bahama, North Carolina
Mrs. M. Gavardin Bourgeois

These delicious little puffs are wonderful served steaming hot with a cocktail. Mrs. Bourgeois, whose husband is French, had them first in France, where they are often taken along cold in a sandwich case while Stag Hunting. This is a simplified American version which freezes easily.

1 lb. raw, hot-seasoned sausage meat

3 cups Bisquick Mix

12 oz. sharp Cheddar cheese

Mix all together with about 1/4 cup water. Form into balls and bake at 375 degrees for 15 minutes. If you



freeze them, then place in a 300 degree oven for 10 minutes.

The Arapahoe Hunt Littleton, Colorado

At the Arapahoe, eating comes right after Hunting on the list of important matters. Good, solid hot food is important, as they hunt right through winter, through snow and everything. "Hunting through snow is an experience not to be missed," according to Mrs. Langdon E. Morris, Jr., "a good gallop of five or six miles really puts an edge to the appetite."

Sometimes on Wednesday afternoons in January and February, the Hunt is faced with a five or six mile hack back to the stables in the dark. Whatever the hack, they are couraged by the thoughts of what awaits them back at the Caboose.

The Caboose is the "clubhouse," located at the kennels, from which all Hunts originate. It was originally a real railroad caboose; since its installation forty or so years ago it has been enlarged and remodeled to accommodate the growing group. Here they have informal buffets, breakfasts, Champagne Breakfasts for special occasions, the Calcutta for the Point to Point, etc. After Sunday Hunts, if no other event is planned, most people bring a box or picnic lunch. All members keep a bottle of their favorite beverage and after the Hunt have "Tea-With" at the Caboose. Standing before the roaring fire, two cups — "one for each leg" — cure any effects of excess of sport or night-before-itis. The Master, Mr. Phipps, says "nothing is worse for you than blended whiskey!" Since this man, who is past 80, hunts three times a week all season and does such things as spending half an hour in a blizzard rescuing a lost calf, it's

believed he knows what is good for one. Here is Mr. Phipps's Beverage recipe:

1 lump sugar and 2 tsp. Kentucky straight Bourbon to a hot cup of tea.

The Arapahoe hunts coyote instead of fox, and hounds have to beware, not only of such riot as deer and antelope, but also buffalo. The experience of catching sight of a herd of buffalo a quarter of a mile from hounds is guaranteed to light a fire under the last flighters.

Mrs. Beeman, wife of the Arapahoe's Huntsman, suggests Chile con Queso with tortilla chips to accompany drinks, and it is best served in a chafing dish.

2 tablespoons butter

1 large green pepper

1 large onion, diced

2 16 oz. cans tomatoes

1 2 lb. brick Velveeta cheese

Tabasco sauce

Saute onion and green pepper in butter until clear. Do not overcook. Add tomatoes, salt, pepper, and simmer about 1 hour. Reduce heat to lowest point and add cheese. Add tobasco to taste. (We like it HOT). If it cools off the cheese congeals, which is why it's best served in a chafing dish. If it congeals it can be heated up and stirred — sometimes a bit of cream can be added if it's too thick after this treatment. Serves about 15.

Editors Note: Thanks to Connie Humphries for the above. Your favorite recipes are most welcome, whether a slow simmering stew for trail riders to return to, or a taste tempting appetizer to get the party started. Horsemen get hungry!



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Dates to Remember 1975

MARCH

22-23 SAT-SUN SMCHA-MP SCHOOL SHOW
 26 WED GENERAL MEETING
 27-30 THUR-SUN JUNIOR GRAND NATIONAL ENGLISH
 31-2 SUN-WED JUNIOR GRAND NATIONAL WESTERN

APRIL

6 SUN LOS VIAJEROS RIDE MT. MADONNA
 9 WED BOARD MEETING
 12-13 SAT-SUN SMCHA-MP SCHOOLING SHOW (RAIN DATE)
 13 SUN PLEASURE RIDE
 19-20 SAT-SUN MP MEN'S OVERNITE RIDE
 19-20 SAT-SUN CALIF. DRESSAGE - STANFORD
 26-27 SAT-SUN LOS ALTOS - FREMONT HILLS - CSHA - REG. 6
 27 SUN SMCHA SPRING RIDE
 27 SUN PORTOLA VALLEY PONY CLUB - TRAINING SHOW (SPRING DOWN)
 30 WED GENERAL MEETING

MAY

3-4 SAT-SUN *PAQHR - SAT - (ENG) - REG. 6 - CSHA
 3-4 SAT-SUN LOS VIAJEROS RIDE LAKE COMACHE
 10 SAT CALIF. DRESSAGE - STANFORD
 10-11 SAT-SUN MP TWO DAY SHOW
 11 SUN PLEASURE RIDE
 14 WED BOARD MEETING
 16-18 FRI-SUN MENLO CIRCUS CLUB SHOW
 18 SUN OUT OF TOWN RIDE
 21-26 WED-SUN SANTA ROSA GOLDEN STATE
 25 SUN WEBB RANCH HORSE SHOW
 28 WED GENERAL MEETING
 30-1 FRI-SUN MP MENS-WOMENS OVERNITE RIDE

JUNE

1 SUN ARABIAN SHOW - (MP GROUNDS)
 1 SUN LOS VIAJEROS RIDE SAN MATEO COAST
 7-8 SAT-SUN FREMONT HILLS - CSHA - REG. 6
 8 SUN PLEASURE RIDE
 11 WED BOARD MEETING
 14-15 SAT-SUN *PAQHR SHOW
 15 SUN SMCHA - ENGLISH SHOW
 19-22 THUR-SUN LOS VIAJEROS FOUR DAY RIDE
 21 SAT MOONLITE RIDE
 21-22 SAT-SUN CALIF. DRESSAGE (WEBB RANCH)
 22 SUN MORGAN HORSE SHOW (MP GROUNDS)
 25 WED SMCHA-MP MIDWEEK - WESTERN
 25 WED GENERAL MEETING
 27 FRI LOS ALTOS HUNT - SCHOOLING SHOW
 28-29 SAT-SUN MP FATHER-DAUGHTER-SON RIDE

JULY

4 FRI SMCHA - JUNIOR RODEO
 6 SUN LOS VIAJEROS RIDE - WOODSIDE
 9 WED BOARD MEETING
 9 WED SMCHA-MP MIDWEEK - ENGLISH
 12 SAT CSHA - REG. 6 HORSE MASTERSHIP
 13 SUN SMCHA-MP PONY SHOW
 13 SUN PLEASURE RIDE
 19-20 SAT-SUN *PAQHR SHOW
 19-20 SAT-SUN SMCHA OVERNITE RIDE
 22 TUE MP MOOLITE RIDE
 23 WED SMCHA-MP MIDWEEK - WESTERN
 26 SAT CALIF. DRESSAGE - STANFORD
 26-27 SAT-SUN FREMONT HILLS - NORTHERN CALIF.
 27 SUN MP PLAY DAY
 30 WED GENERAL MEETING

AUGUST

2-3 SAT-SUN LOS VIAJEROS RIDE
 2-3 SAT-SUN *PAQHR - REG. 6 - CSHA
 6 WED SMCHA-MP MIDWEEK - ENGLISH
 9-10 SAT-SUN MONTEREY
 10 SUN PLEASURE RIDE
 12-17 TUE-SUN PEBBLE BEACH-H
 13 WED BOARD MEETING
 17 SUN COLAGASALUCIENZE RIDE
 17-23 SUN-SAT SANTA ROSA CSHA
 20 WED SMCHA-MP MIDWEEK - WESTERN
 22 FRI MOONLIGHT RIDE
 22-24 FRI-SUN WILLOWTREE HORSE SHOW
 23-24 SAT-SUN PEBBLE BEACH DRESSAGE - JUMPING
 23-24 SAT-SUN *PAQHR
 27 WED GENERAL MEETING
 28-1 THUR-MON MP ANNUAL FALL RIDE
 29 FRI LOS ALTOS HUNT - SCHOOLING SHOW
 30 SAT SMCHA WESTERN OPEN
 30-1 SAT-MON LOS VIAJEROS RIDE - NAPA

SEPTEMBER

6 SAT TALLY-HO
 7 SUN SENIOR PLAYDAY - ROSS MEREDITHS
 10 WED BOARD MEETING
 13-14 SAT-SUN FREMONT HILLS
 13-21 8 DAYS SACRAMENTO CALIF.
 14 SUN PRESIDENTS RIDE & PLAYDAY
 19-21 FRI-SUN MP MENS-WOMENS OVERNITE
 21 SUN *PAQHR
 24 WED GENERAL MEETING
 27-28 SAT-SUN SMCHA-MP JR. AND AMATEUR SHOW

OCTOBER

4-5 SAT-SUN FREMONT HILLS
 4-5 SAT-SUN LOS VIAJEROS RIDE - CALISTOGA
 8 WED BOARD MEETING
 12 SUN PLEASURE RIDE
 12 SUN WEBB RANCH (DRESSAGE)
 19 SUN FALL RIDE
 19 SUN *PAQHR
 29 WED GENERAL MEETING

NOVEMBER

9 SUN PLEASURE RIDE
 12 WED BOARD MEETING
 26 WED GENERAL MEETING

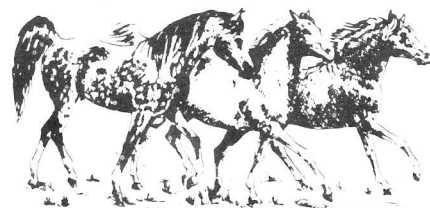
DECEMBER

14 SUN PLEASURE RIDE

JANUARY

1 THUR NEW YEARS DAY RIDE
 1 THUR MP CAPTAINS RIDE
 10 SAT MP INSTALLATION
 24 SAT SMCHA INSTALLATION

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