

The San Mateo HORSEMAN



Spring 1996

LITTLE PROFIT PONY SUMMER RIDING CAMP

AT

**MOSS BEACH CORRAL
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MOSS BEACH, CA 94038**



**FULL DAY CAMP FROM 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.,
FOR CHILDREN AGES 5 TO 11**

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MON	SAFETY, TOUR, GROOMING, TACKING UP, RIDING LESSONS
TUES	PROPER FEEDING, AND CLEANING OF STALLS & TACK; ARENA RIDING LESSONS
WED	FUN DAY FILLED WITH ACTIVITIES ON HORSEBACK & PONY DRESS UP, ARENA RIDING LESSONS
THURS	ARENA RIDING LESSONS, NATURE HUNT, COVERED WAGON RIDE
FRI	PONY SHOW FOR PARENTS AND FRIENDS, GRADUATION CEREMONY

RIDING CAMP FEATURES...

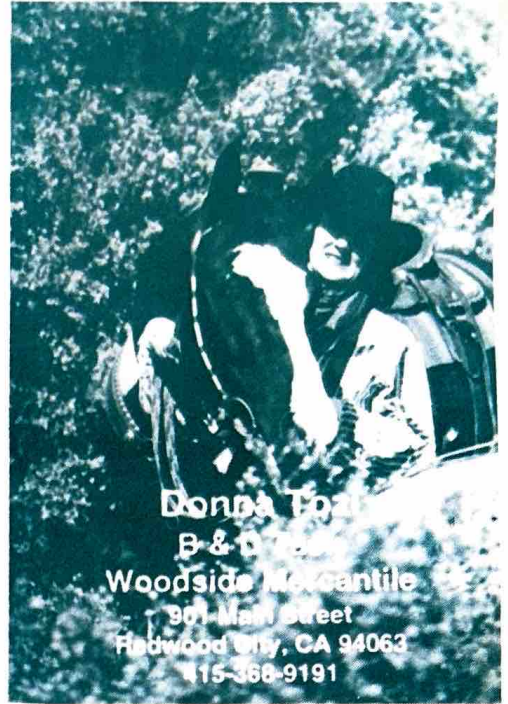
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Donna Tozi

This is my second president's letter and I've got so much to say! Hope there's enough space!

First, I'd like to thank this wonderful organization for making my husband and me, Horseman and Horsewoman of the Year. It was such a thrilling

night — first being installed as President, then getting this award. There's so much going on this year — first our membership drive is going full board. Carrini's in Redwood City has just donated a wonderful gift certificate. We're going to have so many great prizes by September 1st ... so if you haven't gotten any new members, GET BUSY! Call Linda at 349-1462 for more envelopes.

We're going to have horse related seminars every month, thanks to Dianne Hicks who's working real hard to put this together. I'm having Billy Martin come from Watsonville to give a reining horse clinic. We're going to limit it to 10 to 15 horses, but lots of spectator space. The price will be very reasonable. Hope to serve dinner too. This should be in June or July so watch your monthly flyers!

Bruce Baker has already done a great general meeting with Equitours — if you missed it, too bad! The next one is going to be just as super with George Cardinet and Nancy Dupont of Heritage Trails speaking on the historic De Anza Trail relay slated to happen in October. Imagine — 1,400 horses starting in Mexico, ending at San Francisco.

Sue Sheehan is busy as a bee planning all our '96 rides. She is the best!

Our horse show season is starting in June and Sue Anderson and Larry Pelzner are busy getting all you volunteers for the best show year ever. I'm so excited about their plans that I'm even thinking about showing myself! As you know, our Western Clinics start in May with the pretty Karen Rowley in charge again! I can't even guess how many years she's done this for us. I think this must be our 30th year doing this clinic. If you've never ridden in it, this year is the year to start.

There's so much more to say, but space has come to an end. If you have any suggestions or comments, please feel free to call me, daytime's at B&D Tack (415) 368-9191, or at nights at home (415) 368-8785 before 9:00 p.m.

Remember to make a stranger a friend! Happy trails,

Donna Tozi

COVER PHOTO:

The de Anza relay is coming our way in October.

See story on page 18.

MAGAZINE: Linda Menon

PHOTOS: Sue Sheehan, Virginia Magliano-Darrow,

Dianne Larson Hicks, Donna Tozi

ADVERTISING: Eileen Borzone

San Mateo County Horsemen's Association

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2nd VICE PRESIDENT

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\$300 per year

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**DEADLINE
FOR ADS AND ARTICLES
for the Summer 1996 issue
is June 15, 1996**



The San Mateo HORSEMAN

Spring Issue 1996

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San Mateo County
Horsemen's Association

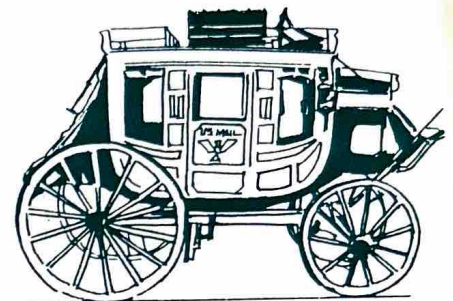
Published quarterly

January (Winter)

April (Spring)

July (Summer)

October (Fall)



MEMBERSHIP
Join SMCHA
Mail Application
Today!
(Application on back cover)

No paid political or religious advertisements will be accepted; all articles submitted are subject to editing; all articles or items reprinted from another source must be cited as to source and permission to reprint; items or articles submitted for publication that are not printed will not be returned to the author or persons submitting them. Editing will be reviewed by a review committee of the President and two board members.

KICK-OFF PARTY

by Doris Lantz

Our kick-off party in January was a great start to a busy year. Held again this year at the Elks Club, Redwood City, there were more than 90 in attendance, including about 12 children. Larry Pelzner and his committee (Susan Anderson, Mary Beth Stucky, Aleta Reed, and Walt Kirk) did a fantastic job with coordination and decorations. The food was delicious, the tables were festive with cowboy boot centerpieces and balloons, and everyone looked great decked out in their finest western garb.

In addition to socializing and eating, new officers for 1996 were installed. They are:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| President | Donna Tozi |
| 1st Vice President | Bruce Baker |
| 2nd Vice President | Sue Sheehan |
| Treasurer | Stephanie Goldie |
| Secretary | Lorena Heatley |
| Historian | Virginia Magliani-Darrow |
| Sergeant-at-Arms | Walt Kirk |

Many people were recognized for their contributions to the horse community over the past year. Donna Tozi and Bruce Doran received highest honors of Horseman and Horsewoman of the Year! I can't think of more deserving recipients, not only for their tireless efforts coordinating the fantastically successful first-ever-in-this-County Trail Trials at CTETA last year, but their constant support of the entire horse community and friendly, make-everyone-feel-welcome attitude.

Three special "Horse Community Service Awards" were presented to Rob Krensky, Bobbi Petrov and Marian Vanden Bosch for their support, over many, many years, of the entire horse community. Rob has for many years been one of the key liaisons with the Park Department and worked tirelessly in maintaining rapport, coordinating work days and patrolling trails. Bobbi Petrov has served many years on the Trails Committee, this past year as Chairman, representing trail users but with an especially friendly eye towards the equine community. And Marian Vanden Bosch also for many years has been a strong supporter of the horse community, much of it behind the scenes, but this year Marian has agreed to head up the Volunteer Horse Patrol and give Stephanie Anise a much-



1996 Officers



Bruce Doran and Donna Tozi
Horseman and
Horsewoman of the Year



Horse Community
Service Awards



Exceptional Service Awards: Stephanie Goldie, Noel Moody,
Sue Anderson, Carolyn Rice, Gladys Martines

Kick Off, continued

deserved rest.

An Outstanding Service Award was presented to Linda Menon.

Exceptional Service Awards were presented to: Carolyn Rice, Karen Rowley, Noel Moody, Ann Kirby, Stephanie Goldie, Bruce Baker, Robert Clements, and Sue Anderson.

Helping Hand Awards were presented to: Eileen Borzone, Barbara Moyer, Larae Akland, Sue Sheehan, Judy Baskin, Tanya Rebarchik, Christine Eppstein, Bill Hopper, Walt Kirk, Aleta Reed, Tom Hodgert, Larry Pelzner, Diane Hawks, Karen Flores, Mike Hertert, Ron Harris, Dave Burlingame, Laurie Fieguth, Josh Hatcher, Nancy van Zwol, Rick Payne, Gene Erickson and Virginia Darrow.

SMCHA thanks all of these wonderful people for the many hours of volunteer service they contribute to the horse community, each in their own unique way. With all the special talents and energy represented it's no wonder the horse community is alive and well in San Mateo County!

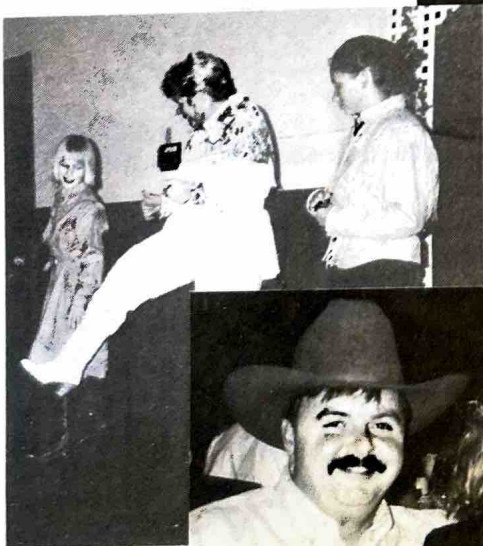
As outgoing President, I was presented with a beautiful hand-made silver bracelet which I love! My thanks to you all, not only for the beautiful bracelet, but for the two years of support which made being President of SMCHA such a rewarding experience!



Helping Hands Awards



Outgoing President Doris Lantz and her bracelet





WAKHAGHO!

VOXWAKHAGHRS!

As you know, SMCHA is an organization of volunteers. Helping out in an area that interests you not only gets you involved with others with similar interests and is great fun, but also gives you a feeling of satisfaction for having contributed and accomplished something worthwhile! Listed below are just some of the SMCHA activities that you might find interesting. WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Western & English Shows

Larry Pelzner - (415) 344-2000

Nor-Cal Show

Noel Moody - (415) 322-6545

Color Guard

Diane Hawks - (415) 371-3457

Magazine and Mailings

Linda Menon - (415) 349-1462 or
(415) 365-8011

Western Riding Clinic

Karen Rowley - (415) 598-3216 or
(415) 365-2229

Trail Rides

Sue Sheehan - (415) 851-0296



TRAIL RIDERS AWARDS PROGRAM (TRAP)



by *Dianne Larson Hicks, Region VI CSHA TRAP Chairman*

Sign up now to be a part of the Trail Awards Program (TRAP), sponsored by California State Horsemen's Association (CSHA) Region VI. Since SMCHA pays annual dues to CSHA, all SMCHA members

are CSHA members and are eligible to participate in this and any other CSHA activity.

To participate in the TRAP you must sign up and pay an original application fee of \$15.00. Each year thereafter the fee will be \$10.00. The fees cover the cost of record keeping, materials, providing rider record logs, patches and awards. SMCHA members recently received an application to be sent to CSHA in Clovis. [If you need an additional application please call Dianne Hicks at (415) 851-2233.] Once CSHA identifies you as a member, your application will be sent to Pat Monroe in Southern California.

Pat will then send you an official participant's patch for your jacket, and a 12-month supply of duplicate log sheets (the copy for your records and the original to be

sent to your Region Chairman, Dianne Larson Hicks, to be recorded locally and then sent to CSHA). Upon return of the logs, the CSHA TRAP participant will be eligible for and receive: (1) chevron bars to be placed below the patch on your jacket for completion of 100, 200, 300, 500, 1000, 1500, 2000 and 2500 hours of trail riding time; (b) a very special Master Trail Rider Award will be presented upon the completion of 3000 hours of trail riding; (c) a special silver trophy buckle commemorating the Supreme Trail Rider upon completion of 5000 hours of riding. Please note these awards are accounted for in HOURS rather than miles, although we might record both.

Why report use? With increased population pressure, the various agencies that control trail use are pressed to consider the environment impact of all user groups. Presently, there is no data on equestrian trail use and this makes it difficult to accurately defend our continued access to the trails. The main purpose, as I see it, is to protect equestrian access rights, to promote new trails and to aid in the maintenance of existing trails.

P.S. It is critical that we greet bikers and hikers courteously and educate them cheerfully. Unrest amongst users is bad news.

PLEASE THINK ABOUT SIGNING UP.

MEMBERSHIP CONTEST

by *Donna Tozi*

Did you know that SMCHA is one of the largest horse groups in California? But our current membership, now at over 425 members, is way below what it once was — over 1,000 members! This year we'd like to get back up to our old membership numbers and so we're having a membership contest!

Many local merchants have donated prizes: 1/2 ton of hay from the Horse's Mouth, \$50 gift certificates from Olsen Nolte, Dean's, Pet World, Christensen's, Portola Valley Feed, \$25 gift certificate from Carousel, AND MANY MORE YET TO COME!

Why should people join SMCHA? It's a great way to meet other horse people, we have great FUN, trail rides, informative meetings, educational seminars, riding clinics, horse shows, quarterly magazine to keep you up-

to-date on all the happenings. Plus we represent you, the horse person, when it comes to matters of general concern such as legislation concerning trails and horses in general. What a bargain for the senior membership price of only \$25!

You can participate in the membership contest by inviting the horse people you know and meet to become members of SMCHA. Just add your name on to the membership envelope or registration form that they submit. You'll get one point for a single member, two points for Mr./Mrs., and three points for a family. Points will be tallied through the summer and winners will be announced on September 1st!

Carry some extra envelopes with you in your trailer, on your next ride, etc. If you need more envelopes call Linda Menon at (415) 349-1462 or (415) 365-8011 and she'll get some to you immediately.

SAN MATEO TRAIL USERS GROUP

by Adda Quinn

After working with the Friends of Edgewood to secure Edgewood from development, we thought there was a community of interest among all parties active in that process. However, their Draft Master Plan document for Edgewood indicates otherwise. With the Park and Recreation Department actually implementing provisions of this Draft this past winter, concerns have been raised about County Park and Recreation staff impartiality, and alliance with a vested interest group to the exclusion of the interests of others.

Chapter 1 of the "Friends" proposed Draft Master Plan submitted by them on Management Objectives reads as follows:

"An important implication of these objectives is that protection, preservation, and restoration of the natural resources of Edgewood are of higher priority than facilitating access to the preserve by visitors."

It is the outright omission of references to Edgewood as a park in many instances in their draft document, and failure to address PEOPLE and PARK needs adequately throughout that is of primary concern to us. Of secondary concern is the scant plan providing for safeguarding wildlife. Of tertiary concern is the repetitive negative tone of the document. Instead of being an enabling statement like the 1982 Master Plan and the 1993 amendment to the Grant of Park, Recreation, Scenic and Open Space Easement, this draft is threatening, exclusive, accusative, and in provisions for the elderly and disabled, even mean-spirited. We do not feel this tone, this objective, nor these suggested policies are appropriate for a Master Plan for Edgewood. On the other hand, the research that clearly went into Sections 2 and 3 is impressive and important to be maintained, after validation and correction.

In a conversation that we had with Mr. Sanchez on March 27, the San Mateo Trail Users Group expressed its concerns about the Department's actual implementation of the proposed "Friends" Draft plan this past winter. His employees have made public statements to several diverse groups that there would be no rocking in the park until a new Master Plan was

approved ... which we understand could take years. Mr. Sanchez clarified this statement for us in our meeting, saying that he had instructed that there would be no rocking only in the winter of 1995-96. This statement was of little solace to the 40 volunteers who showed up for a Trail Day, organized and supplied with rock by the County, to improve the lower Clarkia Trail on January 13. These volunteers were denied entrance to Edgewood by County staff and told specifically that there would be no more rocking until a new Master Plan was approved, and since "Friends of Edgewood" had drafted the currently proposed Plan, they had standing in decisions about what would be occurring NOW. [The Park and Recreation document called "Current Assessment & Organizational Strategic Plan" (revised February 1, 1996; page 19, #3) specifies the Friends of Edgewood (and no other group by name) to be consulted on decisions concerning both operations and maintenance for the Park. While lip service is given in this document to consulting other interested parties, the only group being consulted at the moment are the Friends of Edgewood.] It is interesting to note that while Sections 2 and 3 of the Friends draft are copiously annotated with references, Section 4 Action Plans (4.4 Restrictions of Structures, p. 87, second note) makes allegations about the effects of rocking trails, but provides NO references to data which substantiate this claim.

Assuming the Stage Camp occupies 3 acres, we have made a calculation based on data in the "Friends" draft that LESS THAN 2% of the 467 acres in Edgewood (1.42%) is currently devoted to taxpayer use. We are not asking for new trails, except for an All Access Trail for the elderly and disabled. We are, however, asking that trails continue to be rocked and maintained according to the current, existing Master Plan until such time as a new Master Plan is approved.

The Park and Recreation Department should be cautioned to avoid in the future what it did this winter:

- Do not implement policies that are not substantiated by data;

Continued on page 8

San Mateo Trails, continued

- Do not implement Draft proposals which have not undergone public review and comment.

When we brought these problems to the attention of Mr. Sanchez in our March 27 meeting, he stated that is it his intention, henceforth, to manage Edgewood based on guidelines provided by the only existing Master Plan from 1982. This plan calls for reasonable trail maintenance. After two winters with heavy rains, many sections of trails need attention. We have also spoken with Lynne Fritz, the new Ranger for Edgewood, and have received reasonable assurances that public access, reasonable structures (i.e., trails), and public safety are of the highest concern to both her and Mr. Sanchez. We are confident after these conversations that San Mateo County Park and Recreation Department intends to operate according to the existing plan until a new Master Plan has received public approval, and that trails will continue to be maintained.

Since the Edgewood Master Plan is not listed as a critical item in the capital budget, there will be some time lapse until the process proceeds (unless private funding comes forth). We believe that the County could benefit greatly by convening a Task Force to continue review of the Edgewood Master Plan revision to assure the creation of a document that retains Edgewood as a PARK and provides minimally, but adequately, for the needs of people.

This Task Force should initially consider whether a new document is necessary, or whether the current Master Plan from 1982 is amendable. Depending on the option selected, the Task Force objective should include review of the Friends Draft Master Plan for Edgewood and incorporation of the best parts of the Friends Draft concerning the issues of flora and geology (with some correction for factual accuracy), but with a broader statement of objective recognizing that Edgewood is in fact a PARK, that parks are FOR PEOPLE, and addressing the needs of people, and fauna. We believe that is important to assure that Edgewood remains a PARK, as well as functions as a Natural Preserve. Editing of their Sections 1, 4 and 5 are inevitable.

We have identified a number of volunteers from the community at large who agreed to serve on an Edgewood Park Task Force. Issues that this Task Force proposes to address for which the above exper-

tise will be needed include:

- identifying analogous Master Plans for other similar properties
- drafting a balanced management statement and objectives that assure continuance of Edgewood as a park, with adequate, but minimal, provisions for people
- obtaining peer review literature on asbestos in serpentine
- documenting history of trails in Edgewood
- examining fire abatement and suppression issues
- clarifying selected data questions identified in Chapters 2 & 3 "Friends"
- analyzing rocking concerns and options
- developing trail maintenance standards

We have asked that the issue of convening such a Task Force be calendered on the next Park and Recreation Commission meeting which will occur May 2, 2:30 p.m. (they meet the first Thursday of each month), and hope that the Commissioners will look favorably on this suggestion. We feel that we can make additional contributions to refining a final product that can save the County money PRIOR to handing a document over to a consultant. We believe that if the Commission was to hand over the current "Friends" Draft document with its severe deficiencies in Sections 1, 4 and 5, that any consultant would have to spend a lot of time (i.e., money!) developing new sources of information for these sections before conclusions acceptable to the public could be arrived at.

Because this Task Force is taking on a sizable agenda, we are requesting:

- formal Commission recognition, and
- advance notice and opportunity to negotiate with the Commission on the timing of the hiring of a consultant, in the event funds become available to proceed with the public review process.

The process of developing trail maintenance standards may have additional application to development of the Master Plan for Trails that will be addressed by the Trails Advisory Committee. We have submitted a letter of consideration for membership in that group to Mr. Sanchez.

We are in the process of forming the San Mateo Trail Users Group. This group proposes to represent equestrian, hiking, jogging, and disabled interests.

San Mateo Trails, continued

For the Edgewood issue, bikers are not involved, but we welcome their inclusion in other venues. We believe that if four to six equestrian groups in San Mateo County will support us, we can represent well in excess of 1000 people. We have already received support from the Mounted Patrol, and are in the process of communication with SMCHA, CSHA Region VI, Los Viajeros, and the Shack Riders. If there are other groups who are interested in retaining trail access, please help us identify them. It is our intention to proceed in the following manner:

- assertive from the standpoint of meeting with Commissioners and the Board of Supervisors to express our concerns
- proactive in drafting a better balanced manage-

ment objectives that secures access for people and assures continued use of Edgewood as a PARK, and

- cooperative in working with all interests to assure that all needs are heard and consensus is achieved where possible.

If anyone has expertise in park planning, trails standards, rock chemistry or other skills that we could call on for limited project development and document review, we would love to have your participation in this process which we hope will take no longer than a year. If you can attend Park and Recreation meetings, please let us know, as we feel that we must keep a very close eye on what is going on here until the issue is resolved. Interested parties may call me (Adda Quinn) at 415-855-2478 or write to PO Box 620474 in Woodside, CA 94062.

The following "letter to the editor" was received in response to the horse insurance article appearing the last issue of The San Mateo Horseman. Our thanks to Cheryl for sharing her experience. We welcome reader input such as this.

MORE ON INSURANCE

by Cheryl Kreuzer

I read with interest the article on insurance in your winter issue. It was very informative, as far as it went, however there is an important facet which your readers should be aware of which was not addressed in the article. I wish to tell you of that, and my own recent personal experience which could have an impact on horse owners.

The article discussed mortality and surgical insurance. There is also available, MAJOR MEDICAL, insurance. The differences in coverage are important to understand. In order to insure your horse, you must first have mortality insurance — this covers the horse if it dies or has to be euthanized. Once you have mortality insurance (this may be all you want), you have a CHOICE between surgical or major medical. Surgical insurance will only provide coverage if the horse is actually operated on (cut with a knife). It will not cover illnesses

unless accompanied with surgery. Major medical, on the other hand, will cover surgery, as well as illnesses.

Okay, my personal experience will illustrate the implications to your readers. My horses are covered by major medical insurance. In January 1996 my mare became ill. My local vet did not know what was wrong so he referred her to U.C. Davis. I was advised to get her there immediately! We were on the road within an hour and made it to Davis by 5:02 p.m. on a Friday. **FOR-TUNATELY**, the attending vet immediately recognized that my mare most likely had botulism — very rare in California, I found out later. Within 2 hours of having arrived at Davis my mare was receiving a life-saving transfusion of anti-toxin. She was a patient at Davis for 12 days, is home now, healthy, and recovered 100%. Now, please note that she was never "cut with a knife". If I had had only surgical insurance, she would not have been covered. Because I had the foresight to carry major medical insurance, her illness was covered (\$4,368!). I paid a \$250 deductible.

Please inform your readers of this distinction between insurances.

DENNIS BRIGHT CONFIDENCE SEMINAR FOLLOW-UP

by Dianne Larson Hicks

The first Dennis Bright seminar, sponsored by San Mateo County Horsemen, and posted in the CSHA newsletter, was held March 27th at Blackie's Feed in Redwood City. Ron and Mark Blackmore, owners of Blackie's, gave us the rare opportunity to try out a perfect environment for a group meeting of this nature. Long-time advertisers, Blackie's Feed carries and delivers hay, feed supplements, shavings and rice hulls, dog and cat food, fly sprays, halters, hay hooks and more. Knowledgeable about their products, Ron and Mark can help you make the selection according to your needs. Some time when you have an extra 15 minutes drop by to check it out.

Turn left off of Seaport Blvd. after passing Charlie Brown's Restaurant and the Port of Redwood City. You'll see the Kaiser cement stacks and at the edge of the water, the salt pile looms larger than life. If you're a train buff, take a gander at the Pullman car and three more in various stages of restoration and use. Inquiry will get you the price of the Pullman per day when running on Amtrak rails ... \$5,600.00. It seats 26 and you can have it guided anywhere Amtrak rails are functioning. Now you know what to do for Mom and Dad's 50th wedding anniversary! Fill it with hay and horses and head out for parts unknown. Just kidding.



Blackie's Feed hosted our first educational seminar.



Mounted on their wooden steeds in their favorite saddle, club members shared their concerns regarding specific horse experiences and controlling issues hoping to learn how to be better prepared for difficult situations in the future.

Dennis gave them a fistful of tools to work with during the two+ hours he donated to the occasion. As Wendy Lee can attest to, those present benefited from the knowledge of exercises that can be done whenever one is seated, for better "A-frame" grip and balance.

They learned about visualization or "super-imaging" for fear replacement (with new member Lynde Wratten providing a fabulous image of herself astride a wonderful Arabian horse, undulating through the water "like a serpent" in a pond; horse psychology (fight or flight mechanism, high-headedness and what it means) and what you and Judy L'Oizeaux can do to help out during horse alert; what's really happening when you lean from one side in the saddle and where it pushes your horse and how to react for best results (with Board of Directors member Jeannie Muylaert testing the theory); and "hands on" with a snaffle bit (cause/effect and what it feels like to the horse with Sissi Baskin learning the differences of this schooling tool versus her Myler leverage bit).

On hand with camera was Virginia Magliano-Darrow, capturing SMCHA history on film.

More was covered, there is more to be said, but a good way to play catch up first hand would be to attend the 3-day Horsemanship Seminar Dennis has created. Fearful or not, I highly recommend you give this a try. He's made it easy for everybody. You can come with your horse, rent a school horse, or simply pay an observer's fee. Call (408) 683-2041 to register. Don't miss it!



SMCHA JUNIORS

by Linda Menon

SMCHA Juniors are active again! Many years ago the SMCHA Juniors group was extremely active with over 50 participants — some of our current adult members remember that time since they were Junior members! Although juniors have always been welcome to participate in SMCHA functions, in recent years a separate Juniors group has not been active. But now that's changing!

Junior members had a special table at the January Kick-Off Party — they were able to order special dinners and played bingo for prizes when the meeting got too tedious.

In March Juniors attended a pizza party to help plan events for the upcoming year. In order to spread the word as widely as possible about the group, notices were sent to over 100 local schools, libraries and recreation departments, as well as posted at local barns. Over 35 youth attended the meeting, many with their parents. Besides filling themselves on delicious pizza from Round Table at Woodside Plaza (who were nice enough to give us a real discount!), everyone participated by listing ideas for events and filling out a short survey. Afterward, a group of volunteers met to consolidate all the suggestions into a calendar of activities which were distributed to all of those attending the meeting as well as SMCHA members and other interested persons.

Activities this year will include trail rides, camp-outs, clinic/training opportunities, riding in the 4th of July parade, as well as participating as a group in many of the already-scheduled SMCHA activities.

If you know a junior horse-person who would like to be involved, please call Linda Menon at (415) 349-1462 or (415) 365-8011 to get them added to the mailing list.



JUNIOR RESOURCE GUIDE

Because many of those attending the March Juniors meeting were new to horses and had many questions, SMCHA Juniors plans to put together and distribute a RESOURCE GUIDE which will include names and contact information for local trainers, places to ride, lease or rent horses, farriers, tack and other horse gear — specializing in Junior Horsemen.

If you would like to be included in this list, or you know of someone or some business that has been especially helpful in the area of junior horsemanship, please contact LORENA HEATLEY at (415) 851-5897.

EQUITOUR VISITS BAY AREA

by Bruce Baker

For our first general meeting of the year, Bayard Fox, owner of Equitour, put on a slide show none of us will forget. March 4th a group of nearly 90 people were able to view slides of different horses and horseback rides that are available throughout the world, including some fantastic scenes of riding at Fox's homebase ranch in Idaho. The slides were quite magnificent and often the audience let out "oh's" and "ah's". Traveling by horseback in these different countries and places is a great way to see and meet people, and you can get a better idea on how they live.

I want to thank all the people who were able to come, as the weather was far from cooperative. Also thanks to Walt Kirk, Diane Hicks, John Telucci, Tanya Rebarchik, Doris Lantz and also to the Mounted Patrol for sponsoring the facilities.

COW PALACE INFORMATION

The following article, prepared by San Francisco Horsemen's Association members, concerns a January, 1995 article in the San Francisco Chronicle regarding pending changes at the Cow Palace in which a grocery chain would develop the upper parking lot. The Board of SMCHA has corresponded with the California State Governor's office regarding our concerns.

by Carol & Dennis Hamby (with help of Harold Lucas)

We would like to thank Jack Abrams for his support of our concern for the integrity of the Cow Palace and the continuation of horse events there.

As you probably know there have been rumors going around about the Cow Palace, so we've checked and we've obtained what we consider reliable information on what's happening.

A long conversation with Jack Cooke revealed that the Board of Directors [of Cow Palace] is now composed of 4 horse people and 5 non-horse people. Some or all of the non-horse people are involved in real estate and development. Jack Cooke no longer has majority support to maintain his position as head of the Board.

The main information comes from the Daly City Planning Commission, which has a submission from the Cow Palace directors to well or long term lease the west public parking lot and get a grocery chain to build a store there and create a mini-mall. They have made an offer to American Stores, the parent company for Lucky Stores. This offer was made over 2 months ago and as far as we have heard, American Stores has not yet responded to the offer. They propose to shift public parking to the upper lot where trailers are currently parked, and some new small lots they will develop farther up the hill behind the Cow Palace.

Our President, Harold Lucas of the San Francisco Horsemen's Association, worked parking cars there for years when he was young. We consider his experience and opinions regarding the loss of the west parking lot to be highly relevant. This list summarizes the opinions of Harold Lucas, together with us and other horse people familiar with the Cow Palace.

1. Harold adamantly says, "The Cow Palace is nothing without the parking." As in all of the San Francisco area, parking is invariably the most important consideration and presents the greatest problems.
2. If they take the upper lot for public parking you can no longer use it for short term horse trailer use, or for overflow. That will present difficulties for those who bring in horses short term for the events.
3. There is a large public housing problem in the area. The projects in San Francisco are so poorly managed and maintained that Willie Brown called in the federal government to restore safety and maintenance. Vandals and gang members from the housing projects terrorize not only the people living in the projects, but also the entire neighborhood.
4. If they don't have adequate parking in lots, people will be forced to park on the street and risk break-in. This is a common occurrence in that area. After events with street parking, there is glass all over sidewalks from the vandalism.
5. There is presently a small grocery store across the street from the Cow Palace. When we've been there in the evening we always see numerous young men hanging out around it, and security guards are required there.
6. If a mini shopping mall or even just a Lucky store is put up on the parking lot, it will be an invitation to many gangs and unsavory characters to hang out there. We don't think American Stores is probably aware of the security problems associated with that area.
7. Harold says there are at least 5 lots across the street from the west parking lot that are for sale and have been for 15 years.
8. Three years ago the parking fee was \$3.00 for the public. It is now \$7.00. This is about the same as a low priced seat for an event. Families especially are being priced out of attending events there. With less parking available we can expect the parking fee to go up even more. Those unable to pay it and park on the street will have their car broken into.
9. If a food store is put that close to the Cow Palace, eventually concerns will arise over unhealthy contamination of food from such close proximity to

Continued on following page

large numbers of livestock and the state will be set to eliminate animals from the Cow Palace.

10. Finally, many new houses are being developed on the hill by the Cow Palace (where Harold used to run 100 head of cattle). We would expect pressure to eventually develop from these new home owners to eliminate the Cow Palace, which attracts crowds and animals and therefore lowers their property values. Putting parking lots up the hill closer to the houses will hasten and intensify this reaction.

11. If they are allowed to start chopping on the Cow Palace, to us this is the beginning of the end for it, which would be a sad day for all of us, and many horse people all across the West.

We would like to set up a meeting with Jack Cooke to voice our concerns. Interested people are invited to attend. We'll have to give you a date later.

We feel the quickest, most effective action at this time would be to target American Stores. A large volume of negative letters could very well make them reject the Cow Palace offer, especially since they don't seem overly eager anyway, or they would have acted on the offer by now. Addresses for Lucky and American Stores:

Headquarters American Stores
709 East South Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84102
(801) 539-0112

President Allen Zietz
P.O. Box 5008
San Leandro, CA 94077
(510) 678-4200

District Manager Greg Marlow
1322 El Camino Real
San Bruno, CA 94080

We will still need to keep the Cow Palace Directors from trying to entice someone else into taking the parking lot. We will still need to put sufficient pressure to prevent any loss of animal events. And we should attempt to gain open meetings and dealings. The most important one to contact regarding these issues is Willie Brown.

Mayor Willie Brown
401 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA

Senator Ken Maddy has been conducting hearings on this type of boards so it would be very important to contact him regarding open meetings and accountability to the public.

Hon. Ken Maddy
State Capitol Bldg.
Room 5052
Sacramento, CA 95814
FAX (916) 327-3523

The California Department of Food and Agriculture appoints the Cow Palace Board and should be contacted regarding their appointments and the loss of horse and agricultural people from the Board. After all, they are in charge of Food and Agriculture, not real estate and business. They should also be told of our interest in open public meetings instead of secret dealings.

Department of Food and Agriculture
1220 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Additional people to contact at the City of Daly City,
333 90th Street, Daly City, CA 94015:

Mayor Michael Guingona
Chairman Lloyd Bumanglag
Planning Commission
Council Members:
Madolyn Agrimonti
James Doran
Carol Klatt
Albert Teglia



BILLY MARTIN—COMING SOON!

By Donna Tozi

BILLY MARTIN is a horse trainer that loves what he does. I feel I've known Billy for years because I love the sport of reining cow horse and have watched Billy Martin win many of the big shows over the years. Watching Billy Martin work a reining horse is like poetry in motion. His method of training shows through with all his horses being smooth and unhurried. He doesn't do it by force; he trains with love and technique. Having Billy work with me and my horse, Donna's Bold Chex, is like a dream come true. Not only does he have her working better than she's ever worked before, but I can tell she really likes him which is really something, because she's never liked men much.

Billy is one of the hardest working persons I have ever met. He rides all his own horses, starting from early morning to 7 or 8 at night. Not only that, I've even seen him doing feeding and cleaning. I asked him how he keeps from burning out; he just shrugged his shoulders and smiled. He was gone one week and I said to myself, "Good. He's taking some time out." Then found out that he was driving horses to Texas for his customer, Mort. They won the big Bonanza Cutting, beating 1,800 horses from all over. Pretty darn good for a California horse to go back and beat the Texans.

When I finally worked up enough nerve to ask Billy if he'd do a clinic for SMCHA, and he said he do it!, I was excited. Billy is a truly nice guy who thanks his father for all his knowledge. He said, "I owe it all to my dad, Gene Martin." His father, Gene, is 78-years-old and is still starting colts.

Billy grew up showing horses. When I asked him his

most exciting win as a kid, it was at Cow Palace at age 10 when he won Junior Stock Horse and beat Harry Rose, Jr. with Harry Rose, Jr.'s second father, the famous Don Dodge, judging. Billy's family is stock horse people. With a sister, Helen, who was Miss Grand National, and sister, Linda, who has won many ladies stock horse championships. Billy says the Cow Palace is a special place for him — he's

shown there every year since he was 7-years-old. Only missing the last two because the AQHA World was being held at the same time.

Billy has won hackamore triumphs, bridle horse championship, and reining stock horse at the Cow Palace. His first professional job training was when he was 18 and he got a colt to start by Nu Bars. He showed Joe Bars to many championships which started his career. Billy has started and won the NRCHA Supreme Cow Horse on many horses over the years. I remember, very well, watching Docs King Cowboy and Nevada Commander with Billy Martin riding win the big ones. Boy, were they great! He is not just a one-horse-show-class person, though.

He also trains and shows cutting horses. He won Salinas in 1994 in cutting on Little Rey Doc. He also trains pleasure and shows Appaloosas, Arabians, and has even shown and trained Morgans in driving.

Billy is considered one of the best trainers in the USA. Don't miss this opportunity for you and your horse to come to our SMCHA reining clinic. If you want to bring your horse, register early as we are limited to not more than 15 horses! No limit to spectators so come and learn from the best.

COMING SOON! WATCH YOUR MAIL!



NEVADA COMMANDER

CLEM'S

by Clem Carroll



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It was in the early 1950's, an employee of ours suggested I take up riding to overcome stress and relax after trying days working out special designs for customers who sometimes didn't really know what they wanted. That was excellent advice and for the next forty years I explored every suggestion of a trail from Canada Road to Skyline and then down the slopes towards the ocean - La Honda, Purissima, Tunitas, Harkins Ridge. I tried them all.

According to the books written about this area in the 1840's, a fortune awaited any man who would build a mill along a creek and start cutting into the virgin forests of redwoods. This section of California was left untouched by the Indians, Spaniards and Mexicans, probably due to extremely limited levels of technology, the inhospitable terrain with its steepness, poor soil, dampness and darkness, preferring the abundant flatlands to the east and west at lower elevations.

Once the lumbermen and their mills moved in, the land was cleared to the ground.

In all the years of riding, I've been fascinated by trying to imagine how the cut trees were "snaked" out of the canyons into the open and pulled to the Port of Redwood City and then floated up the Bay to San Francisco.

For many years, I have saved a collection of photographs showing men sawing across the base of redwood trees twelve feet and more, men balanced on planks ten feet off the ground that were used to get into its sides, chopping with double edge axes and sawing, pictures of oxen, usually 8 to 12 of them pulling giant sections to the mills. Did you know that oxen were shod and to do that job were lifted in a sling, their feet off the ground?

The lower part of Huddart Park must have had the

first mills, and as the land was cleared, the mills moved up to the ridge (now Skyline Blvd.) and down the west side toward the ocean, or wherever the forest ended.

In the fifties, there was still standing a restaurant by the name of Brocks situated on Skyline and opposite where Kings Mountain Road ends, then Tunitas Creek Road starts down the west side of Skyline. Almost every Saturday several of us rode straight up the Archery Trail, took a left on Summit Springs Road to Kings Mountain Road, and then up a steep canyon trail, now closed, that spilled out at the Skyline. Brocks served the most delicious hamburgers and the view from their west windows looking down to the ocean was spectacular. Another way to Brocks was from the bottom of Richards Road straight up to Skyline. The restaurant burned down later, the owners never able to obtain a permit to rebuild. The less than a mile long trail called Summit Springs Road is still a connecting trail between Wunderlich and Huddart Park.

According to the history books, in 1868 that area had a hotel, boarding house, good meals cooked by Mrs. Honora King, a livery, barber shop and a saloon built by Frank King. King was often arrested and convicted for serving liquor without a license but always received a suspended sentence. Kings Mountain Road at one time was a toll road, 25 cents being charged for a horse and buggy. It was the only early wagon route west to the coast from Redwood City and then to Pescadero. A stage trip was an all-day barrage of road bumps so a bit of beverage, perhaps, some anesthetizing alcohol, was welcome at Summit Springs after the steep uphill climb.

All the books mention grizzly bears in these canyons. The last one was killed in 1879. It was supposedly raiding John Harkins' cattle in Whittemore Gulch, on the mountain's western slope, just north of Purissima. Hawkins bought poison and from then on grizzlies were just history.

There is a story of Bear Gulch north of Wunderlich property. It was so named because a bear with her cubs was on her way to drink at a stream and at the same time a man named Ryder was nearby looking for stray cattle. He heard a rustle in the bushes and moved towards the sound, too late, it was a grizzly

with her cubs. He tried to fight her off, stumbled backwards down a ravine and had presence of mind to play dead. The bear sniffed at him and then gave Ryder a blow that nearly took off half the side of his face including an ear. Then she took off with her cubs.

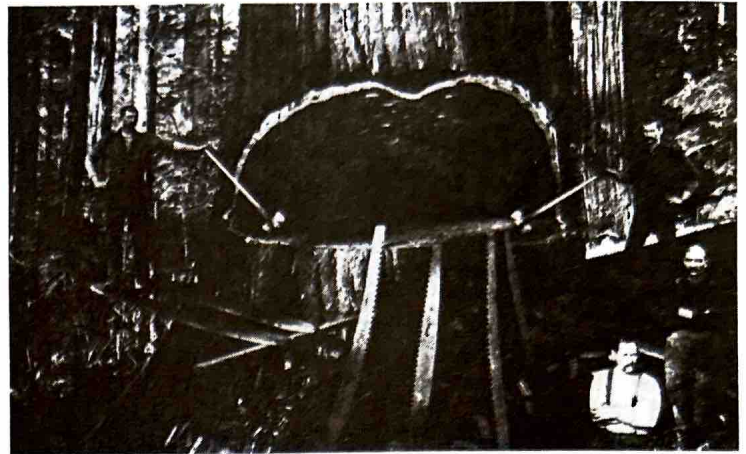
When Ryder regained consciousness he was in an adobe dwelling inhabited by a Spanish speaking Indian family and an old sailor who produced a canvas needle and a length of string. He proceeded to stitch up the injury, without any anesthetic, and the bleeding was stopped. The Indian woman had in the meanwhile gathered some medicinal herbs and concocted a brew, a portion of which she had Ryder drink and the balance she applied to the wounds. Miraculously the patient lived, convalescing at the adobe. These notes on the Bear Gulch incident are from Gil Richard's book entitled "Crossroads", a wonderful story of the men who moved into this area in the 1850's.

Certainly everyone who reads this horseman's magazine knows of the Woodside Store at the corner of Kings Mountain Road and Tripp Road. Dr. Robert Tripp was a dentist who traveled west from Massachusetts to San Francisco in 1851. He fell in with two gentlemen who had already explored the Peninsula and proceeded to start a shingle mill. In a short while, he built the store to supply the early settlers with the necessary supplies to feed a family and replace worn-out tools, jeans, boots, and liquor for the lumbermen.

Last year a lecture sponsored by the San Mateo County Historical Society was given at the store on the history of this area and Dale Ryman (a former President of SMCHA) not only attended but presented a half dozen 12" high redwood trees ready to be planted. Many local residents of Woodside have donated hours of their time gathering old containers, bottles, barrels and tools similar to the wares being sold a hundred years ago.

The books say a man could make a good living if he had a pack animal and a froe (a type of ax that cuts redwood into shingles). Sections of discarded lumber could be made for roofing, tied into bundles and delivered to the Port of Redwood City for shipment.

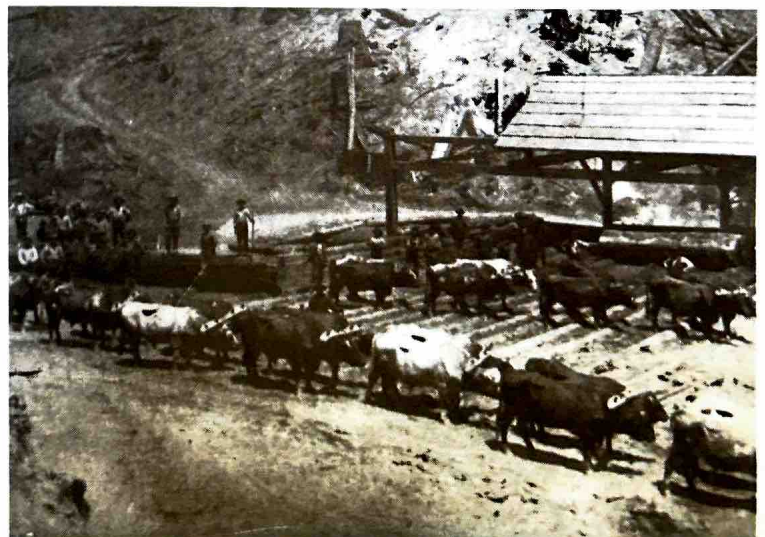
Loading docks and wharves were built at various
continued



Timber fallers undercutting a big redwood near La Honda.



A "jerk-line" team with the usual two wagons, loaded with redwood lumber weighing close to 20 tons.



Bull teams at Grover Bros.' Laguna Mill about 1890, pulling redwood logs directly to the mill deck for sawing.



Sunday at Rider's Mill in the Soquel area. A typical woodcutter's cabin with board-and-batten siding and a split shake roof.



San Vincente Lumber Company logging railroad trestle on Little Creek above Swanton in 1918.



areas along the ocean side, but in time proved not to be practical, therefore most of the timber was hauled up the west side of the mountain ridge and down to the Bay area.

The present Searsville Lake was once a little town by that name. Progressive thinking men became involved in the future of water rights and eventually the town was deserted. A bronze plaque at the corner of Portola Road and Sand Hill is mounted on a huge cement block alongside a horse trail. I wonder how many riders have ever stopped to read it?

TOWN OF SEARSVILLE

"Here stood the lumberman's village of Searsville, whose first settler, John Sears, came in 1854. Across the road westerly from this monument stood a hotel, the school, store, the blacksmith shop, and dwellings were to the southeast, some on the sight of the present lake and others overlooking it. Buildings were removed in 1891, as water rose behind the new dam."

State Registered Landmark, No. 474

With all the oxen being used to haul the timber, and horses to pull wagons of tan bark, firewood and supplies, I haven't read anywhere about what feed was given them. We have to assume there was ample volunteer grasses on the flat sections of land. This area drew people who farmed the land, vineyards, orchards, olive trees and dairy farms. The Charter Oak Stables on Runnymede was once a dairy farm.

Dry Creek runs parallel to Canada Road, passes under Olive Hill Lane and on to the shopping area behind Roberts, the post office, and bypasses Searsville Lake. Right besides Dry Creek on my property (just north of Olive Hill Lane) is a "basement" of stone blocks, 10 feet deep, 20 feet square, and stone steps on one side. I've made inquiries, but no one seems to have an answer. The stones are big, some 12" to 14" square, and more, fitted as a "dry-wall". Was it a storage building for milk, for cheeses to be delivered to San Francisco ...?

It's so very nice the mountain is now covered with second growth redwoods. Was told that in the early 1930's a group of women started the Woodside Trail Club. We thank you.

ANZA

by Donna Tozi

On April 20th through 21st, my husband, Bruce, and I attended the first gathering of the De Anza Trail volunteers in Santa Barbara. On October 4, 1996 a group of horsemen, bikers and walkers will leave Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico, and November 21, 1996 arrive in San Francisco, trying to follow as closely as possible to the exact route Juan Bautista de Anza took in 1775 to 1776. History will repeat itself when volunteers re-enact the 1,400 mile expedition on the first overland route from Mexico to California in a relay along this important, national, historical trail. Volunteers are being sought to ride or hike along this significant, national, linear park. It's the longest continuous trail created by the passage of man and animal in the world. It's now being developed for public use. A uniformed representative of de Anza, in full period costume, will lead some of the groups and there are plans of some celebrations along the route.

I'm thinking of having a great SMCHA celebration when the relay hits our area. Volunteers are asked to commit to cover 6 miles of the historic trail. One member of each relay will carry the "mochillo", a mail pouch with documents commemorating the journey. All travel will be during the daylight hours. Bruce and I are volunteer coordinators in this area and we can be reached at 368-9191 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., or 368-8785 before 9:00 p.m. Arrangements are being coordinated through the Heritage Trail Fund in partnership with the National Park Service. The creation of this trail has been in the works for a number of years. This significant trail was blazed at a time in history when Britain had agents in Sacramento Valley and Russians had established a fort near San Francisco. Heritage Trails can be reached at (510) 926-1081.

This relay was done before in 1976 and laid the groundwork for this national linear park. Many trips to Washington, D.C. to speak to Congress were made by wonderful volunteers. It was so much fun to meet and talk to a lot of the coordinators. Jeannie Gillen of Riverside is such a cute little spitfire and one of the volunteers that went to Washington, D.C. Bet she made them sit up and take notice.

Santa Barbara had a great parade with everyone in costume. We went for miles along the beach and then right through town to the Mission. They were not only

celebrating de Anza's 220th anniversary, but Santa Barbara's 214th anniversary of their founding. Vie Obern did a wonderful job of putting everything together. She also did this 20 years ago. We stayed at the Obern's beautiful Hope Ranch. My horses thought they were at the Santa Barbara Hilton.

This is going to be a lot of fun as well as a lot of work! We're going to need lots of help in this with lots of SMCHA volunteers!



AVOIDING COMMENT

by Don Criswell (reprinted with permission)

The riders filed through the wire fence gate one at a time. As each passed the dismounted rider holding the gate, a polite "thank you" was spoken to him. He responded with a courteous nod of the head or a "you're welcome" to each and every person.

The column continued along the trail with the exception of the last rider. Stopping just behind the opening in the fence she asked if she might hold his horse while he closed the gate. After hooking the wire loop over the post the "gateman" remounted and the two of them trotted to catch up with the main group. Soon another gate was encountered. The second rider in line spoke quietly to the lead rider, "I'll get the gate." She trotted ahead, opening it in time for the group to pass through without having to stop. The original scenario was repeated as, one by one, the horses quietly passed through the opening.

It was remarkable for a couple of reasons. There was no fuss or muss, no milling about or confusion about who "had" to open the gate. There was an air of efficiency about the entire operation which made it seem natural and easy.

Clearly, there was no subservience or "rank" involved. The person doing the work felt privileged to be allowed to serve. Those passing through felt privileged that they were being served. Not only was there a sense of discipline in the group's demeanor, there was a feeling of mutual respect and camaraderie. Everyone knew "how to act". The result was relaxing and agreeable for all.

The riders were next confronted with a steep, fairly long embankment. As each horse proceeded upward at a walk the next rider waited a few seconds until there was a distance of twenty or thirty feet between horses. Then the horse would be allowed to climb the hill at a walk, maintaining the "buffer zone" until reaching the top.

There was no mad scramble or jerking of the reins, no turning off of the trail or other evidence of horses charging uphill while out of control. There was no need to warn anyone to stay back. No one veered around a slowly climbing horse. No tempers flared, no words were exchanged, no feelings were hurt, no one was endangered. Everyone made it to the top safely, happily

and in the same order as when at the bottom of the hill.

The horses had to work their way down a very steep, sharp decline. Some were confident enough to walk down while others hesitated momentarily, their feet beating a nervous tattoo while their riders encouraged them to move forward. Then they hopped down, landing lightly on the sandy bottom, trotting a few yards before resuming a walk.

No one bumped into the horse in front. No one landed on a fallen rider. There was no cursing or whipping or snatching of bits. As each horse reached the flat ground and moved on, the trailing horse began its descent. One at a time, with plenty of room and time between animals to allow for problems. Although not every horse made it down without a bit of trouble there was no trouble between the riders. Problems, if any, were one's own and were not caused by someone else.

The stream was nearly two feet deep. A steep bank bordered the opposite site. It was necessary to ride upstream for thirty yards in order to make an exit from the water.

Instead of fording en masse, the horses entered the water one or two at a time. Each was held back until those ahead were out of "splashing range". Then the horses walked into the flow, side by side if in pairs, and continued to walk until reaching dry ground. Those who chose to water their mounts turned out of the main crossing, making way for those who followed.

There was no splashing. No soiled, soaked or muddy clothing. No horses rolled with their riders in knee-deep water. No one had to get out of the way or be chastised for stopping in the middle of the traffic lane. No one was whispered about or got "looks that could kill" for bumping into another rider. It was a pleasant, uneventful crossing of a pretty body of water, the kind of moment people cherish when remembering a nice afternoon ride.

The trail opened into a wide, level meadow. Riders gradually moved from a file into, more or less, a line riding abreast. They chatted and enjoyed each other's company. As the pace increased to a canter the riders would discreetly glance over to find the acknowledged "trail master" who was responsible for conducting a fun, safe outing.

continued on p. 20

Avoiding Comment, continued

No one rode on ahead, leaving the group to eat dust. There were no horse races or explosive moments caused by horses worrying about being left behind by the others. There were no white-knuckled riders trying to restrain animals on the verge of bolting and running away. Instead, there was a colorful, orderly formation of riders moving across a flower-carpeted field.

The trail master never said a word. She controlled events by either speeding up or slowing down. Everyone paid attention to her position in the line. Everyone enjoyed the gallop across open country. Those who hung back were comfortable in the knowledge that they were be able to keep up. It was fun for everyone.

The valley was cultivated into neat rows of garlic sprouts. A hundred acres of effort was exposed to the horses' hooves. As the group approached the perimeter of the field it narrowed into a file of riders keeping to the edge of the farmland.

Everyone was conscious of their status as recreational guests. Not only did they want to protect their future access to the property, they felt responsible for ensuring that their host's livelihood wasn't damaged by careless riding through the young crop. They were welcome to return for another ride at the ranch.

Inexplicably, one gelding began displaying a "bad attitude", threatening to rear, refusing to behave reasonably, acting out the "spoiled brattiness" that had caused its previous owner to sell him to a more experienced rider. Clearly it was a situation which required some very direct discipline in order to correct the problem.

No one offered unwanted advice or opinions to the rider who was actually the only person able to do anything at the moment. Instead they discreetly looked the other way or carried on with "business as usual," not making a big deal out of a not uncommon situation. For her part, the rider kept her cool, did what she had to do in a businesslike way and fixed the problem with a minimum of fireworks and theatrics.

Even though the group was made up of friends, there were a couple of horses sporting colorful ribbons in their tails. The kicker wore a red ribbon, the three-year-old wore a green one. Everyone was thus reminded

that allowances should be made for these animals so that the ride could proceed in safety. It did. There were no warnings issued, no threats or accusations, no blood, no upsets, no broken bones. They all remained friends and went home in one piece.

The group only had a mile to go before reaching the trailers. Some of the horses pranced with anticipation at returning to the starting point. Others walked quietly on slack reins, "on the buckle", during the final leg of the ride. Regardless of their horses' disposition, the group stayed together.

No one raced on ahead forcing tired riders to deal with unruly horses who were anxious to get to the feed bucket. There was no resentful muttering about rudeness or horses which needed to learn to walk. It was a casual, relaxed group of people completing a fun day's sport by allowing their own and their trailmates' horses to unwind and cool off gradually. They arrived with dry horses and were themselves in good humor. Things were peaceful and civilized.

As the horses were loaded into trailers at the staging area the riders dutifully raked up the loose hay and manure. Some tossed it into the rear of the trailers, others put it under shrubs which bordered the parking lot.

When the last rig departed there was very little evidence that a large group of horses had been present. No one complimented the riders for cleaning up their mess. But neither did anyone complain; there was no reason to because there was no mess to complain about.

Whether one calls it discipline, common courtesy, trail manners, good breeding, safety first or polite behavior, it makes for happy hours on horseback. A good rule of thumb is to "avoid causing comment". Ride as though you're in polite society; you'll be invited to ride with the group again.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Don Criswell has combined his experience as a horse trainer, breeder, and competitor with classical equitation. "The Criswell Touch" is an intelligent, effective method of training horses and riders for competition or pleasure. Don conducts lectures, clinics and individual instruction. He currently trains the San Mateo County Sheriff's Mounted Unit in Woodside.

Don may be reached at his office at (408) 847-3141.

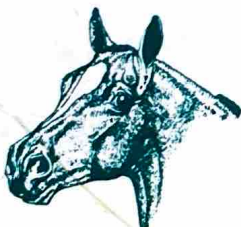
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WESTERN RIDING CLINIC

Mark your calendar!
 This year's Clinic begins
 May 30 at the Mounted
 Patrol Grounds, Woodside.
 For information call Karen
 Rowley at (415) 598-3216
 or (415) 365-2229.

Clinic dates are Thursdays,
 May 30, June 6, 13, 20, 27,
 July 11 and 18.



Tying Up Safely

Quick-release knot.

THERE are many times when you need to tie your horse. It is important to know where to tie him to, and how to tie him safely. Look for potential booby-traps. For example, don't tie your horse so near another horse that they can kick one another. Check the area for anything that could injure or startle a horse. Make sure the ground is clear of loose wire, broken glass, and such. Check the fencing or barn wall for any exposed nails. In short, view the area with a critical eye.

Don't tie to or near a piece of equipment, such as a plow or tractor. A horse can get a leg or a halter hung, which can result in a lot of damage to both the animal and the equipment. Do not tie to anything the horse can move, such as a lawn chair, lawn mower, concrete block, dumpster, or even some horse trailers not hitched to a vehicle. Should a horse move the item, it could frighten him. Still tied, he might run with it, which makes the situation even scarier.

Look overhead before you tie your horse. Check for potential hazards, such as a low-hanging limb or clothesline. Even an apparently uncluttered aisleway in the barn may be hazardous if your horse can knock bottles and items loose from a nearby shelf.

Tie your horse to something sturdy enough to hold him. Even a mature, broke horse can cause havoc, should a post be rotten at the ground and break with a slight tug. When tying to a fence, tie to the sturdier post, not to an easily broken board.

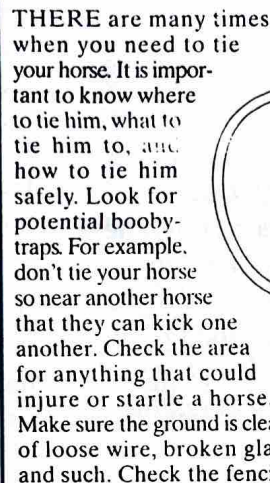
If you're uncertain about how high or low to tie a horse, the rule of thumb is to tie at the horse's eye level, or higher. If a horse tied low pulls back, this can result in a serious injury called a pulled-down neck.

You should allow enough slack in the lead so that your horse can shift his position from time to time. Be cautious, however, in allowing too much slack. If your horse can get his head down to the ground, he can probably get a front foot over the lead rope.

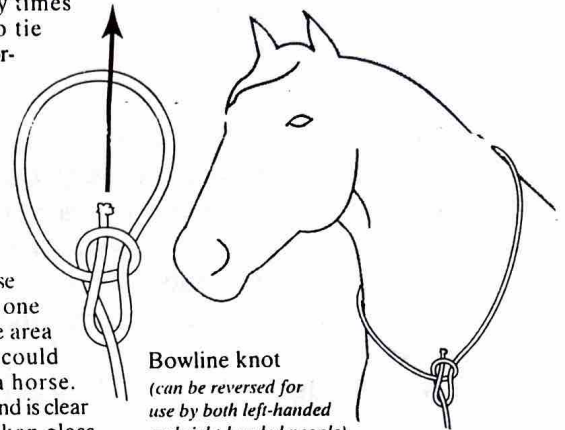
Two knots, the quick-release and the bowline, find favor with horsemen. A quick-release is a simple slip knot; one snatch of the loose end, and a horse is free. Some horses, when they're tied, however, play with the end of the lead and inadvertently discover how to free themselves. To prevent this, drop the tail of the lead back through the knot's loop. Untying a horse will still be easy and convenient for you, but more difficult for the horse.

The bowline is more difficult to learn to tie, but useful in some situations.

From Your First Horse, a Western Horseman book by Fran Devereux Smith. ☞



Bowline knot
 (can be reversed for use by both left-handed and right-handed people).



CAREER MOVES? SURE!

Reprinted with permission from author, Cooky McClung, for your enjoyment by Dianne Larson Hicks

I knew it was a mistake the minute I sat down. A friend had talked me into attending a seminar with her entitled "Realizing Your Potential and Advancing Your Career". My friend was looking for a new career, but I already had 10 or 12. She did not have horses, and therefore had time for things incorporated in the program, such as "coordinating your wardrobe to look the part of a professional". She also had the time to eat meals that required a knife and fork, rather than something barely edible wrapped in a napkin to be extracted from one's pocket after the horses were loaded in the trailer.

Even though I told my friend I wasn't searching for new pathways in my life, having enough trouble stumbling through the briars in my present one, she convinced me that *this* seminar would still aid in developing my skills on the outside chance I decided to branch out. Branching out any further than I already had would have required me to be a hemlock, but I went with her mostly because she wanted the company.

The man running the seminar had previously worked in a personnel agency, but by using his very own proven techniques he now "helped others better their lifestyles". This occupation certainly had bettered him, enabling him to collect hefty seminar fees and drive a silver sports car. He began by going around the room handing out evaluation forms that everyone filled out. He also asked pertinent questions to help determine which direction our careers should take. He stopped in front of me, unaware this was going to be a challenge he might later regret.

"Name three skills that you frequently use in your present position", he asked in a booming tone for all to hear.

Without hesitation, I replied, "I can nail on a loose shoe, untangle a tail full of burrs and clean green scum off a snaffle in less than 30 seconds."

Frowning, the man was clearly stumped in categorizing my profession, finally asking if I worked in County maintenance.

"Maintenance plays a large part in my career," I answered truthfully. "I raise horses."

"But, what do you really do?", he queried, unable to fit this answer into any actual career slot.

"I also have a rather large family and work for an attorney a couple of days a week."

"Yes," he said, obviously finding none of these efforts truly fulfilling. "But how do you spend your spare time?"

"The last time I remember having spare time was in 1979 when I had the Asian flu," I answered as honestly as I could. "I spent my spare time throwing up."

He tried another tactic. "Have you ever considered what your life would be like if you parlayed your skills into profit and became a wealthy woman?"

"Oh, I could be a very wealthy woman if I got rid of all my horses," I admitted. "But then I wouldn't need any of my skills. And, if by chance I became suddenly wealthy, I'd simply buy more horses and have to hire someone with similar skills to take care of them and then I wouldn't be wealthy any more. It's kind of a catch-22 situation when you have horses, if you know what I mean." He clearly didn't.

"I don't think you've realized your full potential yet," he said seriously.

"Yes, I have," I insisted. "I realized my full potential the day my colt got colic and I had to walk him until midnight. That was the same day the pony fell into the swimming pool, the hay truck's brakes failed and took out a section of brand new post-and-rail fence and the entire right side of our foaling shed, and the puppy chewed two new leather halters and the knee roll off my saddle. I not only realized my potential, which I hope never to have to do again, but I reached the end of it."

Still attempting to implement the salient points of this program, Mr. Seminar continued: "To be successful in your career, it is important to chart your progress each day. Do you do this?"

continued

"I'm grateful for any day there is actual progress," I replied. "Charting it would be tempting fate. If I can run through my entire schedule of duties averting a major crisis, I would 'chart my progress' as excellent. If I complete a 'program' of mucking out the stables without catching the wheelbarrow in a rut and turning it over in the barn aisle, I'm satisfied with my forward motion. If I can finish grooming the horses without having to answer the phone nine times, I'm moving ahead with steam. If the electric fence doesn't short out twice a week and the gates stay on their hinges, my 'chart runs smoothly'. You see, what separates a career with horses from most any other profession is dealing with the unexpected. There are those constant, daily challenges which either keep your mind razor-sharp or drive you right over the edge."

He tried once more, "Do your professional skills lead you to a more active social life?"

"It all depends on what you mean by 'active'," I observed. "My mother-in-law thinks I have a social life of a kumquat. Staying awake an hour after dinner is a pretty active social life for me. If you count fox hunting as a social endeavor, however, my skills are quite active. I realize, though, most people don't count cracking a whip and yelling 'Tally-ho!' as the height of social communication."

"We do, however, conduct a series of events during the season we call 'breakfasts' where those of us who practice the same skills, horsewise, congregate to share ideas and meet people who might never have surfaced in a more normal atmosphere. For example, there are countless things I would never have learned had it not been for hunt breakfasts. I still wouldn't be proficient at tying a proper mud knot or mixing a nutritious bran mash. And I'd never have met anyone like the woman who hunted with us who swore her horse talked to her. And I don't mean just whinnying in the pasture, but held real conversations, advising her on the stock market. As a matter of fact, I have an appointment with him myself next week."

"Perhaps," the man said, shaking his head gravely as he surrendered at last, "you are in the wrong seminar. Perhaps we do not, in truth, have a specific slot for a new career using your particular skills."

"What?", I cried in disbelief. "No category for a woman who can weave a perfectly useful hay net out of baling twine? Who can repair a hole in a wheelbarrow bottom with a half a feedbag? Who can finish trimming a horse with manicure scissors when the clipper blades clog up?"

"There are hundreds of slots I could fill! I could be a master plumber as many times as I've fixed broken water pipes in the barn after a hard freeze. I could be an agricultural consultant, often as I've been up in the hayloft after dark discerning the difference between alfalfa and timothy (besides \$3.50 a bale). I could work for a moving company, the countless times I've packed tack trunks and station wagons for horse shows, and carried large, bulky objects through deep mud while my shoes were being sucked off."

"Why, I could teach a survival course, using no more than a hoof pick, a sweat scrapper and a pitchfork. I have more than a nodding acquaintance with auto mechanics, having wired the muffler to the van with no more than the thong of my hunt whip. I'm certainly strong, having held on to enough fractious yearlings who wanted to go anywhere but the direction I was leading them. And I can bandage and poultice right up there with the best of them."

Mr. Seminar gave up completely at last and allowed me to fill in the remainder of the evaluation form. At the completion of the seminar, it helped me to discover that should I ever want to give up horses and start all over in my new career, I would make one heck of a hod-carrying veterinarian paramedic.

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1996 CALENDAR

TENTATIVE

APRIL

- 4 - CSHA Juniors at Charter Oaks
- 10 - **Board Meeting**
- 13 - Jack Brook Work Day
- 14 - LV - Mission Peak/Sunol Ride
- 23 - Educational Seminar - Wilhelm
- 28 - Spring Ride
- 28 - Edgewood Pk Workday (9A-2P)

MAY

- 4 - May Day Parade
- 4-5 - LV - Costa Ranch Ride
- 7,14,21 - Edgewood Workday (9A-Noon)
- 8 - Board Meeting
- 11,18,25 - Edgewood Workday (1-4P)
- 16 - General Mtg - De Anza Trail
- 29 - Educational Seminar
- 30 - **Western Clinic**

JUNE

- 1 - Edgewood Workday (9A-2P)
- 2 - LV - Mt. Madonna Ride
- 6,13,20,27 - Western Clinic
- 9 - Western Show
- 12 - Board Meeting
- 16 - Ride
- 26 - Educational Seminar
- 27-30 - LV - Ventana Wilderness 4-Day

JULY

- 4 - Parade
- 7 - LV - Montebello Open Space Ride
- 14 - SFHA - GG Park Ride
- 14 - English Show
- 11,18 - Western Clinic
- 10 - Board Meeting
- 21 - Ride
- 31 - Educational Seminar

AUGUST

- 1-4 - SFHA - Jack Brook Camp
- 3-4 - LV - Graham Hill Ride
- 14 - **Board Meeting**
- 18 - SFHA - GG Park Ride
- 19-25 - Jack Brook Horse Camp
- 25 - Nor-Cal Show
- 28 - Educational Seminar
- 31 - LV - Jack Brook Camp

SEPTEMBER

- 1-2 - LV - Jack Brook Camp
- 8 - **Western Show - Webb**
- 8 - SFHA - Golden Gate Kid's Ride
- 11 - **Board Meeting**
- 18 - Outdoor Meeting/BBQ
- 19-23 - SFHA - Dakin Ranch
- 25 - Educational Seminar
- 29 - President's Ride

OCTOBER

- 5-6 - LV - Olompali Park Ride
- 6 - SFHA - GG Park Ride
- 9 - **Board Meeting**
- 13 - Columbus Day Parade, SF
- 19 - Trail Trials
- 25 - Grand Nationals Opening Night
- 30 - Educational Seminar

NOVEMBER

- 3 - LV - La Honda Progressive Ride
- 8 - General Meeting
- 13 - Board Meeting
- 27 - Educational Seminar

DECEMBER

- 13 - Board Dinner/Meeting

JANUARY

- 8 - Board Meeting
- 25 - Kick-Off Dinner/Dance

SMCHA events in BOLD

LV = Los Viajeros

SFHA = San Francisco Horsemen's Assoc.

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