

# The San Mateo HORSEMAN



*Winter 1996*



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**CONTENTS**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ..... 1  
*by Donna Tozi*

BOARD DINNER ..... 3  
*by Doris Lantz*

TRAIL TRIALS ..... 4  
*by Donna Tozi*

THE PRESIDENT'S RIDE ..... 5  
*by Bruce Baker*

DORIS LANTZ REGION 6 PRESIDENT ... 6  
*by Donna Tozi*

TRAILERING 101 ..... 7  
*by Mike Hertert*

JACK BROOK HORSE CAMP ..... 8  
*by Doug Moody*

HORSE INSURANCE ..... 10  
*by Adda Quinn Sublett*

COLOR GUARD AT COW PALACE 11  
*by Diane Hawks*

GENERAL MEETING ..... 12

CHARTER OAKS - NOVEMBER 7, 1995  
*by Donna Tozi*

NOTES FROM NOEL ..... 13  
*by Noel Moody*

LUNGE LINE LOGIC ..... 14  
*by Richard Winters*

CALIFORNIA STATE HORSEMEN . 15  
*by Doris Lantz, President, Region 6*

GET READY FOR FUN! ..... 16  
*by Ed Thomas*

CLEM'S CORNER ..... 18  
*by Clem Carroll*

THE HORSE COMES WITH THE PLACE . 22  
*by Chris Romano Puckett*

1996 CALENDAR ..... 24



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*by Donna Tozi*

To say I'm thrilled to be President of SMCHA would sound corny. When you've been a member as long as I (since 1954) and have seen so many people that I look up to holding this same post ... Wow! I've got big boots to fill!

My goal this year is to have the biggest and friendliest horse group in California. We now have over 400 members — how about double that plus? It's only in numbers that horse lovers are going to be able to keep all our hard-fought-for trails open to horses. Politicians only care for the number which means voters and money. When they see the bikers and hikers outnumber us, I'm afraid we're going to lose.

We have a wonderful trail committee on your Board. They go to all the meetings, which means lots of time away from their families. It's up to each and every one of us to help them and get new SMCHA members. If we all brought in 3 new people, we'd really be on a roll! Remember a person does not have to own a horse to be a member of SMCHA; they only have to be a horse lover!

It's going to be real easy getting people to join because we have a great year ahead. Bruce Baker, our Vice President in charge of programs, has lots of great meetings planned, with lots of entertainment and good food. Sue Sheehan, our vice president in charge of rides, is planning a year of great rides to places we've never gone before. She is a great organizer and cook — be ready to saddle up for some fun rides.

Our juniors are looking forward to getting the Junior SMCHA members active again in their own activities for the first time in years. When I was a junior back in the '50s, we had over 100 juniors. We had our own officers; we ran our own functions with our senior advisor always present. It was so much fun. We had overnights, playdays, little horse shows, a drill team. I want a junior group back again!

If you have any suggestions or comments, please feel free to call me daytimes at B&D Tack (368-9191) or nights at home (368-8785) before 9:00 p.m.

Happy trails, Donna Tozi

**COVER PHOTO:**

Donna Tozi,  
 1996 SMCHA President,  
 and her horse "Truckles True"

**MAGAZINE:** Linda Menon, Ann Kirby

**PHOTOS:** Sue Sheehan, Virginia Magliano-Darrow, Cathy Hatcher

**ILLUSTRATIONS:** Chris Romano-Puckett

**ADVERTISING:** Bob Clements, Judy Baskin

## San Mateo County Horsemen's Association

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*Donna Tozi*

1st VICE PRESIDENT

*Bruce Baker*

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

*Sue Sheehan*

SECRETARY

*Lorena Heatley*

TREASURER

*Stephanie Goldie*

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*Walt Kirk*

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*Linda Menon*

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*Nancy Brown*

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**DEADLINE**  
**FOR ADS AND ARTICLES**  
**for the Spring 1996 issue**  
**is March 31, 1996**



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(Application on back cover)

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## BOARD DINNER

by Doris Lantz

The SMCHA Board of Directors met in December for a delicious dinner and election of new Board officers. Thanks to Rick Payne for letting us use his beautiful house — it's always so great to go there; the views are so wonderful. I would also like to thank Sue Sheehan for doing such a good job organizing the dinner. It was great! Thank you Sue and Rick.

Everyone — new and outgoing Board members — had a great time. New officers for 1996 were elected.

They are:

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

Linda Menon will continue to serve as our Registrar. Congratulations to everyone. This is going to be a great year!

*Diane Hawks, Walt Kirk, Bruce Baker, Lou Kostura, Joe Suillaciotti, Nancy Brown*

*Tanya Rebarchik, Diane Hicks*



*Joe Squillaciotti, Nancy Brown, Chris Romano-Puckett, Diane Hicks, Judy Baskin, Linda Menon, Susan Anderson, Lisa Dixon*



## TRAIL TRIALS

**Dead Body Found October 7, 1995 near Freddie Kruger Swamp at C.T.E.T.A. Horse Park!**

by Donna Tozi

It was reported that 80 riders encountered headless horsemen, countless bats and witches, rode down a cliff they called Snowy River and had to back figure-8's with a slicker hanging over their saddle. Then they had to go through a scary "Nag Forest" in which ghosts were seen, through a deep Grand Canyon, and back up the hill on the side. Then they were forced to go between giant chairs which Lilly Tomlin was seen sitting upon, continuing around the eight-ball to a place where a tree had fallen down and had to be pulled clear of the trail. Through the scary swamp which Freddie Kruger was rumored to be doing his horrible Friday the 13th deeds, and although bodies were spotted, Freddie was not! The riders were next tricked or treated, depending on how their horse acted going by the gorilla on the bike and dogs chasing balls. If they got by, the riders were treated to drinks from a smoking caldron and candy presented to them by little witches. The riders then trudged to the scary Nottingham Forest where they tried not to anger the wild pig, and finally escaped by opening and closing the finish gate where a hot lunch and cold drinks awaited them.

The preceding was written to explain the happenings of the SMCHA first Trail Trial held in CTETA Park and put on by Donna Tozi and her husband, Bruce Doran. This event took a very long and hard month to set up and assemble. The obstacles were changed, moved and added to, and changed again many times. My poor little horse, Donna's Bold Chex, had only been to one Trail Trial in her life. She rode this course so many times, I think she rode it in her sleep. She only put her hoof down once in frustration. When I asked her to pull that darn tree backwards, she objected! Many thanks to California State Region 6 coordinator Sheila Daley who came out many times to help change and counsel me on different obstacles. She has the most wonderful Peruvian Paso that pulled that tree just fine. Sheila was so easy to work with and so wise

that I just cannot thank her enough. Last month Sheila was appointed to be State Director of the newly CSHA sanctioned Trail Trials. She was a great help to us and will be a wonderful California State Horsemen's director.

The night before the event we got many of our judges together to show them their obstacles and give them the opportunity to become familiar with this event and each other. A nice dinner was cooked for them by my son Robert, with help from Donnie Crochran and my wonderful employee and friend, Carol Wright. Bruce and I were not much help because even though we started at 8:00 a.m., we were still flagging and tagging until after dark.

The help we got from SMCHA members was wonderful. Janet and Jim Estep were there bright and early Friday. They worked all day long setting up Halloween decorations and doing anything that needed to be done. Jody Gebhart was there creating great Halloween scenes and directing. Diane Hicks worked her little tail off moving hay and doing "whatever".

**T**he day of the event started out with the llama not showing up for the first obstacle, called Llama Land. Gene Erickson arrived and saved the day by thinking up our new first obstacle: "stock trailer full of witches". Judges' sheets, even though I had them two hours before the event started, did a Halloween disappearing act, but my wonderful spouse drove somewhere and made lots of copies. So by 10:00 a.m., thanks to Linda Menon's shoulder, I was calm (ha!) and ready.

The day turned out wonderfully! We had 32 SMCHA members that were judges and judges' assistants. They were so good, so helpful, and so cheery that more than a dozen contestants came up to me after the event to say what a wonderful group of judges we had. We did not have a single complaint. That is fantastic when you consider that we had 80 riders. Our registrars and score posters were the best ever. What a spectacular job everyone did! I just can't thank them enough and can't finish this without naming names. If I have left out anyone, please forgive me.

*continued*

## Trail Trials, continued

First I want to thank Sue Bossie for arranging the wonderful ham radio people. They spent the whole day with us roaming the course with their radios in case of an emergency. I'm sorry I can't remember any of their names, but they did a great job!

Thanks to the wonderful desk people who registered folks, collected money, and helped people sign on the right lines, then tabulated scores and posted them. They were Vera Goldsmith, Ann Kirby, Larry Pelzner, Judy Baskin, and last but not least, Sheila Daly. I know there were more because wonderful helpers kept coming and going.

Obstacle judges and helpers were: (1) Trailer Land - Diane Hicks; (2) Snowy River - Joe Driscoll and Sue Bossie; (3) Headless Horsemen - Pam Dearborn and Frank Gagiardo; (4) Quicker Slicker - Bill and Jan Opper; (5) Blindman's Bluff - Nan and Kevin Daley; (6) Nag Forest - Barbara and Nick Marcelli; (7) Grand Canyon - Kim McCarthy and Virginia Darrow; (8) Lillie Tomlin - Bob Clements and Lorena Heatley; (9) Behind the Figure Eight - Bonnie Helleving and Gail Plakos; (10) Water Pull - Janet and Jim Estep for advance and Claire Rittenhouse for novice; (11) Freddie Kruger Swamp - Cheryl Kruezer and friends; (12) Trick or Treat - little witches Erin and Danielle Roberts, Bill Baskin and Ann Farris; (13) Scary Jump Tush Push - Lucy Billings and Jeanne Muylaert; (14) Walking Sideways - Sheldon Brandenburger and Norma; (15) Pig Haven — Linda Menon and Sue Anderson; (16) That's All Folks - Doris Lantz and Ashley Bouskos.

Thanks to the wonderful people from CTETA horse park, Diane and Chuck, for all their help and letting us use the park markers and numbers for our obstacles.

Thank you to Bruce Baker for parking help and running food and drinks to our judges and assistants, moving out-houses, and help in clean-up afterwards. Thanks to Sissy Baskin and Bruce Doran in helping with the little kids' pony rides and to Gene Erickson for the ponies (and wild

pig). Thanks for cooking the food and serving dinner, breakfast and lunch: Bruce Doran, Donnie Cockran, Robert Tozi, and Carol Wright. Thank you to Donnie, Robert and Bruce Doran for the days of cleaning up after the event. Thank you to B&D Tack for donating prizes 2nd through 4th in Advance, Novice, and Junior and 1st through 3rd in costume category and to Environsafe for donating prizes 5th through 7th in all categories.

Most of our riders competed in costumes and we gave prizes to the Devil, a Jester and a Clown.

Trail Trials is a new event in the California State Horsemen's Association and it's catching on like wild fire. It's an event everyone can enjoy regardless of tack, attire, or breed of horse. It is just like trail riding but with fun obstacles along the way. You can compete or just go and school your horse, but if you join the CSHA Trail Trials program you can compete for year-end awards.



## THE PRESIDENT'S RIDE

by Bruce Baker

Forty-five riders got to enjoy a wonderful ride and lunch as we rode through the La Honda Hills this past October. The ride started at the pond in La Honda and we stopped for lunch up in the hills near Yerba Buena Nursery. The lunch spot was a very beautiful place, and we were all able to enjoy a very large pond and had some fun on the rope swing.

For lunch we had a fantastic barbecued lunch prepared by Jeff Finney. There was plenty of good food and drinks available to quench our appetites and thirst. Thank you to Jeff and his helpers, the Hopper family.

There were 12 past presidents in attendance. Next year we hope even more people will come and enjoy this beautiful ride.

## DORIS LANTZ PRESIDENT OF REGION 6

by Donna Tozi

November 9, 10 and 11 was the California State Horsemen's Convention held this year at Buena Park. Doris and I went to represent SMCHA and Region 6. We sat through two 8-hour sessions of rule making. This means rules were added and taken away and changed with lots of discussion and heated arguments! SMCHA is one of the larger groups in CSHA with 22 votes so it was very important that we were represented there.

One of the things that came before the floor to be voted on was adding Trail Trials as a new category to the rule book. A committee had worked on all the new rules and regulations but it was important that we were there to vote it into the rule book.

The evening of the 10th was the night our own Doris Lantz was installed and sworn in as the new President of Region 6. This is the first time we have had a region president from SMCHA in many years. This is a big job! She is in charge of everything that happens in Region 6 which stretches from Santa Cruz County to San Francisco. That means horse shows, gymkhana, trail rides and trail trials. She is in charge of the monthly meeting that I hope will now be held locally. Of course she picks chair people to head committees and offices. The new treasurer of Region 6 is our own Sissy Baskin.

Saturday night, November 10th, we were all dressed in our finest western attire. The new state president, Gary Gustafson, swore all the new state officers into their offices in a candlelight ceremony. It was so pretty! The swearing in took about an hour. After that we all congratulated the new officers and then sat down to a wonderful dinner. The evening was so marvelous just to be able to meet and visit with horse people from all over the state.



The reason it is so important for our us (SMCHA) and all the small and individual horse groups to be members of this state group is because this is the only way horse people will ever be able to have all the things we enjoy but are in danger of losing. Being a member gives us lobbying power. We have a state person that goes to Washington, D.C. whenever a trail's issue is discussed. This person also travels all over the state to keep our trails open. As with any political

climate, when the numbers come up and the politicians see how powerful the state horsemen are in membership, it just helps all of us.

It's a great group of people, with a love for horses and dedication to do the best they can do for the betterment of all of us horse lovers.

Because Doris is one of our members it will probably be up to us to put on a few fund raisers for the State. I sure hope we can count on our membership for help in the future! It's a good cause and I think it will be fun to show the Region how good we are at SMCHA in support of horse lovers.





## TRAILERING 101

by Mike Hertert

In the past two newsletters, we covered a lot of ground discussing giving your horse a smooth ride. While I feel that a smooth ride is the most important thing to remember, it's not the only thing.

Because it is now winter time, let's talk a little about rain, snow, and your driving. Whenever you are hauling in anything but clear, dry weather it is imperative that you increase the margin between you and the vehicle in front. Even if it's cloudy, I have my headlights on. If it is raining, be sure to close the vents above the horse so that he is not getting wet. Your side windows should provide enough ventilation for the trip. The main thing is SLOW down and pay attention. Speaking of slowing down, any time you're towing a trailer, your speed limit is still 55. By the way, the automotive supply stores sell a product called Rain-X and when applied to your windows and mirrors the water and snow rolls right off. Also, anti-fog products are available for the inside of your windshield that work very well.

Moving on to snow conditions. I've had some requests to include information on this subject, so I consulted a couple of professionals and they gave me some tips which I will pass on to you. The first tip I got is "just don't do it!", if there is ANY way around it. If you can, watch the weather reports and adjust your trip around known weather storms. Another idea is to hire a professional to drive your rig through the snowy parts and then be on your way. Now that we have exhausted those options, suppose you get stuck in an unexpected storm. First thing is SLOW DOWN (I think I said that before!). It's imperative that you don't make any sudden reactive moves. Be prepared to chain up your trailer even though you may have 4-wheel drive. Also, remember to adjust your electric brake box a little to prevent the trailer tires from locking up. Then get behind the slowest big truck you can find and follow it.

Scott Crandall suggests that if you are already up in the mountains, and a storm is "a brewin'", you

might want to consider putting on your chains ahead of time instead of having to do it after you have dug your trailer out. In addition, keep a tarp to lay on and that all important flashlight! Scott also mentioned that he prefers traction cables for his trailer because they are lighter and easier to install. One last thing, keep a roll of paper towels and some window cleaner with you and keep those windows and mirrors clean.

For you folks who don't get out much during the rainy season, here are some winterizing ideas. When parking your trailer in areas other than paved or cemented areas, pull it up onto some wood planks to keep the tires from sinking into the mud. This also goes for the trailer jack. When cranking the jack up, raise the front pretty high to promote drainage. Close those vents in the roof and tip the mats up against the walls to keep water from being trapped between the mats and floors (as long as you're standing there, check those floorboards!). Clean out those feed mangers. Firstly, it grows mold, something that isn't real popular with horses, and secondly, the manger area is the second most likely area for rust to start. Be sure to use a putty knife and get all the hardened stuff out of the corners (pretty important because that's where the rust starts). Don't forget to oil all your hinges with WD-40 and hit that trailer plug, too.

If you want to cover your trailer, don't use plastic sheeting. Tarps or covers that breathe are very important. I also recommend removing all leather or fabric items from your tack compartments because they will get moldy.

I would also like to take a moment to remind the readers of our responsibility to be conscientious of others during our trips. Please be aware of your surroundings when parking so as not to block others in at public parks. In addition, clean up after your horse. Take ALL YOUR hay and manure and shavings, throw it back into YOUR trailer, and take it back to YOUR barn and dispose of it properly. Other people who aren't horsemen shouldn't have to encounter our messes.

Drive safely and happy trails.

*The following article was presented at a Rotary Club meeting by Jim Estep. Dozens of horsemen, the members of the Mounted Patrol, Los Viajeros, The Shack, and SMCHA spent hours and days working to make this horse camp the success it is! — Clem Carroll*

## **JACK BROOK HORSE CAMP: CONCEPTION, INCEPTION, RECEPTION**

*by Doug Moody*

One person's dream can evolve into another person's objective to become the enjoyment and benefit for others.

In the story of the Jack Brook Horse Camp near La Honda, in San Mateo County, one man's idea became a reality over a period of years because the original idea was sound and obtainable as long as the participants remained motivated and the reality of the idea was feasible.

What is now called the Jack Brook Horse Camp was conceived by a rancher in La Honda many years ago. During the summer time, he would entertain his equestrian friends on the property in the coastal mountains above La Honda. They would trail ride, camp out, and enjoy the countryside. It was a great experience for all those who were friends of Pete Town, the ranch owner.

As ranching changed, the family chose to sell a large part of the land to San Mateo County and become part of Memorial County Park. One of Pete's dreams was to utilize the small ranch headquarters as the foundation for a horse camp. One of his friends was the Park and Recreation Director of San Mateo County, who like others, cherished the times on horseback, riding in the mountains and having access to the already existing adjacent county park and trails.

When San Mateo County purchased the ranch over twenty years ago, Pete's wishes would come true because Jack Brook, the Park's director, visualized the idea and carried the project into obtaining funds to start the process. The public funds were officially recognized in the Department's budget. As timing would have it, soon after the money was to be available for the project, the now famous Proposition 13 came into effect, changing the original amount of funds from \$135,000 to \$35,000.

At this time, a few interested citizens who had been casually involved because of their horse-related friendship with Pete Town and Jack Brook were recruited into the project. The citizen participation really became strong when \$7,000 of the \$35,000 was spent by the County through inter-departmental charges for the drawing of the architectural plans. It was obvious the money would be consumed at the administrative level before anything would physically be built at the horse camp.

**B**y good fortune the few citizens involved immediately went to work to keep the idea and plans moving forward. They turned to the local horse organizations in San Mateo County and began to tap the many resources of these groups, people-power. From the groups' membership, the various skills and talents were called into service.

A citizen's advisory group became very involved with the county to make plans and give ideas so the camp would be designed for the people who would use the camp and then have an interested part in the camp being a success. Numerous fund raising events were organized to make a construction fund for the camp. Over a three year period, thousands of people hours were donated to build the camp facilities at the ranch site. Through the network of all the clubs' members, the needed materials and skills were utilized. An ongoing relationship was established with the involved citizens and the County Park and Recreation Department. New friendships were created from working together and keeping the vision of the camp as a target of success.

Many projects were completed due to the efforts and cooperation between the county personnel and the local horse organizations. A water system was installed which entailed over 3,500 feet of water lines and a large water tank. A new roof was put on the old

barn and cabin, old fences were removed and new fences built, brush and fallen trees were cleared and firewood collected. A restroom/shower building was the single largest undertaking and it was designed and constructed by volunteers. Road work was done to improve the access into the camp. Corrals were constructed to hold the horses and railroad ties were used as tie posts for more horses. BBQ fire pits, tables, and storage boxes were set up to make the camp user friendly. As the camp continued to become a reality, volunteers began to branch out and scout the countryside to make recommendations to the County for riding and hiking trails which would connect into the existing trails in Memorial Park. From the logging era, old skid roads were some of the foundations for the trail routes. The county obtained the services of a professional trail building team to create and transform the routes into long-lasting, properly designed and constructed hiking and riding trails.

**A**fter the three years of planning and building the camp, a formal dedication was held in 1981. The camp was finally ready to be enjoyed by all the people who had contributed to the project. Since the opening, the camp has had steady and continued use by horse people from all over northern California. The local community of horse people have something to be proud of and because of their involvement, will have a special place to enjoy for years to come.

In most recent years, the local horse organizations have continued to communicate and participate with the County Parks and Recreation Department to oversee the ongoing operations of the camp. At least twice a year

discussions are held to review the current year's activities and plan for the upcoming year's schedule. The local clubs continue to provide people power when there are specific work projects to maintain the camp and do work on the hiking and riding trails. With this type of continued commitment, the camp can continue to serve the equestrian community.

From the progression of the steady camp use, another horse supported activity is now utilized in the San Mateo County Park system. A few years ago a volunteer mounted patrol unit was organized to assist the park rangers serve the public while visiting the parks. They act as eyes and ears for the rangers and monitor areas in the parks to which the rangers don't have immediate access.

In summary, the venture of one man's dream has been converted into action by the persistence of a group of people with a common goal, traveling the path of collaboration, negotiation, and cooperation. The dream of the camp was the conception, the building of the camp was the inception, and the ongoing use and enjoyment of the camp is the reception.



## HORSE INSURANCE

by Adda Quinn Sublett

The cost of raising, keeping, showing or training a horse represents a financial and emotional commitment. Consideration needs to be given whether your animal should be protected for both financial and emotional reasons, and whether you have adequate protection from the litigious times in which we live.

Basic equine insurance is offered for:

### Mortality

Full: life insurance during the policy period or

Limited: life insurance coverage for specific risks

Equine Surgical Insurance can be added as an endorsement once you opt for Mortality coverage

### Liability

#### Mortality and Surgical

Full Mortality Insurance can cover foals, stallions, yearlings, mares and geldings of any breed. It insures your horse for a variety of causes of death, including death by humane destruction due to illness or accidental injury. It includes theft and transportation protection, plus other circumstances, depending on the policy. Limited Mortality Insurance covers you only for the cause of death or destruction caused by instances specifically listed in the policy. To establish and renew these policies generally requires an annual veterinarian check and certification, and completion of a new/renewal application, so plenty of lead-time should be allowed to assure no lapse in coverage once you obtain it.

Equine Surgical Insurance, which covers emergency surgery due to injuries, illness, etc., is usually treated as an added endorsement to a Mortality policy, and is not effective unless it is specifically requested. To obtain it as part of your mortality insurance may require completion of a separate application form. Be sure to check. This

add-on insurance covers the full cost of surgery in cases where the animal's life is being threatened and a portion of costs for the surgeon's miscellaneous charges (anesthesia, hospitalization, x-rays, lab tests, prostheses, etc.). It does not cover castration, cosmetic surgery, caslicks, or pre-existing conditions. Deductibles for surgery characteristically can range from \$50 to \$250 per incident. For most insurers, surgical procedures that become necessary due to an injury are covered from the effective date of the policy. Surgery needed because of an illness may require a 30-day waiting period from the effective date of the policy. Be sure to learn what illness or injuries are reportable even if immediate surgery is not required, especially where show horses are concerned.

Determining a horse's value involves many factors. Purchase price of the animal is a good place to start, with an increase in value if earnings or winnings are involved in race or show horses. Try not to consider actual costs to replace the animal, or loss of any profits which will not be considered part of your horse's actual value for insurance purposes. A horse of the age of 15 years may not be insurable for full mortality (and hence medical), or it will be very expensive if it can be done at all. A horse valued over \$25,000 probably ought to have Mortality/Surgical Insurance to protect an investment.

Once you assign a value to your horse, the insurance agent assigns a percentage rate to calculate the premium for Mortality. For example,

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \$6,000 & \times & 4.0\% \\ \text{Value} & & \text{Rate} \end{array} = \begin{array}{l} \$240 \\ \text{Annual Premium} \end{array}$$

My ten-year-old pleasure quarter horse rated out as follows:

$$\$2,500 \times 3.8\% = \$95/\text{year Full Mortality}$$

To add on Equine Surgical Insurance for my mare would be an additional \$85 per year, or a total of \$180 per year for Full Mortality and Surgical coverage with a \$50 deductible per surgical incident. My twenty-one-year-old Arab gelding, IF I could get insurance, would rate out at \$450 per year which is

Continued on page 13

about half of his total value, and thus an imprudent investment for us, despite the emotional value we place on him.

### Liability

Equine Liability Insurance protects the policy holder for claims that may be made against you whenever your actions or your horse's behavior presents a risk to property or people, regardless of whether your animal is on your own property or elsewhere.

Many homeowners' policies cover pleasure horse related claims. The first step in discovering whether you are covered is to ask your homeowners' policy agent: "Does my liability insurance extend to acts caused by or involving my horse(s), and to what extent?" Describe examples of the kind of accidents that can befall horses and assess the answers. If your agent waffles on this knowledge, make him find out for certain, because some homeowners' policies consider this a gray area. While they might defend you in court against a claim, they may not pay damages you incur. Do not rely on assumptions that you are covered. If you have any relationships which involve exchange of money in regard to your horse (e.g., if you lease out), you may well be advised to secure a commercial liability package. As with any consumer purchase, it pays to shop prices. A friend who leases his pleasure horse ended up purchasing personal liability with additional commercial coverage because of his lease agreement to a third party. He recently got quotes of \$250 and \$500, respectively, from separate carriers for the same coverage.

If you are a trainer, breeder, or operate a business boarding, running a riding club, or sponsoring horse shows, you should investigate coverage which is offered specific to your type of operation. Liability insurance typically may run as follows:

\$300,000	\$150 per year
\$500,000	\$195 per year
\$1 million	\$250 per year

Prices quoted for Equine Liability Insurance can be competitive, and often begin as low as \$40 per horse. However, most liability is subject to a mini-

mum premium amount closer to \$150 as cited above. Certain liabilities and exclusions apply, so be sure to understand what it is that you are purchasing.

While there are undoubtedly local resources available, the novice delving into the question of "whether to do what?" can have a difficult time locating them and deciding on a course of action. The two resources which proved most helpful to this researcher were Equisport, P.O. Box 938, Birmingham, MI 48012 (Mr. Don Graves at 1-800-432-1215) which produces a nifty little booklet called "A Question & Answer Guide to Equine Coverage", and Associations Underwriters, Inc., 2209 Maryland Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21218 (phone: 1-800-336-2378). Providing these references does not constitute making an endorsement of either firm.

Many thanks to Ed Thomas for consultation on this article.

## COLOR GUARD AT COW PALACE

by Diane Hawks

In October SMCHA was represented at the Cow Palace opening night ceremonies by our Color Guard.



## GENERAL MEETING CHARTER OAKS, NOV. 7, 1995

by *Donna Tozi*

It was at this meeting that your new Board was introduced to the membership. Be prepared in 1996 to have one of our best years ever! We have 12 of the most enthusiastic new people joining us on our SMCHA Board this year. We can't help but be great! After all the introductions we sat down to a wonderful meal — if you've missed a pot-luck dinner cooked by our membership, you missed a good feed! I gained 5 pounds in one night.

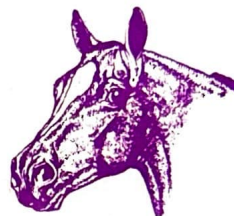
Next on the program was our own local SMCHA member and veterinarian, Doug Novick. He talked about navicular disease in horses, outlining the symptoms, the diagnosis and the treatment options available. This horrible hoof problem used to be a death sentence for a horse. Now, with a combination of proper and therapeutic shoeing, appropriate drugs and physical therapy, the vast majority of cases can be helped. For those horses which do not respond to this treatment, two surgeries are effective. Dr. Novick showed slides and answered questions from the audience.

*Doris Lantz and Donna Tozi*



Dr. Novick is a nice guy and a wonderful vet. I've known him for a number of years — it's fun to kid him about his eastern accent. He has written articles on equine sports medicine for *Horse Illustrated*, *Quarter Horse Journal*, *California Horse Review*, *Endurance News*, and KNBR radio's Sports Page 68 with Ralph Barbari. Dr. Novick also does identification microchips to prevent horse theft. A good idea! To reach him call (415) 855-9626.

Thanks once again to Gladys Martines for letting us use her wonderful barn at Charter Oaks for our meeting.



*New Board members—*

*Standing: Joe Squillacioti, Nancy Brown, Lou Kostura, Virginia Magliano-Darrow, Nan Daley  
Below: Jeannie Muylaert, Diane Hicks, Lorena Heatley, Chris Romano-Puckett*





## NOTES FROM NOEL

by Noel Moody

Welcome to the New Year! We have had a lull in horse activities while everyone enjoyed the holidays but our favorite steeds have also enjoyed the hours of relaxation in this time of early darkness. So, my notes are lacking except that our President, Donna Tozi, welcomed a gorgeous new grandson just before Christmas.

SMCHA receives press releases from the AQHA on a regular basis. Last night I was reading that Rillito Park in Tucson, Arizona, had been honored with an AQHA Historical Market for holding Quarter Horse races since 1943. It might not mean anything to you, but to me the words Rillito Park brought back fond memories. I was on the rodeo team at the University of Arizona and the team kept the horses at the Flying V Ranch which adjoined Rillito Creek. I would ride past Rillito Park every time I rode. I saw Lightning Bar, the sire of Doc Bar, win the Grand Champion Stallion Award at the Tucson Q.H. Show in the morning and win the feature race at Rillito Park in the afternoon. He was the most gorgeous horse I have ever seen and he is still my ideal. He had a gorgeous poll area that Doc Bar inherited from him; he possessed a huge hip, and very correct legs, and was loaded with tons of refinement. He also had a reaching stride and free movement that would have satisfied any dressage person's criteria. He had a presence that said, "Look at me! Aren't I something special?" Unfortunately he contracted Colitis-X virus after a stay at the fairgrounds and passed away at age eleven along with every horse on Art Pollard's ranch except four. All the yearlings, two-year-olds, and brood mares died. All of the champion runners owned by Art Pollard by Lightning Bar died including Hula Girl, Chinchilla, Little Nellie Bars, and Manor Man. It was a heartbreaking disaster.

If you would enjoy reading more about Lightning Bar and other famous Quarter Horses, I recommend Legends, Vol. 1 and Vol. 2. Volume 1 contains

legends like Doc Bar, King and Poco Bueno. Volume 2 contains stories about Traveler (another favorite of mine), Sugar Bars, My Texas Dandy, Old Joe Bailey, Peter McCure, Driftwood and others.

What else should you read? How about Horse Whisperer? It's a horse "Covered Bridges of Madison County", i.e., a romance that is so exciting you won't be able to put it down. Then for nostalgia, the Will James books have been reprinted after a thirty year hiatus. When I was twelve I read five of his books. I decided the west was for me. My horse was a Quarter Horse and I would never ride English again. I haven't and I'm still trying to be a cowgirl. For Christmas this year I bought my other half Cowboys North and South and The Drifting Cowboy, and I am enjoying them both. The drawings are wonderful and it's worth getting the books just for them.



If you buy a new horse, win something, or want to brag a bit, let me know. Call Noel at (415) 322-6545 and leave a little tidbit of news. Then I can write *Notes from Noel*.

See you at SMCHA events.

## IN MEMORIAM

Our condolences go out to the families of two of our long-time SMCHA supporters who we lost in January.

**AL DUNN**, recently living in Mariposa, was SMCHA President in 1969.

**RUTH MEREDITH**, wife of Ross Meredith, was an active member of the Sequoia Auxiliary and a long-term supporter of the horse community. She helped Ross start the senior playdays 27 years ago and run the Woodside Stables for 47 years. They have lived in Woodside since 1948.

## LUNGE LINE LOGIC

by Richard Winters

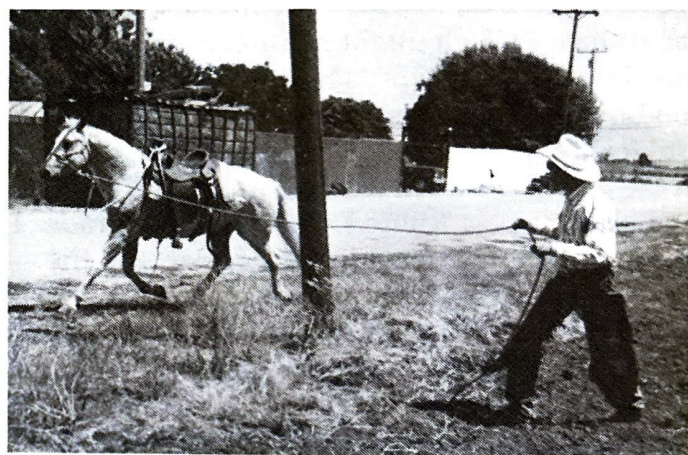
Lunging horses. What do you picture in your mind? A flat, 30-foot nylon lunge line. A lunge whip. Maybe draw reins and a surcingle. Step out to the arena. Lunge 10 minutes to the left, then 10 minutes to the right. Okay, now he's warmed up, right? Maybe yes, maybe no. You have worked him physically, that's true. You can see the sweat pouring off him. Yet to have a horse physically fit and warmed up is not enough. Your horse must also be psychologically and emotionally fit and ready to ride.



*Using different terrain can make lunging interesting for your horse.*

Horses will often begin their lunging exercise and simply tune out mentally. Lunging should not simply be a physical exercise, but rather a mental exercise. Let's exercise his mind and I promise you, his body will follow.

There are a lot of ways to accomplish this. Use your imagination. Begin by changing your thinking. Instead of thinking "lunge", think "send". Send your horse away like you would send your stock dog around some cattle. Give him a definite job to do and a definite place to go.



*You can send your horse around a pole or tree.*

Lunging can be made more interesting by simply moving. You don't have to stay in one place. If you are in the arena, send your horse out into a circle. After a couple times around, start to drift. Make your way towards the other end of the arena. Now work your way back. These are the kind of things that will keep your horse's mind interested and engaged.

Teach your horse to change directions at the end of the line. Start small at first (12 feet is good). As your horse is traveling around, reach down the line towards his head and tip him to you. When he has disengaged his hindquarters (turned them to the outside of the circle), use your rope, stick or whip to send his front end away in the opposite direction. It



*Let the pole turn your horse. Then send him off the other way.*

*continued*



will be important that your horse understands how to yield his hind end and front end away. Don't allow him to come in towards you when he turns.

Obstacles and uneven terrain are also great things to incorporate into your lunging program. Send your horse out to the end of the line. Then drift towards a jump or obstacle. He will be thinking all the way down to his feet. Do you have a hillside, creek bed or other uneven terrain? Send your horse up and over or down and through some of these things. All of these exercises begin to give purpose to the otherwise mundane lunging principles he learned in the arena.

Send your horse around a tree, pole or post. Allow that post to change his direction. Step to the other side and send him off the other way. Practice all these things at shorter lengths of rope at first and increase the length as you and your horse gain proficiency. Start with a 12-foot lead rope. Then you can go to 25 feet. Then to 50 feet.

Lunging does not have to be a boring, mundane activity. It can be exciting for you and your horse. Remember: Exercise his mind. His body will follow!

*Richard Winters owns and operates Horse Foundations in San Juan Bautista, California. He specializes in starting and developing young horses. Also, much of his time is given to helping people develop their equine communication skills.*

*Richard conducts Colt Starting and Horsemanship Clinics throughout the Western United States and at his home ranch in San Juan Bautista.*

*For further information about Horse Foundations or scheduling a clinic in your area, call or write:*

*Richard Winters, Horse Foundations  
200 Mission Vineyard Road  
San Juan Bautista, CA 95045*

*(408) 623-4944*

## CALIFORNIA STATE HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION



*by Doris Lantz, President,  
Region 6*

This year is going to be an exciting year with lots of things happening. I hope everyone will participate in the many activities. We have several new faces on the board who will head

some new events that will be offered. We still need volunteers to head some of the committees so we can make this a real active Region. What a great Region to be a member of.

Did you know that your membership in SMCHA automatically makes you a member of California State Horsemen's Association (CSHA) and that you are eligible to participate in any CSHA program?

What is CSHA and what is its purpose? CSHA was conceived by horse people, for horse people, and founded in 1942 to promote the interests of horsemen throughout the State of California.

There are many programs offered by CSHA which provide the opportunity to enhance horsemanship, compete in many different areas at an amateur level, and provide a positive image of horses and horse lovers to the general public.

CSHA provides collective input and pressure at the legislative level on matters related to horsemen.

CSHA promotes and assists in the acquisition, development and maintenance of trails throughout the state.

CSHA develops and sponsors various equestrian related programs with standard rules and regulations to provide consistency.

CSHA promotes the sponsorship of rodeos, horse

*continued*

## CALIFORNIA STATE HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION, continued

shows, parades, and any other horse related activity.

CSHA shares experience and knowledge among members and other organizations.

CSHA publicizes region and club activities so everyone knows what's going on.

CSHA is separated into regions based on county boundaries. SMCHA members are part of Region 6 which includes the counties of San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Cruz and Santa Clara.

Your active participation is needed and encouraged in order to ensure the success of Region 6 in promoting horsemanship in our area. If you have a special interest in any of the following areas, we would love your input and help:

Drill Team  
English/Western Shows  
Equestrian Trails Patrol  
Miss CSHA Contest  
Parade  
Gymkhana  
Horse Shows  
Trails  
Horsemastership  
Endurance Trail Ride  
Equine Medical Research  
Gaited Horse  
Trail Rider Award Program  
Night at the Cow Palace  
Juniors  
Trail Trials

I hope everyone will participate in these events, and help make this Region the great Region that it is. I am looking forward to being the President this year and keeping this Region active and fun as in all the past years.

Please call me if you can help. My home number is (415) 366-5475 and work is (415) 583-7800. I am looking forward to hearing from you.

## GET READY FOR FUN!

by Ed Thomas

**WANTED:** 10-12 riding companions who want to have a great time.

**WHEN:** Any time you can get away for a few days and the trails are dry.

**WHERE:** The County Inn at Point Reyes Station.

In October, Cathy and Josh Hatcher's long planned for and well thought out excursion to the County Inn at Point Reyes Station came to fruition. The Country Inn is a wonderful, recently rebuilt, six room bed and breakfast that has a great barn and caters to horse folks.

The rooms are nicely decorated and interestingly placed in the two story inn. A wonderful deck and a useful kitchen also added to our enjoyment. The barn is an excellent facility, has ten box stalls, five of which have paddocks and a large turnout area that our horses loved. You bring your own feed and cleaning is included in the price. Since our group filled all of the rooms, as soon as we checked in Tom, the proprietor, said "adios" and that he would be back in the morning to serve us breakfast. We dived into hors d'oeuvres, opened the wine and had time to relax and converse as Josh barbecued his famous and delicious butterflied leg of lamb.

We left Woodside Friday morning, had lunch at Sam Taylor Park, rode the park and subsequently went to the Inn. Saturday, after a scrumptious breakfast, we trailered to the Stewart Ranch and rode to the Point Reyes Headquarters Center. We were unable to ride extensively in the that area due to the recent fire, so we went to Olema where we had a tasty lunch at the Olema Inn. There are good tie-up areas and you can see your horses from the deck where we ate. After lunch we rode back to our trailers and trailered back to the Country Inn.

Saturday night we drove about twenty minutes away to the Nicassio bar and restaurant for some dancing and dinner. The food was abundant and

*continued*

it was fun to be able to dance. They played lots of western tunes. Sunday morning we had another tasty breakfast, went into Point Reyes to shop a little and then trailered over to Novato where we rode in the Olompali State Park. This was a great short ride and the area has historical interest. It has served as home to Miwok Indians, the Grateful Dead, and a few wealthy industrialists.

Heading home on Sunday afternoon we all had a sense of joy and that satisfying tired feeling that comes from a good time. The only minor casualties were that the Dick-tater received a bee sting; ET overshot the saddle getting on after lunch; and our cholesterol counts went up. With a congenial group of friends we all recommend this weekend. Many thanks to Cathy and Josh.

For more information talk to the Hatchers, Fancers, Sanders, Slatterys or Thomases. The Country Inn's number is (415) 663-9696, as for Tom. Rooms were \$125 per night and \$15 per night for the horses, people breakfast included.



*The Slatterys, The Fanchers, The Thomases, The Sanders, and Josh Hatcher (Cathy had to take the picture!)*



*Ready for fun at the Point Reyes Inn: Cathy and Josh Hatcher surrounded by Joyce Fancher, Dick Sanders, Bev Sanders, Dick Slattery, Barbara and Ed Thomas*



*Josh Hatcher and his sidekick, Julius*



*There are good tie-up areas at Olema and you can see your horses from the deck where we ate.*

## CLEM'S

by Clem Carroll

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*This is a story of a 99-year-old gentleman farmer who some 30 years ago started to experiment with ground alfalfa, oat hay and molasses — a mixture we today call All-In-One. A friend of his who was in charge of a number of successful horse stables asked Newt Robinson to grind three different batches of the above combination — one, a coarse grind; another one like a meal; and the third a 1/2 rich mix which seemed the best of all — the most popular with the horses. That time, neglected horses were purchased, fattened up, conditioned and were sold for children's beginner horses. There were a number of competitors at first, but gradually they all dropped out.*

*Newt seemed to be the only one who constantly experimented with various grains, barley for one, proportions another, oat hay that grew to no more than two feet — taller hay became straw. Word got around and "All-In-One" has been a success from the very beginning.*

*After serving in the Navy in World War I, he started farming on his own when he was 21 years old in the Stockton area, arising early to light a fire, cook his breakfast, dash out to the barn to feed his horses, check them for shoulder sores, their feet, harness them up to pull a plow for a day's work.*

*Quoting directly from one of Newt's letters:*

**T**he first three years after I started farming, I lived along and had to cook for myself. I did not have the money to hire a cook. I got up every morning at 4:45 a.m. After I lit the fire in the kitchen cook stove, my first job was to go to the barn and feed the horses and take care of any sore shoulders they may have, and then harness them. Then I rushed back to the house and cooked my breakfast. I learned how to make hot cakes and I could make real good hot cakes. After eating three

large hot cakes with butter and honey and some fried pork, I was ready for a day's work. I kept a milk cow, which furnished me with plenty of milk and butter. I also fed a pig to slaughter for meat. What a lousy job it was to kill and dress a pig. In those days, we salted down or smoked most of the meat to preserve it.

**A**fter the first three years of cooking for myself, I was able to afford to hire a nice lady to cook and do my housekeeping. The lady's last name was Stebbins. When I hired her, she had a son who was about 5 years old. The lady worked for me for about 7 years. It was great having someone cook breakfast after I finished taking care of my horses in the morning.

In the cold months, before the rains came, the ground was often covered with frost. You still plowed, walking beside your horses about 15 miles a day.

Then in about 1925, I was introduced to an organization, the Farm Bureau. At the first meeting I attended, there were five old men and myself. However, I could see the opportunity. I could not keep my mouth shut ever since that time. I got new ideas and was able to try out my own ideas. That is why I got heavily involved with the Farm Bureau. I started taking farming courses through the Extension Service of the University of California. I also watched my neighbors and what they did, and I tried to do better. Through reading, I discovered the tide waters in Middle River were higher at times than our farmland. So, I cut levees through to my land, and when tide came up, I let the water run wild to flood all the land I could.

The first crop I made money on was beans which I planted on land I flooded. I got a good crop. After that, I rotated beans and barley. By this time, I had accumulated 12 horses and 2 plows and could afford to hire a man to help with the plowing. A little later, I hired a second man to run the second plow team.

All through this time, I never went to the mountains with my friends to have fun. Instead, I stayed home and spent Sundays working as a blacksmith at the forge in my shop, repairing machinery.

To sharpen the plow shears, I heated the shears in the forge until they got red hot and then pounded them until they cooled to the point where they were no longer malleable. After they cooled completely, I put them back on the plows. It was not a fun lifestyle and I did not like it. But, I knew if I worked hard and improved myself, there could be gold awaiting on the other side of the mountain, so to speak. Soon I had several hundred acres of barley planted on rented land. Luckily, we got the right amount of rain to produce a real good crop.

At the same time, Europe was experiencing a drought and could not produce much barley. Since the Europeans used barley for making beer, the price of barley went up very high. I was offered \$1.65 per hundred weight but, I held out and finally sold it for \$1.80 per hundred weight.

Simultaneously, I experimented by planting about 5 acres of alfalfa on a low spot on the home ranch. Without irrigating, the alfalfa grew so tall it was half way between my knee and hip before it began to bloom. I cut the alfalfa with a mower pulled by two horses. Then I raked the rows of alfalfa to allow it to dry. After it was dry, I shocked it and loaded in onto wagons with a pitch fork. Later, we got a windrowing machine, which made it easier. I went all through the evolution of learning to take care of the alfalfa by allowing it to dry the right length of time to cure it in order to get a number one alfalfa crop.

**I**n 1928 I hit the jackpot with barley, pink beans and alfalfa, which I sold at the top of the market. I made over \$12,000 in 1928. At last I was free.

I went on a buying spree and bought a new model Caterpillar tractor. I purchased a 30-horsepower Caterpillar tractor that ran on steel tracks, new plows, discs, and harrows. To put it simply, I retooled and jumped from horse power to tractor power.

The Port of Stockton was opening up and before the crops were ready to harvest, I decided to visit various ports along the Gulf and Eastern seaboard to investigate the possibility of shipping alfalfa hay

to the dairy farmers along the Atlantic Coast. My good friend, Dahl Burnham, had a brother, Fred, who went with me on the trip that took 6 weeks.

The last port I went to was in New York. We drove from Boston to downtown New York City and went through the Holland Tunnel. I was scared to death. We saw a big hotel within 300 feet from where we came out of the tunnel. We drove up to the hotel and a valet gave us a ticket and parked our automobile. Before I knew it, there was a bellhop to take our luggage to our room. We went first class. The first thing we did was take a hot bath and change clothes. Then we walked toward mid-town New York. We stayed in New York 5 days, and I had gone out very early each morning in my new automobile to the farming area outside of the city to talk to dairymen and try selling alfalfa hay. The reception I received was overwhelming.

**O**n Sunday morning I remembered my friend, Al Smith, had asked me to do him a favor. He had given me his sister's name and phone number and asked me to call her while I was in New York. I called the number and talked to Isabelle Smith. She was surprised and happy to hear from two California boys. She told us she would meet us in the lobby of our hotel and spend a couple of hours with us. She explained she had plans to attend a musical event later in the afternoon.

Sure enough, she took the subway and met us about half an hour later. When she arrived, she asked us what we would like to see in New York. I remember reading about Coney Island and told Isabelle I would like to go there and walk on the boardwalk.

As it turned out, our hotel was very close to a subway train that took us to Coney Island. As soon as we got there, we walked from one end of the boardwalk to the other and never stopped talking. When it was time to leave, I shook hands with Isabelle and told her how much I had enjoyed our visit. She went her way and Fred and I went ours.

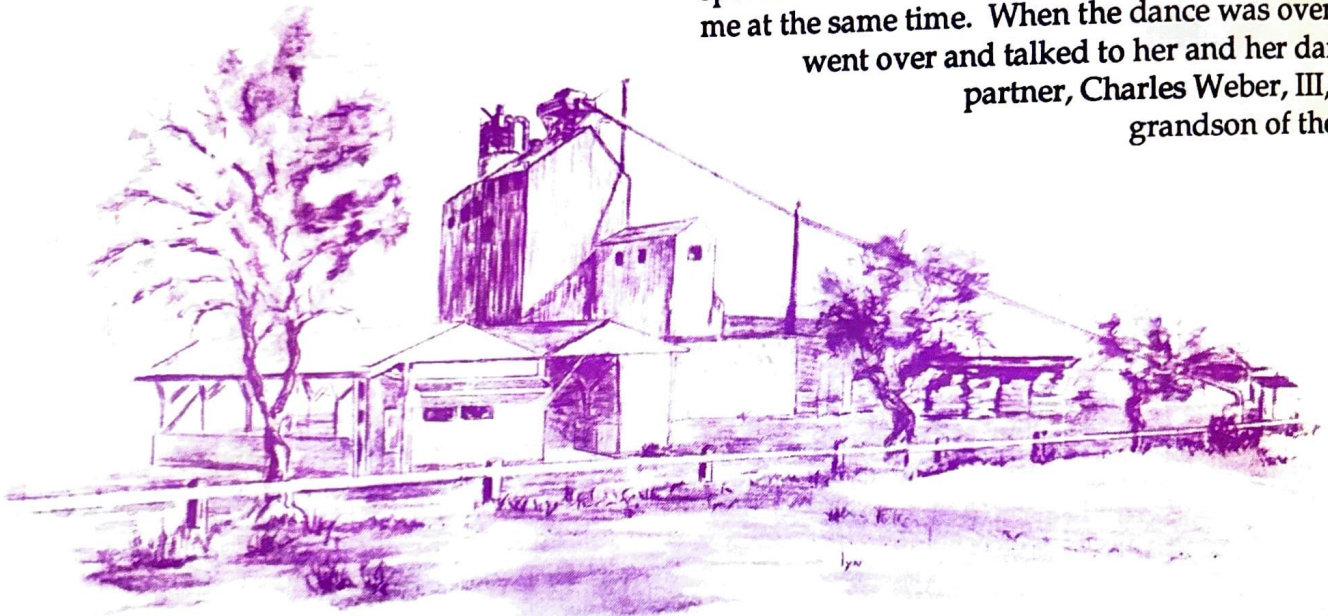
The next morning, I had to get up early and drive to Cornell University, where I was to meet with a professor, Dr. Morrison. The professor had written a book, "Feeds and Feeding", and I was interested

## Clem's Corner, continued

in discussing it with him. When we got to Cornell University, Professor Morrison was teaching a class of young men. He invited us into his classroom and he and his students asked us all sorts of questions about farming in California. It was almost noon when we left the classroom and I said to Fred, 'I have accomplished my mission. Now it is your turn. What would you like to do?'

Fred said, 'Let's go home.' I agreed. We got in the automobile and headed west. Four days later, we were home.

Three or four days after I got home, while I was driv-



ing a four-horse team with a Fresno scraper, I was breaking in a new horse. The new horse was a hard head. He kicked straight out and knocked me down and I was not able to get up. I was lucky when a neighbor came by and rescued me and took me and my horses home. Later, someone took me to a doctor and then to my parents' home in Stockton. The doctor found nothing wrong, except a huge bruise. My mother put packs on me and I stayed in bed.

While I was recuperating, a telegram arrived. My mother said it was for me ... not my father. I did not know of anyone who would send me a telegram. A man I had met in Hoboken, New Jersey, wanted to

buy 300 tons of alfalfa hay. It was very exciting. I had that much of my own hay on hand and I sold it to the man for \$6 a ton. I delivered it to the Port of Stockton, with the help of one of my men.

Hoboken is across the river from Manhattan. I remembered seeing a army warehouses that were used for commercial storage. That was the beginning of my export business to the Atlantic Coast.

Perhaps a year later, a friend told me about a dance that was being held at a beautiful place along the river in Lockeford. I agreed to go with him. While I was dancing with a young lady, I spotted Isabelle Smith on the dance floor. She saw me at the same time. When the dance was over I went over and talked to her and her dance partner, Charles Weber, III, the grandson of the

founder of Stockton. I asked Isabelle for the next dance and she accepted. She told me she had moved back home to take care of her parents.

Isabelle was a very smart, charming, knowledgeable person compared to the other young ladies I had met and danced with. She had more to talk about because she had been out in the world. In due time, Isabelle and I began to see each other more and more. We were both scared to death of marriage so, we had an ongoing sparing match for quite a while before we eventually made a commitment to each other. After a tug-of-war that last 4 years, we both surrendered to each other.

*continued*

### Clem's Corner, continued

When we came home from our honeymoon, Isabelle spent a day or two looking over our home and yard. At that time, we had 12 men working on the farm. In those days, we had a bunkhouse for the men to live in, and also a cook house with a cook who cooked for the men. Isabelle said to me, 'Newt, we could save money if I did the cooking.'

I said, 'Isabelle, I did not marry you to be a cook.'

Isabelle blushed and I said, 'No, I do not mean what you think I meant.' Then I told her if she would help me write letters and keep our books, that would be a great help.

After we were married for about one year, we wanted to have children and it was not going to happen. Isabelle went to her doctor and had physical examinations and tests and was told she could not physically have children.

After about a year, Isabelle said she had too much work to do by herself for the business so we hired another lady to work in the office with her. At one time we hired three ladies to work with Isabelle.

Isabelle and I went to the East Coast each summer for 5 years in a row when I was expanding our export business. We spent one month in New York with Isabelle's sister each time. I went out and hustled business during the day and Isabelle's sister and husband showed us around New York City at night.

One summer I flew to Chicago to attend an American Farm Bureau vegetable conference. I was on the National Committee of the Farm Bureau at the time. While I was there, I got a call from Janice in my office in California. She told me we had 300 tons of hay in route to Boston and the broker I had shipped it to had not lifted his draft. The ship was scheduled to arrive in Boston 48 hours later. That meant the hay would be unloaded onto the dock if it was not paid for before the ship reached Boston. Immediately I made arrangements to fly from Chicago to Boston. The next morning I found a man to drive me out into the country, where I found a buyer for my hay. What I considered a small fortune was

involved. Newt did not surrender and through his efforts made thousands of dollars — under the wire.

Nobody could have been luckier than I was. I have found that if you work hard enough and think hard enough, you can usually devise a way to come out of a mess. I was able to ship hay into Boston about 10 more times before the stevedores went on strike and the shipping companies sold their cargo boats, rather than settle the strike. The strike destroyed my business of exporting hay from the Port of Stockton to the East Coast.

Later I started shipping race horse feed to Venezuela and other foreign countries, including Japan and the Philippines."

*Newt's farming operations have continued to be successful because he has encouraged his two adopted sons and a nephew to follow his path of being hard workers and inventive. They are in their fifties now, raising college-trained children who are studying law and environmental subjects. Isabelle has spent a lifetime helping solve the many problems of the wives of the farm workers, always being ready to help in any emergency and also being an important part of the countless activities involving the women of farmers.*

*In closing, I wish to thank Gladys Martines of Charter Oak Farms for being such a gracious hostess to Newt Robinson and his grand-nephew Patrick Drury when they visited here in Woodside over the holidays.*



## THE HORSE COMES WITH THE PLACE

by *Chris Romano Puckett*

It was late May '91 and we looked at yet another fixer upper house. This house had a drooping old mare, who dutifully ignored the Realtors coaxing calls.

Nugget was born 3/12/62, in the pasture next door. Her dame was a Standardbred (trotter) and her sire a local Quarter horse named Copper, owned by the Golfs. The folks who built this house sold her to the next owners, the Wishards.

The owners' daughter told us about her mother, Betty, who had died weeks before, after a six-year battle with progressing disorientation. Betty's caretaker said sometimes Betty would feed Nugget many times a day, sometimes not at all. Nugget became so resourceful, making trails up into the watershed lands in search of food. Nugget was thin. Betty's husband said he had wanted to sell the home several years earlier, but Betty would ask "What about Nugget?" The house stayed off the market, Betty stubbornly stayed in the house, and Nugget stayed in the pasture, stubbornly refusing to die. The husband said he had a "love hate relationship with Nugget". He spoke of the holes in the barn made by Nugget's back feet.

Young Nugget was a hellion who threw riders, resulting in a concussion and a broken arm. Nugget was then sent to school. She then had a foal, which the daughter referred to as very homely. Nugget jumped, did trail, and some shows, all done with determination and heart. She especially loved to go on trailer rides. She was a confident horse.

In June '91, weeks went by, and we wondered if the house day would go through. Somehow the contract had only one contingency, that the property would come with "Nugget" a horse and all necessary tack. The deal closed, the husband throwing in a ton of hay.

A day after closing, we drove up, no Nugget. A girl came down the street leading Nugget. Breakfast was late and Nugget had helped herself out of her paddock and down the road. Timing is everything.

We have cats, but feeding hay twice a day was a shock. I started waking up earlier, aided by someone with four feet pacing below our bedroom window.

Manure was new. I seemed to be scooping up 5 gallons a day. We learned about manure composting, fly spray, fly traps, fly masks, tick removal, "Paramite", half-round shoes, senior horse chows, and vet bills. Nugget knew the value of good health care and raced out of our paddock up to the vet to get treated.

We were duly intimidated when we first tried to ride her. The daughter said Nugget liked a hackamore and bareback pad. Being timid I used bit and saddle. Nugget would raise the bridle and me off the ground, mouth clenched tight. When the girth was tightened, she chomped at me with huge long nasty teeth and ears laced back. Leaving the paddock she fooled us by limping extravagantly, even though she had walked flat moments before. It took a while before we realized we couldn't look at her legs until we were well down the street. We started with tiny rides, always getting off her on the downhill. Out on the trail, she would poke slowly along acting like she might die any moment, and then act like a fierce young filly all the way back, tossing head, walking out and raring to run.

Winter brought problems. The paddock muck was deep, Nugget refused to be in her barn, and her limp was earnest. We started graining her, and you would think she had died and gone to heaven. We tried different shoes to ease her steps, different medication to ease her joints. We wisely invested in rubber pads for her to stand on. In winter, Nugget had long curly hair, it's part of what made her Nuggetty. Older horses often get longer hair. Nugget's tummy hair would be up to three inches long, so she would sweat a lot. People would say, "Oh, yes, Nugget, that curly, sweaty horse."

Friends now started to say, "Nugget's amazing!"

*continued*



Nugget could walk out with the best of them, but there was no more running or jumping. How she wants to run, but ringbone is an inflexible pastern ailment. The vet said no running. So, we walked and trotted everywhere.

Nugget had grain, carrots, healthy exercise, vet care, love, but was missing an essential ingredient. Betty's daughter came to check on Nugget from time to time and point out that "Nugget would probably really like a gelding." The daughter cautioned, "We tried to put a mare in with her, a few years back, but she nearly kicked her to death." So, we got Snorty, a gelding, and when he arrived, Nugget was ferocious, ears back, ugly teeth bared. This lasted for about five minutes, until Snorty licked gently at her face. Ah, May-September romance. From that moment on Nugget had, and knew she had, her very own boy toy. Nugget was in love.

We continued to find out new things about Nugget. She loved to ride in trailers. She loved babies. She had a big fan club. People from the whole neighborhood came down the street with carrots for her. People who knew Betty would come by checking up on how well Nugget was doing. When we rode her to Roberts Market, she would be incensed if we dared offer her an apple instead of a carrot at the hitch rack. Doom to the human who dared take out her gelding without her! Blessed was the human who scratched and groomed her every morning. During the scratching, Nugget would move back and forth, positioning the scratcher where to scratch!

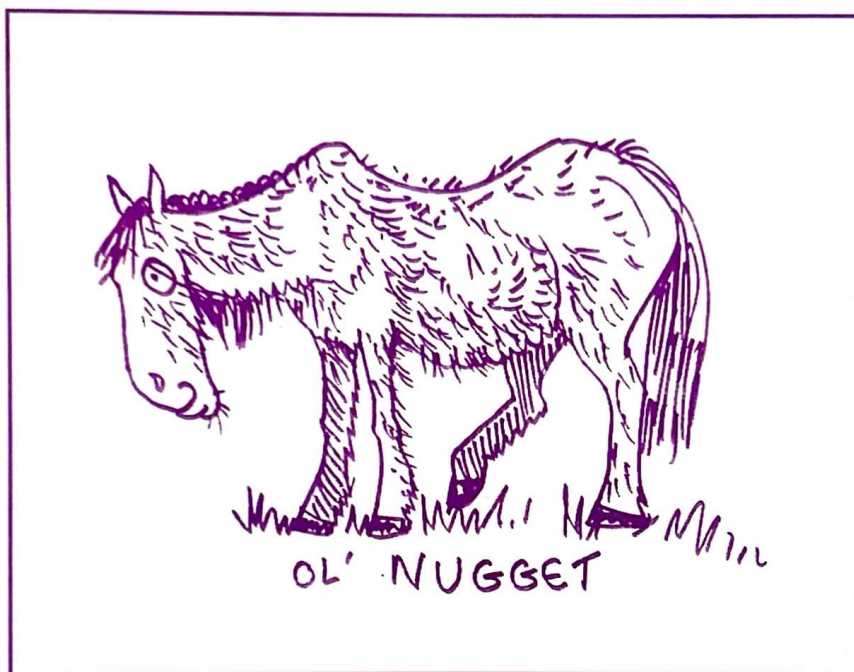
Nugget was Nuggetty. She did everything with

serious headstrong determination. She, a matriarch and grand dame. She was pathetic, sulky and crabby. She was trustworthy, gentle and patient. She had terribly rough, determined gaits, so she'd move down the road like this: "nuggetty, pluggetty, do, nuggetty, pluggetty, do, nuggetty, pluggetty, do."

During Nugget's last year, she began to bash herself, and be a bit dotty. We didn't know why. Then she somehow abraded her cornea and we had a bubble mask on her for several months. She was getting really "stovey", unless she was in season,

and she would sleep more and more. Riding had been out for a year. We consulted our vet, and put her down, at home, with a grain filled tummy. We were fortunate to have her company for four years. She introduced us to Woodside. She taught us so much about horse needs. It has been six months, and we still miss her. In our imagination,

we still see her going "nuggetty, pluggetty, do, nuggetty, do" down the road and into our hearts, forever. We were very lucky that the horse came with the place. Nugget, 3/62 - 7/95.



## 1996 CALENDAR

TENTATIVE


 February

14 - Board Meeting



3 - LV - Ft. Funston/GG Park Ride

4 - General Meeting

13 - Board Meeting

23 - CSHA Trail Trials Seminar/Workshop


 APRIL

10 - Board Meeting

14 - LV - Gilroy Hot Springs Ride

28 - Spring Ride

TBA - Jack Brook Work Day



4 - May Day Parade

4-5 - LV - Costa Ranch Ride

8 - Board Meeting

17 - General Meeting

28 - Western Clinic


 June

2 - LV - Garrod Ranch Ride

4,11,18,25 - Western Clinic

12 - Board Meeting

16 - Ride

27-30 - LV - Big Sur Ride

- English Show

- Western Show



4 - Parade

7 - LV - Castle Rock Ride

14 - SFHA - GG Park Ride

9,16 - Western Clinic

10 - Board Meeting

21 - Ride


 August

1-4 - SFHA - Jack Brook Camp

3-4 - LV - Ride

14 - Board Meeting

18 - SFHA - GG Park Ride

19-25 - Jack Brook Horse Camp

25 - Nor-Cal Show

31 - LV - Jack Brook Camp


 September

1-2 - LV - Jack Brook Camp

8 - SFHA - Golden Gate Kid's Ride

11 - Board Meeting

18 - Outdoor Meeting/BBQ

19-23 - SFHA - Dakin Ranch

29 - President's Ride

- Western Show



5-6 - LV - Novato Ride

6 - SFHA - GG Park Ride

9 - Board Meeting

13 - Columbus Day Parade, SF

19 - Trail Trials

25 - Grand Nationals Opening Night


 November

3 - LV - Progressive Ride

8 - General Meeting

13 - Board Meeting



7 - SFHA - Christmas Party

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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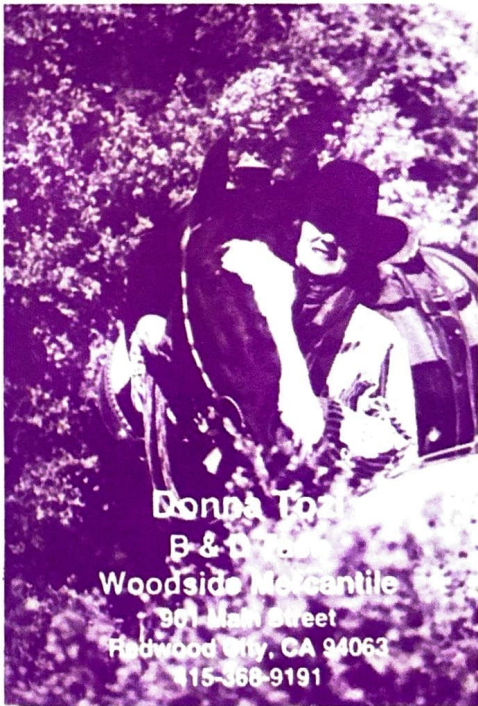
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2995 Woodside Rd #400/128  
Woodside, CA 94062

**SAN MATEO  
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ASSOCIATION**



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**1996 Membership Application**

	Annual Dues
___ JUNIOR MEMBERS (17 OR UNDER)	\$15.00
___ SENIOR MEMBERS (18 OR OLDER)	\$25.00
___ MR./MRS. MEMBERS	\$40.00
___ FAMILY MEMBERSHIP (married or single parent and unlimited number of children 17 or under)	\$45.00

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| <input type="checkbox"/> B Trails                | <input type="checkbox"/> I Junior Members        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C Western Riding Clinic | <input type="checkbox"/> J English Riding Clinic |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> E Western Shows         | <input type="checkbox"/> L Hospitality           |
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