San Mateo Houseman

Vol. XIV, No. 8

A Publication Dedicated to the Improvement of Bridle Trails, Sportmanship among Riders and to the Development of Interest in Horse Activities,

SEPTEMBER, 19

Zweirlien Area Dedication

October 26, 1958 will be the final organized ride of the San Mateo County Horsemen's Association for the 1958 season, planned and executed by Bernice Taylor and Ella Allen. It will start from Ross Meredith's Woodside Stables at 10:30 SHARP, and will arrive at the Zweirlien Area in Huddart Park at 12:30 where lunch will be served by reservation ONLY. Call Ella Allen, ULmar 1-7275 after 6:00 p.m., or Barbara Sailor, ULmar 1-7662, to make reservations for lunch.

Dedication ceremonies will be under the auspices of the San Mateo County Park Commission and San Mateo County Horsemen. Following the dedication, ring events will be held under the guidance of Toots Lopez.

The ride, dedication, and ring "play" are all open to both juniors and seniors. Be seeing you October 26. Editors Note:

May we urge everyone to attend this ride and Dedication, if they can possibly make it.

Dedication of the "Zweirlien Area" in Huddart Park seems a small enough tribute to pay to one of the best friends the horsemen of San Mateo—and California—have ever had, Ed Zweirlien.

Ed spent many, many hours of his time, at considerable personal expense, to help us horsemen, and this area, bearing his name, is just one of many things, that we owe largely to his efforts.

Drill Team News

We have an ever increasing membership in the San Mateo County Junior Sheriffs Posse Drill Team and I think a lot is due to the parents of three members who have been kind enough to open their homes to the drill team members for parties, barbeques, etc.

The last such event was on July 30 when Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Schiffers entertained the members at a swim barbecue.

There was ping-pong, croquet, swimming, dancing, a wonderful dinner and needless to say a very good time was had.

"FALL DANCE"

This is a reminder that we are having our Fall Dance on Saturday night, October 25, in the new Pent house room of the Pioneer Hotel in Woodside. Cocktails will be at 7 and dinner at 8 to 8:30 p.m. Dinner, including tip, tax and entertainment will be \$4.50 per plate and will consist of Relishes, soup, salad, roast beef, vegetable, dessert and coffee.

We are going to have our own bar, drinks 50c and our own music.

The theme is Roaring Twenties (which some of you can probably remember as part of your "flaming youth) and flapper costumes will be just the thing to wear or drag out your latest sack dress. We are going to have a Charleston contest too, so start practicing.

There are just one or two things to remember: We have to guarantee our dinners, so if there are any last minute cancellations without notifying the Dance Chairman, San Mateo Horsemen are stuck for the dinner. So please, if you make a reservation and decide not to go, notify us in time.

Also, if you want to make up your own party, and have a table reserved in your name, make a note on your return reservation card and it will be arranged. You can have any amount up to ten in your party.

I have seen this new room and it is going to be a beautiful setting for our dance, it is Western and has gas fixtures for lights and a real old fashioned mahogany bar.

The reservation cards will be going out the first week in October after our State Convention is over with, so plan on coming and having the time of your life.

Billie Brawley, Dance Chairman.

The drill team isn't all social though, and if we have any intention of going to the convention, we'd better have a larger turn-out for those Saturday practices. Most of the time our majority are the new members—so remember kids, convention is almost here so come on and get to work.

Alice Wallace.

HERE IS A LETTER WE JUST RECEIVED.

Editor, 'San Mateo Horseman' Dear Sir:

Many of the readers of the SMCHA paper feel as I do. Whenever there are horseshows, you mention the horse and rider (that belong to the Association) and the ribbon they have won. Either you are very partial to a few or have a bad reporter! For many of us feel that just the same people are mentioned, when others who are in the same show and in the Association get no credit for their efforts.

For example a few of us went down to Santa Cruz to be grooms for some of the kids that were riding. Oril Wunderlich won the Stock Horse Class and the best dress class. Jackie Musch won her Western Pleasure Class and received a second in Trail. Nancy O'Brien won the Trail Class, received a third in Western Equitation and a fourth in Western Pleasure. Tinker Lucas won her Pleasure Class and received a second in Equitation on her thoroughbred mare. Dave Johanson and Carol Jones took a first and second with their beautiful grey dappled Arabs in the Arabian Model Class. Out of all these Juniors and Seniors—only one Junior and two Seniors were mentioned in your magazine. This is just an example so that you realize that not just the same people are winning.

On your article on the SMCHA Junior Show lets not mention the same few people in the Association, for others received ribbons in western hunt seat and gaited who deserve a mention. For it's not just a few who contribute to the shows—it's a whole group! So let's not be partial—add new ones to your old list. We'll be wait-

ing to read your next issue!

Signed—Irate Readers.

OK dear "Irate Readers"—you asked for it!

To begin with, constructive criticism and helpful suggestions are always welcome. Sincere people will sign such letters. An anonymous "crank" letter doesn't rate the courtesy of a reply, but we're going to give you one, anyway.

Editing a club paper, like the "San Mateo Horseman" is a thankless job. Before the year is over I will have spent many hours and quite a few dollars on this project. This is my donation to the horsemen of San Mateo County. At the regular

meetings I have done everything but get down on my knees and beg for people to send in news, articles, anything of interest horsemen, for the magazine. Out of 600 members how many have sent me anything? About five! Obviously, it is imoossible to get much news coverage this

You, dear "Irate Readers," seem to have the results on the shows you mention. Did you send me any news?

Again, it is impractical to print all the names of all the class winners. Fifteen or twenty classes, with winners to fifth or sixth place will fill the entire magazine. Such a list is dull reading for anyone except those whose names appear.

You complain that we mention only names of SMCHA members. Believe me, this is not done deliberately, but if people do not belong to this group, they just are not known to people who send in their

If those people show horses and read the "San Mateo Horseman," how come they do not support the organization that ponsors their hobby? It takes team work to win a ball game, you know! In these days of "progress" in our county, it is not all inconceivable for a small, aggressive minority with big mouths to sponsor legislation that could bar all livestockincluding horses-from San Mateo County. Who fights to keep trails and regulate such legislation? The San Mateo County Horsemens Association.

Finally, dear "Irate Readers," I'm not going to let this go anonymous. I'll sign my name to it and if you would like to edit this magazine-you may have it, with my best wishes!

Bill Louw, Editor.

Region 6 News

Election of Officers for coming Year Region 6 meeting was held at Santa Clara County Horsemens Clubhouse Saturday, Sept. 6, and was very well at-

Guadalupe Red Shirts won the trophy for the most members present, with a total of 20. San Mateo was well represented with Bob and Tillie Williams, Virginia Siegfried, Don and Peggy Shand, Marie and Fred Kemm, and Irma Goldsmith among those present. The following Juniors were presented with their trophys and blue ribbons for winning in the Junfor Eliminations. These boys and girls will represent our Region at the Convention Blue Ribbon Show.

English Boy, John L. Lewis; English Girl, Pat Friedlander; Western Boy, David Boye; Western Girl, Lynn Ann Carlton; All Around Girl, Priscilla Williams.

Marie and Fred Kemm and their committee were thanked for the terrific job they did on the Junior Eliminations.

It was a very enthusiastic meeting, and several resolutions were voted upon, which will be presented at our State Convention.

The new officers for the coming year were elected, and Paul Carson will again take up the reins in his capable hands as Region President, and be assisted by Ken Ordahl as Region Vice-President. Both of these men are hard workers and will do a bang up job for our Region Clubs this coming year.

Billie Brawley, Secty.

The Pitchfork By Alice Ruth Woolsey

Dear Miss Woolsey:

Hackamore, schmakamore . . . I don't know what it's all about. The more my husband and son get into this horse hobby the more lost I am. They talk a different language from English. Now they're babbling about something called Latigo. Is it anything like Vertigo?

-UN-HORSEY.

DEAR UN.

No, latigo is not a disease, just as thrush is not a bird in horse-parlance. Latigo is a type of leather. It is chemically tanned -as contrasted with most leather which is tanned with vegetable compounds. This process makes latigo softer, tougher, and virtually impervious to water and perspiration. Rarely you can find stock saddles made of latigo leather. They're incredibly soft, resilient and weather proof . . . but expensive, for the leather is hard to work. It will not stretch nor shape . . . and requires special techniques.

On most stock saddles you'll find at least one piece of latigo leather . . . that used to cinch up the saddle. Because of the close contact with the horse's hide, the water-proof, sweat-proof qualities of this leather make it ideal. For this reason the strap used to cinch up a stock saddle is called "the latigo." Vertigo is something cinched up by Alfred Hitchcock.

Dear Miss W.:

I like horse shows, and have been attending them for some time, first with friends, and now mostly by myself. So I muddle through the classes not knowing about a lot of things. There are a lot of questions I would like to ask, but I'll start with this one. What is a fine harness horse? Does the "fine" describe the horse or the man showing it?

-GENERAL ADMISSION.

DEAR GENERAL,

Some exhibitors are fine, truly. But the qualities of the owner have nothing to do with what makes for a fine harness horse.

The American Horse Shows Association Rule Book says, of fine-harness horses:

The horse must be of American Saddle Horse Breed, must wear long mane and tail and should be shown to a four-wheeled show wagon without top, or with top down. Light harness with a snaffle bit is required.

The horse shall be shown at an animated park trot, extreme speed to be penalized. He must stand quietly and back readily,

good manners essential.

In order to understand better the role of this horse, let us consider his original use. In the early days, horses of this type were light utility animals. They may have carried the master under saddle on business excursions during the week, and on week ends they would be hitched and driven to church and the social affairs, that interested the lady of the household. Their driving excursions were not generally long, fast trips but short drives on smooth roads. A horse with proud, animated action was admired, and of course good manners were a necessary requirement.

Now about this word "fine." The ideal harness horse is extremely fine, (even though his owner may be otherwise) at the same time filling the harness. As harness training is usually a strict essen-

tial in the education of any horse that are first shown in fine ha later trained and prepared for i. classes. The clipped mane and tail three-gaited horse precludes his use any harness performance except thre. gaited combination ride-and-drive classes, but many gaited horses are shown both in fine-harness and saddle events. Usually, an individual will be superior in one or the other.

Think of the fine-harness horse as a suitable animal for a lady to drive for an afternoon . . . tailored, dressy, smart. An abomination to the show ring is the lady driving a fine-harness horse done to the nines in something flowing, or billowing, or with decoletage plunging toward the tanbark.

Dear Miss Woolsey:

We're about to buy a new horse. We're thinking of a "western pleasure" type. All our friends say that we must have a quarter horse. What is it, and how come? -DRUG STORE COWBOY.

Oh Dear! Drugstore,

These days it's "quarterhorse, quarterhorse, quarterhorse!" Nothing else will do. A while back it was "Palomino!" Before that it was "Morgan!" Horse owners become victims of fad and fashion. When the Palomino was all the rage some pretty poor things were passed off at fabulous prices just because they were Palomino colored. You'd be wise to consider the individual horse if you're buying a pleasure mount. Be he Palomino or Pibald, Steel Dust (and I'll wager you most people don't know about that horse. Who knows he may be the next in fashion) or Steeplechaser . . . buy the horse that most suits your needs. Get the advice of a vet or professional horseman, and don't climb on the horse-drawn-bandwagon.

Certainly there is much to be said for the quarterhorse as a stock animal . . . but the same is true of a Saddle bred or a mountain pony, or many other types and breeds.

This word of warning: Because the quarterhorse is much in vogue as a stock horse, the price is generally high. Don't be duped into buying a nickle horse just because he's a quarterhorse.

THE SAN MATEO COUNTY HORSE-MEN'S ASSOCIATION OVERNIGHT RIDE this year was really a ride that will remembered for a long time by all of the folks that rode and those that didn't ride will never know what they missed.

Our very able Trail Boss Mario took us over some of the most beautiful trails and through those big ranches where we were met by the owners Mr. Kosbade and Mr. John Olsen. We were met by these very gracious ranchers and escorted through their respective ranches. One can hardly believe that just so close to us here on the Peninsula are these large ranches with all these green pastures with nice fat cattle and with miles and miles of riding country.

We had lunch at Wayne Davis's ranch, down in a shady canyon with a little creek and the most surprising picnic area with a large concrete table and stools. The very welcome lunch was brought in to us by Charlie Sailor and Bill Zweirlien, and they met us along the way later with more Cold refreshment, they really both deserve a hearty Thank You for their hard work on the ride.

After ariving at the ranch everyone took care of their horse and picked out a spot for their sleeping bag, washed the dust and grime off, had a couple of Pepperuppers, of course our appetites were all set for that dinner Eddie and Flo Castleman with their very competent crew, served us.

They served us a Prime Rib dinner that would put the best dinner places on the Peninsula to shame. I'm still hearing people talk about how good it was. All you folks that didn't even come up to eat sure did miss a good dinner.

After dinner, off to the Dance. The floor finishing crew did a fine job on the floor and with a little slickem I saw Herb Huettig scattering around, the dance was off and hopping. Warren Luce and his boys sure did make good music. I don't think anyone asked them to play a selection that they didn't come right up with it.

The ride back the next morning was on Old La Honda to Skyline and then down a nice shady trail to Searsville Lake and on back to the Stable.

I sincerely wish to Thank Mario, Barbara, Charlie and everyone concerned with the ride, and all of those who were on the ride for a truly wonderful weekend.

Esther Galyean.

JUST RETURNED FROM THE MOUNTED PATROL FIVE DAY RIDE, and a very fine ride it was, indeed.

Ye editor suffered from a very badly infected throat which sort of put the damper on it for me personally, but I enjoyed it, anyway.

There were about seventy riders who trailered their horses to Wawona Meadows. We had a big meadow, all to ourselves, for a base camp. The group rode from this base camp every day, covering, at a guess, about fifteen to twenty miles each day. Don't have to tell you much about the scenery around Yosemite, as this is probably well known throughout the world. The trails, maintained by the Park service, are beautiful. Regular horse highways.

We'd get back to camp around three in the afternoon, take care of the horses, and a few of the boys let themselves be talked into a drink or two. The rest of us would kill time waiting for dinner by swapping lies, and eating hors d'oeuvres furnished by Eddie Castleman who catered the ride. A grand job Eddie did of it, too. We couldn't have eaten better at any of our finer restaurants. (Apologies to Ivan and Gene!)

After dinner, Pete Towne and a banjo player, whose name I didn't get, furnished good informal campfire music—assisted by such volunteers who wanted to try their wings as musicians or amateur Carusos.

Needless to say, sitting and listening to all those guys singing around a camp fire when I couldn't add my own two cents worth, was pure misery to me but my throat felt like I was playing sword swallower all night, and I just couldn't sing.

Heard rumors of a few informal games of poker too but I wouldn't know.

Had all the swimming we wanted in the lakes, or river or the Wawona Hotel pool.

Needed it, too, as the weather was very hot.

Winning awards for the best trail horse, heavyweight class, were Roy McCune, G. Breitenstein, Taylor Pillsbury, Dick Grant and Joe Dwilla—while the lightweight class was won by Bob Hexon, Ben Cassinerio, Sr., Harry Williams, Cal Pickens and Victor Robinson. Horton Whipple won the Grand Champion Trail Horse.

Fremont Hills Country Club Playday, August 24, 1958

The first of many horse activities to come was held at Fremont Hills Country Club stables area Sunday afternoon with many junior members participating in equitation classes and gymkhana games. Parents attended bringing picnic lunches to make a family day of it.

The competition was judged by Miss Judy Gartman of Concar Stables, San Mateo. Most of the riders were children of members currently taking instruction from Chidley Dunlap at the stables, although there were many children riding their own mounts who are taking advantage of the excellent facilities to be had at the Club. Superb facilities for boarding private horses are to be had at the Club stables either on a de luxe basis or designed for those who may wish to take care of the usual grooming, tack cleaning, saddling, etc. themselves for a lower board rate. The Club has facilities for all types whether they be gaited, western, hunters, pleasure or trail horses.

Mr. Decker has sent us the results of this show, but lack of space makes it impossible to list it here.

GLAD TO REPORT THAT PAST PRESIDENT ED SPILLANE, father of our junior president, Jim, is doing very nicely after a serious operation. Ed is back home, and gaining on it every day.

ESTHER GALYEAN LOST HER GOOD STOCK AND TRAIL HORSE Copper Top just recently from internal causes. We all hate to lose good horses that cannot be replaced because of the personal feeling between horse and owner. The memory of all the pleasures of owning a horse like Copper will stay in mind for a long time.

BARBARA McINTOSH OF REDWOOD CITY and one of our newer Juniors recently returned from a vacation trip to Lake Tahoe (the swimming as good as usual), Reno, State Fair and other points of interest.

THIS IS ABOUT THE BEES. Labor Day, Anne Menefee of Woodside on her lovely Quarter Horse "Senor" and several friends set out for a nice quiet trail ride. Near the end of the ride Anne's horse was attacked by a bee and "thar he sot" until sometime between bucks Anne decided it was time for her to take her leave. She made a beautiful dive to the ground stating in flight and confirming after a successful crash-landing "I'm all right!"

When it was determined that a few

When it was determined that a few minor scratches and jangled nerves were Anne's worst injuries, it was decided husband Jim would lead her horse and flag a passing motorist on a nearby road for Anne a more comfortable ride home. Bu don't go away, there's more. As Jim w mounting his horse, one foot in stirri and one in mid-air, thar was that be again. The reviewing stand is sure the Jim lasted his time out on his rapidly de veloped bronc before hitting earth, bu not until Anne had been knocked flat an face down. Both scrambled to their fee before friends could reach them. Jim wa none the worse for the experience by Anne was ready to call it quits. Late in the day Anne displayed to her friend a couple of knees thrice their normal size and some distinguished appearing bruise and planned her next trail ride.

With the chaos behind her, Ann no considers herself a veteran horsewoman Don't you?

Any you readers suggestions on how t deal with the bees?

There are a number of very effective in sect repellents on the market, most of which are carried by your local Saddl Shops, Formula 400, Pyronox, Flys-awabombs (in fizz cans), are all effective under average conditions if properly use—Ed.

Up San Mateo Way By Rich Figoni

Here it is September and fall and winter are getting near. With the coming of winter, there is a going of horse show with only a few exceptions. Concar Stables, realizing this fact, is giving its ricers every opportunity to attend the few shows left this season.

A few weeks back the Concar horse women invaded Bercutt Field and to put it bluntly "they cleaned up." Those of the "clean-up" committee were Care Heaney, who by the way is running for the Grand National Livestock Queen at the Cow Palace on Oct. 31 to Nov. Carol won the English Equitation class and English Pleasure. Linda Iveson, whis recovering from a concussion sufferein a nasty fall, received third in the Mode class and eighth in the Jumping class.

Abbey also was ridden in the adul Pleasure by Judy Gartman, one of the pillars of the Concar Stable. Incidentally Judy rode Abbey to a first in that class.

In the pair class Janice Jeffries an Linda Anderson came home the winner as did Nancy Reed in the Junior Pleasur class.

Judy Gartman reports that a recen Play Day she judged at the relatively nev Fremont Country Club, at which Chidle Dunlap is the able trainer and instructor was a huge success.

Carol Anderson of Concar reports the sale of Glenthorne, the Champion Green Hunter, at Indio.

Just as Glenthorne has left, I mus leave this article until next month. Re member the meeting on the 24th. Se

Junior Overnight Ride

We were really given the works by the weather man for the Junior Overnight ride but in spite of terrific heat on Saturday and rain on Sunday, we all had wonderful time.

Seventeen riders left Woodside Stable on August 6 at 10:30 a.m. led by Mario d

Lemos together with our advisor, Jackie Musch.

We arrived at the Glass Ranch at 5:30, tired and hungry, but the boys revived enough to play their usual game of football in the ring. Joining us at the wonderful dinner served by Eddie Castleman was Barbara Sailor, Harlan Musch and Toots Lopez. We danced for awhile and then off to bed by eleven.

At about 12:30 it started to drizzle. Lightning had been flashing all evening and by morning it was really coming down. After a good breakfast it was still raining and nobody objected to the suggestion that we be trailered home, so after a couple of phone calls to parents for transportation, we gathered up our wet belongings and were on our way.

Program For Sept. 24 Meeting

Many horsemen are eagerly anticipating their ride to Convention at Paso Robles this year. Tuning in with this activity the program will feature Mr. Gerald Dalmadge who will show with color slides the American Forestry Assn. ride through the Montana wilderness this summer.

This association with headquarters in Washington, D.C. sponsors educational activity in its work towards conservation and preservation of timber and wild life in the United States and these rides into the wilderness areas are now well-known and much sought after. There have been fifteen rides. The territory covered this year was from Flathead, the Sun River Wilderness out of Missoula, Montana. Mention will also be made of the ride last year from Durango in Southwest Montana. This is the very first presentation of this year's ride and should prove most interesting. You are urged to come and to bring guests.

CONVENTION RIDE—Riders going to the Convention with the Inter Valley Group from Santa Clara County are Virginia Siegfried, Barbara Sailor, Esther Bradley, Percy and Bernice Taylor, Ella Allen. Chuck wagon will be run by Fred Marshman of the Mayfair Riders, and Harry Allen. The Chairman arranging the Ride-to-Convention is Rudy Hoerler, Santa Clara County Horsemen's Association, assisted by Johnny Johnson, Santa Clara County Horsemen. Final meeting for signup will be September 22 at the Santa Clara County Clubhouse. The ride promises to be one to be long remembered following the crest of the Los Robles Mountains.

SACTO Impressions High Steppin' In The Heat

The heat bristled in the daytime, mingling with fair sounds of music and the voices of children. The air was filled with the smell of hamburgers, dust from the warm-up areas, the bright glaze of summer heat. Evenings cooled to welcome the rising color of filled grandstands, fountains of fireworks, tension at the tailgates . . . and the State Fair Horse Show swung from the Labor Day weekend through ten days of excitement and bright performances in a singular gathering of superb horses and horsemanship.

the Fair management wants to take advantage of the Labor Day crowds, and the event must be so scheduled. But, coinciding as it does with the beginning of the school year, such timing means that many, if not most, of the junior riders and exhibitors cannot be in the ring and the barns. Amateurs aplenty there were . . . and exhibitors . . . and stock.

It would be difficult-nay impossibleto point to any one particular event as the highlight of the State Fair Show . there being so many vested interests. But certainly excitment ran high with the California Bred Thoroughbred Green Hunter Futurity on Saturday night, the 6th. This class carried a \$1500 purse offered by the California State Fair added to the Nomination fees . . . a first prize of at least \$1000 guranteed to the winner. Both first and second in the class were won by Cynthia Cookingham who came to the Fair with only two horses, both win-

Remembered laughter demands that we recount the last class of the show on Sunday evening-Back Alley Jumpers. Out of tack trunks in odd assortment came improvised costumes. False tails appeared from under crash helmets, coveralls were slipped on over riding britches. Fashion highlights included a rider garbed in a sack dress literally made from gunny sack and topped by an honest-to-goodness mink stole. Sight of the evening: Jimmy Williams going over a jump grinning back at the photographer and adjusting a bras strap as his horse arced over the jump. From the waist up, a borrowed (we trust) bras, a cigar and a broad grin were all he wore. "I dreamed I went to the Horse Show in my you-know-what."

As the dust settles over the Fair Grounds we're reminded of the coming of autumn and the near-close of the Horse Show Circuit. Of the major shows for this season, there remains only the Cow Palace. The season this year has been singular with its own moods, trends, successes, near-successes and midsummer excitements . . . its own personality. In a subsequent issue we shall review the season as a whole, from Indio through Cow Palace, with a tailgate view of what it's like to "make the circuit."

With some half dozen shows-big and little-remaining in this current season,

we would encourage everyone to attend The absence of Juniors was felt. It's the Juniors and Amateurs that make any and excitement aplenty for everyone. horse show, particularly one of the size You need not be terribly horsey to enjoy and scope of State Fair. Understandably, a show. Even though your interest may lie in one particular type of horse, other classifications will prove exciting, too. To borrow a phrase from our southerly neighbors . . . HORSE SHOWS ARE BET-TER THAN EVER!

Coming Events

Sept. 24—SMCHA Meeting.

Sept. 28-Horse Show, Guadalupe Red Shirts, Los Gatos.

Sept. 29-Start of ride to Convention. Oct. 2-5—CSHA Convention, Paso Robles. Oct. 12-Horse Show, Concord, Mt. Diablo Trailriders.

Oct. 29-SMCHA Meeting.

Oct. 31-Nov. 9 - Grand National, Cow Palace, San Francisco.

Dr. Bill Linfoot Sez:

If your horse is rubbing his tail, he may be trying to relieve an itching that can be caused by any one of several conditions.

The most common of these is internal parasites, especially the small white worm with the big name, Oxuris equi, the pinworm. A laboratory test of the fecal material will reveal the type of parasites and the approximate amount present, and the horse may then be treated accordingly.

Some types of bots, the grub-like larval form of the horse fly, have an affinity for the rectal region of the horse and may also be responsible for itching.

Mares may be suffering from a irritation or infection in the reproductive tract, and even normal mares often rub the tail quite noticeably when they are in season.

The male horse may show itching symptoms from a dirty sheath, or inflammation in the sheath area.

Superficial dirt and stickers in and about the tail region should be removed regularly as these are also a common cause, and may get a horse into the habit of tail rubbing.

Ringworm, mange and even allergies must be diagnosed and treated as early as possible, as rubbing in these cases may cause loss of hair and actual scarring.

A very common mechnical cause of tail rubbing is hauling a horse in a van or trailer without proper tail straps or chains.

It's easy to see that a little prevention will do the job in most cases here, such as proper equipment and thorough cleaning of the horse at frequent intervals.

(Courtesy-Peninsula Saddlery News.)

SAN MATEO COUNTY HORSEMEN'S ASSN. Redwood City, California

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