

The San Mateo **HORSEMAN**

DECEMBER 1973 / JANUARY 1974



1973 OFFICERS SAN MATEO COUNTY HORSEMEN'S ASSN.

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NEW YEARS' GREETING!

The San Mateo Horseman extends Best Wishes for the New Year to all our readers, advertisers, and friends. We wish to thank everyone who has contributed material for the magazine, and especially our advertisers who contribute so much to our support.

The Editor



INSTALLATION DINNER

By the time you have received the magazine, you should also have your reservation cards for the Installation Dinner Dance. This is a really super good evening of entertainment and good food, but it's more than that ... It is also the way that all of us who are members of the SMCHA can show our new officers and chairmen that we are behind them one hundred per cent for the coming year. Get your reservations in!

COVER

Pictured on the cover are (left to right) Vim, AHSA Horse of the Year, trainer-rider Gary Ryman of Woodside and Keswick, Virginia, Mrs. Eugene Cunningham of Warrenton, Virginia making the presentation, and an unidentified official of the National Horse Show at Madison Square Garden. See story on page five. Photo by Budd

PHOTO CREDIT

The staff is sorry to have omitted the photo credits to DALE JENNINGS for the polo pictures in the last issue and the picture of our scholarship winners. Ed.

NEW MEMBERS

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COUNT FLEET

by Phil Ray

The year 1973 witnessed two milestones in thoroughbred racing: Secretariat became the ninth Triple Crown winner; and another member of that exclusive club instituted by Sir Barton in 1919 quietly succumbed to the infirmities of age. On December Third, Count Fleet died at Stoner Creek Stud near Lexington, Kentucky, where he had been foaled in 1940. All but forgotten by most horsemen today, Count Fleet was thought by many to have been long since dead. His last foal crop was in 1967; it numbered only two, having gradually diminished since the early sixties.

Count Fleet's appearance on the

racing scene back in 1942 was no less spectacular than Secretariat's thirty years later. He was a fiery colt — so much so, in fact, that his owner, John D. Hertz, considered selling him at the start of his racing career. At least one person, however, believed that Count Fleet had a great future. Jockey John Longden, who was to pilot the brown colt to most of his wins, was able to dissuade his owner from parting with him.

The concession Mr. Hertz made to Longden's faith in the headstrong colt was one he would never regret. As a two-year-old, Count Fleet failed to win in only five of his fifteen starts. Among his wins were the Wakefield Stakes, the Cham-

pagne Stakes and the Pimlico Futurity. He concluded the season with a characteristic thirty-length win in the Walden Stakes which insured his two-year-old championship.

Count Fleet loved to run and was extremely difficult to rate. He ran most of his races his own way, which meant flat out wire to wire, far ahead of the pack. He won the Belmont Stakes by 25 lengths in the record time of 2:28 1/5 for the mile-and-a-half distance. It took another horse of Triple Crown caliber to do as well. Citation, the first million dollar winner and eighth member of the Triple Crown fraternity, barely equaled this record for the Belmont in 1948.

(For a brief but excellent account of the Triple Crown, readers are referred to the July, 1973 issue of the San Mateo Horseman).

Although his wins in the Derby and Preakness, the other two legs of the Triple Crown, were statistically less spectacular (he won them by three and eight lengths respectively), Count Fleet left no doubt about the winner in either case. His style was not one which created a necessity for an inquiry.

This classic horse came by his speed and stamina honestly. His sire was Reigh Count, winner of the 1928 Kentucky Derby. Although his grandsire, +Sunreigh, was a non-winner, he was a son of the excellent English sprinter, Sundridge. But it is perhaps his bottom side from which Count Fleet obtained most of his class. His dam, Quickly, was a highly esteemed race mare which made no less than 32 trips to the winner's circle. Her sire, Haste, was also quality and Quickly's dam, Stephanie, another good winner, was by Stefan the Great, a stakes winner and leading sire in his native England.

Count Fleet was not only unbeaten as a three-year-old, he almost ran himself out of competition. He ran six races during the season and five of them were stakes of the highest class. In addition to the three legs of the Triple Crown, he won the Wood Memorial and the Withers. By the time he had reached the Belmont Stakes there were only two other entries willing to try stealing his thunder. Both Fairy Manhurst and Desoronto failed miserably, of course, as Count Fleet went on to win Horse of the Year honors and total earnings of \$250,300 in his two racing seasons.

Although Triple Crown winners are not noted for their success in the stud, Count Fleet, as a sire, met the great expectations he had established for himself as a race horse. During his first season at stud he sired five stakes winners. He concluded his career with a total of 265 winners, 38 of them stakes winners, from 247 starters. In 21 seasons he sired 432 registered foals. His North American winners have accounted for a total of slightly more than \$7 million. Among the best of these was Count Turf who won the Derby in 1951. This was the year Count Fleet led the sire list. It was also the year another good son, Counterpoint, lost the Preakness — running second to the speed horse, Bold — but came back with a most decisive win in the Belmont over the favored Battleground.

As one eminent student of bloodlines remarked when the great horse died, Count Fleet's name in any thoroughbred pedigree gives it blue chip quality. Some of Count Fleet's other stakes winners include the champion three-year-old filly, Kiss Me Kate, Count of Honor, County Delight, and Juliet's Nurse.

Count Fleet is the maternal grandsire of 88 stakes winners and was the leading broodmare sire in 1963. Some of the familiar names of stakes winners from Count Fleet mares are Kelso (one of the top money winners of all time with over \$1.5 million in earnings), Lamb Chop, Lucky Debonair, Fleet Nasrullah, Prince John and Tompon.

THE TRIPLE CROWN WINNERS IN ORDER OF THEIR APPEARANCE TOGETHER WITH THEIR SIRES:

- 1919: Sir Barton by +Star Shoot
- 1930: Gallant Fox by +Sir Gallahad III
- 1935: Omaha by Gallant Fox
- 1937: War Admiral by Man o'War
- 1941: Whirlaway by +Blenheim II
- 1943: Count Fleet by Reigh Count
- 1946: Assault by Bold Venture
- 1948: Citation by Bull Lea
- 1943: Secretariat by Bold Ruler

Hand-Milking Champ

Stockton dairy farmer Manuel Dutra successfully defended his title as world's champion hand milker for the fifth consecutive time in a "milk-off" against the Canadian and California state champs at the COW PALACE's 1973 Grand National Show.

The three masters of the disappearing art of hand-milking — now taken over almost entirely by machine on the nation's dairy farms — were the finalists in the annual COW PALACE contest. Dutra pulled 15.5 pounds of milk in two minutes to retain the title against runnerup J.C. "Barney" McGregor, farm manager of the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, and Holland-born dairyman Pete Vander Zwan of Chino, Ca. McGregor's pail held 15.0 pounds of milk, and Vander Zwan's 14.0 pounds.

The three contestants were given 40 seconds apiece at each of three black and white Holstein cows. They switched animals at the end of each go-round to allow even competition. Throngs of school children visiting the Grand National surrounded the milkers at the noontime event, making the competition a real test of concentration for both contestants and cows.

The world championship contest, first held on a barge in San Francisco Bay in 1957, became a highlight of the COW PALACE's Grand National Show the following year. Sponsors of the 1973 competition were Bou-Matic Milkers and Babson Brothers, both makers of automatic milking equipment, together with the COW PALACE.

The AQHA filly pictured in the last edition of the SMCH, D'Oro's Misty Dream, was just left hanging there with no owner mentioned ... we regret the oversight, and hasten to add that the proud owner is Ronald L. Aunchman of Redwood City.

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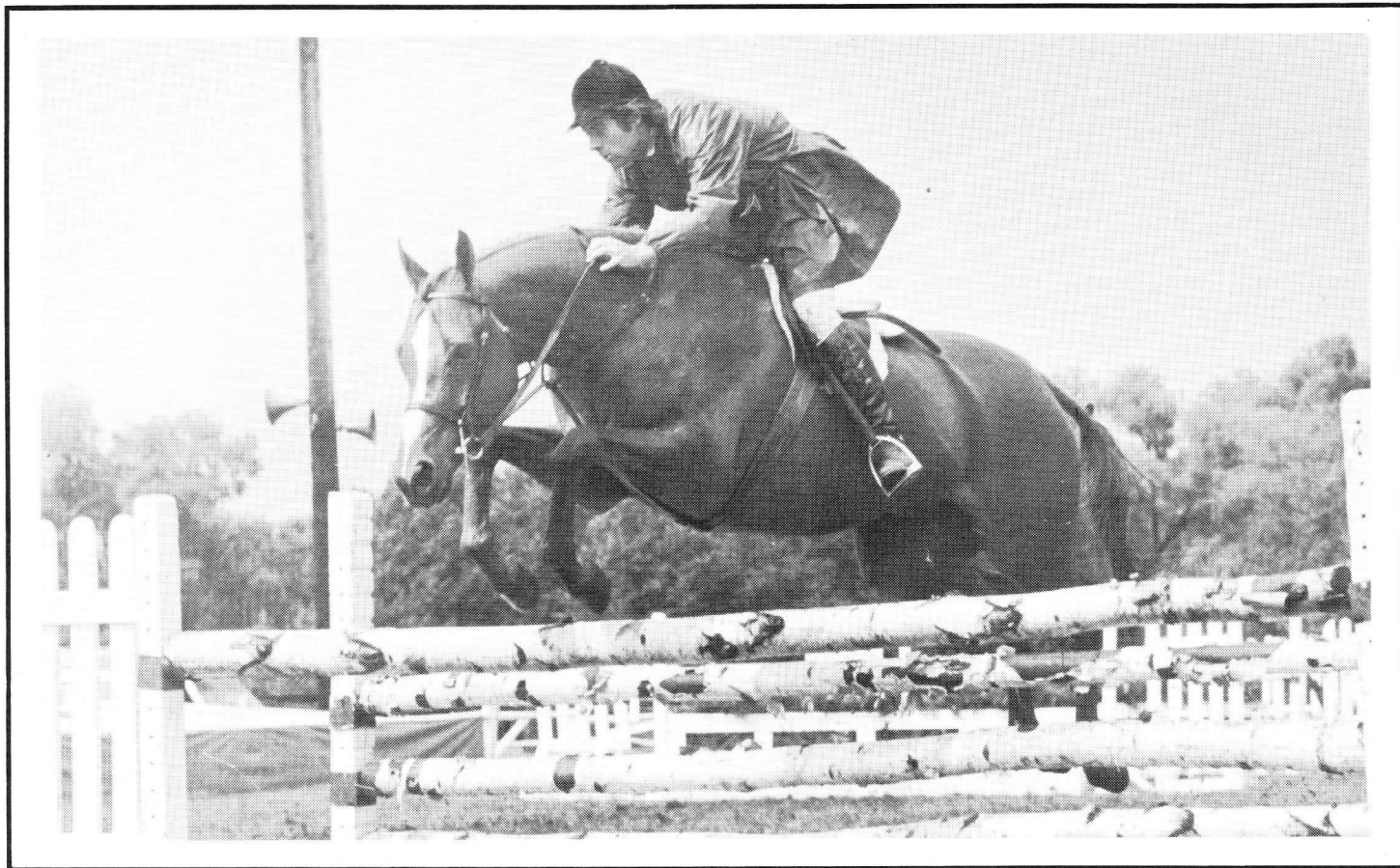
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Gary Ryman and Vim, the AHSA's Horse of the Year, at strange showgrounds they had never seen before (this show the perfect form that got them there. Perfect in is Grosse Point, Michigan) and the toughest competition in the world for Hunters. spite of rain, constant travel, fatigue, facing new courses

VIM HORSE OF THE YEAR

The horse shown on our cover is the very beautiful five-year-old Green Conformation Champion of the American Horse Shows Association for 1973. A gleaming chestnut with size and quality, Vim was taken out of the pasture at Cismount Manor Farms, Keswick, Virginia, by Gary Ryman in September of 1972. Newly employed by Cismount's owners, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Wheeler, Gary was given a completely free hand to make the horse.

Starting in February on the Florida Circuit, Gary showed Vim for ten months at all the major Class "A" shows in the East. Rarely beaten, and never out of the ribbons, Vim was named Champion of his Division at the National Horse Show in Madison Square Garden in November. He had won fourteen other division championships to become the high score AHSA Horse

of the Year.

Gary is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Dale Ryman of Woodside, and the friend of countless local exhibitors, all of whom he visited while he was home recently for the Holidays. He literally "grew up" on horses, riding and showing all over this area as a junior SMCHA exhibitor, and later as a professional, showing his own and other people's horses on the Pacific Coast. He commented that the competition in the East is extremely tough, with most shows using the standardized judging system. This involves three judges watching a round, and scoring each horse independently of each of the other judges. That's a lot of judges to get by!

The Horse of the Year award will be made in January in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, at the American Horse Shows Association annual awards ceremonies. Gary

will start another horse for the Wheelers, and we hope with as much success!

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A TRIBUTE TO L. C. SMITH

Spring of 1973 commemorated the 33rd year Anniversary of the founding of SMCHA. That first year, 1939, a First Floral Show and Fandango was planned with the Fiesta Dance in the Bay Meadows Club House in Hillsdale. Great interest and excitement was shown and the horsemen in the entire Bay Area were alerted and directed by an energetic young man, L.C. Smith, for a gala parade of old family carriages, buggies, wagons of all descriptions, and saddle horses numbering some 300 to honor the occasion of the Fandango.

The excitement and fun of the meeting between horse enthusiasts together with the exhilaration and success of the day and evening events sparked some 25 horsemen under the leadership of Mr. Smith to form a permanent association, so that such occasions might not be forgotten, but continued in the years to come.

How true a prediction for good to the community this San Mateo County Horsemen's Association has been; how little we realize at the time of our own first interest and participation in various projects and activities what far reaching effects may be realized, even as Mr. Smith's work bore fruit. Now and through the past 33 years there have been dedicated persons who have formulated long term plans and actions even as Mr. Smith did. If we could but realize in our present 1973 the great opportunities for strength and vigor that call their challenge to us. Fresh ideas and enthusiasm must come from those presently in the Association membership. But as we look back in appreciation honoring the memory of Mr. Smith and his great service to SMCHA, let us never forget we also have our own obligation to do the present work and to accept gladly our opportunities for the continuation and the growth of the Association to ever greater activity and service. Only in following Mr. Smith's generous example can we give him a true memorial of appreciation.

The first charter members were as follows: L.C. Smith, John Perata, George Johnson, Don O'Neil, Sr., Don O'Neil, Jr., Creed Haberlin, Patsy Gray, Rolla Watt, Mrs. J. Grepe, Pete Villa, Jack Hara, Harry Tyrell, Lillian Jones, Grace Jones, Colonel Koester, Judge McNutt, Nick Ayers, Brad Melvin, John F. Nyland, Myron Duncan, Lucille Fordon, Roy Waldron, Harold Himmelman, and Ed Spillane. Eventually thirty-five directors were elected, some serving one year, two year and three year terms. Mr. L.C. Smith served for two terms as President, the years of 1940 and 1941 with the new tenure of office taking place at the first meeting in March of each year. The By-Laws were drawn up and later officers selected. The charter Executive Officers were as follows: President, L.C. Smith, 1st Vice-President, John Perata, 2nd Vice-President, Harold Himmelman, Secretary, R.B. Watt, and Treasurer, Harry Tyrell.

The Board of Directors met monthly and a general meeting was held every three months. Meetings were held in various places in order to have the membership in the different sections of the county become better acquainted. These meeting places included Pescadero, Colma, Redwood City and Belmont, but for the most part they were held at the Benjamin Franklin Hotel where dinner was served and the meeting followed.

Many firsts were to be recorded as the activities of the Association were held. For instance, the First Trail Ride through the Spring Valley Lake properties starting from the Old Homestead Stables, San Mateo, trailing happily through the lake area and back to the Crystal Springs Stables, where Sal Casillas and his wife served a delicious barbecue. The first uniform was a pink Western shirt worn with jeans and so the monthly bulletin was printed on pink paper appropriately called "The Pink Sheet." The first rodeo was held at Kavanaugh's Ranch, located on Dumbarton Road below the Bayshore Highway, but this proved not a financial success. Rolla Watt started the First Long Distance Competitive Trail Ride during the Fall of 1940 of some 65 miles through the Spring Valley Properties. This was done over a two day period and was followed by a HORSE SHOW (what energy!). Much recognition was given Rolla and he was busy helping other groups run such rides for many months. The First Rodeo was also held in 1941 on July 4 as the famous Peninsula Celebration at Redwood City and was a smashing success with Harold Himmelman as boss-manager.

This record of early events shows the wide interest then in varied horse activities and the present indicates SMCHA has followed through. There are surely important opportunities today for you if you only have the vision, imagination and energy to seize them. The smallest task well done, the smallest object out in the world where it would not have been had you not acted, brings in a moment more satisfaction than lack of action which accomplishes absolutely nothing. So move out with courage now into action in memory of those many who have already contributed their best efforts for the horse and the horseman's good.

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Photo by Fallaw

PROFILES: PETER PRIMIANI

One of our newest and youngest directors is a young man many SMCHA members will remember well. Last year PETER PRIMIANI returned from a five year absence in the Midwest and the East, was the manager of the Golden Gate Stables in San Francisco, and then returned to his first love, Woodside, where he is beginning the professional horseman's life. His horses are at the lovely Sycamore Valley Farm (formerly Romney Farm) and Peter will be buying, selling, training, and doing freeline instruction around the area.

Peter comes to the board of the SMCHA and his work with horses with a lot of experience under his belt. Many of us remember him as a SMCHA junior, riding his horse

Red, whom he acquired from Jack Melville, and at the shows riding Jack's hot-rod jumper Study Break. Jack and Peter worked closely together from Peter's earliest horse days, first at Canada Stables and then at Stanford, when Jack was asked to take over the University's riding program there. Besides his close association with Jack, Peter also found time to be the SMCHA junior editor, and manager of the Junior Horseshow. His honors for all his work included SMCHA "Boy of the Year" award, and finalist in the Region Six Horsemastership program at Santa Rosa, where he was awarded a college scholarship.

When college time came, Peter went to Iowa State University, and while there also rode for one of the

Midwest's best-known professionals, showing hunters and jumpers at all the big shows. While in college he also found time to get his name recorded as a judge in HJHE with the AHSA.

One college summer Peter had the enviable opportunity to work for Gene Cunningham of Warrenton, Virginia, one of the classic hunter trainers and exhibitors in that most classic area of horsemanship in the U.S. From Gene he learned much of the art and style involved in showing, and learned many of the fine points about horses and horsemanship.

In addition to all his other accomplishments, Peter holds a California Real Estate License, plays the trumpet (remember the Herald at the Three-Day Show?), water skis and belongs to the Southern Historical Society. That's a lot of diversification, but one gets the feeling that with Peter, the horses come first.

DUES ARE DUE!!

Renewal notices for SMCHA memberships have been sent out, and the sooner you respond with payment for your new membership, the more money you will be saving the Association. Also, you'll lessen the risk of having your name go off the mailing list. This happens on delinquent day, April 1. Please do yourself and us a favor, and sent your renewals now! Many thanks!!



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HORSE CROWD HAPPENINGS

The December meeting of the SMCHA directors is traditionally a dinner with spouses in attendance at a local restaurant. Everybody looks forward to this one, because HAROLD always tells jokes. Well, it was fun this year too, as the SMCHA family gathered at the Golden Steer in Redwood City, and our retiring PRESIDENT (Harold Zwierlein) introduced the new officers and board members informally. ED HANSEN (Harold's brother-in-law) was introduced to the assemblage, and if memory serves, he tells pretty good jokes too. Ed will be at the helm of the Horsemen for the coming year, and the applause that greeted him indicates that there is much enthusiasm and support for our new President.

Others introduced were new board members Peter Primiani, Nancy Boone, and Betty Greer of Woodside, and Cliff Pierce of Redwood City. Many of the new officers were asked to take a bow, among them Howard "Hap" Harper, who will take the critical job of Second Vice President, meaning that after two years of top-level participation in the SMCHA he will take the helm as President. Also introduced was the Second best (for obvious reasons) horseshoer in Woodside, PAT GRADY. Pat now moves into the number two spot in our association, First Vice President, meaning that he is the court of last resort for all matters pertaining to horseshows. For this role Pat is well prepared, having spent some years as the manager of the Garland of Roses Horseshow. He also knows quite a bit about horses, besides how to shoe them!

Cheryl Kreuzer, who has served

long and well in many capacities, will relinquish the post of Registrar and become Recording Secretary. New Registrar will be Barbara Clements. Another very generous person with her time and knowledge is Eileen Fenske, who once again has agreed to be the Treasurer of the Junior SMCHA, a job that requires much coordination with the young horsemen as well as bookkeeping.

Harold also mentioned with thanks for their years of service, the retiring directors. They are Pete Peterson and Jack Newcombe. Jack has been Chairman of the SMCHA "Day at the Races," when Bay Meadows becomes the setting for an exciting and entertaining event for the Horsemen.

There have been quite a few changes and realignments in the committees and chairmanships there-of. These are still in the process of being worked out, and the list of those who have volunteered to pitch in on the many activities the SMCHA carries out each year will be published in the next issue.

If any of you, our membership, see a committee upon which you feel you could be of help, call the chairman of that committee, and see if there is something you could do. Some of the jobs take some experience and/or training, but unless some new blood comes along once in a while, the old is going to die of anaemia!

The San Mateo County Horsemen's Association notes with regret the death of PAUL LANNING of Woodside. Long a figure in the Woodside horse community, the Lannings are former SMCHA members. MR. LANNING is responsible for the development of the little community east of Canada Road, along the streets that bear his and his wife's names, Lanning Drive and Jane Drive. The Lannings fore-bore over the years to add to that development the property which encompasses Woodside Stables, the enterprise of our Horseman Ross Meredith, thus preserving for horsemen one very useful facility.

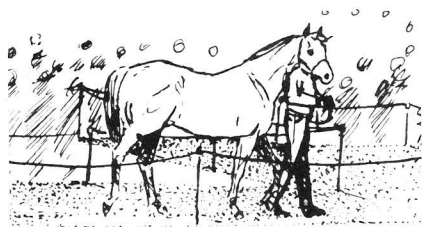
The SMCHA extends its heart-felt sympathy to Mrs. Lanning and other members of the family.

One of the familiar figures at most all our Western events is JIM CRIDER of Gilroy. Jim has been active in the show world for 25 years, and in the January issue of HORSEMAN magazine he has authored a very good article on trail class competition. The article is illustrated with pictures to demonstrate the points he is making, and the rider is BARBARA DAVISON, a talented young lady who exhibits widely, and supports the SMCHA whenever possible.

JIM has his training stable in Gilroy, where, as he says, he not only trains horses, but has done a fair job with riders, there being about 1,000 people whom JIM has taught riding trail around the countryside.

One of the horse world firsts that JIM likes to remember is GERONIMO, the first Appaloosa to be campaigned in the Open divisions of the bit shows. During his early years getting started in the "big time", JIM CRIDER worked with JIMMY WILLIAMS, and the two men went on the A and B circuits riding CRIDER'S horses.

If you have a chance to read his thoughts on how to show a trail horse, you'll pick up some very good points!



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OPENING DAY 1968: FORMER MFH EUGENE RETTIG OF THE LOS ALTOS HUNT

Eugene "Gene" Rettig, who lived and rode among us for many years was killed in a fall with his horse on December 4 while out hunting in England. A member of the Los Altos Hunt since 1963, Gene was the popular Master for the years 1968 to 1971.

A friend of many of the San Mateo Horsemen, Gene also

devoted much time to polo and loved all phases of riding. A fearless and able horseman, he had gone with his wife Jeannette to England in September, and was considering making that horse-loving country their home.

Gene and Jeannette had lived in Menlo Park until 1971, when they moved to Midland,

Texas. Active in real estate ventures both here and there, he had just completed a project so that he could give the major portion of his time to his first love, fox-hunting.

The SMCHA extends their sympathy to Jeannette, and to his three children, Lisa, Penn, and Carl.

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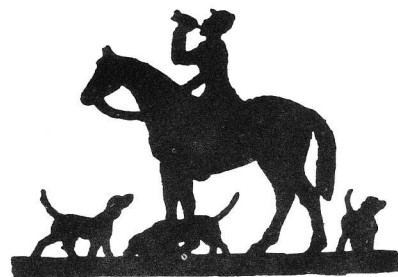
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THE San Mateo Jr. Horseman

JUNIOR HOOFBEATS

LAURIE EDWARDS, last year's vice president, has been nominated to the office of president. She is a senior at Woodside High and hopes to go to Cal Poly at San Luis Obispo. Laurie and her mare Freeway Fancy are quite well known in the show circuit after just one season together.

KATHRYN TAYLOR (that's me) is going to be the vice president for 1974. A sophomore at Crystal Springs I hope to go into some field of animal studies. My horse Bogart and I are newcomers into Horse Show life.

LYDIA CAVALLINI has been nominated to the office of secretary. She is a sophomore at San Carlos High. Lydia is the owner of a quarter horse named Springs Phrase and is also thinking of going to Cal Poly.

Your new editor is LESLIE HURLBUT. She owns and shows her horse Doc's Nubbin and I hear she has just purchased a new horse. Leslie hopes to go to Cal Poly but right now she is a senior at Woodside High.

BOB COOLEY will carry on in the office of sargeant at arms in '74. Bob goes to Menlo Atherton where he is a junior. He owns himself 3 horses; Voo Blob, Finger Rock Norton and Copper Penny.

If you have any questions or ideas, please feel free to call us. I'm sure Leslie would appreciate some

information to start off the new year.

I want everyone to know how much fun I've had being editor this past year. Despite my gripes and last minute scrambles to meet deadlines I've enjoyed bringing you gossip and news. I'd like to thank Mrs. Blake for putting up with me and everybody who contributed information, especially my regulars. Good luck to Leslie and the association in '74.

Kathryn

JR. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi!

Well, 1973 is over and I enjoyed finishing off the year. Now we have all of 1974 together, but, it isn't starting off as well as it could.

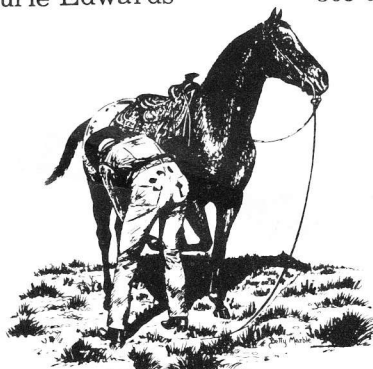
First of all, the Junior Installation was cancelled. The Installation Dinner Dance was cancelled this year for lack of interest. We started to put a lot of time into this event again, but soon found out not many were interested. We're very sorry about that for the ones who were interested.

The Installation was going to be very different this year. There was going to be a country and western band and it was going to be held at a hall. Although it was cancelled this year, that doesn't mean that we can't have one next year. For you people who would really like one next year, if you have any suggestions please call me.

This year we hope to have lots of fun any many different activities already set up. We would really appreciate help, so feel free to call!

Laurie Edwards

368-6402



NEWS FROM THE ROY MARKEGARD TRAINING STABLES

Well, the winter schooling shows are moving again. Linda Dawson and her trail horse, Tuff Creek, are getting ready for Indio. Linda and Tuffy won their trail class at Watsonville and Milpitas while also taking their share of ribbons in pleasure.

Our good horse Diamond Venture won the open pleasure at Milpitas with our green mare Samazing taking 2nd. Samazing then went on to win the Novice Pleasure Class.

Our new student, Sheila Langrock, shows as much promise as we've ever seen to be a model rider. Her horse "Nosey" won her first stock horse class in Watsonville. Sheila also picked up a 3rd and 4th in pleasure at Milpitas. Congratulations Sheila!

Marilyn McCormick and her horse Blackfoot Beau are getting ready for Jr. Cow Palace in medal, trail and equitation. We must say they are improving rapidly.

We are averaging about 4 calls a week from people who want to buy Powertown — the palomino colt we showed at the Snaffle Bit Futurity. We just started him in the hackamore and plan to show him at Indio.

Roy has been a little grouchy lately. After riding all day, he puts on his coveralls and works most of the night on the Clubhouse. The Clubhouse is almost finished and the customers are already playing pool and enjoying the new addition. We had a great New Year's party and wound up christening the Clubhouse with a bottle of champagne. What a mess!

Roy's stock horse clinics here at our ranch are about to begin. The first clinic will start with the basics, so anyone that is interested should contact us soon.

We all hope the New Year will bring each and everyone of you the best of luck.

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THE WESTERN RIDING CONTEST....

How to Ride it and How to Win

Fifteen years ago the American Quarter Horse Association added the Western Riding contest to its list of events for approved shows. In the early sixties it began to catch on; today it attracts competition from some of the best horses and riders. Open shows have recently begun to borrow the pattern and have taken advantage of the added interest it gives both spectators and contestants.

Many horsemen will tell you it takes a better horse for Western Riding than it does for reining. Certainly the Western Riding horse must show an even, quiet temper and a smooth way of going as well as the ability to handle himself well. He doesn't need or want the speed of the reining horse, but his schooling must be thorough and his manners impeccable.

A Western Riding horse is a pleasure horse with some extra handle. He is judged entirely on

performance, so his rider can forget about that 20 to 30 percent conformation he must be concerned with in trail and pleasure classes. An animal which doesn't have the conformational quality to make it in today's tough pleasure classes might well qualify for Western Riding. The rules are relaxed on appointments and tack as well: carrying a rope or reata is optional, as is the wearing of chaps; a hackamore or snaffle is permissible as well as the standard curb bit, half-breed or spade. This gives the contestant with a green horse which hasn't been fully bridled a contest in which he can compete. True, he will be up against older, more seasoned horses, for there are no age or status divisions, but this is a condition the true competitor will accept with equanimity if not with relish.

To quote the rule book, the Western Riding contest is "a

competition in the performance and characteristics of a good, sensible, well-mannered, free and easy moving ranch horse which can get a man around on the usual ranch chores, over the trails, or give a quiet, comfortable and pleasant ride in open country through and over obstacles."

Don't let the casual reference to ranch horses lead you into the woods of complacency. There are precious few horses coming in off the ranch which could give anything like an acceptable performance in this contest. The Western Riding horse must have a quality of gaits exceeding even those of the pleasure horse; and he must, above all, be faultless and precise in handling his leads.

Let's take a look at the Western Riding pattern. The first obstacle is the gate. Go through it the best way you can, which for most riders will mean opening it away from them, walking through the opening while keeping a free hand on the gate, swinging the haunches around out of the way and then taking a couple



"The contesting horse will be judged on riding qualities of gaits (walk, trot, lope), change of leads, response to the rider, manners, disposition, intelligence." — AQHA Handbook. Photo by Ron Iudice

WHEN I SAY

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of sidesteps to close it. This is a fairly basic chore. Most horses learn to work a gate simply by riding through pastures or over trails where gates are commonly encountered. But, as in every aspect of showing, a little extra class, a measure of showmanship, will gain you some extra points. Your horse should be schooled to turn on his forehand (his front legs are the "hinge" upon which his barrel and hind quarters turn) and he should learn to sidepass. Neither of these maneuvers are difficult and if they are used in opening and closing a gate, the job will be done with little, if any, wasted motion. The judge will receive an overall picture of a well-schooled, obedient horse with economical moves. There is nothing like giving the judge a favorable first impression.

The rider then walks his horse to the obstacle which is a small log or pole, steps him over it easily and then moves him into a job to mid-way of the pattern where he should strike off in a left-lead lope.

Surprisingly, this is the place where many riders throw the whole thing away. The transition from trot to lope at this point is not as simple as it may seem. A careless rider will boot his horse forward, trusting to chance that he will pick up the proper lead. Another one might give the appropriate leg cues for the left lead, but will miss because his riding is sloppy and he doesn't use his hands simultaneously to pick his horse up and confirm the lead. He forgets that there is no rail here (as

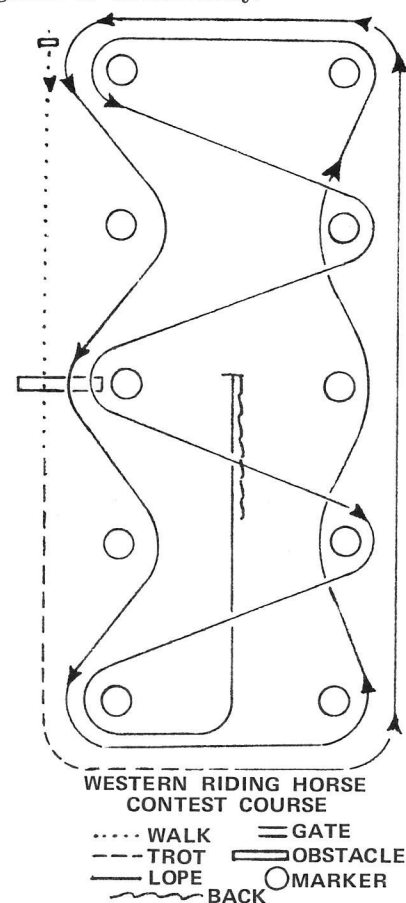
there would be in a pleasure or trail class) to clue a horse in on the correct lead. He forgets that a horse is more disposed to pick up a wrong lead from a trot than from a walk.

What the rider should do at this point is prepare his horse, physically and psychologically for the rest of the contest. The message he should be giving him here should be one which puts the animal into an enlightened and receptive state of mind. The horse should begin traveling collectedly with his hocks well under him, ready for any kind of move in any direction. His rider's legs should put him up into his bridle; his rider's hands should be sensitive and articulate, sending him urgent little messages through the reins. A good rider will be extremely careful at this point to pick up the correct lead and avoid the confusion and neurosis of an unnecessary correction. If the horse is green, confusion is something his rider can ill afford. If the horse is seasoned he will know he has made a mistake and may suffer from it just enough to affect the rest of his performance.



The trip to the first marker where a lead change is to be made should be calm, collected and unhurried. Once the horse has picked up the lope there should be very little change of pace during the entire pattern. A quickened pace indicates excitement. It will tell the judge that the animal is disturbed about

changing his leads. This is why some horsemen say the Western Riding horse needs to be better than the reining horse. In reining a horse can travel at a faster pace, thus change his leads more easily; or he can pick up a bit of speed near the center of his eight and prepare himself for a lead change. In Western Riding the name of the game is consistency.



Going over the obstacle at a lope is another crucial point. Some riders will cue the horse for a change of leads before reaching the obstacle. When the horse hops over the log he may inadvertently change back again and come down on the wrong lead. This kind of mistake can only be avoided in training. Many horses are schooled to flying changes by jumping them over low obstacles. It is an excellent method because it emphasizes to the animal — by getting him into the air — that the change must be made during the "flight" phase of his gallop. It virtually eliminates the chance of a disunited change, a

Continued On Page 13



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fault common in green horses who change leads in front but not behind.

Some horses will try to avoid the obstacle by going around it. Everthing a horse does while performing is a reflection of his schooling. If the animal has been put over enough obstacles in his training — logs and deadfalls on the trail, clumps of brush, poles, tires, barrels, cavaletti — he will take them in his stride literally when it's time to perform. In the Western Riding contest the horse should approach the obstacle attentively, but calmly. His rider should cue him to change leads just before he hops over it, simultaneous with a slight change of direction to avert the marker. The lead change will be made in the air and the horse will come down on the correct lead.

The markers in Western Riding are placed uniformly from 30 to 50 feet apart. This means that a change of leads is required every third, fourth or fifth stride. The distance between the obstacles while making the peripheral trip can be increased by making a wider circle around each marker. This is the way a rider on a green horse might take this serpentine course — not only because he can get an extra stride or two between each marker, but because he can also emphasize the lead change with a sharper turn. But the horse and rider gaining the most points will be the ones who take most of the curve out of the serpentine pattern. Their peripheral journey will be almost in

a straight line and the horse will leave tracks very close to the markers.

The second part of the pattern, the diagonals, is easier than the first because of the greater distance between markers and the sharper turns. On the diagonal course the rider can make his lead change anywhere he wants after leaving the last marker. It is best, however, to wait until he has at least reached the halfway point. A nervous horse may want to change back again and the least amount of room his rider leaves for him to do this, the safer he will be. Most horses need only work this pattern three or four times and they will have it memorized. Just as a reined horse will sometimes anticipate being set up during his run, the Western Riding horse will anticipate a change of lead. It is probably best if his rider waits until the last two or three strides before coming to the marker on the diagonal course before he cues for a lead change. This will tend to eliminate the possibility of anticipating, yet will give horse and rider sufficient time to correct a mistake.

The animal's pace at this point should continue to remain constant. Slow and easy does it. Do not allow him to charge between obstacles or markers, make uncalled for lead changes or drop back to a trot when making his change. No galloping, running or breaking stride. A lope is a lope is a lope.

The final leg of your journey will be down the center, between the two rows of markers to the halfway

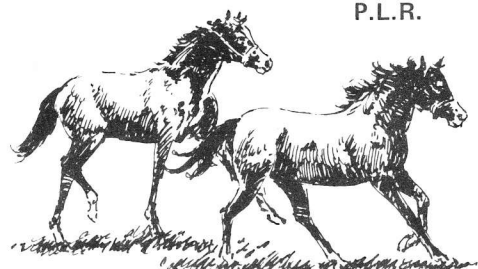
point where you will stop and back your horse. There will be no extra points for a long, spectacular sliding stop. The judge is looking for an easy, balanced, square stop. The horse's head should be down, his mouth closed and his poll and chin yielding to the hands of his rider. His stop should be made in one stride with his hocks brought well under his middle and locked in. After he settles for a second or two he should back easily on a light rein.

After the horse has made his stop and backed a few steps, he should walk from the arena relaxed, head down, on a loose rein. The impression left with the judge should be one of a fluid, balanced, rhythmic, unhurried and unharried trip.

If you set up a Western Riding course at home, vary your execution of it each time you work it. Keep your horse guessing on the pattern. He should get the signal from his rider before he changes his gait or direction. But, most important, do not confine your work to the ring. Your horse will be physically and psychologically healthier if you get him out into the open country regularly. Work him through as many gates and over as many natural obstacles as you can find. Gallop and lope him over uneven terrain and make him change his leads every time a significant change of direction is made. If he makes a disunited change, correct him immediately. Teach him to take care of himself in rough country. This kind of work will give him a natural kind of collection which cannot be duplicated by ring schooling.

Work your horse on a reasonably loose rein. Wherever you go with him, the journey should be pleasant, comfortable and safe.

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Cho Cho Plaudett, owned by Patricia Whitney of Portola Valley, wears the winner's wreath as top working stock horse at the 1973 Grand National Show, COW PALACE, San Francisco. To take the honor, rider Bobby Knudson put Cho Cho through a dazzling repertoire of fast-paced maneuvers with a free-running steer in the COW PALACE arena, typical of the kind of practical work a stock horse must perform on a western ranch. Knudson accepted the Mr. and Mrs. Joe Silveira Challenge Trophy from Mrs. Silveira. The event was part of the closing night performance at the 1973 Grand National (Oct. 26-Nov. 4).

ON THE RAIL

A new paint job for the Cow Palace, and newly designed programs added special touches to the Grand National this year as it continued to be one of the most exciting spectator shows around.

The Foxfield Drill Team was superb and so was Bob Knudson as he nearly received a standing ovation after his final winning performance Sunday night on Cho Cho Plaudett.

The color guard teams representing various groups officially opened the Grand National Friday evening with a colorful entry and exit. The teams kept coming in and being announced but there were so many and they came in so quickly it was not easy to tell who was who.

After sitting through four evening performances this observer had some thoughts about varying the program. Most people don't go that often but many do to see certain performers on the nights they ride.

One idea is a special performance by breeds not competing in the Grand National such as the Peruvian Paso and the Tennessee Walker. A small class of conformation or Amateur-Owner hunters could compete one night or there could be a short obstacle course for trail horses. At least this would be some variation.

Empty seats were in evidence at all shows except the final one so perhaps a change is due. The opening night crowd didn't come to life until the trick riders performed.

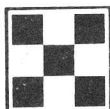
Many familiar faces were at the daily shows cheering on their favorites. The gamblers were there passing a borrowed hat and drawing names for a jumper performance.

Mayor Joseph Alioto appeared briefly at the final show waving and smiling to assorted boos and cheers while the cameras clicked and necks strained. The Tack Room awards were announced that night too and first place went to Charter Oak.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

In response to the letter concerning publicity for horse shows, I would first like to say that we get reasonably good pre-publicity in the local papers for our two-day shows. They have been very cooperative in printing pictures and announcements. However, they do not publish results, which I would like to see.

Why is an excellent question. Equestrian competitions are part of the Olympics and have been televised on sport shows. I have been told by one editor the people over him decide what sports are reported. Another editor thought the shows were non-competitive with owners/exhibitors using the weekly trail horse for a Sunday show horse.

In July of this year exhibitors planned a petition to the three large Bay Area publishers concerning publicity for the Grand National, the biggest show in the area. Pat Crowe, Sally Davis, and myself composed a letter and with the help of Helen Ryman, Larry Larson, and Marilyn Blake obtained pages of signatures which were mailed to the publishers.

Letters were received from the Examiner and Oakland Tribune indicating attention would be given to the sport.

Things began to look up when Allan Ross was interviewed by Art Rosenbaum saying horse shows were indeed a sport, and when the Grand National appeared in the weekly sports listing.

However, that seemed to be as far as we got. Several features were run in the papers but the feeling seems to be that horse shows are feature material or a society event.

The new sports editor of the Examiner is from New York and is the only one who feels differently, although I know of no results printed in that paper.

The show results were phoned in nightly by the Grand National people to the three papers but I was told the Chronicle refused to take them.

I submitted the complete horse show results to the Examiner prior to the final Sunday show and then phoned the final results Sunday night. They argued for five minutes over who would take them and referred me to the City side. When I persisted, someone finally took them but again they were not used. I might add that in earlier conversations with them I was transferred to the City side and was told they no longer handle the show.

So where are we? Still plugging. Yet, ours is not the only sport ignored. Virtually none of the smaller sports are reported.

I have also been told the sports reported are those of interest to the most people but have seen squash and the complete soccer results from England printed in the Chronicle.

Sincerely,
Shirley Polich

We regret very much the oversight in not crediting Gary Sinclair with the pictures in the last issue of the magazine of the President's ride. Gary took many pictures throughout the ride, which the Staff much appreciates.



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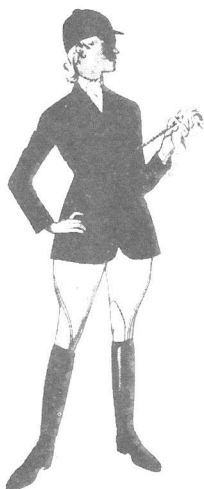


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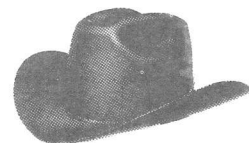
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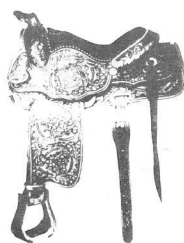


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