the San Mateo HORSEMAN



Wonter 1990

COVER STORY

This edition's cover is designed by Linda Rainey from Golden Gate Press. Pictured is Richard Convery wih his horse, DUCHESS. Dick, who is the new 1990 president of SMCHA is anxious to make our 50th anniversary a successful year. Many new events are planned as well as keeping the traditional ones. He has acknowledged the strong leadership that the club has had over the past couple of years and is confident that he can maintain the upswing in interest that the club has enjoyed in recent years. Dick is a long-time resident of Portola Valley and is also an active member of the Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County.

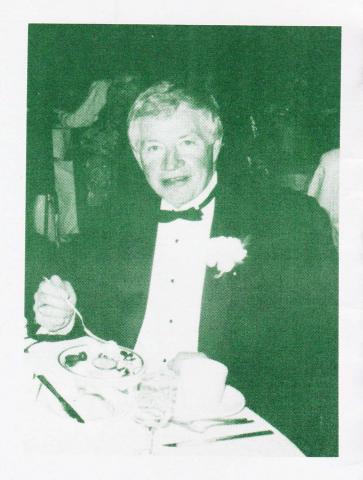




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Editorial

Happy New Year! It's 1990 and ironically enough it is not only our 50th anniversary but the YEAR OF THE HORSE in the Chinese calendar. Plans are now underway to make this a significant coincidence.

As we enter into this new year, many new faces have been added to our organization. We wish to extend a warm welcome to each and every one. As usual, January marks the time when our new Board of Directors is to be installed. Welcome to our 1990 Board led by our new President Dick Convery! May 1990 prove to be our most spectacular vear!

One thing we can't forget is the accomplishments of our group in 1989. 1989, under the leadership of Rick Payne, was a very successful year. Participation in many of our functions was at an all time high. Even the October 17th Earthquake couldn't keep down attendance by the SMCHA members at the Grand National. We extend our thanks to Rick and every member for their part in making 1989 the successful year that it was.

What of our magazine? Well, we intend some surprises in 1990. Many things will have to do with our 50th Anniversary events as they take shape. We would like to do some in-depth reporting on topics relating to all horse-owners. As always, we will be asking for your input. We may ask for your opinion at certain events or may prompt you to write us as we probe some controversial topics. How about a video review section for those times you can't go riding? Have you ever heard of the film 'Gypsy Colt'? It's an equine remake of the Lassie Come Home story. Give us your ideas. We value your input.

As always, this is your magazine and this is going to be our best year in the SMCHA! Help us to make it happen!

See you on the trails,

Doug & Libbury

OFFICERS and BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1990

PRESIDENT Richard Convery BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT Libby Armanino

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT Ron Harris

TREASURER Bob Hydorn

SECRETARY Doug Reed

HISTORIAN Doris Lantz

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Nancy Van Zwol Harry Wellman Bruce Baker Paul Bjoring Amos Dana Patti Dana Ron Harris Walt Kirk Doris Lantz Noel Moody Bill Turnbow Roni Turnbow Bill Hopper Barbara George Lisa Dixon Don Palus Gay-Lynn Mann

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I feel honored to have been chosen president this special year of our 50th anniversary. San Mateo County Horsemen's Association was officially formed in February of 1940, with the first meeting being held at the San Mateo City Hall. L.C. Smith served as the first president for the years 1940 and 1941. Without going into all of the history of the organization, it is interesting to note how the organization was started. During the year 1939, the San Mateo County officials arranged to have the first Floral Show and Fandango to be held at the new Bay Meadows Club House located in Hillsdale., In conjunction with the Fiesta, a parade was held that started in Burlingame. L.C. Smith who was a prominent figure in the community was asked to organize a group of horsemen and carriages to ride in he parade. They wound up with 300 horses parading down the streets. What a sight that must have been. After seeing the tremendous interest in horsemen getting together, they decided to form the San Mateo County Horsemen's Association. So now you know!

This year, there will be many events and a final banquet to commemorate the history of our organization in October. We have a committee formed to organize all of the activities. But, we are still looking for additional committee members and information on our early years, so let's hear from you.

All the normal programs will be held this year vis 'a vis: Western and English Clinics, rides, overnight at Jack Brook Horse Camp, horse shows and general meetings, along with the special 50th programs. We are going to have one busy year, so I am looking forward to all of the help I can get from the membership (450 strong) and the great officers and Board of Directors that I have this year.

We will be having a special parade on the fourth of July in Redwood City. Our goal is to have 50 riders, one for every year of the organization. If they could have 300 horses in 1940, surely we can muster 50 riders, so sign up!

With all of your help, we will have one heck of a year and lots of fun for our efforts. So, plan right now to participate in this our special year and be part of our history. If you have any ideas or thoughts on our programs or anything for that matter, give me a call.

Happy 50th

Richard Convery President, 1990 851-2911





The San Mateo County Horsemen's Association will be celebrating all year long it's 50th anniversary. Founded in February of 1940, the association has a long and colorful history. It has been the dominate force in the horse community of San Mateo County since it's inception. Bringing together the horse owners and riders to share in the knowledge and fun of owning a horse has been it's main goal throughout the years.

There will be a detailed history of the association in a special book that will be available during the year.

The 50th Committee has planned many activities to help celebrate our special year. Here is a list some of the planned activities for this year:

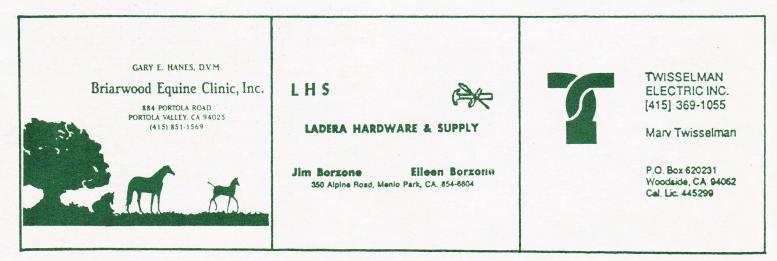
WESTERN FASHION SHOW TACK AUCTION SPECIAL RIDE BANQUET WESTERN RIDING EXHIBITION 4TH OF JULY PARADE 50TH YEARBOOK SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING VARIOUS FUND RAISERS

We are also looking for additional help on our committee. If you would like to participate in the planning of any of these activities, please call either Noel Moody at 322-6545 or Richard Convery at 851-2911.

PEOPLE BRAG SECTION

November 22, 1989 was a Red Letter Day for our 1988 Past President and current Second Vice President Ron Harris and his wife Mary Jo. At 11:29 am they became proud grandparents. Their first! Son Scott, and daughter-in-law Kathy presented them with a beautiful 9 lb. 7 oz. grandson named Maxwell Allan Harris. He was 21 inches long and was born with a full head of hair.

He got his middle name from his grandfather. We don't know where he got all that hair!





STEPHANIE ANISE

NEW VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

The VHP is still a young organization, just three years old. Three years isn't very long, especially compared with the 50 years of SMCHA (Yeah SMCHA!), but we have a lot to show for it. Over 100 people have qualified to ride with the volunteers and our contribution has been recognized and appreciated by the county.

Each year we have added to our activities. New activites for '89 are the Scavenger Hunt Ride, sponsored by Stuart and Carleen Whittelsey, and the Trail Safety Clinic, sponsored by Cheryl Chandler. The objective of our programs is to enhance the horsemanship of volunteer participants. Because these events enjoyed such great success, they will become part of next year's VHP program.

Preparation for the 4th of July parade will include participation in the Woodside May Day and Los Altos Pet parades. This will give willing but untried riders and horses the opportunity to prepare for the 4th. Doris Lantz has done a fabulous job as coordinator of the 4th of July parade for the past two years and looks forward to assisting the new parade coordinators.

PROGRAM EXPANDS TO PESCADERO CREEK

The Volunteer Horse Patrol program at <u>Pescadero Creek Park</u> is ready to go this Spring. Nettie and Rene Klein have joined pilots Kitty Haddix, Ron and Mary Jo Harris, and June Irhazy to get the program off the ground (without bucking) this spring. If you are interested in participating in the Pescadero Creek program, please call Stephanie Anise at 415/361-6614.

TRAIL SAFETY CLINIC

by Linda Cummins

What a beautiful day to be outside talking horse stuff! The trail safety clinic that was scheduled from 10:00 - 12:00 on Sunday, October 8 in Edgewood Park overflowed with great information and demonstrations until 1:30. (I only regret that I neglected to bring my lunch.) Cheryl Chandler demonstrated how to check your tack and capture a loose horse with the assistance of her patient steed, Snowball, who also assisted Ralph Elliot with his demonstrations of how to tie and picket a horse. Particularly interesting was how to knot a rope into a halter and lead line. The discussion of trail etiquette headed by Cindy Elliot was enlightening as she described the antics of a group of riders with varying degrees of experience and common sense. John Hembree did a fabulous job in his discussion of trail first aid, both human and equine. There are a number of useful items that can comfortably be carried in a fanny pack or saddle bag, as demonstrated by John, that serve well when giving aid.

To sum it up, it was interesting informative and fun. I'm glad I went. Others that attended are: **Volunteers** Stephanie Anise, Ursula Bielefeld, Gina Davis, Karen Flores, Annie Green, Kitty Haddix, Maureen Hagen, Jean Hansen, Sharon Lann, Ken Lansdowne, Lon Mattmann, Nan Rand, Donna and Gene Richeson, Jackie Schlesinger, Carol Stanaway, Marion Vandenbosch, MaryClaire Wellman, Carleen Whittelsey, Stuart Whittelsey, and Hazel Wuersching; **Rangers** Jack Kuhn, Dave Moore, Tim O'Connor, and Sean O'Sullivan; **Guests** Beverly Barker, Charlie and Kathy Brock, Linda Fried, and Don Ross.

INSTALLATION DINNER

The San Mateo County Horsemen's Installation Dinner was held at the Redwood City Elks Club on Saturday evening January 27th. Rick Payne, 1989 President officially passed the gavel to Richard Convery who is anxious to take over the leadership and bring in the new year. Not only is the club starting a new year but it is also the 50th year anniversary of the SMCHA.

The evening included a choice of two dinners, an awards ceremony and dancing to the music of BRAVO, a local country and western band. There were well over 130 members and their guests who attended to show their support for the old and new officers. Special thanks is given to the Honorable Thomas McGinn Smith who conducted the installation ceremony. Doug Moody and Harry Wellman provided the comedy for the evening and as usual were a most enjoyable masters of ceremony combination!

Special recognition was given to several members for their hard work and support all year long. The most touching was Jill Silva who kept us well fed on all of our rides and dinners last year. Rick Payne presented her with an Exceptional Service Award that held an old fashioned dinner triangle and replaced her Cusinart with a new one. Jill was thankful to all that helped her throughout the year and the support of her long time friend, Bruce Hegedas. Other Exceptional Service Awards were given to Karen Rowley, Christine Eppstein, Dick and Melissa Convery and Doug Reed.

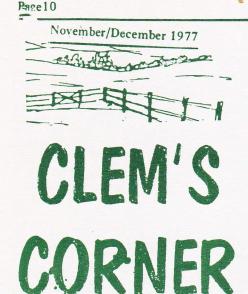
Traditionally, the Horseman of the Year award and the Horsewoman of the Year award is given to a member that has made a valuable contribution to the club. This year's recipients were Ron Harris and Libby Armanino. Both acknowledged the tremendous support from their friends and family to be able to devote so much time to the club.

The SMCHA has a tremendous Board of Directors this year, willing and anxious to meet your needs as a club as well as to adhere to our traditional bylaws in furthering horsemanship and activities throughout the year.



Rick Payne and Dick Convery





by Clem Carrol"

THE PAIR

Here is a little tale worth the telling, we think.

Some 14 years ago a middle aged man and a skinny black two year old gelding made their casual appearance on the Woodside riding scene. The horse had just been accepted for boarding on stable property then owned by Creed Haberlin and run by "Buck" Marsh, the Hitchrack terror, who many will remember from those days. The spot is now Dry Creek Stables.

Those who became acquainted with the man and his horse soon realized that the man was by no means an accomplished rider and that the black horse was by no means a blue ribbon performer. The horse had just been shipped in from Denver, where the man had acquired him from a horse breeding relative by marriage. The sire was a well known winner, a Leopard Appalousa named Cochise, and the dame was a well bred Appy of dubious character. The owner. because he had on his hands a colt that was pure black with thoroughbrid lines, decided he must opt between knocking the colt on the head or giving it away to another sucker inlaw as a grand gesture.

So there you have it—a green broke colt and rider on the loose. It would have been no big surprise if they had jointly gone to the great

THE SAN MATEO HORSEMAN

beyond, since all agreed that neither one ever questioned the capability of the other to do the necessary in their continuous adventuring. However, they both survived, and even more, over the ensuing years the man and his horse acquired some fame as a pair. To be sure, a "pair" of what? was often in dispute, not so much regarding the horse as the rider. Yet, their many trail exploits made good cocktail hour small talk and the several saddle tools the poor horse had to carry for use by the rider were always in demand by friends keeping company.

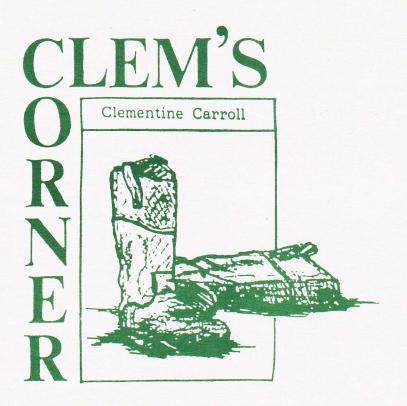
That is the way it is today. The pair are still going strong. There are no known statistics on the duration of companionship of horse and rider in active status, but it must be a fact that few if any, locals can match this pair. Fourteen years of busy togetherness! Have you by now guessed the identity? Of course, it is John Olivier and Palouse.

1987 10 YEARS LATER...

Now Palouse is coming up on age 25, and John will never see his 60's again, but they are still with us in good health. Many observe that the pair have calmed down some. The horse still has his great willing spirit, but the man has more sense now, he says. Be that as it may, it's good to have them around. Next chapter???

AS OF NOW 1990...

The pair is still with us. This year John will achieve 25 years of membership with both SMCHA and Los Viajeros. Palouse is now 29 with hopefully a few more years to go. Their togetherness is John's "BRAG-A-NAG" and here is \$2. Palouse says "I'd rather have some oats instead of a "BRAG-A-NAG"!



EARTHQUAKE STORIES:

Those near swimming pools mentioned seeing 3 to 6 foot waves splashing around. In fact, somewhere in Palo Alto, a water polo team was in action and some players were lifted right out of the tank. Bruce and Donna's store was in shambles but customers remained calm. Doug Moody's food processing plant had tons of sacks of beans, rice, flour, tomato sauces, oils, all strewn in aisles. Those is supermarkets, Noel and Brandy, for instance, said they would never forget it!

Cheryl Chandler's living room has a high shelf that goes completely around the four walls, and holds a collection of antique bottles her grandmother passed on to her. Believe it or not, the day before the quake she had carefully removed each one, wrapped them and placed them in a box. The following day painters were to come and Cheryl was ready, in more ways than one. John Olivier was in his living room sitting in front of a large bookcase filled with objects of art inherited from his grandfather who was quite a famous portrait painter in Canada. The various pieces bounced against him and fell to the floor as he held the case from tipping over. Nothing damaged. Jean Brook Dunning wrote from Nevada City that

standing alone, all decorated in the center of the area where so many houses burned down.

The November Barn Dance was indeed a pleasant surprise to see over 175 horsemen having a "smashing" time. There were cages of rabbits, chickens, real barn effects, bales of hay, saddles, equipment, etc. The table center pieces were of square dance dolls made by Mary Lee Twisselman. The dinner was delicious. SMCHA has certainly become a fun sharing organization. Thanks to everyone who helped. One sad comment made on the loud speaker by David Burlingame, "90% of new property owners in Woodside are not horse oriented and are not observing the easement rules this area had had in effect for many years and are locking trail accesses."

Danica Piers is writing an interesting column in the Country Almanac, which is a weekly paper. All stories are on horse people and their activities. In a recent issue, Danica writes about a new polo "hitting cage" at CTETA which was donated by Victor Thompson and his niece, Lynn Thompson. Polo players can practice hitting the balls which somehow come to the left or right of a player sitting on a wooden horse. Polo games are held on Fridays and Sundays at noon and the public is invited to watch the Horse Park Polo Club. Danica's column is called "HORSE TALK", her phone is #851-2285.

How To Make People Happy Department: On the grounds of the Veteran's Hospital, where Sue Sheehan is a nurse, are found many wild kittens. Sue has been bringing them to Doris Lantz who sees that they are given their shots. Doris gives the kittens away which are displayed her pet shop in San Bruno, sharing the Vet bill with the happy new owners.

To Ross Meredith's wife Ruth: Best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Carol Hodges is riding in Ireland and Danica has written a lovely article in her column with the Country Almanac.





Bill Jabs is the newly elected Captain of the Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County and has been described by a former captain of the Patrol as "a good, steady man and a hard worker who will carry the patrol forward". Jabs, who owns his own contracting business, will be responsible for overseeing all the problems, finances, and maintenance for the patrol's almost 23 acres of fairgrounds and private club located in the heart of Woodside. Bill Jabs has been a strong supporter of the SMCHA in the past and we all wish him success in his new position!

PETE TOWNE

Excerpt taken from the PENISULA HORSEMAN published by the Peninsula Times Tribune and written by Chris Preimesberger.

Kendall Bartley (Pete) Towne, 87, a lifelong horseman and outdoorsman, longtime Peninsula businessman/civic leader and great-grandfather of 10 was honored as Outstanding Horseman Citizen of the Year at the Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County's annual installation/recognition banquet held at the Menlo Circus Club on January 13, 1990.

The award which is co-sponsored by the Times Tribune, is presented each year to a horseman who contributes significantly to the civic, social, cultural and professional life in San Mateo County.

In 1967, Towne was the one who provided about 900 acres of prime wilderness land in the Alpine district of La Honda to the County of San Mateo at a price far below market value to be used as a horse camp. Many horsemen and horsewomen who regularly use the property insist that it's the best horse camp in all of California. This area is called the Jack Brook Horse Camp.

Towne is a founding member (1942) and a former captain of the Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County as well as a former president of the San Mateo County Horsemen's Association in 1946. SMCHA congratulates Pete Towne!

ORGANIZED TRAIL RIDES

Rules of Safety and Courtesy

These rules apply to members and their guests. Before starting the ride, make sure your guests are aware of the rules, and understand them. The "trail boss" is in charge of the ride, and all riders and horses participate at the discretion of the "trail boss".

The safety of everyone on the ride is in the hands of the "trail boss" and the "drag", so please follow the following rules:

- 1. Follow all instructions of the trail boss.
- 2. Do not ride ahead of the trail boss (usually lead rider) without his or her permission.
- 3. Do not fall behind the designated drag rider. (last rider)
- 4. Do not separate yourself from the other riders.
- 5. Maintain one horse length between your horse and the horse in front of you.
- 6. Don't stop at the top of a hill or on a narrow section of trail if there are riders behind you. If you must stop, keep moving until there is a wide spot to get completely off the trail, so other riders can safely pass.
- 7. Notify riders behind you of any trail hazards you observe, such as holes in the trail, wire, branches, etc.
- 8. Do not hold on to branches when you go through trees or bushes.
- 9. Do not gallop up to, or away from other horses.
- 10. Don't ride off from a gate or watering spot until all riders are mounted and ready to move on.
- 11. If you have a slow walking horse, or you are having problems with your horse, ride to the rear of the group, in front of the "drag".
- 12. If you must leave the main ride group, notify the "trail boss" or the "drag" rider.
- 13. There will be no smoking on the trail. Smoking at rest stops and lunch stops will be at the discretion of the "trail boss".
- 14. Do not leave paper, cans, or trash on the trails or at lunch sites.

Riders should carry a halter and a lead rope at all times. They will be needed at rest stops and lunch breaks, and for any emergency which may arise.

If your horse is known to kick at the horse behind, a red ribbon should be placed on the tail of your horse. If you do not have a ribbon, ask the "trail boss".

No STALLIONS or DOGS are allowed on S.M.C.H.A. trail rides.

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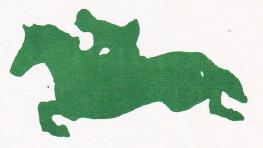
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Northwest Montana is just now being discovered. Our weather is mild, (more like northern Idaho). We have beautiful summers, with green grass all summer long. It's a paradise here for horses and people alike and may someday become a major area in which horse people retire or just escape the city.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: call 406-882-4694 (message)

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SEA HORSE RANCH

Well I took a walk down memory lane a couple of months ago. My first riding experience was 20 years ago at a place called Sea Horse Ranch over in Half Moon Bay. My best friend in the whole world and next door neighbor at the time had just started riding 4 months previously and her parents so graciously invited me to tag along one Saturday morning. Much to my mother's chagrin (until the doctor told her I had a choice between ballet lessons or horseback riding to correct a small curvature of the spine...) I spent a wonderful year with Marilyn and her parents cruising the beaches and eating hamburgers on horseback. As all things go, I went on to high school and Marilyn went on to success in the show ring and our paths crossed only a few more times. Since moving to Woodside, I found out that our old riding buddies: Patches, Beau and Topper were still around and boarded at nearby Wika Ranch. I immediately contacted Marilyn and renewed my acquaintance with Beau!

Everyone should have an experience like mine and quite recently I was happy to discover that my 10 year old niece, Senalee had a renewed interest in horses. For months, I tried to get her to come up and go riding but being a little timid, we got as far as riding double bareback a few times. Then she attended a friend's birthday party over at Sea Horse and got hooked.

I decided to take advantage of her renewed interest and signed her up for 4 lessons with Ed Wilson over at Sea Horse. I figured that since she "clicked" with him at her previous visit, why not take advantage?

I picked her up for her first lesson and headed over Hwy 92 to deliver her. Turning off the highway and into the parking lot felt a lot like coming to an old home. Things have changed a bit, some of the buildings are gone, the pony ring is on the other side of the check in booth, the back pasture has moved but the atmosphere and the smells and sights and sounds were all there. I handed her over to her instructor and tried to walk away and not pay any attention. Instead, I walked the grounds once more and checked out Patches', Beau's and Topper's old stalls, the trail towards the beach and the old watering troughs.

In an hour, the lesson was over and I turned my truck towards home looking forward to the next week probably more than Senalee!

Senalee has now finished her lessons with Ed and is now riding our big white horse, FOGHEAD who has been a faithful friend to her, helping her open gates, maneuver the trails and cross the creeks. I'm grateful to Ed Wilson for instilling the confidence that she needed and the patient hours that he spent with her on those Wednesday afternoons. Being able to teach children and maintain their interest is a gift and we appreciated him and all the others over at Sea Horse who kept an eye out for her.

Ed is teaching a day camp again this summer and Senalee is looking forward to joining in. If you should have any questions regarding their programs or rentals, please contact them at 726-2362.

Sea Horse Ranch has been in business for 35 years and has recently changed ownership, offering their ranch guests a fun, exciting and safe outdoor experience. It is located on Highway 1, one mile north of Historic Half Moon Bay. It is open 7 days a week, hay rides available by request and boarding for privately owned horses is available.



It is raining as I write this so now the trails will be soupy and soggy. However, San Mateo County is blessed with multiple trails that qualify as all weather trails. Have you ridden along Canada Road from Woodside Road all the way to Highway 92? This trail was improved and rocked by the County a few years ago to provide a trail that can be used year around. For those of you with a San Francisco Water Dept key, you can ride from the corner of Canada Road and Edgewood Road on a dry graveled road behind the Water Temple and Filoli all the way to 92. Yes, it is true that one can ride the full length and then one has to turn around and come back on the same trail but it is a good place to ride during the wet season. Also, one may make a circle ride going through the Water Dept to the area behind the Water Temple, turn and go towards the Water Temple and come out on to Canada Road for about a 5 mile loop. It is 7 miles from Roberts Store to 92. Woodside has many roadside trails that can be ridden year round and without a key. There are a lot of paths toward keeping your fine steed in condition all year.

It has been reported that several trails in the county parks of Huddart are now seasonally closed. A warning!!! Some have signs at one end of the trail and no sign at the other end.

A special caution for all horsemen at this time of year. Puddles and downed limbs sometimes tend to suggest a shortcutting. Please do not cut across nd make an unauthorized trail. I call them "bastard trails".

There are so many trail organizations and committees it is difficult to keep track of all of them but for the benefit of all horsemen each committee is highly devoted to improvement of the entire trail system, both locally, county and state wide. There are so many great volunteers all helping and guiding and putting in tremendous amounts of time and effort in support of trails. Many are looking for additional volunteers. If so inclined, there is a job for you.

San Mateo County Trails Advisory Committee is chomping at the bit to get going in 1990. Meeting late in January, they are reorganizing and planning their agenda for 1990. Several SMCHA members serve on this committee. SMCHA salutes them all.

The Bay Area Ridge Trail various county committees are meeting regularly to continue to lay out segments of this trail around the Bay. The San Mateo County BART committee meeting on January 10th discussed at length the proposed Work Plan for 1990 prepared by Barbara Rice, Project Director. Some of their objectives are to expand and strengthen local leadership and citizen involvement, diversify public support, develop relationships with other trail organizations, promote the trail system with trail events and activities, expand trail information and overall to involve the public for political and financial support on a grass roots basis. An integral portion of this trail was planned along the old Highway 1 (now abandoned) from Thorton Beach southward. It was in good condition a couple of years ago as the Committee was walking the County to locate appropriate trails. Now there has been a lot of sluffing from the upgrade hillside and the route is now possible unsafe. The Committee is walking and taking pictures to relocate an alternate route. California Trail Days are now scheduled for April 21 and 22, 1990. This is the time when local volunteers actually go out and work on the trails to clean up, build and rebuild portions of the statewide trail systems. Last year over 2000 volunteers put on their gloves and labored happily. All trail users, whether horsemen or hiker are now encouraged to plan to put in a day or two helping with a project. Locally, contact the Tail Center at 415-968-7065 for forms and instructions. They are waiting for you.

Incidentally, have you joined the Trail Center? The annual fee is \$20 and this supports their mailing, puts you on their mailing list, gets you regular bulletins and supports TRAILS.

California Recreation Trails Committee meets quarterly up and down the state. These are 5 volunteers appointed by the Governor to serve and to advise the California Parks and Recreation Committee. Their next meeting will be March 18-20, 1990 at Asilomar. This is the time of their annual conference at which representatives of many trail organizations, park supervisors and rangers have intense discussion for 3 days all intended to exchange information for improvement of trail systems for all of California. The emphasis for this year will be working within the political systems to obtain trail dedications, how to get easements and rights of ways. Trail safety and liability with a discussion of the standard of care will be the focus of one session. Lew Reed has been the SMCHA and Los Viajeros representative to this Conference for the past several years and is planning to attend again this year.

Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District is continuing its work on their Trail Use Policies and Guidelines. Public meetings are constantly being scheduled for public input. Call 415-949-5500 for the date of the next hearing that you might desire to attend. All trail users should be involved in governmental planning of parks, preserves and trails. Should you let someone else do the planning for your enjoyment? If you are not interested now, then you many not complain later!

United States Department of Interior is following up on their Rails to Trails projects and holding hearings across the nation for public input seeking information from knowledgeable persons as to what rights of ways are no longer used and might be converted to trails. Local hearings are now scheduled. For more information call 415-556-5751 to learn the date and location of their next meeting and plan to attend. You may have vital information.

The Woodside Trail Club is reporting that many are seeking information as to how to join. Persons are eligible if they reside within the Woodside Portola Valley Fire District or board their horse within this jurisdiction. A prospective member should seek out a Sponsor, preferable someone who knows you and has ridden with you and can attest to your horsemanship and can counsel you on the privilege of riding across private properties. The Sponsor should obtain an application form from Bob O'Neil at 851-1967. The form should be completed by the applicant and signed by the sponsor and two seconders, each of whom should have ridden with you. The sponsor and seconders should each write a recommendation. Then the sponsor should send the completed form and fees to Woodside Trail Club at PO Box 620152, Woodside, CA 94062 The membership committee will review the application and shortly thereafter you should receive your key to the many Woodside-Portola Valley trails. It is quite a privilege to be a member of the Woodside Trail Club and your dues go a long, long way towards providing safe and clear trails through our community.

The Town of Woodside Trails Committee welcomes Carleen Whittelsey and Gordon Bradbury as newly appointed members. They will soon be busy as the moratorium on subdivisions is now lifted and Woodside is reviewing many new subdivisions. The Trails Committee reviews every application to determine if a trail is needed to implement the entire trail system.

TRAIL TIPS-OPA

continued...

Woodside Trails Committee and Woodside Trail Committee is reviewing Skywood Acres maps to determine property lines so as to relocate the gate at the top of Wunderlich Park to Ranch Road and to realign the trail to the easement for the trail leading to Skywood and Skylonda. Have you noticed the improvement of this trail by re-rocking and improving the drainage. Your stable fees at work for you!!



The San Mateo County Horsemen's Association had their first barn dance in recent history on November 17th. The event was co-sponsored with the Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County and held at their great facilities in Woodside.

When we planned the barn dance, we had no idea the kind of a turn out to expect. When over 200 members and guests showed up, we were overwhelmed and delighted with the turn out. A sumptuous sit down tri-tip dinner was served to 181 people. This in itself was no small feat to feed that many people. Special thanks to all the horsemen who helped prepare the dinner. The dinner was prepared under the care of that extraordinary gourmet cook Jill Silva, who remained quite calm even after learning about the number of people she had to feed. Also, thanks to Marv Twisselman and Bill Hopper for doing the Barbecue-ing of the meat. The kitchen and serving help included: Amos Dana, Bill and Roni Turnbow, Walt Kirk, Karen Rowley, Eileen Borzone and many others who's names I didn't get. Drink and raffle tickets were sold by Patti Dana, Barbara George, Doris Lantz, Nancy Crowley and Delia Romero.

The table center pieces and table decorations were designed by Mary Lee Twisselman and assisted by Regina Davis, Barbara Burlingame, Melissa Convery, Libby Armanino, Barbara George, Libby Armanino and Doris Lantz.

Chickens were provided by Rick Payne, rabbits by Doris Lantz, cow by Karen Rowley and hay by Bruce Baker. Ron Harris and Melissa Convery acted as host and hostess and collected all of the money.

I apologize if I missed anybody, but you can see by all the names that it was a real turnout by the membership in making the barn dance such a success.

This was the first co-sponsored event with the Mounted Patrol in quite awhile. Both groups felt this was a good thing in bringing the clubs together. The general feeling these days is that all horse groups should stand united to offset the trend away form horses in this community. David Burlingame of the Mounted Patrol gave an excellent speech on the horse community working together. He stated that 90% of the new people moving into this area, are not horse oriented people.

Oh yes, everybody enjoyed the square dancing. In fact, they did their squares from 9 pm till past midnight. What an energetic group we have.

The barn dance was so successful that the Mounted Patrol has agreed to co-sponsor it again this year. So, watch your calendar for the new date.

The election of Board Members was also held this evening, but a nomination from the floor forced the election into a mail ballot. Please see the article in this magazine for more details on the election process.



Linda Crawford

Webster defines civilization as follows: A state of human society characterized by a high level of intellectual, social and cultural development.

In California we are so "civilized" that there is a much shorter definition for our lifestyle. Crawford's dictionary defines it as: A state of constant change, high stress and competition on the job. Ah, yes, the civilization we all know and love!

An excellent antidote for California civilization is horses and all that surround them. Whether you have property to keep your "outlet" on or rent space, there is a freedom that comes with a good steed that relieves the stress and encourages the healing of a bad week at the office. The knowledge of responsibility for a living thing and the joy of working together in the corral or on the trail seems to break the tension that can build from day to day.

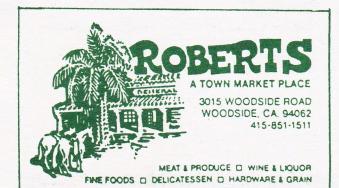
The following formula works for me:

- 1. Get up Saturday morning and go to the farm.
- 2. Get Chipita (my horse) out and stir up some dust with a good brushing and hoof picking.
- 3. Saddle up and head out for a new adventure.
- 4. Enjoy being alive and loving each moment of fresh air and great company.
- 5. Relax and savor even the manual exertion that comes with horse ownership. (you know, clean stalls, put down shavings, etc.)
- 6. Let off that week's head of steam that both horse and rider feel...
- 7. Repeat the same on Sunday.

Where we ride, the trails are limitless and the companion riders delightful. It's almost a vacation each weekend, and when daylight graces us with longer hours, vacations come 3 or 4 times a week!

If you feel you want to meet new people and enjoy the company of a relaxed "breed", the clubs and organizations in the North Bay are in multiple numbers.

Some find a 2 week vacation away from it all, once a year is a priority. For me, give me each weekend with my pal, Chipita, and I can accomplish the same feeling. The antidote for California civilization for me is the jeans, the western shirt and the horse -- ah yes, sanity!



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THE ELECTION PROCESS AT WORK ...

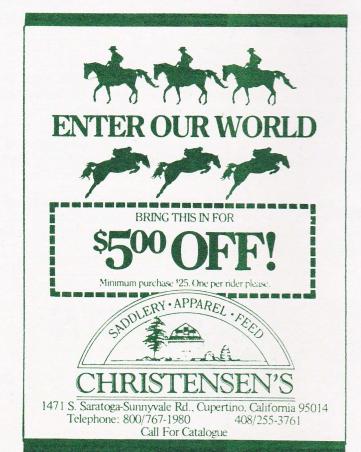
Our special thanks to all our SMCHA members who took the time to fill out and send in their ballots for the election of the new Board of Directors for 1990. When something like this happens it is hard to tell exactly what kind of response it will generate. The election was a bit confusing to most of us to say the least. Since SMCHA has never had a forced vote like it did this time, many of our members (old and new alike) were not quite sure what was happening at the general meeting and barn dance last November.

Traditionally, according to SMCHA bylaws, a nomination committee chosen by the SMCHA President reviews all possible candidates for the unfilled vacancies on the board of directors. The information is gathered from various sources: those that have expressed an interest themselves or through others, and those that have helped out at many of the events and would be an asset to the club. In the past, very few people actually wanted to put in the hard work and hours demanded by the position. This year, incredibly, over 22 people had expressed an interest in one way or another to become a board member.

The nomination committee reviewed all 22 possible candidates and came up with their recommendation for 4 new board members. The election of these board members was to have been simply a formality at the general meeting in November. However, since a member chose to nominate another member from the floor, it forced the nomination committee to withdraw their recommendation and open the election up to a vote by the general membership.

To make a long story short, you all did a wonderful job of sending in your ballots and the results have been tallied and the installation of the new board members should have already taken place by the time you read this. Participation of our general membership is of utmost importance and the election committee outdid themselves in designing a format that would be confidential and easy to respond to. Roberts Rules were carefully followed insuring the legality of the ballot counting and all ballots were collected and tallied accordingly. Some of you questioned the return address. The use of the return address insured that only members in good standing were able to cast a ballot as well as insuring that there would be no duplication of ballots. The names were checked off from the envelope and the ballot was set aside to be counted later, thus maintaining the confidentiality of the voter.

All in all the process went smoothly and the only complaint that we know of was the cost incurred for the postage and printing of the ballots which totalled approximately \$307.00. Could it have been done another way to reduce the cost? Unfortunately since the general election was held at the Barn Dance and it was a new experience for all of us, the mail out ballot was the only way to insure a legal voting process. As it turned out, you were all in agreement with what the nomination committee was recommending initially and hopefully this year's Board of Directors will live up to your expectations.



Written by Pat Sinclair, President PETS IN NEED.

Submitted by Clem Carroll and taken from the PETS IN NEED NEWS, an animal adoption and referral agency newsletter.

It wasn't much fun getting old Tho' your love I did dearly hold, I was growing unsteady on my feet And on cold days I longed for heat.

I once had the keenest of ears But an old dog imagines what he hears, Thru' my eyes I saw only fog Was it a bush or another dog?

I enjoyed the birds morning song But I couldn't stay awake that long, Up on the sofa I'd quietly creep And there all the day I'd sleep.

Something happened to my sense of smell Was it dinner or my medicine? I couldn'tell. I hated to leave your gentle care But my body suffered too much wear.

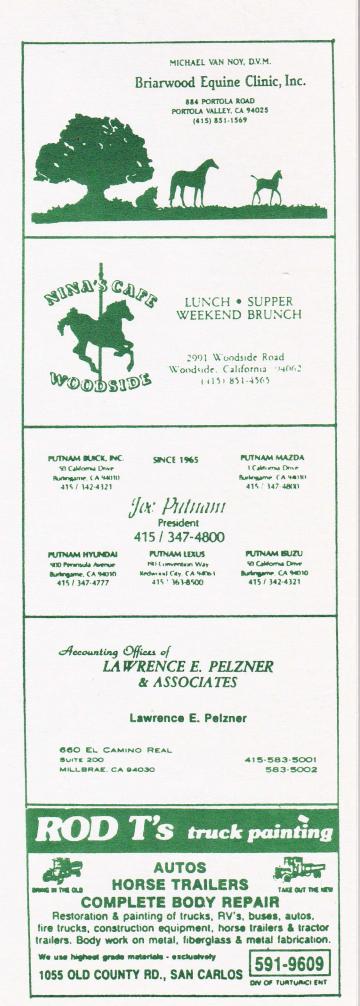
Now I don't worry about a fall I can move fast, or stand tall I can run free through the park And on every tree leave my mark.

My eyes again have their fine sight Last night I saw a star's tiny light My ears can detect the faintest sound Even the moles running underground.

Tho' you won't see me by your side I'm there too, full of pride, You needn't even call my name I'll be with you just the same

For I've left you my best part, My loyal and trusting heart.





please note

WHITE ELEPHANT POT-LUCK DINNER

SMCHA's first general meeting of the year will be held on February 22, 1990 at the Woodside School Auditorium. Watch for your flyer in the mail for details. If someone has expressed an interest in the club recently, please invite them to join us. If you are a new member, please introduce yourself! Our new president, Dick Convery will go over the agenda for the upcoming events and we'll let you know what's planned for the remaining 11 months...

This is the best time to grab that old "white elephant" that you can't bear to throw away but don't want it hanging around any more and pass it on to another member. They'll be a chance to "steal" a better one based on a number you'll pick during the evening. Dinner will be pot-luck and if true to form, there'll be lots of good dishes to sample!

If you have any questions regarding this event, please give me a call at 851-5317.

WESTERN FASHION SHOW AND TACK SALE

The first event for the 50th Anniversary is already in the planning stages and the date has been set! It will be a Western Fashion Show and Tack Auction. The place is the Elementary School Gymnasium and the date is May 12th. This event is open to the public and all your guests are invited. The admission charge will include lunch and we will be asking for reservations. Watch for your flyer in the mail and reserve a space early! If you have any questions or would like to model, please give Mary Hydorn a call at 366 2771. Dale Ryman has graciously donated the tack for the auction so it'll be a real "western adventure".

WE NEED YOU....

A lot of planning will be going into the July 4th Parade this year and Doris Lantz would like to hear from you. We're looking for 50 riders (no experience necessary, just a calm horse...) to help celebrate. For those of you that don't wish to ride but would like to join in, there'll be banners that need to be held, walkers to pick up the wind-blown hats and carriages to ride in and wave to the onlookers! If you're interested in participating, she's interested in having you! Please call her at 583-7800.

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS NEEDED:

We are re-instating our Historian Officer's Position this year and Doris Lantz has been elected to the office. Since it is our 50th year, we are making an extra effort to make sure that each event is recorded in pictures. If you would like to take pictures, please contact Dick Convery and get on our roster. This list will be made available to the individual committee chairpersons who can then contact you to see if you might be available for their event. You can reach Dick at 851-2911.

HORSE SHOW COMMITTEE IS FORMING

Doug Reed is our new chairperson for our horse shows and will needs lots of help staffing all the different sub-committees. There's a job at the back gate, the check-in booth, setting up a ring crew, barbecue-ing hamburgers and all kinds of fun stuff... Give him a call if you'd like to spend a couple of hours working! The dates are set well in advance so you can plan your summer schedule this spring! Call him at 341-7084.



94067

Doug Reed

Rewards given indiscriminately can lessen their effectiveness in any training program. Remember, rewards only increase the likelihood of repeat behavior, they don't create it.

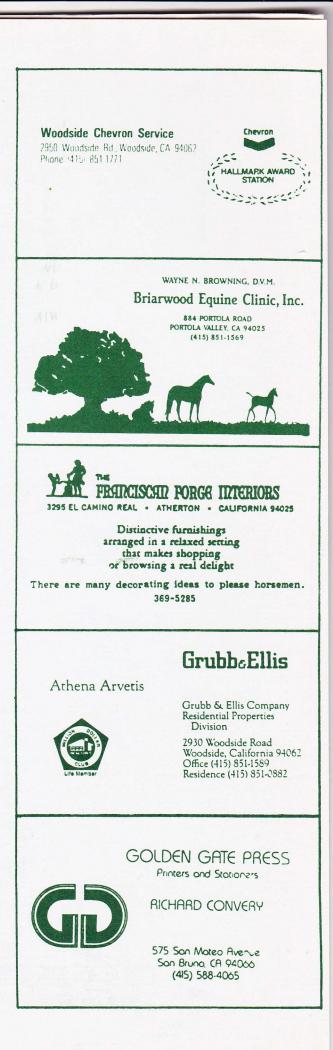
Punishment delivered in anger works against your training plan by not allowing the horse to respond appropriately. Anger only creates a fearful horse that will revert to his basic instincts of fight or flight.

A horse's preference for sweet-tasting foods and dislike of the bitter is believed to be not only a survival instinct but a compensation for the inability of the horse to smell individual (and potentially dangerous) plants while grazing.

Whiskers in horses, as in other animals, are known to be touch-receptors. Shaving them off, although visually appealing, deprives the horse of some of its sensory capabilities.

Homing ability in horses is an amazing and poorly understood phenomenon. Little is known as to the cues horses use to find their way home. Even when trailered to a strange location, they will try to return home rather than to the trailer. Many have seen their horse take a seemingly wrong turn only to find it a short-cut to the correct path.

Not only does October 17, 1989 mark the day the earthquake hit the Bay area, but the death, at age 74 of Walter Farley. Author of some twenty books in the Black Stallion series, many of us can attribute our childhood interest in horses to his works. He will be missed.



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SAN MATEO COUNTY HORSEMEN'S JACKETS and WINDBREAKERS

HAVE ARRIVED!



