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Association

·D·I·S·P·A·T·C·H·

Volume XXIII Issue II

Pam Turner, Editor

February 2009

MY DIET IS WHAT?

EQUINE NUTRITION FROM THE CREATORS OF KRUSE FEED AND TRIPLE CROWN EQUINE PRODUCTS

Don't miss this informative evening when our speakers will discuss good nutrition for the young horse, the competing horse and the senior equine. They will present products that can make your horse look like a show horse all the time, introduce fish oil and its many great qualities (I thought horses were herbivores?) and scientifically proven feed to keep your horse's engine running at maximum performance levels (that is if you need it). You will enjoy a DVD presentation on nutrition. There will be time for questions and answers from the experts. Come join us! Triple Crown provided the feed for our US Olympic Team.

Charlene O'Neil
VP, Education



Poetry Festival

by Erin Ryan

It was an unusually warm evening January 17th. at the Empty Saddle Club, for PVPHA's annual Poetry Festival. There was chili for sup and a packed room hankering for some good old fashioned cowboy poetry to delight our imaginations. The evening started off with our own local family band, the Paul Pitti and the New Westernnaires. Toe tapping songs brought back happy memories for many of us. Some of the numbers were from poems that eventually were set to music. Cowboys were more creative and lyrical than given credit, but when the sun went down on the range, they were on their own for entertainment. How lucky we are to be the recipients of those endeavors.

Locals turned poets for the evening, reciting rhyming verses that unfolded stories of horse adventures of old in far away lands, and some that were recent right in these parts; Memories of children learning to ride on uncooperative ponies and thrilling moments when young riders seemed at one with their beloved mounts.

Those of musical inclinations sang of cows, horses and land that seemed vast, wild and unfenced. Some songs showed the funnier side of a situation. But whether it rhymed or hummed, when horses are involved, we can expect the unpredictable, which can lead to a good story in need of sharing.

The Horseman's Association would like to thank those in the kitchen serving chili and lending a hand, the Empty Saddle Club for their grand facilities, and Pam Turner for organizing the whole shebang. With any luck, when the weather gets warmer, we can rev up the fire pit and tell some stories under a starry sky. Thanks for coming and we hope your evening with the PVPHA was enjoyable. A big thank-you for your support, for it is through your memberships and trail contributions that horse owners are represented at the various city meetings, trails are kept open and horse keeping has a presence. Happy Trails.

Cowboy Poetry and Music Festival in Retrospect – review by the Festival Director

By Pam Turner

Erin's report above gives you all a good overall idea of the flavor of the evening. I would like to provide some specifics from the Festival Director's (that was me) viewpoint. First of all, I have never seen the Empty Saddle Club so full. It was standing room only with people seated out on the patio. I am glad it was such a balmy evening!

My dad, **Paul Pitti**, again made the commute from Culver City to lead **The New Westernnaires (Randy Turner, Ron DePalma and Pam Turner)** as we opened this year's Festival. Dad is 85 years young

and is a great lead vocalist. He provides interesting history to the songs some dating back to 1917.

Our poets were warmly welcomed as **Mary Van Dever, Charlene O'Neil, Bruce Harnishfeger, Janis Lukstein, Wanda Smith, Tori Thompson and Dan Lamb** regaled us with their original poems and stories about horses, cowboys spurs, peacocks and ponies, and even a horse and mule "love story". There were a couple of last minute poets who were able to fill-in for some poets who could not make it. So, **Jane Hughes** and **Bob Hotel** stepped up to the mic and shared with us.

Here's more on the musical part of the Festival, the ever popular **California Cowboys** with **Craig Ruppert, Mel Harker** with the harmonica and poetry stylings of **Steve Deming** performed for us with their usual comedic flair and fine musicianship. **Jim Moore** and **Rob Hess** gave a rousing performance of a couple of familiar tunes that had the audience singing along and tapping their toes. **Ron Christopher** was back with **Saddletramp (Mary Heineman & Patrick Bolen)** and they entertained the audience wit their original tunes. Patrick showed his versatility moving from Dobros, to guitar, to flute on various songs.

Kathy Stowe got the audience singing as usual with her song about *Shavings*. Then there was a special performance by the one and only **Mulevis** – you had to be there to really appreciate the intricacies of his costume, movements and singing style. **Diana Barber** shared her original and thought provoking "Velcro Britches" and heartwarming "Jody's Pony".

Then to finish the evening, **Boomer McClennan** was back with us. It was a sweet reunion with this talented musician and recording artist. Those who remained till the end were given a great treat! His pure country voice enthralled the listeners and audience members kept asking him for more. We had a mini-concert that many wished could just have gone on and on. When asked where he was playing next his reply was "Nashville in February." Anyone interested in a field trip you can contact Boomer at www.boomerm.com.

This year's festival was one of the best ever! I think the biggest thrill for me, besides putting it all together- lining up talent, loading in and setting up the backdrop and sound system, etc- is to see the talented performers sharing their poems and music and the audience thoroughly enjoying themselves.

For all of you who couldn't make it, there's always next year. For those who did, you were all such an incredible audience! To the cowboy poets and musicians keep on writing those poems and playing those songs. I look forward to seeing all of you at next year's Festival!



FROM THE EDITOR...

First of all I want to apologize for a little mix-up in the last issue. Some may have been looking for the article on "How to Write Cowboy Poetry". It actually was replaced by another article and I forgot to rewrite that section of From the Editor. I guess I could blame it on the Holidays and all the other stuff going on at the time. But, I won't do that. Anyhow, those of you who are thinking of maybe writing some Cowboy poetry and participating in the 2010 festival please read the article on How to Write Cowboy Poetry. It has some great pointers and is a good learning tool for poets just starting out as well as a refresher for poets who have been writing for a while.

Have you checked out www.PVPHA.org ? Our website is getting better all the time. By the way, be sure to visit the PVPHA website to view the Festival pictures. And...the Dispatch...now published online!

Don't forget that **The Dispatch has a new email address: pvdismatchmailbox@yahoo.com** . Please send your emails to this address.

Happy Trails,
Pam Turner



Welcome New Members:

Lori Kozachenko – referred by Michelle Goodwin & Jeff Wax

Terri Culver- referred by Michelle Goodwin & Jeff Wax

Cathy White- referred by Michelle Goodwin & Jeff Wax

Carolina Croon- referred by Michelle Goodwin & Jeff Wax

Kris Klug and John and Martha Quinn

Thank You Trail Donors: JAMES REIDY – IN HONOR OF A "WINSOME YOUNG WOMAN AND HER HORSE "MR. DARCI" WHOM HE MET ON THE TRAILS IN RPV IN THE 1970'S; "IN MEMORY OF KAY ANN BARA"; JOEL & MARY JANE GLEASON & FAMILY; DANIEL W. & KAY A. MEECHA; MARK & SHARI MEECHA & FAMILY ROBERT & JENNIFER MEECHA & FAMILY JEFFERY & MICHELLE MCCONEGHY & FAMILY *****

What's Happening:

Jan. 9-Feb.1 – The Equine Affaire at the Pomona Fairplex

Feb.14- Cowboy Boot Camp Uncorked/ Valentines' Day Celebration (see ad page 8)

Feb. 19- PVPHA General Meeting/Kruse Feed Presentation at the Empty Saddle Club

How to Write Cowboy Poetry

By eHow Education Editor

Commonly misunderstood and seriously stereotyped, cowboy poetry is a mystery to most mainstream audiences. However, cowboy poetry represents a deeply sensitive, intelligent, gritty and centuries-old genre. Test your own skills as a cowboy poet by following these steps:

Step 1

Find a purpose for your poem. The most important part of writing cowboy poetry is conveying a message to the reader. Many cowboy poems have universal messages that many can relate to but they specifically reflect the culture of the American West. For example, this kind of poetry might talk about the hardship of working a cattle drive or the kinship a man feels toward his horse.

Step 2

Create rhymed, metered verse. The majority of cowboy poetry is evenly paced and rhythmic. There is no specific required meter. Here is a stanza from poet Darrell Arnold's "Summer Sky." Notice how the stanza keeps a smooth pace and rhymes: "Only minutes, then it's over. Once again, the air is clear, As the thunderhead rolls onward to the plains; And against its passing darkness Gleams a rainbow, arching high, Adding glory to the welcome summer rains."

Step 3

Use original images and ideas. Cowboy poetry relies on the use of fresh images to keep the genre alive. Themes can be recycled 100 times over, but you should avoid cliches, such as "the big blue sky" or "a bone-chilling cold."

Step 4

Rehearse your poem aloud. Cowboy poetry is an oral tradition that must be shared through the spoken word. Many cowboy poems mimic the natural rhythm of horseback riding. Read what you've written and try to hear a clip-clop, clip-clop or similar beat in the lines.

Step 5

Read cowboy poetry. There are anthologies full of poems written by famous poets and little known ranchers. The more you read, the easier it will be to conceptualize the creation of your own cowboy poetry. Stop by a bookstore with a diverse inventory or search an online book retailer.

02/01/2009

Horse Laffs...

Maybe I have too much time on my hands.....

By Keely Rose O'Grady

But, it was a bright and sunny day as I marveled at the results of Show Sheen taking out the nasty, finely braided witch's knots in my horse, Grady's mane. *If it works this well on a horse, what would it do to my hair?*

During my next hair appointment I debated with my stylist about the miracles of Show Sheen and how it must also apply to human application. She replied "Try it, but you'll smell like a horse's ass."

"Well," I responded, "I happen to like how my horse smells. What if it's a human hair miracle too that we haven't discovered? Maybe we could reap untold fortunes in the human hair care market. After all, look at the popularity of Mane 'n' Tail."

After weeks of internal hemming and hawing I decided to give it a shot. I sprayed it on in the bathroom, combed it out and waited for the magic. *Hmm, it's not quite as soft as Grady's mane. Maybe after my hair dries more it'll soften up.*

Later that morning, I returned to the bathroom to investigate, and whoa- that floor was slippery- much like Grady's mane. Seems that Show Sheen works better on floors than hair. But I didn't give up.

The next morning I tried it again, but this time I stood in the bathtub during application to avoid more floor application. Still, I wasn't too impressed with the potion's results.

Later that evening I entered the bathtub and whoa-slipped and narrowly escaped a broken skull/hip. After much disappointment I have come to the scientific conclusion that Show Sheen is far too dangerous and should NOT be applied to human hair- neither to horses in the house for that matter.

Please see to it that you, or your loved ones, do not attempt to recreate this potentially harmful experiment and compare results. This has been a bonified country public awareness announcement. Now then, what do you suppose about Cowboy Magic?

Rhymes of the Range...

Danny Boy

By McKenna Sheriff

Creaky joints and fuzzy vision,
Don't stop this old equine boy.
Teaching kids to ride is his mission,

One he does with pride and joy.
His history we do not know,
But we love him just the same.
With each year, his wisdom grows,
We can't imagine life before he came.

He may look innocent and shy,
But he has a mischievous streak.
He gets out the gate and up the back aisle,
He knows where the grain is, the little sneak!
The best part about Danny is his "neigh".
The cutest whinny you will ever hear.
He voices his opinions and gets his way,
A bit of grass there, a scratch here.

The king of the ranch has a lot to say.
He is sassy and sweet, kind and smart,
The best equine teacher we know.
But the best part of Danny is his big heart.
Oh Danny Boy, we love you so.

Frito

By McKenna Sheriff and Kaitlyn Salyers

There are many opinions in his head.
"Bits are no good", he says
"How am I supposed to graze?
A nice hackamore will do instead."
Simba gets food? Where is mine?
I am much cuter.
Palominos aren't common, you know.
Especially ones with heads this refined.
Yes, I know I am older, but that's okay.
Because you have to do whatever I say.
I am the boss, didn't you know?
You foolish humans can be so slow.
But don't worry, my demands are clear.
I want: more carrots, a new blanket,
A bubble bath, a massage.
And oh yes, of course! A big kiss right here!"



Request from PVP Land Conservancy

By Andy Clark

The PVP Land Conservancy is developing the Native Plant Demonstration Garden small loop trail in George F Canyon (near the nature trail's gravel parking lot). There is signage (horse with a slash through it) indicating that this small loop trail is not for horse traffic (only foot traffic), however new signs of fresh hoof prints are found each day. Please no horses Native Plant Demonstration Garden trail.

A Celebration of a Life Well Lived

By Pam Turner

As you all know by now, former board member Kay Bara passed away last month. I was privileged to attend her memorial service at the Canterbury on January 10. It was awesome to see the room crowded with the people Kay touched in her lifetime (looked to be about 200 people-though I didn't take an official count). There were representatives from the PVPHA Board, PVPHA members, representatives from the Lomita Sheriff's Posse, Empty Saddle Club, Long Beach Mounted Police, RPV City Council members, Coastal Land Conservancy members, Ride to Fly, former co-workers, friends, neighbors and family.

Andy Sargent, Kay's brother, gave a moving account of Kay's life and how she influenced him and his son. We learned some things about Kay like the fact that she played violin – a neighbor spoke lovingly of the times he and Kay used to "jam" together with violin and cello. Kay's warm heart, her faith, inquiring mind and community involvement were highlighted and praised at this celebration of her life. Our sincere condolences to Dick Bara, Andy Sargent and their families. Kay is truly missed by all who knew her.

Getting to Know You and Your Equine Friends...



Sheri Hastings:

1. Tell us a little bit about you and your equine background.

My earliest memories are riding work horses on our (TB) farm in Kentucky, the traces around my legs, holding tight on the manes. That was more than 45 years ago. A few years later I was breezing horses for

trainers. That was the beginning of a life long love of horses.

2. Describe the equines in your life.

(Sorry there is no way this fits into 4 sentences.)

The most memorable ones:

First there were Dolly and Nancy my great uncle's big gentle plow horses. I would go down to the barn or out to the pasture, grab a tail and climb up the hocks to get on them when I was too young to know better and we used to slide down their necks into the pond when they were drinking. Dolly died at the age of 38 when I was about 4 years old. Nancy refused to eat or drink after that. A few days later she walked into the pond and drowned.

Then came "Sainty" and "Deacon", two tiny Shetland welsh cross ponies named by my parents. They deserved their names when adults were around. But when there were no adults around they were terrible. They would bolt and buck and kick. So we secretly called them Lucifer and Satan. If we complained to our parents, they would ask us what WE had done to those "good little ponies" to make them act like that. They were our first Pony Club ponies and we fox hunted them until we outgrew them.

When I was 9 one of our broodmares was accidentally in foal to an Arab Stallion named Ibn Halima. (Long story behind that.) The result was Halimar (Cookie) who I had until he died 3 years ago when I was 45 years old and he was 36. I miss him the most. Cook was a best friend and confidant when I was growing up. He taught me more than all the others, and he taught my kids to ride. He traveled with me from Kentucky to Baltimore to Boston to Los Angeles to San Jose. I still miss him!

3. What did your equine friends teach you?

They taught me that it's better not to hurry a lot or move too fast. They gave me an appreciation for the great outdoors. They showed me what it means to have heart and courage. Best of all they taught me how to love.

4. Words of advice or favorite equine motto.

Feeling down? Saddle up!

Want to participate in Getting to Know You?

Please complete the brief survey below then email us your answers and *please try to keep it brief, 2-6 sentences per question.* If you have a picture of your current equine friend, or a favorite of an old friend please include that with your email. Pictures need to be sent in JPEG format. It should be fun learning about each other.

> Tell us a little bit about you and your equine background

> Describe the equine(s) in your life

> What has your equine friend(s) taught you?

> Words of advice to share, or your favorite equine motto

Please send your info and hopefully a picture to

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02/01/2009



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LOCAL NEWS BRIEF

HATS OFF TO...

PV HIGH SCHOOL EQUESTRIAN TEAM

Excerpt from Peninsula People

Led by Coach David Thurman, once again the **Palos Verdes Sea Kings Equestrian Team** has taken the overall Orange County Interscholastic Equestrian League Championship. This marks the second year that PV High has competed in this Orange County League and the second year they have taken home the ultimate prize, the League Championship! The team scored a total point score of 4,405 points. A total point score 80 percent higher than the Reserve Championship school Santa Margarita Catholic which had 2,245 points.

Please visit www.PVPHA.org to view a picture of our winning team of equestrians!!!!

Unwanted Horses – news item

Submitted by Melody Colbert

WASHINGTON--(BUSINESS WIRE)--The problem of unwanted horses is being studied through a nationwide initiative of the Unwanted Horse Coalition (UHC) with help from equine associations, veterinarians, breeders, state and local law enforcement, horse owners, rescue/retirement facilities, and other facilities using horses. The first step is an online survey - and everyone with an interest in the welfare of horses is encouraged to respond at <http://survey.ictgroup.com/uhcsurvey/>.

With tens of thousands of unwanted, neglected and abandoned horses in the United States, some say the problem is a fast-growing epidemic. However, much remains unknown. Currently, there are few documented facts about the accurate number of unwanted horses, their age, sex, breed, recent use, value or what happens to them in the long run.

The Unwanted Horse Coalition (UHC) The mission of the Unwanted Horse Coalition is to reduce the number of unwanted horses and improve their welfare through education and the efforts of organizations committed to the health, safety and responsible care and disposition of these horses. The UHC grew out of the Unwanted Horse Summit, which was organized by the American Association of Equine Practitioners and held in conjunction with the American Horse Council's annual meeting in Washington, D.C., in April 2005.

**Unwanted Horse Coalition
Julia Andersen, 202-296-4031
Director
jandersen@horsecouncil.org**



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

RENEWALS:

Renewals are sent out in May and need to be received by June 30th. The Membership Director, Jim Moore is available to answer any questions: (310) 377-8834

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DEADLINE for receipt of Ads is the 20th of the month.

COWBOY WISDOM...

Something to think on...

Words that soak into your ears are whispered ... not yelled.

Life is simpler when you plow around the stump.

Life ain't about how fast you run, or how high you climb, but how well you bounce.

It don't take a very big person to carry a grudge.

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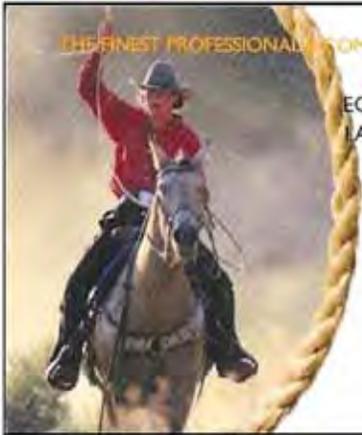
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