



Palos
Verdes
Peninsula
Horsemen's
Association

·D·I·S·P·A·T·C·H·

Volume XXV Issue VI

Pam Turner, Editor

June 2009

ALL ABOUT COMPOSTING, HORSE POO COMPOSTING

Did you ever think . . . that your horse poo could be used for bedding? Well, with this new method it can! And . . . NO odor! Did you know . . . that the Botanic Gardens will take all they can get of this compost? Did you know . . . that Santa Ynez Valley Vineyards are BUYING it from local trainers, it's so good?

Come learn the value of being green and smart and saving \$ to boot. We're having a compost seminar on June 18, 7pm at the Empty Saddle Club! Speakers: Sheryl Steckel, Melody Colbert, Sharon Graner.

*Charlene O'Neil
VP Education*

*Notice to members: Our original June speaker had to cancel after the Dispatch went to press so your hard copies will have a different front page. . Horse Massage has been moved to August. However, we have an informative presentation that you should find helpful in our quest to "keep it green". A big "Thank you" to our speakers for stepping in!
Ed.*



Cowboy Poetry and Music at The Pit

By Pam Turner

It was a lovely late spring evening, the smell of the campfire wafted through the air as PVPHA members and their guests arrived at the Empty Saddle Club for an evening of cowboy music and poetry. As they seated themselves around the campfire they munched on cookies, 'smores, popcorn and fresh red grapes. There was an air of expectation as the musicians tuned up and several requests were made for favorite songs.

As the evening progressed, members were entertained by songs about an ornery paint horse, lost loves and life on the range. **Steve Deming's** poetry enhanced the atmosphere and we enjoyed several of his poems. His harmonica playing added much to the old west atmosphere. **Craig Ruppert** joined Steve for 'Annie Laurie' a poem and song that we all thoroughly enjoyed. It was fun having two-third's of the **California Cowboys** with us. Steve invited everyone to their CD release party (yes, finally a CD!) at the Empty Saddle Club on June 13- so if you're looking for something to do that evening you might want to drop in.

We sang along with familiar songs like 'Tumbling Tumbleweeds' and listened as **Steve Guidone**, the singing and guitar playing dentist, played the instrumental 'Under the Double Eagle' as well as entertaining us with some old but familiar cowboy tunes. **Craig Rupperts'** deep voice resonated in the air as he sang Jumbalya with **Kathy Stowe**, the rest of us chiming in on the choruses. I played guitar and my husband, **Randy Turner**, on accordion entertained with an old Wesley Tuttle song – 'Detour'.

Ron Christopher sang a favorite tune he wrote about 'Sky King'. Those of us who grew up in the 1950's were reminded of the adventures of this cowboy pilot, his plane "Songbird" and

niece, Penny. I never missed an episode. As I sat there listening I began to recall other Saturday morning cowboy shows like Hopalong Cassidy, The Cisco Kid and Roy Rogers. After I had my fill of TV cowboys and horses, I would head for the barn to ride and play with the family's Cremello movie stunt horse, Rocket, the rest day with my cousin and little brother.

To say that we were carried back to a far simpler time would be pretty accurate. The honesty of the music and poetry recalled a time when life on the range, herding cattle, finding or losing your sweetheart was the focus of the cowboy's life.

As the fire died down, and the musician's began packing away their gear, members strolled to their cars with satisfied smiles on their faces. The nostalgia of the tunes played hung in the air like the sweet, familiar perfume of memories long past.

The evening was so enjoyable that we decided that it would be the first of our summer series of **Cowboy Poetry and Music at The Pit**. Our next musical gathering will be on July 18. So if you missed this one you still have an opportunity to join us for the next one. The final Campfire will take place in September accompanied by our traditional Ice Cream Social on September 17. This is an opportunity to bring your family and friends and enjoy an evening of relaxation and fellowship as we travel back in time to the days of the Old West.



FROM THE EDITOR...

We are already enjoying our riding season and over memorial weekend I encountered a lot of riders out on the trails, even though two dozen or so were gone to Mule Days and other vacation destinations. So saddle up, it's the perfect time for some long trail rides with your saddle pals!

Please mark your calendars for our June 18 General Meeting- it's Board member election time! Becoming a Board member is a way to really get involved and to actively participate in making a positive contribution to our equestrian community.

Happy Trails,
Pam Turner



What's Happening:

June 7 - ETI Corral 8 English Horseshow at Ernie Howlett Park. Contact: Andrea Meek (310) 710-4580

June 14: Happy Hooper Ride- noon—meet at Candy Ham's Barn on Hooper (Palomino Ranchos) Trail for a ride. Bring a snack and we'll ride on Flag Day, to one of our beautiful RHE destinations. For info, contact Candy at (310) 265-8008.

June 14- Los Serranos Awards Circuit Western & Reining Horseshow- Beginners classes available- Ernie Howlett Park. Contact: Trish Harik at 310-378-9911

June 18: 7pm - PVPHA Meeting & General Election

June 28: 9am-4pm Happy Hooper Tack Sale- Ernie Howlett Park For info contact:Debbie 310-316-1616
Donna 310-617-1318

Happy Hooper 2nd Annual "HUGE TACK SALE "

Date: Sunday, June 28, 2009

Time: 9:00 a.m – 4:00 p.m

Place: Ernie Howlett Park

25851 Hawthorne Blvd.

Rolling Hills Estates, CA

Clean out that tack room!

Reserve a space! Come to buy and sell, used and unused items, and join in the fun.!

For info contact:

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Horse Camping in the Sequoias

Cowboy Boot Camp offers a unique trail riding and horsemanship clinic in the Sequoias from August 7-9. These 3 days are designed to teach a thorough and practical approach to natural horsemanship and trail riding safety for the beginner, intermediate and advance adult rider. Step by step techniques and lectures will be conducted to strengthen riding skills, increase confidence, as well as teach equine care and horse management. The clinic will be held on a beautiful 750 acre ranch in Johnsondale adjacent to California's majestic Sequoia National Forest. For more information please contact Jim or Lori at 310-377—8834 or AReelCowboy@aol.com

Member Classifieds

4 Sale -9yo,16.1 hand Warmblood mare,nice hunter w/ lead changes,clips,trailers. Danielle:310/200-0357

Trimming Hooves – horses, foals, hinnys, mules.
Contact Bob – 310-297-2600

Local Equine Businesses... A Family History- Lomita Feed

By Pam Turner

Lomita Feed has been a family business in the community for many years. Ever wonder about its history? Well, thanks to Mel Colbert's digging through the Daily Breeze archives we can now provide you with a bit of history of a much utilized business in our equine community.

Last of its Breed Lomita Feed relies on old-fashioned horse sense to survive

By Eugene Tong

Lomita Feed, on of the last horse feed stores in the South Bay, connects to the area's equestrian past, reminding visitors of a time when the only way to ride was to gallop on four legs. "A lot of people living in Lomita and on The Hill used to own horses," said Tim Gibson Lomita Feed's owner. "There used to be a stable on Lomita Blvd."

Built and painted to resemble a red barn, the feed store's Narbonne Avenue warehouse stores hundreds of bags, some stacked up to the ceiling. The bags contain food for the usual assortment of farm animals, from horses to chickens to rabbits and the recent rage in pets, pot-belly pigs.

Operated by Gibson, Lomita Feed was first opened in 1927 by Charlie Steigh. Unable to pass down the business to the next generation, Steigh sold it to Curt Gibson, Tim's father and a family friend of more than 20 years, for about \$100,000 in 1976. "They wanted to give it to somebody they knew, to another family," Gibson

said, "Not someone that'll sell it after a couple of years."

At the time of the sale, Lomita Feed consisted only of a storage building, with feed and garden supplies as its focus. The business gradually expanded into the adjacent lots and became more horse-centered, bringing riding accessories and horse-care products onto the store shelves, Gibson said.

The shop grosses about \$1.5 million annually, with almost 80 percent of the business horse-related, whether it's hay, riding shoes, vitamins or blankets. Gibson credited the diversity of products as a key factor in sustaining the store. "You have to be able to add new lines and more products," Gibson said. "For example, last year we added Ariat boots and they've been very popular."

Despite its success with horses, Lomita Feed still faces stiff competition, especially from corporate pet supply chains that have eaten into its share in the pet food market. "(The competition) is tough," Gibson said. "They've hurt us in the dog food area. We carry dog food that they don't carry in their stores."

"When we see a line that's in the big stores, we have to drop it because we can't compete with their prices."

Some corporate chains also have moved toward the equestrian. A San Diego PetsMart store now carries horse products, Gibson said. But perhaps the greatest challenge facing Lomita Feed comes not from any competitor, but from residential housing development.

Almost 90 percent of Gibson's customers are the horse owners, stables and riding clubs in the cities on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, including Palos Verdes Estates, Rancho Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills and Rolling Hills Estates.

However, many developers on the Peninsula began building over riding trails and packing more houses onto smaller lots instead of building on larger lots that can accommodate horses, Gibson said. He fears these conditions may help end the South Bay's equestrian way and with it, his business.

"If those horses ever get zoned out, we'll be gone with it," Gibson said.

The current clash between equestrian right and residential development centered around the Portuguese Bend area in Rancho Palos Verdes, said Jacki McGuire, president of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Horsemen's Association, which locally promotes equestrian interests and education.

"Developers want to pack as many houses as they can on their property," McGuire said, "When you want to include horses, the lots have to be larger. This means building less houses."

To preserve the Peninsula for equestrians, McGuire believes the battle must be won in local government. "My only solution would be to have people on the city councils who are pro-equestrian, pro-horses and pro-limited development," she said.

Despite corporate chains and changing times, the family-run feed store has stayed in business and Gibson remains optimistic about the future. "We will continue to do well and increase our horse-related products as long as horses are allowed," Gibson said, "I look to a bright future." Reprinted by Permission: Daily Breeze 2/21/2000



The above story, printed in 2000, was optimistic in spite of everything. Well, Lomita Feed is still here, in spite of competition and the ongoing battles with developers. The PVPHA continues

its mission to preserve and protect horse-keeping on the Peninsula. I am going to get on my little soapbox and encourage all our current members to bring at least one non-member to our June meeting or at least to sign up that person as a new member. There is strength in numbers!

Next Month: Some history on another family equine business. The General Store founded by Karen Savich

Horses and Butterflies...

By Pam Turner

As I was reading the March 26 edition of the Peninsula News an article about the return of the Palos Verdes Blue Butterfly caught my attention. I really enjoy watching the butterflies as I ride the trails. The thought of seeing blue ones, that are actually native to the Peninsula, sounded pretty good. That is until I found out that one of the staples of their diet is loco weed. The article described the release of the butterflies over in San Pedro and so I thought, well, that is far enough away. As I came to the end of the article it mentioned a release of 200 butterflies in the Chandler Preserve in RHE. Now, it doesn't take much figuring to come to the conclusion that they wouldn't release them unless there was food for them to eat. So, it seems that there would be locoweed growing on the preserve. Instead of getting upset, I decided to do some research and find out more about this weed in order to share the results with you.

Loco weed is also known as Jimson weed and is part of the Nightshade family. These annual plants can reach 1 foot to 5 feet in height. Leaves can be 3 inches to 8 inches long, and 3 inches to 6 inches wide, with irregular, pointy edges resembling a pin oak leaf. The 2-inch to 7-inch long flowers of jimson weed are trumpet-shaped and can be white to purple in color. Flowers open in the evening and form a tight cluster during the day. Seed pods are the size of walnuts and covered by spines or prickles. The seed pod has four distinct chambers, with dozens of small black seeds in each quadrant. Most parts of the plant will release a foul odor when crushed or bruised. All parts of the plant are poisonous and animals often avoid it because of its strong odor and unpleasant taste. Some hungry animals on sparse pastures have been poisoned by this plant.

Jimson weed is also called angel trumpet, hells bells, gypsum weed, ditch weed, loco weed, Korean morning glory, devil's trumpet or devil's snare. The plant also was called Jamestown weed, since it was attributed to British soldiers drugged by the weed during Nathaniel Bacon's rebellion in 1676. Jimson weed has spread throughout many parts of the world, but is believed to be native to Central America and India.

According to one article, animals must consume loco weed for at least 2 weeks and in large quantities before clinical signs develop. I have heard a report of deaths resulting from eating a moderate amount of loco weed so the effects can depend on the horses' system and how much of the poison actually absorbed. Loco weeds are palatable and once animals have learned to eat them they frequently will continue to do so even when normal forages are present.

Although horses, cattle, and sheep were thought to develop an addiction to loco weeds, it is more likely a habituation as there is no dependence on the plants and they do not actively seek them out, as would be the case if they were addicted. It is entirely possible that the sole reason animals eat loco weeds is that they find them palatable.

Horses appear to manifest the nervous signs of loco weed poisoning more commonly than do cattle or sheep. Depression, lack of coordination, staggering gait, and unpredictable behavior especially if the animal is stressed or excited are common signs. Some animals become totally unpredictable in their response to being handled. Poor vision, lack of coordination, sudden changes in behavior such as rearing and falling over backwards, make horses dangerous and unsafe to ride. If removed from the source of the loco weeds and fed a nutritious diet, animals will show improvement and appear relatively normal after several months. However, horses with neurological signs and damage from chronic loco-ism usually only partially recover making them a liability to human safety. There is no proven effective treatment for loco weed poisoning.

So what can we do to keep our horses safe? Here are some suggestions: Don't let them eat on the trail, or if you want to allow some "salad bar" time then watch what they are eating- grasses and known weeds (dandelions, barley,oats,etc.) are usually the safest bet. I have included some pictures of locoweed below:



"Spirit of the Horse" Art Exhibit

The "Spirit of the Horse" exhibit at the PSZask Gallery in Rancho PV opened May 9 and continues until June 6. Although not as large as last year's show it is still a very nice showing. The gallery is located beneath Admiral Risty Restaurant on PV Drive West. I attended the opening gala and the turnout was excellent. This Pony Club sponsored event has become quite popular. Below are a few of my camera phone pictures which hardly do it justice, but maybe will entice you to take a look in person.



This story goes to show that a good horseman may go down but don't be too quick to count him out! This puts a different spin on Live to Ride...Ride to live. Ed.

Jockey Tragically Killed Thursday, Wins the Title Friday

Written by Alan Bellows



On May 8th, 1936, a horse jockey named Ralph Neves was riding in the third race of the day at Bay Meadows Racecourse near San Francisco, California. At stake was \$500 cash, and a gold watch that Bing Crosby had promised to personally present to the meet's winner.

Nineteen-year-old Neves (a.k.a. "the Portuguese Pepperpot") was riding Fannikins, and the two were in fifth place as he headed into the fist turn behind a wall of four horses. As the horses in front of him pounded around the corner, the outside horse stumbled and fell against the horse beside it, causing a domino effect which brought all four of the leading horses down. Fannikins tripped when she tried to stop abruptly, which dumped Neves onto the track just before her crushing weight landed on top of him.

Track physicians rushed to Neves' unmoving body, and loaded him into a pickup truck to shuttle him to the track's first aid room. There, he was examined by a doctor, and pronounced dead. The track's stunned spectators observed a moment of silence when the race announcer shared the solemn news with the crowd. But they hadn't seen the last of Ralph Neves.

By the time Neves' friend Dr. Horace Stevens arrived at the track hospital, the jockey's bloodied body was laid out on a slab with his toe tagged. In a desperate, long-shot attempt to revive his friend, Dr. Stevens administered a shot of

adrenaline directly into Neves' heart. For several minutes it appeared to have no effect, and the discouraged Dr. Stevens left the hospital. Sometime in the next twenty minutes, Neves sat up and walked out of the first aid room.

He headed across the grandstand towards the jockeys' room, wearing nothing but his pants and one boot. When the crowd realized that the shirtless, bloodied, toe-tagged man who was staggering across the grandstand area was the jockey who had been declared dead about a half hour earlier, the crowd and the race officials rushed towards Neves. Shock turned to celebration. "At one point," Neves later recalled, "I think everyone on the damn track was chasing me."

Upon arriving at the jockeys room, where his colleagues were conducting a collection for his widow, Ralph Neves demanded to be allowed to ride the rest of his races. The astonished stewards refused to let him return to riding until he spent a night in the hospital under observation. In the morning, he left the hospital through the window in his room, dressed in a hospital gown, and took a cab back to the racetrack.

He resumed his racing to finish out the last day of the meet, and though he didn't win any of his races, he did rack up enough second place finishes to capture the title and the watch. The headline on the story in the San Francisco Chronicle read: "Ralph Neves – Died But Lives, to Ride and Win." Neves went on to ride for twenty-eight more years after being declared dead in 1936. He died in his sleep in 1995 at seventy-nine years of age, fifty-nine years after he was declared dead.

***NOTE:** The basis of this story can be confirmed... Ralph Neves was declared dead that day, yet awoke and demanded to finish out the day's races. But the story has been retold and embellished to the point that the exact details of the event are hard to come by. Much of this article was based on the eyewitness account of Neves' valet, Bert Thompson.*

Due to extreme dry brush and high fire danger I am rerunning the article from 2008 September Dispatch. For more information on Fire readiness you access the Ready Set Go brochure at www.ocfa.org/_uploads/pdf/readyssetgo09.pdf.

Fire Season Precautions

By Pam Turner

If there is one thing that creates anxiety in a community that would be a fire. In riding the Peninsula I have noticed a lot of really dry brush around buildings and elsewhere. While we can't clear all the brush from the entire Peninsula we certainly can take some measures to keep the fire fuel away from homes, barns and other outbuildings.

The excerpt below from the Rancho PV Summer Newsletter contains some very helpful tips:

"Many homeowners have already received notices from the County about clearing brush from their properties to reduce the fire hazard and make their homes safer. It's a good idea for every resident to take a look at his or her property and take the following actions:

- Maintain around and adjacent to the dwelling or structure a firebreak made by removing and clearing away, for a distance of not less than 30 feet on each side thereof or to the property line, whichever is nearer, all flammable vegetation or other combustible growth. This requirement does not apply to single specimens of trees, ornamental shrubbery, or similar plants that are used as ground cover, if they do not form a means of rapidly transmitting fire from the native growth to any dwelling or structure.*
- Maintain around and adjacent to the occupied dwelling or occupied structure additional fire protection or firebreaks made by removing all brush, flammable vegetation, or combustible growth that is located from 30 feet to 100 feet from the occupied dwelling or occupied structure or to the property line, whichever is nearer, as may be required by the local agency if the local agency finds that, because of extra hazardous conditions, a firebreak of only 30 feet around the occupied dwelling or occupied structure is not sufficient to provide reasonable fire safety. Grass and other vegetation located more than 30 feet from the dwelling or structure and less than 1 inches in height above the ground may be maintained where necessary to stabilize the soil and prevent erosion.*
- Remove that portion of any tree that extends within 10 feet of the outlet of any chimney or stovepipe.*
- Maintain any tree adjacent to, or overhanging, any building free of dead or dying wood.*
- Maintain the roof of any structure free of leaves, needles, or other dead vegetative growth."*

We have been very fortunate here but I would caution you to not get too comfortable and think it couldn't happen here. Some folks in Northern California were taken by

surprise and there was loss of lives, property and livestock. Being prepared, having an escape route and plan for you, your family and your animals is a priority. Get to know your neighbors and inform each other of vacations and evacuation plans for animals left on premises while you are gone.

There are volunteers with trailers that we hope will be available to help you evacuate your horses, llamas, cows and other livestock in case of a threat. However, it is your responsibility to be sure that your animals will load in a trailer with as little time delay as possible. When a fire is threatening seconds count and a stubborn animal refusing to load in a trailer can put everyone in danger. If you own a trailer, please inspect it regularly. Ordinary trailer wear-and-tear can result in structural breakdown, which leads to totally avoidable accidents. Also, make sure your towing vehicle is appropriate for the size and weight of the trailer and horse. Many accidents happen because vehicles are not able to handle the size and weight of the trailer. Always make sure the trailer is hitched properly — the hitch locked on the ball, safety chains or cables attached, and emergency brake battery charged and linked to towing vehicle. Proper tire pressure is also very important.

In terms of a planning, know what you are going to do if you are told to evacuate immediately, in 30 minutes, 60 minutes, etc. If you are not asked to evacuate, good planning would include having sufficient food and water for you, your family, your horse(s) and other animals for 5-7 days, flashlights, transistor radios, non-nylon halters with ID Tags and cotton lead ropes for horses, batteries, duct tape, keep a list of medications yours and your animals, have copies of vet records and proof of ownership, heavy leather gloves, plastic trash cans with lids can be used to hold water.

After you return home: Survey the area inside and outside your home to identify sharp objects, dangerous materials, dangerous wildlife, contaminated water, downed power lines, or other hazards; Familiar scents and landmarks may have changed, and this can confuse your animals; Release equine/livestock in safe and enclosed areas only. Initial release should take place during daylight hours, when the animals can be closely observed; Release cats, dogs, and other small animals indoors only. They could encounter dangerous wildlife and debris if they are allowed outside unsupervised and unrestrained.

Hopefully, any fires will be contained quickly but being prepared will give you peace of mind when a fire does occur.

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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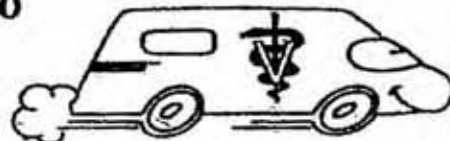


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