

CMDTRA PASTIME

1941--1944

In 1941 Ray Walsh and George Smith took part in a competitive trail ride which was held in the Sierra Nevada. It was their first experience with trail riding as a competitive sport, and they were enthusiastic about it. When they learned that no other competitions were planned, they were very disappointed.

On the way home to Concord, Ray and George discussed their unique experience; the excitement of competition, the challenges met and mastered by themselves and their horses, the camaraderie with the other riders, the closeness to nature, and the camping out. It soon dawned on them that Concord was ideally situated for a similar competition. They could ride from Concord to Mt. Diablo State Park!

Concord was still a relatively small, rural community in 1941. Many of the residents kept horses in their back yards, and Ray and George had many friends who were also horsemen. In fact several members of the Concord Chamber of Commerce were riders.

Ray and George introduced the idea of a competitive trail ride from Concord to Mt. Diablo State Park and it was enthusiastically accepted as an asset for the community. The Chamber of Commerce became the sponsor of the event, and gave valuable financial aid and impressive trophies.

The committee headed by Ray Walsh and George Smith, planned the itinerary and obtained the necessary permits to use the routes. Another group planned the meals and transported the food and supplies to Barbecue Terrace. Other workers packed the riders' and horses' gear to the camp area, and still others supplied horse trailers in case of need.

Finally, in mid October, the first Concord to Mt. Diablo Trail Ride began. Eighteen riders had entered the competition. To the strains of band music and cheering well-wishers, they mounted their horses in front of the old Pacheco Adobe on Grant Street, and rode off on the previously marked route.

They rode along Clayton Road between well spaced houses, but soon there were stretches of vineyards, and then the orchards started: walnuts, pear and almonds. After they reached the town of Clayton, they were directed to Black Diamond Road and went on to Nortonville and Somerville, the old coal mining towns. From there they went across cattle ranches in Oil Canyon and came out at Marsh Creek Springs. This was the lunch stop.

Somewhat refreshed, they remounted and rode over the Prison Farm property to Sycamore Springs and on up to Barbecue Terrace. It was a rugged test of endurance on both riders and horses! After a sumptuous barbecue there were songs and stories around the fire and then they all rolled up in their sleeping bags.

The camp was astir at daybreak and the trail riders retraced their steps ending at the Old Pacheco Adobe where further judging was undertaken by Kent

Weaver, William E. Bone, and Maurice L. Boevers.D.V.M. Of the eighteen entries, fourteen completed the ride.

That evening a banquet was held at Joe and Isabelle De Rosa's Hotel honoring the contestants. The Main speaker was Lloyd Martinelli who traced the horses' service to mankind throughout history.

The next day the awards were presented at the Concord Recreation Center. The riders had been divided into three divisions: Heavyweight, Lightweight, and Juniors, and awards were given in each division. Margie Clement of Clayton won the Lightweight Division and the Sweepstakes Trophies on "Pat"; Heavyweight Division was won by William Biglow and "Red Wings" of Concord; and David Newfeld and "Sunset" won the Junior Division. The trophies varied from substantial checks, silver buckles, spurs and leather goods to subscriptions to "Western Horsemen" by Paul Albert, editor and publisher.

After the Awards were presented, three Quarter Horse Races were held as well as Musical Chairs and an Old Clothes Race. Then Chief Pilot John Allan of Sherman Field put on an air show. This Inaugural Competitive Trail Ride was such a success that the Concord Chamber of Commerce decided to make it an annual affair.

In 1942 the Trail Ride was held in late September using the same route, but the entries had increased to thirty riders.

In 1943 the Trail Ride was held as part of the Concord July Fourth Celebration. Forty riders competed. The Special Events at the conclusion of the trail ride included a Band Concert in the Concord Plaza followed by a Parade to the Concord Recreation Center where Stock Horse Classes and Quarter Horse Races were held.

In 1944 The Trail Ride was held on the Labor Day Weekend. There were fifty entries and the Special Events at the close of the Trail Ride included a Parade, Stock Horse Classes, Quarter Horse Races, Musical Chairs and Flat Saddle and Jumping Classes. The Grand Entry in the Special Events increased to two hundred participants!

Bea Frederickson

1944 -1946 INCORPORATION

Toward the end of 1944, a split between those who had started the Concord to Mt. Diablo Trail Ride and the previously established Contra Costa Horsemen's Association occurred over an election.

The trail riders requested the Concord Chamber of Commerce to sponsor them, and a board of directors was formed consisting of twelve members; six members to be from the Chamber and six from the trail riders. Under this arrangement the Concord-Mt. Diablo Trail Ride Association was incorporated in 1945.

Raymond M. Walsh was the first President; L. Erwin Lehmer, Vice President; Agnes N. Groom, Secretary-Treasurer.

The Board of Directors in addition to the above officers was: E. E. Beede, Logan A. Coffee, Charles H ' Guy, E. P. Jackson, Joseph P. McCall, Cecil A. Rider, Frank Rose, George Soares, and Kent M. Weaver.

The Charter Members were: Mr. and Mrs. John Atchinson, Dr. Wilbur Atchinson, Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Beede, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Brunelle, Mr. Jack Byrne, Mr. and Mrs. George Cardinet, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Elliot Clement, Mr. and Mrs. Logan Coffee, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph F. De Rosa, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Easley, Mr. Peyton Farrer, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Gill, Mr. Guido Ginochio, Mrs. Agnes Groom, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Guy, Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Harless, Judge E. P. Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. L. Erwin Lehmer, Dr. and Mrs. T. D. Leon, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph McCall, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall McKean, Mr. and Mrs. Antone Machado, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd A. Martinelli, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mattson, Mr. and Mrs. Denny Morgan, Dr. and Mrs. H. D. Neufeld, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Nourse, Miss Jane Olson, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Ritto, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Rider, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rose, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Russi, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Sirvain, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Smith, Mr. George Soares, Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Sturdivant, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Walsh, and Mr. and Mrs. Kent Weaver.

Still on our roster today are Joe and Isabel De Rosa, Carol Martinelli, Bob and Lois Mattson, and Dorothy Smith.

On May 6, 1945 the Installation of Officers and Board of Directors was held in conjunction with an overnight ride, barbecue, and dance at the Marsh Creek Springs Resort.

The club meetings were held monthly on Friday evenings starting at 8.00 P.M. The locations varied from members homes, Pacific Gas and Light Co. office, Legion Hall, Clayton Hall, and the Cardinet Winery in Clayton. They were short business meetings followed by a social evening.

The group conducted many pleasure rides throughout the county and joined with other horse groups: Metropolitan in Alameda Co. and the San Mateo Horsemen among other groups for barbecues and overnight rides.

Denny Morgan succeeded Ray Walsh as President in 1946. The Vice President was Lloyd Martinelli, Secretary, Agnes Groom, and Treasurer, Margie Clement.

The Concord to Mt. Diablo Trail Rides started from different locations in the next few years since the Pacheco Adobe was no longer available to them. One year it began at the Maltby Ranch, and one year at the I.D.E.S. Park on Grant Street: now the site of the Catholic School.

Many pleasure rides and social gatherings were held throughout the year but the main thrust of their activities went into the annual Trail Ride from Concord to Mt. Diablo. It kept getting larger and was becoming a tremendous undertaking. The Parade and Horse Show which culminated the Trail Ride was now attracting statewide participation. This relatively small group of dedicated people was becoming welded together for a purpose, but they needed a home!

Sources: Joe De Rosa, Bob Mattson, Dorothy Smith, Newspaper Clippings.

Bea Frederickson

1947 -1949
PROPERTY ACQUISITION

Following an enjoyable dinner meeting with a group of horsemen in Banta who owned their own clubhouse, the Concord-Mt. Diablo Trail Ride members felt 'their lack of permanent facilities even more acutely. At the very next meeting Joe De Rosa brought the subject up for discussion and there was unanimous agreement that the club should look for a site to purchase.

President Denny Morgan appointed Joe De Rosa chairman of a committee to begin the search for a suitable location. Members of his committee included Kent Weaver, Lloyd Martinelli, George Cardinet, Ray Walsh, and Joseph Hallett. Joe learned that the California Water Service Company was not using its acreage on Bisso Lane near Arnold Industrial Highway; so he proposed that the club be allowed to purchase four of their sixteen and three-quarters acres.

The committee met with the President of the Water Company, Mr. Ralph Eisman, also a horseman, who offered the entire parcel to the club for \$12,000.

The offer was quickly accepted and a pledge system for the members was decided upon: each pledge was for \$100.00 total, or to be paid in increments of \$10.00. \$2,500.00 was pledged immediately and subsequently the City of Concord gave \$500.00, Concord Chamber of Commerce \$100.00, Veterans of Foreign Wars \$100.00, and Junior Trail Riders \$100.00.

Four thousand one hundred and fifty dollars were raised during this drive which became the down payment on the property.

When Lloyd Martinelli became President in 1948, Dorothy Smith was appointed Treasurer, and she remembers that she and Lloyd signed six one thousand dollar notes, each to mature a year apart. These notes covered the balance of the payments for the property. She and Lloyd kidded each other about signing their lives away! These notes were paid off in a few years from the proceeds from Trail Rides, Horse Shows, Fashion Shows and other fund raising activities. Be sure to view the pictures of lovely Lois Mattson promoting the Horse and Fashion Shows.

When Lloyd Martinelli was taken ill, the Vice President Dr. William Mederious finished his term of office, and George Cardinet, Jr. became President in 1949.

Special note should be taken that the Junior Trail Ride Organization contributed \$100.00 toward the purchase of the property. Concord Mt. Diablo Trail

Ride Association was a family oriented organization from the beginning.

Not only did the juniors have a special division in the Trail Ride from the very first ride, but the meetings were held on the same night and the children were always included in every pleasure ride. During this period the juniors rode as a group to Livermore to participate in the Livermore Rodeo. Around this time too, the Flying Horsemen Drill Team was organized under the direction of George Cardinet. More about this group will follow in later columns.

The C.M.D.T.R.A. supported the California State Riding and Hiking Trails project from its inception. Member Kent Weaver was appointed to the committee by Governor Earl Warren and helped to route the proposed trail through Contra Costa County following a route through Mt. Diablo State Park.

Gradually, the Bisso Lane property took shape. A race track was built along the periphery. A small, old house was donated to the club by Reynold Johnson. A foundation was made for it with a large concrete area and barbecue pit in front of the building. This became the Club House, dance floor, and dining area for the large groups that were entertained. The area was fenced, a barn was built, tie stalls, were added, chutes for rodeo animals were installed, and a hunter- jumper course was developed, even bleachers for the spectators were included. The Concord-Mt. Diablo Trail Ride Association had established well nourished roots!

There were countless individuals who contributed untold hours of labor to the association. They were all workers and creators, but some were in a position to do exceptional service and so we remember them especially. Our club today is a direct result of the foresight shown by these leaders.

From an initial investment of \$12,000.00 for the land came the development which resulted in the **\$148,000.00** which enables us to enjoy our superb facilities on the mountain.

Sources: Joe De Rosa, Bob Mattson, Dorothy Smith, and Newspaper Clippings.

Bea Frederickson

1950 - 1957 YEARS OF FRUITION

From the time of the acquisition of the property on Bisso Lane, C.M.D.T.R.A. was a whirlwind of activity. Not only was the loan paid off in short order, but the property was turned into an excellent horse facility.

Under the leadership of a series of capable presidents like R. B. Burnett, George Walling, and Joe De Rosa, to mention only a few, the membership held and supported many fund raising events: gala dances, barbecues, and "Reno Nights", which became so popular that horse groups from all over central California attended them--some even coming by the bus load!

The Concord merchants, many of whom were members, gave generously of money, time, and material which helped in the construction of the race track, fencing, barn, bleachers, barbecue pit, and Patio area. Tie stalls and cattle chutes, and an excellent outside hunt course were all membership initiated and completed.

C.M.D.T.R.A. became an important recreational facility for the City of Concord. The Annual Labor Day Weekend activities were the major excitement for miles around.

The culmination of the Concord to Mt. Diablo Trail Ride and return on Labor Day became a renowned event. About 2000 people would be seated in the bleachers to view the parade of Trail Ride Competitors, Horse Show Entrants, Rodeo participants, and costumed riders as they started the proceedings.

The awards for the winners in the Trail Ride Categories would be presented, and the varied program would begin. There were horse races, cutting horses, ropers, bucking broncos, and jumpers! No wonder this show became well known throughout the State'

The club grounds were in use all during the year especially for the Junior Program which included riding instruction, trail ride conditioning, use of the excellent jumping facilities, and the development of the Mt. Diablo Flying Horsemen Drill Team.

This group was made up of ten to twelve horses and western Riders. Directed by George Cardinet, Jr., they practiced for many hours every Saturday and Sunday. Not only did the Juniors (aged 10 to 18) improve their riding skills and learn the various routines, but they received instruction in the care of their horses: from grooming techniques to cooling out methods after their long workouts and performances.

Soon this activity became the reason for many families to join C.M.D.T.R.A. The Elmer Becilers joined at this time and gave many years of devoted service' to the club establishing a family tradition which is being carried on by Marilyn Groene and her daughter Kathy Robertson.

Mt. Diablo Flying Horsemen became the Champion Junior Equestrian Drill Team of California at a 1950 competition held in Palm Springs. They made many appearances throughout the State during the next few years appearing at the Cow Palace several times.

Joe DeRosa, whose children were members of the Team, emphasized the remarkable support that the parents gave to this group.

These years of fruition were years of maintaining high standards of achievement. Carol Martinelli remembers slicing bushels of onions for the many barbecues, but smiles over those good years. Talk to Beth who remembers that she and Cap were handed shovels before they were members, but they joined anyway, because these were their kind of people. And Joe and Isabel De Rosa who had a big hand in land acquisition and continued to the presidency with many other jobs in between. Then there's Dorothy Smith, who was Treasurer and Secretary for twenty years and who still rides the trails and continues to serve the club. What can one say about Bob and Lois Mattson and their length and magnitude of service done with such flair and panache!

What a marvelous heredity this great organization possesses!

Sources: Joe DeRosa, Marilyn Groene, Bob Mattson, Dorothy-Smith,
Newspaper Clippings

Bea Frederickson

1958 - 1961
TRANSITIONS

During Bob Mattson's two terms as President, he faced not only the direction of the club's normal activities but also the sale of the Bisso Lane property.

For some time it had been apparent that a change in the annual trail ride route would have to be made because of the increased housing developments and the consequent hazards of traffic. The announcement by the State that a freeway would soon be built which would require the purchase of a corner of the C.M.D.T.R.A. property galvanized the Club into action. The remaining acreage was sold to the City of Concord for a corporation yard and to the Mt. Diablo Unified School District for a School Bus Terminal.

Bob appointed George Cardinet, Jr. to chair a property committee. All during 1958 the committee searched diligently for land somewhere close to Mt. Diablo State Park so that The Trail Ride could be perpetuated.

Finally in the early spring of 1959 several contiguous acreage's on Mt. Diablo came to the committee's attention and after months of searching for the owners and making offers and conferring, five hundred acres were purchased from four separate owners. Once again the club had to begin anew.

The two terms passed quickly, filled with the usual parties, horse shows and trail rides. At the close of the 1959 Labor Day Trail Ride and Horse Show Festivities the CMDTRA grounds on Bisso Lane were ceremoniously turned over to the new owners. President Mattson presented symbolic keys to the Property to Mayor Donald Campbell of Concord and to Sop's of Schools James Dent. In his closing-remarks Bob promised that the 20th Annual Trail Ride would start from the new grounds next year. This turned out to take some doing--but it happened on schedule.

First, though, Bob directed the dismantling of the facilities at Bisso Lane. The stalls, fencing, and bleachers were all laboriously pulled down, the wood salvaged and moved to the new grounds where it was used to construct the first stable, tie-stalls, and some fencing.

In 1960 George Cardinet, Jr. became President. In a letter to the membership dated Oct 28, 1960 he praised the actions of the Board of Directors during the year of many decisions.

"They have met officially 23 times to date and unofficially many more. By the way this makes 264 calls Sec. Dorothy Smith has had to make plus nine more times

it was necessary to poll the Board by phone.....

Five hundred untouched acres of rugged, rocky hillsides faced the club members. An intrepid bulldozer operator, John Netto, was hired to open a few access ways into this wilderness so that the membership could decide where the various facilities should be located.

The barn was put up first along with the tie stalls to provide for the Annual Trail Ride. The Ride was conducted as promised although the circumstances were trying. (A rough road through the dust and rocks, no water, no telephone, no electricity!)

The site for the Clubhouse and Swimming Pool was selected next and the arenas were carved out of the mountain below the Clubhouse. Don Shaw, vice-president, was the Clubhouse architect who made the most of its commanding view.

The end of George Cardinet's 2nd term as President saw the completion of the clubhouse, arenas and swimming pool. Quite an accomplishment in just two years!

Bea Frederickson

Sources: Club Files, Newspaper Clippings, Bob Mattson, Dorothy Smith.

1962-1966 SETTING THE PACE

Captain T. W. Carrithers, Ret. moved easily from Vice President to the Presidency in 1962. Like George Cardinet, before him, he attained the Presidency of the California State Horsemen's Association. He also was an American Horse Show Association Registered Judge for Horse Shows, Parades, and Dressage Shows, and he was a Registered Horse Show Steward. He managed the prestigious C.S.H.A. Annual Horse Show for many years.

In addition to all these activities, he generously donated his services to C.M.D.T.R.A. as Surveyor, Steward, Judge, Teacher, Board Member, and held many offices.

Through his connections with the Military, several outstanding Judges were brought to the mountain to judge the Competitive Trail Rides. General Wayne Kester, Ret. was perhaps the most well known of these judges.

Cap and Beth were in the vanguard of members who wished to further horsemastership, especially among the young people. They worked tirelessly to help establish the C.S.H.A. Junior Horsemastership Scholarship Program. The major funding for this program came from the C.S.H.A. "Day at the Races" which Beth directed for many years.

The climate was also right in 1962 to foster the development of the North American Trail Ride Conference. Dr. Robert Graham, an active C.M.D.T.R.A. member had the original idea and the details for the organization were worked out by a statewide group of horsemen.

Under Cap's administration a Junior Horsemen's Camp and Clinic was inaugurated. This Clinic, held at the Club grounds for three days, was supported

wholeheartedly by the membership which supplied most of the personnel needed to carry out the program. Ably directed by George and Margaret Cardinet, the Camp was a huge success and was increased to five days in 1963.

Not only was instruction in riding given, but also the children were introduced to the proper care and feeding for their mounts.

At the close of Cap's term in 1963, Dorothy Smith tendered her resignation as Secretary-Treasurer, a job she had held for almost twenty years; so the election for the 1964 C.M.D.T.R.A. officers included Bruce Lee, President, Ray Clauss, Vice President, Morey Ferguson, Secretary, and Edie Sauer, Treasurer.

Bruce and Bobbie Lee became members in 1959 and had taken an active role in the move from Bisso Lane to the mountain. Bruce has worked diligently for the establishment of riding and hiking trails throughout Contra Costa County, serving for many years on the Regional Trails Council. He has directed the annual Seven Day Regional Loop Trail Ride since its inception in the 1970's. He has served almost continuously on the C.M.D.T.R.A. Board of Directors, managed innumerable Competitive Trail Rides, and has been President of the Club for three terms.

Another willing worker, Ray Clauss, was Bruce's Vice President for the 1964 and 1965 terms. He has served several times as a Board Member, and he and Gena have a distinguished record of service to the club.

During Bruce's first term of office, 1964, a Competitive Trail Ride was held in the Spring, and two five day Junior Camps were conducted, one in June and one in August. Bobbie enjoyed Junior Camp and planned and dispensed excellent meals for the Campers and Helpers.

Bobbie was a charming hostess at all the Club's activities which greatly enhanced the pleasure of both the members and visitors.

The Annual Labor Day Competitive Trail Ride culminated in a gala Horse Show on Labor Day, which was very well attended.

Bruce's Second term of office in 1965 was even busier than the first. Negotiations were underway with Mt. Diablo State Park for the **sale** of 350 acres of Club property. The sale was finally completed toward the end of the year, with the proviso that C.M.D.T.R.A. would forever have the right to use the trails thereon.

Also in 1965, Charles DeKunfy, a former member of the Hungarian Olympic Equestrian Team, was introduced to the Club by the Fitch Robertson's. He had escaped from Hungary during the 1956 Uprising, and was teaching school in Concord.

He worked with the Junior English riders and began promoting an interest in Combined Training Events. Work had already begun on an outside Hunt Course in a relatively flat area about ten minutes ride from the clubhouse. It was rushed to completion. To further facilitate the training of the riders or Eventing, a small Dressage Court was eked out of a hillside in the area also.

Picnic tables and benches were trucked out to the central section of the newly built Hunt Course, and a barbecue was held at the site to celebrate its dedication as "Cardinet Oaks." Many of the obstacles were named too, such as "Don's Block," "Commander's Corners," "Sullivan's Bank," "Jules' Jump," etc.

Both Junior Camps were fully subscribed, and the Horse Shows and Spring and Fall Competitive Trail Rides were well attended. The trophies for the Labor Day Trail Ride were presented at the elegant Labor Day Horse Show. Joe DeRosa won the Sweepstakes Trophy.

With all the activities on the mountain, the original well had proved to be inadequate which necessitated hauling water. A new well was dug and connected to the clubhouse, swimming pool and eventually to the arenas. Additional stabling was also constructed at this time to accommodate the many horses attending the Shows.

Not only did the members do a tremendous amount of work, but they played hard too. Outstanding among a series of fabulous parties were the Polynesian Luau and the Grecian Costume Affair!

Don Block succeeded Bruce as President in 1966. His Vice President was Elmer Becker; Secretary, Jules Frederickson; and Treasurer, Edie Sauer.

Besides carrying on the two annual Competitive Trail Rides, the two Junior Camps, and the several annual Horse Shows, the first Combined Training and Hunter Trials was conducted utilizing the new course at "Cardinet Oaks."

The Mortgage on the Club property was paid in- full from the money obtained through the sale of the acreage to Mt. Diablo State Park. A gala "Mortgage Burning Party" was held to celebrate.

Through many hours of difficult discussions and negotiations, Don finally obtained right of way clearances for the installation of much needed telephone service to the club grounds. He also made arrangements for the widening and paving of the access road from Marsh Creek Road to the club entrance.

Rae Erickson presented the prize animal Trophies and the old saddle, which hangs in the bar, to the club. She had inherited them from her uncle.

What a terrific pace had been set: from wilderness to a beautiful horse facility in just six years!

Bea Frederickson

Sources: Bruce Lee, Jules Frederickson, Newspaper Clippings.

1967-1968 EVENTING

Elmer Becker was elected President for 1967 but tragically suffered a fatal heart attack before he could assume office. He had been a staunch member since the early 1950's and had served on the Board for many years. Because Elmer and Ruth were so active in the Club's Junior Programs, (their son, Bill, was a member of the Diablo Flying Horsemen, and their daughters Elma and Marilyn were both excellent riders) the club members established the Elmer Becker Perpetual Trophy in his memory. It was to be presented each year to the junior who earned the highest ranking in the club competitions for the year.

Jules Frederickson became the President, and appointed Gordon Gianei to take his place as Vice President. Don Block was Secretary and Harvey Toponce became Treasurer. John Crawford was appointed to fill Elmer Bectler's unexpired term on the Board of Directors.

Under Jules' administration the established activities were continued: the Competitive Trail Rides in the Spring and Fall, the Labor Day Horse Show, two Junior Horsemen's Camps, one in June and one in August, and a Combined Training Event.

In addition to all the above, the C.M.D.T.R.A. Juniors put on an outstanding Horse Show in March, and a number of schooling shows were also given.

Maude "Dee" Davis, who missed being a charter member by only one year, donated an antique bell from a Missouri Schoolhouse to the Club. Bruce Lee and Jules brought it to the mountain and hung it at the entry way to the clubhouse.

Since the Dressage Ring, which had been roughed out at the Hunt Course was not of regulation size, a new arena was terraced above the existing rings. Complete with new judges' stand, fencing, and Dressage Letters, it was a fine addition to the Club's facilities.

These were the early years for Dressage and Combined Training in the United States. It had been the purview of the military, having originated as a military test for the fitness of horses in battle. With the mechanization of the armies, civilian teams were accepted in the Olympic Equestrian Events, and so the interest in Eventing was kindled. In the 1960's there were only seventeen Combined Training Events held in the U.S.A. California had only three available: Ram Tap, Pebble Beach, and C.M.D.T.R.A. Dressage was also in its infancy in the U.S.A. although it had been studied and practiced in Europe for centuries.

In 1968 Jules remained President and Harvey continued as Treasurer but Fitch Robertson was Vice President and Tom Johnston was secretary. All of the annual activities were well subscribed. Both of the Competitive Trail Rides were large, and the Combined Training Events were growing. The two Junior Camps were filled to capacity due mainly to the fine instructors offering the popular instruction in Dressage and Cross Country Jumping.

The Steeplechase Course was added in 1968 in a relatively level area East of the new Dressage Arena making it possible to include all phases of a Three Day Event. Even though the terrain made this goal impossible we became familiar with the elements of Dressage, Steeplechase, Roads and Tracks, Cross Country and Stadium dumping.

In July, the Oakland National Horse Show was held at the club and offered Dressage classes, a Combined Training Event, and Jumping Classes all judged by Col. Alois Podhaisky of the Spanish Riding School in Vienna.

Perhaps this is the best place to enumerate the many famous horsemen who have been to our Club over the years for judging or giving instructional clinics or demonstrations.

The Charros from Mexico, a gorgeously costumed group of men and women, who rode spectacularly at top speed, entertained the members and were feted at a great barbecue.

Franz Rochovansky, Uberreiter at The Spanish Riding School, gave a clinic on the mountain. He now coaches the British Olympic Equestrian Team.

Col. Bengt Liunquist, Dressage Gold Medal winner for Sweden, and who became the U.S. Olympic Dressage Team Coach in the 1980 Olympics was on the mountain twice: once as a Judge and once for a clinic.

U.S. Olympic Riders Hugh Wiley, Kevin Freeman, Mike Plum, and Denny Emerson also gave clinics. Hilda Gurney has judged Dressage Shows and Combined Events on the mountain.

Judges of international caliber, Col. Hans Moeller and Herman Friedlander have been on the mountain several times.

And, last but not least, Charles de Kunffy, an Olympic rider from Hungary, who for three years took the raw material, poor horses, inexperienced riders, and a rough mountain, and inspired us to make the most of what we had.

Bea Frederickson

Sources: Historian's Books & the Fredericksons

1969 -1971

Fitch Robertson was elected President in 1969. The officers who served with him were Don Block, Vice President, Don Sullivan, Secretary, and Harvey Toponce, Treasurer.

The annual activities continued in their established manner. Both the Competitive Trail Rides and the two Combined Training Events were social occasions as well as outstanding competitive events, people enjoyed the camaraderie, the dinners and parties after the athletic events of the day.

Two Junior Horsemen Camps had been held for the past three summers: one in June and one in August. The June Camp was always fully subscribed at 100 riders, but the August Camp never filled after the first year. As 120 new tie stalls had been completed for the Spring Trail Ride, it was decided to accept 120 Juniors and their horses for the June Camp and omit the August Camp. This Camp taxed the membership and the Club's facilities to the utmost; so it was decided to limit the campers to 100 on a first come, first served basis and omit the August Camp.

At this time, too, the Labor Day Horse Show was not offered partly because many of the working members and competitive riders attended the Pebble Beach Combined Training Event on that weekend.

Fitch's gift to the Board as outgoing President was a public address system for the Judge's Stand in the Upper Arena.

In 1970 Don Sullivan became President and served for two years. He and Pat joined the Club in 1966. They, as many others before them, were attracted to this family oriented group with emphasis on horses -For their two horse-loving daughters, Kathleen and Maureen. Don and Pat is a fine working team. Throughout Don's two years as President and during the succeeding years of managing the Combined Training Events and Dressage Shows they-have sustained and complimented one another's activities. They also worked tirelessly for the Junior Camps and helped in various capacities on the trail rides.

Officers with Don Sullivan in 1970 were Vice President, Fred Kirkham, Secretary, Joe Rancatore, and Treasurer, Sarah Wassermann.

Franz and Sarah Wassermann became members in 1960, and Sarah won the Sweepstakes for the first Competitive Trail Ride, which was held on the Mountain. So began many years of service to the club. Franz made his professional medical services available for every Junior Camp as well as for Horse Shows and Combined Training Events. He was Manager of several successful Dressage Shows, and for many years was either the advance or drag rider on the Competitive Trail Rides. He also spent untold hours with Sarah keeping the trails cleared.

Sarah has been on the Board of Directors and has served as both Treasurer and Secretary, of the Club. She single handedly made curtains for the Clubhouse so the slides and movies could be shown during camp. She has maintained the Club Roster for several years and currently is one of the key workers on the "The Devil Mountain News". There are countless other ways that Sarah and Franz have

been of tremendous service to the organization, but suffice it to say, they are very much appreciated.

In 1971 Don Sullivan's officers were Vice President, Joe Rancatore, Secretary, Sarah Wassermann, and Treasurer, Harley King.

Throughout Don's administration work continued on the Cross-country course and the grounds: the ever needed clearing of brush, trimming of trees, removal of rocks, improving of trails between jumps and repairing of obstacles and adding new ones. Because of his extensive activities in Combined Training Events, Don became the, Area VI Chairman of the United States Combined Training Association, and is still on the Governing Board. He is also an American Horse Show Association Technical Delegate.

Bea Frederickson

Sources: Historian's Jules Frederickson, Joe Rancatore.

1972 - 1974

Commander Harvey Toponce, United States Navy (Ret.) has the distinction of being the only person to serve as President for three consecutive terms. He and Ruth joined the C.M.D.T.R.A. in 1963 and immediately became active with the Pleasure Riders in the club who held rides for members and their guests once a month.

They quickly expanded their activities to include keeping the trails clear of the ever encroaching brush. They also joined the NATRC and competed on those rides for several years.

Harvey managed many of the Competitive Trail Rides on the Mountain while Ruth assisted in several capacities including being either the lead or drag rider for many years.

Their interest in all facets of horsemanship increased along with their burgeoning family of horses, and they took an active part in the Junior Summer Camps as well as helping with every Combined Training Event and Horse Show on the Mountain. They managed one of the most outstanding Dressage Shows ever held on the mountain, having the rings manicured and decorated with potted plants, and serving a sit down luncheon to the judges and competitors. Ruth also was the editor of The Devil Mountain News.

Harvey was elected to the Board of Directors and served as Treasurer from 1967 to 1970. He became President in 1972. In 1972 the officers under Harvey were Joe Rancatore, Vice President; Dave Brooks, Secretary;-and Harley King, Treasurer.

Joe and Betty Rancatore have been members since the late Sixties. Joe served several terms on the Board of Directors and was Secretary during Don Sullivan's first term and became Vice President during Don's second term, and Vice President for Harvey.

Joe's help with Junior Camp was invaluable, and his professional advice was eagerly sought when Camp was increased to six days. Joe and Betty have worked on, the Combined Training Events for many years, and are now -the Managers of Eventing on the mountain.

Dave Brooks began his many years of service to C.M.D.T.R.A. in the Seventies. He starred as Secretary. He was an excellent scribe but it was his droll humor, and delivery of the minutia of the minutes that made them a delightful part of every meeting. He also did much toward publicizing the Club's activities with his,

advertising expertise. He was a fixture at the Back Bate of Horse Shows and Combined Events and really helped to keep the Shows moving along smoothly. He became Treasurer during Harley King's first term as President, and for the past few years has helped to compile the Club's Roster, and keeps a record of the Club's Calendar.

In 1973 and 1974 Harvey's officers were: Don Peterson, Vice President; Dave Brooks, Secretary; and Harley King, Treasurer.

The Competitive Trail Rides, one in the spring, and one on Labor Day Weekend, were very well attended and managed. Junior Camp was extended to six days and had 100 riders every year. The spring and fall Combined Training Events were supplemented by an Event in July--the result of popular demand by the competitors! The pleasure rides were also well attended, as were the several parties.

In addition to all the above activities, a large covered hay barn was built to service the full stables. The road was paved from the Red Barn to the Clubhouse, on below the Dressage Ring and back to the barn making a circular drive which among other things helped immeasurably in keeping the swimming pool clean. During Harvey's three terms as President, C.M.D.T.R.A. reached a peak of activity.

Bea Frederickson

Sources: Historian's Books, Harvey and Ruth Toponce, Joe Rancatore.

1975-1976

Harley King became President in 1975. His officers were: Vice President, Bob Mead, D.V.M.; Secretary Jules Frederickson; and Treasurer, Dave Brooks.

Harley and Dolores joined C.M.D.T.R.A. during the Sixties, and have a distinguished record of service. Harley has been on the Board of Directors for several terms and was Treasurer of the Club for four years. He and Dolores have continued servicing the Club's accounts and conducting audits of the books since his term as Treasurer, a most valuable contribution indeed. They have been the Chairmen of the Breakfast Crew for Junior Camps for many years. and they have also worked on every Competitive Trail Ride and Combined Training Event held on the Mountain.

During Harley's first term in office, The Annual Spring and Fall N.A.T.R.C. Competitive Rides were held as well as the Combined Training Events in the Spring and Fall, and the six day Junior Summer Camp. In addition to these activities, C.M.D.T.R.A. was chosen to host a United States Combined Training Association, meeting wherein Neil Ayer, the President of U.S.C.T.A. accompanied by Jack LeGoef, The U.S.C.T.A. Event Coach, met with Northern California members of the Association. After a delicious barbecue furnished by the Club, Mr. Ayer showed movies of the Burghley Three-Day Event, an International Event held annually in England. The knowledgeable commentary by both Neil Ayer and Jack Le Goef were informative and interesting to the assembled riders.

Another highlight of this year was the Riding Clinic conducted by Jean and

Lily Froissard, a renowned French couple who jointly authored several books on horses and riding, and are Internationally qualified Judges. The well-subscribed Clinic was held at the Club for two days, and then Jean Froissard remained for the weekend to judge the Club's Combined Training Event.

In 1976, Harley's officers were: Bob Cook, Vice President; Stan Hendy, Secretary; and Bob Mead, D.V.M., Treasurer. All of the Annual Competitions were conducted successfully, and Junior Camp was fully subscribed.

Bob and Nora Cook joined the C.M.D.T.R.A. in 1970. Bob has served three terms on the Board of Directors. He was Vice President under Harley King, and became President the following year. 1977 was traumatic for the Mountain. There was a heavy snowfall in the Winter and late Spring and continuing freezing temperatures which caused the icing over of the swimming pool and the bursting of pipes in the barns. In the late summer a disastrous fire swept over Mt. Diablo and burned through the Club's Grounds. Although the buildings were not damaged, the Hunt Course was devastated. Bob has been Trail Master for several N.A.T.R.C. Rides, and was Manager of two N.A.T.R.C. competitions, which were held on the Mountain. He has also done extensive work with the Lots and Leases Committee.

Nora was Publicity Chairman for the Club for a few years. She was Manager of Junior Summer Camp one year, and has competed most successfully on N.A.T.R.C. Rides. Her Arabian mare, Dynasty Azraleyra, has been a consistent winner in Horse Shows and N.A.T.R.C. Competitions. Some of her awards include: N.A.T.R.C. National Championship for competitions in The Region, The State, and Out of State; N.A.T.R.C. 2000 Mile Award; and the Legion of Honor Award from the International Arabian Horse Association.

In addition to Nora's successful riding accomplishments, she was Trail Master for a Competitive Trail Ride, and was the Manager of a recent N.A.T.R.C. Ride on the Mountain. For the past three years she has managed the N.A.T.R.C. Region 1 Meeting and Clinic which have been conducted at the Club. Bob and Nora are quite a team.

The middle Seventies was a significant turning point in the annals of C.M.D.T.R.A. Times was changing. Interests that had flourished began to wane; a new generation was coming to the fore.

To reflect this change and the future direction that the Club will take, a new voice is needed. With this issue my portion of the History of C.M.D.T.R.A. has been completed. These articles have followed the succession of Presidents and their Officers as a manageable way to cope with the progress of the Club. There are many other members who have given regularly and generously of their time and energies to forward the pursuits of the Club. It was only because of time and space limitations that the sketches were limited to those Officers who still remain as Club members.

Writing "Pastime" has been a bittersweet experience. While delving into the Club's beginnings, I gained great respect for "our pioneers". I lamented the deaths of some dear friends and the loss of activities never to be experienced again. I relished the friendships that were made and flourish still, and remembered with joy all the fun we had.

The most compelling and pervasive impression that remained, however was of the

horses. They varied in personalities, abilities, and uses, but they were always there like a huge, permanent back drop on a stage set.

It was because of horses that C.M.D.T.R.A. was started. They were the reason for the development of this beautiful mountain retreat. They were responsible for the gathering together of such a fine group of people. They helped immeasurably toward the growth and development of many children--our own as well as many summer campers.

Let us be sure to keep horses foremost in the future plans for C.M.D.T.R.A.!

Bea Frederickson

Sources:

Historian's Books, Harley King, Jan Rubiales, Dave Brooks, Bob Cook, Jules Frederickson.