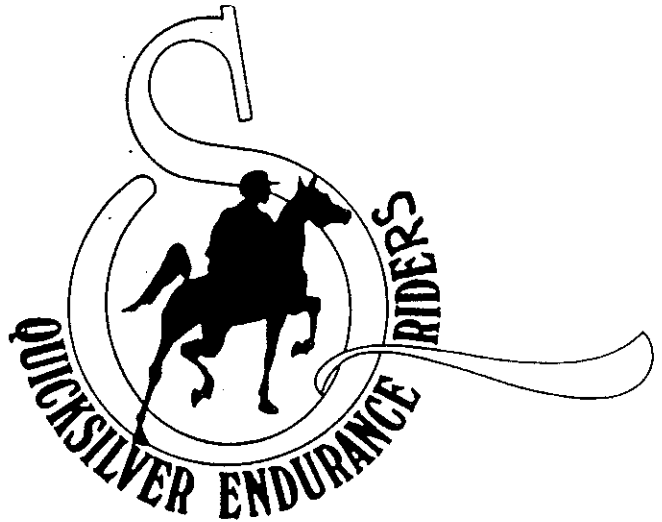


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AUGUST 1994 QUICKSILVER QUIPS
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 Julie Suhr, Editor
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THIS BELONGS ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR

SPECIAL EVENT



HOT TUB!

Anybody who misses the August General Meeting deserves to be served on a Thanksgiving platter. Because the infinite wisdom of the Board has prevailed and we are going to have a party instead of a meeting. (We had better see that this Board is reelected next year!) The date is Wednesday, August 10th. The location will be Trilby's barn, deck, breezeway, whatever at 20535 Rome Drive (Take Almaden Ave. toward the town of Almaden, pass the Country Store and turn right on Rome and go to the end of the road). Liquid refreshment and barbecued chicken are on the house so all you have to do is bring a salad, a pasta dish, french bread or dessert...whatever your speciality is. If you could call Maryben at 265-0839 or Trilby at 997-7500 they can get a rough idea of how many to expect...last minute attendees are welcome. The reason for the shindig is to give all of our new members a chance to see what ~~party animals~~ nice people we are and have a lot of good horse talk. 7 p.m. is the witching hour. The **VERY IMPORTANT PEOPLE** we expect to see there are the new members since January plus all you old tired out ones too. To be welcomed to our club especially are.....



- | | | | |
|--|--|---------------|----------|
| Deb Cooper | David St. Charles | Laurie Ghio | Jeff Loe |
| Mike, Bernice, Katy, Julie and Stephanie Caprino | Linda Cowles | | |
| Genelle Cate and Carolyn Bell | Chris and Jesse Merritt | | |
| Deborah Manion | John, Nancy, Sara and Kristen Goodrich | Mary Thompson | |
| Michael and Kirsten Bernstsen | Jackie Smeltzer | Carla Setzer | |
| Eric and Kirsten Thompson | | | |



Spouses, partners, best buddies are all welcome. The QUICKSILVER family has room for everyone! Be there! Thanksgiving isn't that far away.



A Message from CARLA...

I wish to thank everyone who helped on the May Poker Ride. Special THANKS to Gloria, Caralee, Kathy Kauer and Dave Fanara for taking over for me when I was unable to participate because of work related duties. We did a great job of getting some money into our coffers...the amount earned was about \$350. I was told that everyone had lots of fun.

Thanks again everyone, CARLA

A Message from CHERE...

Assemblyman Richard Katz is in the process of introducing to the California State Assembly AB3262 which in essence makes it mandatory for law enforcement officers to report to the Bureau of Livestock Identification complaints, losses or thefts of any equines or bovines. Please call Assemblyman Katz at 916-445-1616 or write to him in care of the California State Assembly, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 94249 if you like this idea. It is not easy for legislators to push their bills if they do not think they have some supporters. Your phone call or letter may be just the boost he needs to hang in there.

A Message from BARBARA...

The second annual Ano Nueva Beach Patrol camp-out was held on July 9th as the McCrarys hosted a fifteen mile trail ride, picnic lunch and then a Pot Luck dinner. Morning brought pancakes, scrambled eggs and wild piggie sausage. Quicksilver members Chuck and Vivian Beebe were in attendance. The beach patrol consists of nearly 20 persons who ride the beach on weekends and holidays primarily to protect the elephant seals from being disturbed by the heavy crowds that come to see them.

The Ride & Tie Association asked Lud and Barbara to manage the vet checks at the 1994 World Championship in Taylorsville on July 16, 1994. We hope to have more on this in the September Newsletter.

A Message from JUDITH...

The World Championship Endurance Ride will be held in Holland on August 5, 1994. The only team chosen from the West is Quicksilver's own .. Becky and Rio. They leave on the 24th of this month by air. Mitch Benson, DVM will be traveling in the plane with Rio, Becky and Judith which leaves at 8:30 p.m from San Francisco. A busy weekend for Mitch as he is also head vet for the Tevis Cup Ride that same weekend and will have a race to the airport after the Best Condition judging in Auburn Sunday morning. As for Rio, he must be chalking up a lot of frequent flier miles. He's already been to Italy, Spain, Sweden and the state of Virginia by air. Quicksilver members that will be cheering our World Champions on will be Becky Glaser and Judith Ogus. Other people known to most of the Quicksilver Club are Nancy Elliot, Sandy Schuler, Terry and Tony Benedeitti. Our team will be in good hands and we wish them well. On the return trip, Rio will fly to Los Angeles where he will be in quarantine for three days before he can return to his golden California hills. The major funding for the U.S. Team of six is being handled by the USET (United States Equestrian Team) which obtains its funds through private donations. The estimated costs of sending the United States Team to the World Championship is \$157,000 to \$163,000.

A Message from STEVE...



Yearbook Photos

Steve Lenheim really worked last year to put out the Yearbook/Calendar and the club feels we owe him a real pat on the back. But now he sends this message and we should all heed it. **DO IT NOW!!!**

"I would like to remind all the members that we will once again have a calendar ready for distribution at the awards banquet. It is up to YOU to get a picture of yourself to me for this purpose. It is now AUGUST and the ride year is half over so go out and buy a Kodak throw-away camera and take some pictures. **DO IT NOW!** Send your photos with a stick-on note as to who you are and who the horse is. Do not wait to the last minute and make me chase after you. **GET A PICTURE!"**

send to: Steve Lenheim (408) 377-0611
c/o Campbell Mortgage
2100 S. Bascom #4
Campbell, CA 95008

P S. "If Noah had been truly wise, he would have swatted those two flies."

A Message from JULIE...

AERC Hall of Fame nominations and selections are of great interest to our club members. If you have someone you think worthy, please send their name and a paragraph or two of why you think they should be honored to AERC Vice President, Vonita Bowers, P. O. Box 128, Hughes Springs, Texas 75656. Vonita is head of the Hall of Fame Committee and will copy and send your nomination letter to the other members. Also, don't forget .. you can also nominate a horse for the Horse Hall of Fame. What a nice honor for some special horse. Don't wait, but get your letters off now.

In the May Newsletter there was a plea from the Santa Cruz SPCA saying that they had a grant of \$10,000 from the Marguerite Doe Foundation to build a new barn, but the grant was contingent upon their raising another \$25,000. The additional funds have been pledged and the necessary building permits obtained. Grading starts this month. The new barn will replace the current one which between dry rot and the earthquake had only one safe stall. Thanks to all who helped make the SPCA's barn dream come true.

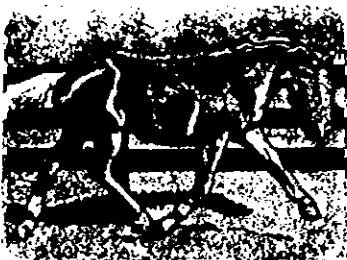
A Message from JAN...

The job of secretary of the Quicksilver Club must be tougher than we think. Caralee White had the job and decided to move out of the state to Minden, Nevada. So Jan Long took over and after a month or two she decided to move away too. Jan goes to Volcano (between Jackson and Kirkwood) to a home she owns there with the intent of finding new trails. She has a two stall barn and figuring that Lacey might be lonely, she bought the Arab gelding, Bubba, from Lif Strand. Good luck and Happy Trails to you, Jan. Now as for filling the secretary's job, if you know anyone you want "outta here", call Maryben and she'll appoint them to take minutes.

QUICKSILVER WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

CHRIS MERRITT and her son JESSE
21760 Alamos Road, #77
San Jose, CA 95120
408-997-7281

← DETROIT



ALMADEN →

INNER CITY DETROIT TO THE ALMADEN VALLEY...WHAT A WAY TO GO!!

by JOE NEWMAN

I was born in Detroit, Michigan, March 3, 1942. My early memories of Detroit included going to the movies on Saturday and seeing Tom Mix in westerns and being in awe of all the cowboys and horses. At that time we lived in the inner-city so all that country and open spaces blew me away. These movies gave me an instant love for horses.

My first recollection of being on a horse was when I was about five years old. My father would rent horses at Belle Isle Stables near Detroit. When Dad was done riding he would put me on the horses about one hundred yards from the stables, slap the horses on the rear, and the the horse and I would go blasting back to the barn. For some reason that did not scare me, but instead instilled in me an excitement and fascination with these critters. Looking back now I realize that little boy was living his fantasy

I moved to San Francisco with my father in 1951 and started school in the bay area. My recollection of this early time was that moving from Detroit to S.F. was a real culture shock. I felt the kids were no where near as tough as the kids in Detroit. When I started playing sports I began to fit right in. During this period of time my father would take me horseback riding every Sunday at Roberts' at the Beach in San Francisco. (I'll bet there are a few of you that remember Roberts, long since gone).

In my early teens I spent all my summers at Cloverleaf Ranch in Santa Rosa for boys, where a cowboy named Larry Armstrong taught me a great deal about horsemanship. I had a newspaper route to finance my weekend trips to Cloverleaf. I started riding my first Arabian at Circle V Ranch in Marin County when I was about 15, a beautiful seven year old sorrel named Nazun.

I bought my first horse when I was 16, a green broke quarter horse named Tina. I moved her to MarVista Stables in San Francisco at the beach. In those days Jack-Pot roping was on Sundays at Rodmans on the hill, and Tina and I had lots of fun participating ((heeling)) with the ropers.

By the time I was 18, my focus had changed to cars and girls, so bye-bye Tina, hello Rock and Roll. I joined the Navy that same year and was gone four years (but that's another story). I got out of the Navy in 1964 and went to Mario Ghillotti whose arab I used to ride, and who had a breeding program for Arabians. A DEAL to me at that time for a well bred Arab was \$1,000.00. (I had no idea) I bought a grade horse with bad habits for \$125.00 and many more after that which I kept in Marin County and behind the Cow Palace in Brisbane. John Lapachae and his brother owned the property and let me keep my horses there gratis for riding the horses he bought at the auction before he sold them.

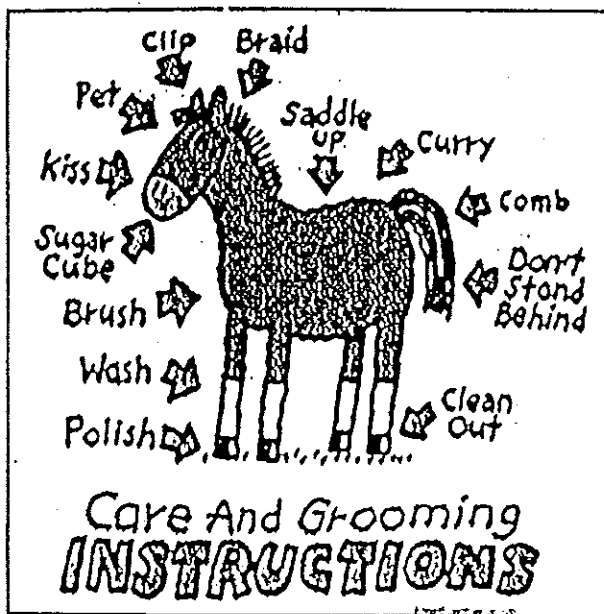
In the late 60's I switched from horses to Harleys. It is noteworthy to mention that Susan Allison, then Susan Scotto, and Susan's daughter, Laurie (then about eight years old) and I all rode horses together on the beach in S. F. (in the early 70's). I can also recall Susan on the back of my Chopper hanging on for

Joe Newman (continued)

dear life a few times. (Those were wild and crazy days!). I didn't buy another horse until 1991 when I bought two Arabians, (Narsalon, a Salon son/and Striker, a Bezatal Grandson) both still with the company.

As for work, I have been a salesman all my life. First in the advertising Specialty Industry, and then the Automobile business. Today I am enrolled in a Certificate Program at SJSU CONTINUING EDUCATION for Alcohol and other Drugs. upon completion, I would be eligible to working this field.

Happy Trails, Joe Newman



HORSES...HORSES...HORSES...HORSES...HORSES...HORSES...HORSES...HORSES

A HORSE FOR YOU ...if a 12 year old Khemosabe daughter fills the bill. She is new on trails, but Deb Cooper trained. Has done ring work, some cattle work, a real sweetheart. Reasonable priced. Call Marie Randolph at 408-449-9730.

A HORSE FOR YOU ...Spring '94 *Oman foals for you...a chestnut colt and a bay filly that will top out around 15.3. These are youngsters with a real future...and versatility should be their middle names if one thinks about *Oman. Carolyn Tucker is the one to call at (408) 779-6555.

HOWDY QUICKSILVER MEMBERS.....from new member, Laurie Ghio...

My name is Laurie Ghio. I have a wonderful family, my husband Steve and children Jessica six years and Christopher two and a half years. We currently live in Watsonville.

My current job..I am a licensed early educational childcare provider. I provide excellent childcare and teach in a preschool program. I love my job. I am able to be home with my own children and others. It's very rewarding and fun!

I was born in Campbell, California and lived in Almaden and then in Aptos until I married.

I have been riding horses on and off since I was nine years old. My grandmother had a horse ranch in Almaden. I would go quite often.

After the birth of my son, Chris, I decided I needed something more. So I bought a quarter horses and enjoyed him a lot.

Not really knowing what I wanted to do in the horse world, I found myself just riding trails all the time.

At that point, I met my very best friend, Jacquelin Smeltzer. She introduced me to the wonderful world of endurance.

Of course, I sold my quarter horse and purchased a fine Arab/Quarter, one of Jacquelin's, and we've been riding together ever since.

In the future I would like to compete in the Tevis and ride the old Outlaw Trail and some of the trails in the midwest and also up in Oregon.

Some of my hobbies include reading, gardening, riding my mountain bike, hiking and anything to do with being outdoors.

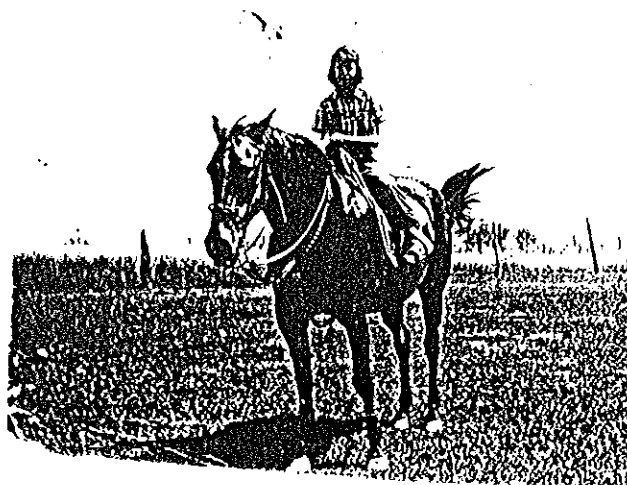
Endurance has been a gift from God. It's helped me in so many ways in my life. It teaches me so many lessons and the people involved are so wonderful.

I hope to always have the wind in my face and the dust in my teeth! Ha Ha!

Yours truly,

Laurie Ghio

Our Pretty Woman of the Month was featured in a Quicksilver Personality Profile last year. She's a farm girl from way back, became an outstanding swimmer and has never outgrown her love of horses. She has seven brothers and sisters, two horses and lives in the South County along with her partner, her sheep, rabbits, chickens and turkeys. She has been an outstanding member of our club. This picture shows her on Posie, a thoroughbred mare. Who is she? See the answer..bottom of the last page. page.





AUSTRALIAN RIDE-ABOUT

by COURTNEY HART

DAVID ST. CHARLES had one of his dreams fulfilled when he completed the "TOM QUILTY" ride. This is AUSTRALIA'S oldest ride, having started in 1967. It was originally held in QUEENSLAND but in recent years it has moved about the country, and last year it was held in TASMANIA. We were fortunate to attend this years ride which was once again held in QUEENSLAND. This is a hotbed of endurance riders which was readily apparent by the rides attendance of two hundred and ninety-seven riders.

The course was some what comparable to the "SWANTON PACIFIC 100" and had a winning time of ten hours and twenty minutes. This is about the same as what would be expected for SWANTON, even though the temperature in AUSTRALIA was considerably cooler. The completion rate was only fifty-four percent? The low completion rate reflects the riding style of the "aussies", these folks have only one gear and that's "fast". The laws down there prohibit the use of "whips and spurs" in fact if you show at a ride with long reins that might be used as a whip you will have to change them to a shorter length or be denied the right to start the ride.

The ride started at midnight and consisted of four loops each marked with a different color ribbon. The first loop was marked with black ribbon. But David had no problems because he was being guided by June Peterson. June was a guest speaker at our club last year when she came over to do the "TEVIS CUP". David had other advantages probably the biggest was his head crew person which had a couple of very large advantages, in point of fact they were the most talked about subject at the ride.

This course had its unique hazards "SNAKES" the tiger snake lives in this area and is considered to be the most deadly snake in the world. Through one section of trail riders avoided tree limbs because of "BROWN SNAKES" in the trees they are also quite deadly.

All horses entered in endurance rides have to have a micro-chip imbedded in them, and they have a record book showing the veterinary evaluations of every ride the horse has done. The record book must be presented at the time of the preride examination and every "vet check" throughout the ride, the micro-chip is read to ascertain that the horse is the correct one. This is supposed to prevent horses from being over ridden, while maintaining a fair and equitable situation for every one. What has been happening is that some veterinarians have been disqualifying horses from competing for a period of three months because there recovery pulse was one beat to high at a "vet check"!

I heartily recommend that anyone who has the opportunity to do the "TOM QUILTY" ride should do so. The people are fun and they certainly know how to put on a great ride, and make you feel welcome.

Excerpts from **HOW TO BE YOUR OWN VETERINARIAN (sometimes)**

by **RUTH B. JAMES DVM**

Contributed by **Catherine Kauer**

Chapter 4

FEEDING THE HORSE

Roughages	How Much to Feed
Pasture	Measuring Feed
Grass Hay	Overfeeding
Alfalfa Hay	Feeding the Idle Horse
Alfalfa/Grass Hay	When Your Horse Doesn't Eat His Feed
Grain Hay	Special Situations
Straw	The Growing Horse
Miscellaneous Hays	The Pregnant Mare
Hay Cubes	The Lactating Mare
Chopped Hay with Molasses	The Breeding Stallion
Silage	The Working Horse
Complete Feeds	The Thin Horse
Miscellaneous Roughages	The Fat Horse
Selection of Hay	Feeding the Sick Horse
Blisters	
Beetle Poisoning	
Grains (Concentrates)	
Oats	
Corn	
Other Grains	
Grain Mixtures	
Feed Supplements	
Bran	
Urea	
Vitamins	
Minerals	
Salt	
Water	
Wood Chewing	
The Digestive System	
When To Feed	
Feeding Schedules	
Working After Meals	
Feeding the Tired Horse	
How to Feed	
Watering the Horse	
Wolfing Feed	
Feeding When Camping With Horses	
Finding Pasture	

easy keeper and not being worked will thrive on a good-quality hay alone. Salt and water round out the list of necessities.

Horses have been given many unusual feedstuffs throughout the world. Desert horses in Arabia are fed dates and camel's milk. Danish horses are said to like dried swamp peat and beet molasses. Icelandic ponies are fed dried fish, which has the same nutritional value as oats but contains more vitamins. (2) Eggs and broth made from a sheep's head are said to have been used as horse feed in India. Lime leaves and the seeds of carob trees have been used in Spain and Italy. Nearly any edible roughage you can name (including such things as peas) has probably been used as horse feed somewhere in the world.

Feed must contain enough nutrients, (protein, fats, carbohydrates, fiber, vitamins, and minerals) to enable the horse to support his body in good health. It must include enough calories (energy) to allow the horse to do the work demanded of him. An excess of calories is merely turned into fat, which may be harmful to the animal's health and is certainly a waste of money. The feed must contain enough fiber (also called roughage) to keep the animal's digestive tract moving properly. Protein provides the building blocks for muscle growth and the basic ingredients for cellular maintenance. Foals and weanlings need around 16% protein, while mature horses can get by on about 8% protein. (3)

Some natural fat is found in most horse rations. Rations have been compounded with large amounts of fat added to give extra energy to animals who are being worked extremely hard, such as endurance horses. These animals literally cannot eat enough grain alone to keep them from losing weight when they are working. Fats help to provide essential fatty acids which keep the skin and coat in good condition. Fats act as solvents to help the animal take in fat-soluble vitamins such as A and D. They may increase the palatability of some feeds, and they help to keep down dust in the grain mixture. They also help the grains to go through machines which form feed pellets. Feeding a concentrate ration high in fat may decrease the complications (e.g., colic and founder) which may occur when animals are fed high levels of grain alone. Fats are most often added to grain rations by putting in corn oil or linseed or cottonseed meal.

An adequate supply of vitamins and minerals is necessary to keep all body systems healthy and functioning properly. Some conditions may increase the animal's need for a particular vitamin. For instance, toxins produced by certain molds (called mycotoxins) may be present in some feeds. These may increase the animal's need for vitamin K to allow his blood to clot normally.

Minerals become necessary additions to the animal's ration when soils are depleted of nutrients. For instance, selenium has been shown to be deficient in many areas.

Horse feed may be divided into two general categories: roughages and concentrates. Roughages are feeds such as pasture, hay, and silage. Their bulk is essential to proper functioning of the horse's digestive tract. The fiber in them is felt to be important in scrubbing harmful accumulations of bacteria from the intestinal walls, thus helping to prevent digestive problems. Roughage is important to help prevent colic as it stimulates good intestinal motion.

Concentrates are feeds which are low in fiber and high in usable nutrients. They include grains such as oats, barley, and corn, as well as products such as wheat bran, cottonseed meal, and linseed meal.

Roughages are the foundation of most horse rations, while grains are the icing on the nutritional cake. Many horses can (and indeed, do) thrive on hay alone, with no grain. Horses cannot remain healthy if fed only grain, no matter how much they are given.

Concentrates are the easiest way to provide the calories necessary for a hard-working horse. If the animal is not fed enough grain, he will first burn body fat for energy, and then will burn muscular tissue, resulting in a thin (and less efficient) horse. On the other hand, a horse who is an

priced feed may be the least expensive if it is high in nutrients and palatability so that it is well utilized with little or no waste. The best ration in the world is worthless if it is unpalatable and the animal won't eat it. Feeding it to your own animal and seeing how well he does on a ration is the final test of how well it works. In addition, modern horses are bred for a faster rate of growth than were horses at the turn of the century. Some deficiencies will only show up with a higher growth rate. Thus, nutrient requirements which were determined sixty or eighty years ago are not adequate for today's highly bred animal. With some of these criteria in mind, let's take a look at some of the more common feedstuffs used in the United States.

ROUGHAGES PASTURE

Pasture is the ideal feed for the horse. It most nearly resembles what a horse would eat if left entirely to himself in the wild. Free grazing allows the horse to choose which plants he wants to eat (assuming that it is not so overgrazed that he must eat all available plant material, good or not). It allows him to graze a bit at a time, when he is hungry. Left totally to himself, a horse will alternate periods of grazing and rest around the clock. It is not uncommon to be out in a pasture at night and hear the soft munch, munch of horses eating a midnight snack.

A good pasture is also labor-saving; the horse mows and packages the feed. All the owner must do is make sure the animal has adequate water and salt and is in good health. It relieves the owner of the need to be present twice a day to feed the animal.

Many types of grasses and legumes are used for pasture. They range from dry buffalo grass prairie to lush irrigated Kentucky bluegrass, and from alfalfa fields to coastal Bermuda pastures. Small grains such as wheat, oats, rye, and barley are often planted for temporary pastures in winter or spring when regular pastures are short or dormant. While these plants are in their active growth stages, they supply plenty of vitamins, and are high in protein, especially early in the season. As they reach maturity, their palatability decreases. They may become tough and woody. Lowland or marshy pastures may contain deep, beautiful green grasses. Unfortunately, these grasses are often both unpalatable and low in nutritional value. They may deceive the horse owner into thinking that he has plenty of pasture, when in reality the horse will not eat these grasses unless forced to do so.

Sorghum and sudangrass hybrids may cause several disease problems when used as pastures and should be used with extreme caution. Valuable animals should not be grazed on these pastures. The problems which may be seen include permanent paralysis of the urinary bladder and cyanide poisoning.

Some horses will need supplementation while on pasture. At the very least, loose minerals should be provided in boxes. Many people put out two boxes, one with loose salt, and the other with a complete mineral mixture. This allows the horse to eat more salt if he is sweating heavily or the weather is hot. Hay may be needed if the pasture does not supply enough forage, or in special conditions as mentioned below.

If pasture is used for winter feed, it shares many of the same problems as hay late in the spring. The plants have bleached out to a light tan, meaning that the Vitamin A content is extremely low. Mature forages (especially grasses) are also low in protein and phosphorus. It is often necessary to supplement pastured horses with grain and a vitamin/mineral supplement late in the winter. Some grasses hold their nutrients against the leaching effects of rain and snow better than do others. The tough, waxy grasses and sedges of the western prairies, for example, furnish more nutritious winter feed than do many common pasture grasses. Clover and other legumes make good feed even when mature, if all the leaves have not fallen or been blown from the stems.

Pasture also may present a problem early in the spring, when the grass is growing extremely fast, and is what farmers call "washy." It has an unusually high water content, and the animal literally cannot eat enough of it to get the nutrients he needs. A horse may be standing in grass up to his belly and starving because of this. This problem is very common in the Pacific Northwest and in other parts of the country where there is a lot of precipitation. It can happen anywhere in a wet spring. The fact that this early grass is very laxative does not help the situation any. The problem is easily remedied by feeding the horse some grain, and a vitamin supplement if recommended for your area. Often, grain by itself will do the trick. Or, the animal can be given supplemental hay. He can also be allowed to graze only a few hours and then brought in and fed hay.

When starting a horse who normally eats hay onto pasture, do it gradually, especially if the pasture is green and growing. This gradual introduction is extremely important when putting the horse on legume (alfalfa or clover) pasture, to avoid colic, founder, or other digestive problems. Feed the animal his normal morning ration of hay, and grain, if you are feeding grain. When he is finished and full, turn him out to graze for one to two hours the first day, and then shut him back into his pen or stall. Watch carefully for signs of laminitis, colic, or diarrhea. If the first day's grazing is successful and the animal does not show any ill effects, do the same each day for two or three more days. Then, leave the animal out for three to four hours a day for another two or three days. By this time, he should be adjusted to the pasture and can be turned out to graze full-time.

If the horse has a history of founder (laminitis) or colic, it may be worth taking as much as two to three

and this mineral is being added to animal rations. This mineral also shows how too much of a good thing can be toxic: in large amounts it can cause severe problems, including sloughing of the mane, tail, and hooves. A little is a necessity, and too much is a poison, demonstrating the need for moderation in feeding. It is a good idea to find out where the hay you feed your horse is grown and check if that growing area has any mineral deficiencies. Hay is often shipped and fed long distances from its growing area.

Nutritional deficiencies may be seen in animals who are fed inadequate amounts of nutrients. Stress may bring on deficiency problems in animals who receive marginal nutrition. Sudden changes in weather (temperature and moisture) can severely stress animals, as can irregular feeding and poor management. Muddy corrals, and inadequate housing in bad weather can severely stress your horse. When deficiencies occur, they are rarely seen as single disease problems. For this reason, the symptoms which occur with each deficiency will not be discussed. Most commonly seen are multiple deficiencies which involve several nutrients; for instance, a calcium deficiency may also involve phosphorus, vitamin D, and vitamin A imbalances.

Most nutritional deficiencies may be cured if they are discovered and corrected soon enough. If permanent changes (such as rickets) have occurred in the body, the damage may not be repairable. When large amounts of a missing nutrient are added to the diet, it is important not to create an imbalance with this addition. The best cure for nutritional deficiency is to not let it happen by keeping the animal on an adequate plane of nutrition throughout his life, avoiding periods when the feed is inadequate (either in quantity or quality).

The type of feed used for your animal depends in large part on what is available in your area, and may also depend on economic factors. Since the average horse will eat about 5½ tons of feed (including hay or pasture and grain) per year, small differences in feed costs may result in large savings over a period of time. (4) For instance, there may be a two- or three-fold difference in price between a premium native (mountain meadow) hay, and a locally-grown alfalfa hay. While the "native" hay is probably the ideal feed, the price differential makes alfalfa the logical choice for most horse owners.

Convenience must also be considered when choosing horse feed. The best hay in the area may only be available in five-ton stacks, which may make it totally impractical for feeding. Grain which is available only in hundred-pound sacks may be a poor choice if fed by a teenage girl. Convenience also includes a consideration of waste: if so large a quantity must be purchased at one time that there is much waste, cheap feed may end up being the most expensive in the long run.

Cost is a major consideration with horse feed; high-

stock up on second or third cutting, and store some in a dry place for winter use.

In some parts of the country, there may be up to eight or nine cuttings per year. In these areas, first cutting still may be the winter hay, which is too coarse and stemmy. The other cuttings are not too different from each other, unless they've been rained on or otherwise damaged. Areas which have blister beetle will usually have less of this pest in the first cutting, or in cuttings very late in the season. If you are in one of these areas, this is a major consideration (see Beetles).

Alfalfa hay is cut by most hay producers when about 10% of the plants are in bloom. Letting it mature until all of it is in bloom results in a coarser hay, with much lower protein and vitamin content. Also, when it is harvested too late, many leaves are lost, leaving it with less nutritional value. Try to get hay which is cut and baled at the proper time for the best nutritional value for your hay dollar.

Good quality alfalfa hay may actually contain more protein and digestible energy than is needed by mature, non-working horses, especially if these animals are "easy keepers." This type of animal can easily become overweight if fed a good legume hay on a free-choice basis. For these animals, the amount given should be limited to what is needed to maintain a normal weight.

Dehydrated alfalfa may be made into pellets and used as a large part of the ration. This product is often called "deh." It is well accepted by horses (see Pellets).

ALFALFA/GRASS HAY

This is a mixture of alfalfa and grass and is a very good hay to feed horses. Many horsemen prefer it over straight grass or straight alfalfa hay because it has more nutritional value than grass hay, but with less of the complications (such as occasional colic) which some people feel they get from alfalfa hay.

This combination is better than straight grass hay because of its greater amount of protein and vitamins for use in pregnant or lactating mares, growing young horses, and hard-working animals. It is a good hay to use when having your horses fed by children or inexperienced persons who may cause them problems by overfeeding them on alfalfa.

GRAIN HAY

Hays made from small grains are fed in some parts of the country. Oat hay is made from the same plant from which we get oats for grain, but is cut slightly green with the stalk attached, allowed to dry, and baled. Oat hay should have good, plump oats on it. It should not be so dried or so late-cut that all the hulls have opened and the oats have fallen out. If this has occurred, the feed value is severely reduced, nearly to the level of oat straw. Good oat hay is cut while the grain is at the milk or early dough

GRASS HAY

This is one of the best dry roughages available for horses. The type of grass hay which is available varies from one part of the country to another. Bluegrass makes a fine-stemmed, high-quality hay, as do the native meadow hays of the high valleys of Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana. Bermuda grass hay is common in Florida and Texas. There are also a great number of cultivated grass hays, such as brome grass, orchard grass, fescue, etc. Timothy, or other good quality grass hay, has long been the standard against which other hays are judged.

One of the greatest advantages of grass hay is that it is much less likely to be dusty or moldy than legume hay. While it is comparatively low in protein, the amount it contains is still adequate for horses who are not working hard and are not pregnant or lactating. Horses who are growing or lactating will need supplemental grain when fed good grass hays.

Grass for hay should be cut in prebloom or early bloom stage, when it is highest in protein. At this stage, it is also lower in fiber and high in palatability and digestibility.

Please note that grass clippings ARE NOT a form of grass hay! Grass clippings should not be fed to horses for a multitude of reasons. If they contain weed killers, fertilizers, or fungicides, they may actually be toxic to the horse. They are prone to cause choke because they are in small pieces and the horse does not have to chew them in order to swallow them. Thus, he does not mix adequate saliva with them, and because they are dry, they may get stuck halfway down the esophagus. Or, they may get all the way to the stomach and down into the intestine, resulting in an impaction and colic (which is sometimes fatal). All in all, the small amount of feed that can be gotten from most lawns is not worth the risk of feeding grass clippings. Let the animal graze the lawn and mow it himself if you wish to feed this material!

ALFALFA HAY

Alfalfa is a legume which is very rich in nutrients. It is high in protein, often as high as good grain. It is rich in calcium and vitamins A and D. It is very palatable, and is relished by most horses.

This hay is available in most parts of the country. In many areas, more than one crop of it is grown per year. The hay is then referred to as "first cutting, second cutting," etc. The first cutting of the season starts growing in the spring as the weather begins to warm. It takes longer to grow than the other cuttings, and thus often has very coarse stems and fewer leaves than later cuttings. Unless it is of very good quality, first cutting alfalfa hay generally makes much better cattle feed than horse feed. Many horse owners will buy only a few bales of first cutting, to tide them over until the second cutting is taken. Then they

FEEDING THE HORSE:

weeks to accustom him to fresh green pasture. Remove the animal from pasture at the first sign of digestive or foot problems.

There is a good reason for allowing the animal to become accustomed to the pasture gradually. The forage is digested by bacteria in the horse's intestine. It takes different kinds of bacteria to digest fresh green grass than it does dried grass hay. Allowing the horse to become used to the pasture gives his bacteria time to adjust their numbers in order to efficiently digest the new ration. Some of the unneeded ones will die off, and the critters needed to break down the new feed will have a chance to multiply for their task. Letting the bacteria get into tune with the feed goes a long way toward preventing digestive upsets. This gradual changing routine should be used with any new feed, whether roughage or grain.

It is best to turn a horse out onto a new pasture early in the day, especially if he has never been in it before. This gives him a chance to become familiar with the fence boundaries and hazards, such as banks and streams, before it becomes dark. This avoids many wire cuts caused by animals running through a fence that they did not realize was there. It also gives the horse time to get acquainted with his pasture-mates, if there are any.

Pasture should not be allowed to get too tall, as the grass becomes less nutritious and less palatable. It should also not be allowed to be grazed too short, as this can harm the grass roots, causing damage to the pasture which will take months or years to heal. Because they prefer immature pasture plants, horses may graze some areas to the ground, while allowing others to grow quite tall. This can be countered by dividing pastures into small fields, and putting enough horses into an area to graze it quickly and heavily, and then rotating the animals to another pasture. It can also be fixed by mowing (clipping) the tall grass so that it will grow again from the roots.

Pasture which has been flooded should not be used for horses. The horse eats the forage, along with sand that has been left on it, and may soon develop a case of sand colic.

Horses may be grazed on lawns, but should not be allowed to do so if the grass has been treated with weed killers, insecticides, or fungicides, or materials to kill earthworms or gophers. If the lawn is hedged with oleanders, care must be taken that the animals do not graze this extremely toxic bush. Several common garden flowers, such as foxglove and iris, are toxic. Grazing animals should not be allowed access to them. Check the plants in the area you plan to use for grazing to see if any might be harmful.

Mares who are hard to breed may benefit by being placed on lush green pasture. This seems to aid conception in some animals. In pigs and sheep, feeding fresh green material before breeding is called "flushing," and is a common springtime pre-breeding practice.

CRUELTY, NOT CULTURE

Hispanic legislators rally to support a ban on horse-tripping

The following is a letter written by Hispanic legislators Joe Baca, Louis Caldera, and Hilda Solis, and which was distributed to the entire California State Assembly prior to its vote concerning AB-49X, the bill which will ban the practice of horse-tripping for entertainment or sport.

Last year, AB 1809 (Baca) would have prohibited the tripping of horses at Mexican style rodeos (Charreadas). When hostile amendments were proposed in the Assembly Agriculture Committee, the sponsors chose not to pursue the bill.

This year, Assemblyman John Burton agreed to carry a similar measure, AB 49X. Opponents to AB 49X, which include The Federacion De Charros, argue that the practice of tripping horses at Charreadas is part of their culture, and as such should not be prohibited. In addition, opponents argue that the bill is racist in nature and an affront to their heritage.

This is the furthest thing from the truth. We, along with the Mexican American Political Association, Mexican-Americans for Animal Welfare, the late President of the United Farm Workers (UFW), Cesar Chavez, and a host of other Latinos reject this characterization. Our aim is not to ban the cultural richness of the Charreada, but to prohibit a specific event within it.

Tripping a horse is neither a sport nor a part of someone's culture—it's cruelty, plain and simple.

We, the undersigned, urge you to support AB 49X and oppose all amendments.

Joe Baca
Louis Caldera
Hilda Solis



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stage; at this period, most of the nutrients are in the leaves instead of all being in the grain as they are later.

The same sort of hay is often made from other grains, such as wheat or barley. Barley hay often has rough beads on it which may irritate the horse's mouth.

STRAW

In some areas, the oats or other grains are combined off the stalks, and the stalks (called straw) are cut and baled and used for horse feed. The same type of feedstuff may be produced from wheat, rye, or other grain. It can be used to add bulk when animals are fed a completely pelleted ration. Straw may be dusty, and sometimes contains dirt or other contaminants, which may be harmful to the horse.

Straws are very poor horse feed, as they are usually completely yellow; all the carotene (vitamin A) is gone, and the feed value is low. If you are going to feed the horse both the oat straw and the oats, why not cut it while still green and a lot higher in feed value and feed the whole thing as oat hay?

In an emergency, horses can survive on straw, but for the long haul, it is not nutritionally adequate, even for the non-working animal. It is said that in Europe, oat straw is coarsely chopped and fed with the horse's grain ration. In this case, the grain would supply many of the nutrients otherwise missing from the ration.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Chaff from wheat and rye should never be used as horse feed. The sharp beards from the grain heads can become lodged in the mouth or throat and may cause serious problems. They are said to be the basis of intestinal concretions ("stones") which may later form intestinal obstructions. (5)

Oat chaff is said to be safe if fed in very small quantities and mixed with corn fodder or coarsely chopped hay, but may cause serious problems if fed in large amounts. It can be used to add bulk to the ration of horses who are given only pelleted feed, but again in small quantities.

Rice hulls are a poor quality feed which are very high in fiber. They may be used with a pelleted ration as mentioned above for oat chaff. Some feel that their sharp edges may be irritating to the mouth and digestive tract.

Any hulls or chaff which are fed should be as dust-free as possible. They should be clean and free from mold, or they should not be used for horse feed.

MISCELLANEOUS HAYS

Many grasses and grains which have not been specifically mentioned above are grown and made into hay. Millet is occasionally grown for hay. It should be cut early. Millet should not be fed as more than half of the roughage ration as there is some evidence that when fed in large quantities, it may cause serious lameness and swelling of the joints.

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