

QUICKSILVER QUIPS

September 1997



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President Steve speaks.....

August is like a door between two rooms. The first room is full of what we have done this year. The ride completed, the trails and tribulations faced, and the fulfillment of the plans we made at the start. The other room is what we have left to accomplish this year. It seems to have a very different fashion of thoughts and ideas. How many rides do I have left? How tired and hurt is my horse? Boy, I'll be glad when this year is over. Yes, this is the time to finish. As an endurance rider to finish is to win and that even applies to the year. Finish out the year with some great rides!

The Annual Bar-B-Que was once again a raging success. For over forty people we had food, wine and drink. The hot topic was the short list for the Pan Am Ride in Oregon and how we as a club have three members on it and one past member. Not bad. The hard work they put in pays off when they reach their goals and achievements.

Another topic was the Moonlight Ride that Chere Montgomery has put together. At the present time it is scheduled for Friday, the 12th of September. Due to the Pan Am Games and number of members on support crews we will need a turn-out by everyone else to make this a great event. Each year that Chere puts it on we seem to have a fun party and since it will be earlier it will be warmer. Be there or be square. By the way, you don't need a horse to come and have fun. The campfire is there for everyone to enjoy so do it!

I have no reason to call a meeting on the 10th of September, so let's say it is canceled. Our next meeting will be October 8th. And we will have a guest speaker even if I have to kidnap someone. In lieu of that, do you know of someone who wants to come in and entertain us? I could use some ideas.

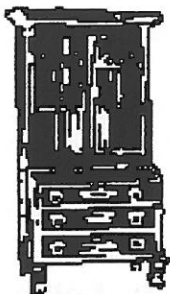
50 miles to go,

Steve

SUMMER OF '97

Quicksilver members Gerry and Diane Luternauer have sold their Aptos home and plan on moving to the Meford, Oregon area. In the meantime, they are ensconced with Jim and Joanne Dietz. They had to put their relocating on hold while Diane successfully co-managed the Fireworks 50 Ride. They will be missed by the Quicksilver Club who selected them as their Hall of Fame recipients last year. They will be down this way for rides, however, and promise to attend our annual awards dinner early in the year.

New Quicksilver member Connie Schein has joined the ranks of endurance riders in the traditional way. A couple of unscheduled dismounts at the Fireworks Ride have left her little the worse for wear.



Quicksilver member Jane Merrill has retired from the high tech world and started a new business in Watsonville by the name of **Southwest Savvy**. She is featuring rustic ranch furniture, wool rugs and blankets, lamps and other art pieces in the Mexican family tradition. If you like ranch style furnishings, her brochure will delight you. She can be reached at 408-726-7191. In the meantime, she hopes her career change will give her more time with her horses.

Quicksilver Member Nancy Elliot bought Vselka Iskra from Julie Suhr. Actually Nancy has done most of the work with the gray mare which gave Julie a few more thrills than she craved. Nancy won a Shine and Shine Ride on "Izzy" in 1995.

Quicksilver Members Chuck and Vivian Beebe are usually seen at rides together, but in different capacities. While Chuck is out there in the heat on a sweating, dusty horse, Vivian is sitting calm, cool and collected

under an umbrella at the finish line recording the times of the finishers. Or so it was at the Fireworks Ride. You can tell who is the smart one in the family.

New Quicksilver Member Elisabet Hiatt had a strong 13 place finish on Julie Suhr's horse Razznan at the Fireworks. Everything worked well for the team and Elisabet is reluctant to return the horse.

Quicksilver Member Chuck Kessinger occasionally sees the ride from on top of a horse rather than from the ground. With daughters Kerry and M'Kenzi, he enjoyed the Fireworks 30 trail.

Quicksilver member Rosanne Phinn came to Fireworks to visit. Unfortunately she faces further surgery on her ankle that has been a problem since she was hit by a drunk driver while standing in her own driveway. It has kept her grounded. Rosanne and Stormy won the 1994 Quicksilver Ride that the Vanderfords so ably managed.

New Quicksilver member Ken Cook swears he is never going to ride with a harem again. At the Fireworks ride he decided it would be fun to ride with the ladies. Well, as it turned out, it was not fun because all he did was retrieve horses and pick people up off the ground. Connie's two falls we have already mentioned, but Maryben parted ways with Scarlet twice. Then Heather Bergantz was out of the ride at



Wilder Ranch. So it left only Traci Falcone in good shape...that was until just a couple of miles from the finish where one of her knees collided with a tree which left her howling in pain (*slight exaggeration..editorial license*). Maryben says they don't want Ken along the next time they go out because he obviously is a terrible jinx and they value their personal health

It was good to see Quicksilver member Diane Trefethen at Graham Hill serving the pasta meal. Diane has a new address so change your membership roster to show her at: P. O. Box 116, La Honda, CA 94020 and you can call her at 415-747-0301. Diane is excited about starting the endurance career of her mare, Ruby's Gift, the last foal from the outstanding mare, Rushcreek Ruby.

One other Fireworks story and then we will move on, but did anyone else notice the boobsey twins, Brian Reeves and Brian Bergantz? Actually, they were pretty hard to miss.

Our **SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH**



focuses on Julie Caprino and Atlantys who did an outstanding job at Tevis this year. Julie was the first junior to finish and she did it with class, finishing 29th out of 223 entries and 109 finishers.

A remembered quote from the Los Angeles Times article which covered the 1997 Tevis Cup Ride was succinctly put by Quicksilver member Traci Falcone.....

‘ I don’t do drugs
I do the Tevis ’

Quicksilver member Jack Enderle is on a roll. After a good solid Tevis Cup finish, he rode an unfamiliar borrowed horse on the Fireworks and finished 2nd.

Chere Montgomery needs some help with the Sept. 12th Moonlight Ride. In particular, she would love some donations of door prizes and some helpers that night. And don't forget, this is a pot luck and she needs a few main dishes such as chili and soup along with the other side dishes. It's okay to volunteer so call her at 268-2911.



BULLETIN

Quicksilver has landed two riders and an alternate on the Pacific North Team for the Pan American games in Bend, Oregon on September 13th.



The team consists of:

Jack Enderle, QS Barbara Sanches
Heather Bergantz, QS Kirsten Berntsen
Shirley Delsart Gary Cerigioii

the alternates are:

Mark Carman
Wendy Lumbert
Val Weizer, QS

On the Veterinary Commission Quicksilver is represented by Dr. Nancy Elliot.

This ride was formerly called the North American Championship. Each AERC Region is allowed six riders with the host region, the Pacific North, allowed double that number. Many foreign riders are also expected. Festivities start on September 11th and continue through the post ride award ceremony on the 14th.

The World Equestrian Games scheduled for 1998 in Ireland have been canceled for funding and political reasons. The FEI is working to move the 1998 WEG to Rome, Italy and the probability of this occurring looks favorable.

AERC International is accepting ideas for sites for the 1999 North American Championship and is seeking nominations for the AERC International Committee.

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES

A Family illness is forcing the sale of Khadiana who is by the Shagya stallion *Oman out of Khadija (Kosciusko out of a Bezatal mare). This two year old filly is big, strong, correct and started under saddle.

Will mature at 15.1 to 15.2, and well be able to carry a heavyweight. She has done well when shown and NOTHING phases her. Her price is reduced to \$6,000 and her quality breeding and obvious potential makes this bold and special mare worth more. A video is available. Call Carolyn Tucker at 408-779-6555.

And if you have \$750 call Judith Ogus right away. She and Becky are selling their Fadwah son out of their Shiko mare, Toby. He's a year and a half old bay gelding with a star and a snip and a very substantial body with good bone. His attitude is great and he goes by the name of Minute Man. Call Judith at 408-997-0814.

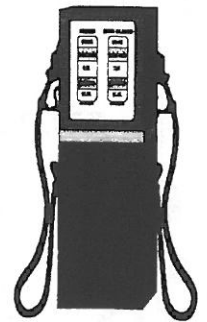
Diane Enderle has a tooled western roping saddle in very good condition for sale. It is brown with a nice rolled scalloped cantle. If you have \$500, call Diane at 408-353-4947 or 353-2077.



Ingela Kaerszang has a six year old Anglo/Arab mare for sale in Davis. Ingela is primarily interested in hunters and jumpers and thinks this 15 hand, bay mare would make a great trail and endurance horse. She is very manageable with great ground manners. She has had about three months of ring and dressage training, but not very much trail experience. You can call Ingela at 916-661-0987.

There is a nine year old Arab gelding nearby that is in search of a new home. He is 15.1 hands, a chestnut with a flaxen mane of *Bask and Serafix blood lines. He is athletic, elegant, free moving dressage/hunter prospect. Also western/trail. He is professionally trained and will go to a good home only. He needs an intermediate rider. If you are interested call Lynn Sazwan at 408-252-9629 for more details.

Michelle Herrera would like to hook a trailer ride for her horse to the different rides with someone. Her mare loads easily and is mannerly. Michelle would share expenses and be good company for someone who doesn't want to go to the rides by themselves. Michelle can be reached at 408-427-1533.



Becky Glaser has found it too difficult to keep two young children and nine horses all exercised so needs to reduce the herd. The children come first so it is a couple of horses that have to go. She has a nice bay Anglo/Arab gelding that is 15.2. He's 14 years old and would make an experienced rider a nifty pleasure horse. He's solid and can carry a heavy rider. His price is \$1800. The second horse is a 7 year old 3/4 Arab/1/4 Pinto mare. She's a chestnut with a flaxen mane and tail who stands 15 hands and would be good for a middle weight or lighter rider. She has completed her first fifty miler. \$2500 will get you this very pretty flashy mount. Becky's number is 408-338-9863.

*****REMEMBER*****SAVE THE DATE*****

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH
QUICKSILVER'S ANNUAL 25/50 FALL RIDE
EITHER RIDE OR VOLUNTEER**

1997
QUICKSILVER ENDURANCE RIDERS, INC.
TENTH ANNUAL MOONLIGHT RIDE

TIME: Gates open at 6:00
Ride Out no later than 7:30

DATE: Friday Night
September 12, 1997



Recommendation:
Ride in groups of 2-3-4

LOCATION: Calero Reservoir County Park (a facility of the County of Santa Clara Regional Parks and Recreation System)

ACTIVITIES

- Ride 7:15
- Campfire 8:30 - 10:00
- Soup 'n Potluck (soup, coffee, hot chocolate)
- Guitar pickin' 'n Singin'
- Talk to old friends
- Make new friends

POOR PRIZES

WHAT TO BRING

- Potluck items for Fri. night
- Water for horses/there's a trough
- Blankets for horses
- Warm clothes
- Poop scoop/trash bags to dispose of "you know what"
- Poetry to Read
- Chairs



COST - DONATION

\$8.00

**** PLEASE Call in reservations**

For Information, call Chere Montgomery at (408) 268-2911. (Waivers must be signed.)



SWANTON PACIFIC SCORES AGAIN



A cool day and a brilliant moon combined with the management skills of the McCrary family resulted in a day worth remembering on the California coast. Led by Kathy Thompson and LS Zane Grey+/- to the finish line, seven other Quicksilver members joined the group who rode off into the welcome cool fog seeking adventure and exhilaration. Six found the finish line one hundred miles down the trail. Becky Glaser and Tio Tito arrived fourth overall followed by Quicksilver members Heather Bergantz and Tyler, Lori Oleson riding Kassiq and Judith Ogus on Sonja in the Top Ten. Nancy Elliot with Sequoia and Jill Kilty-Newburn on Song Sung Blue rounded out the Quicksilver successes. Alan Mitchell from Comptche took home the Best Condition award.

Five hardy Ride & Tie Teams undertook the 100 mile challenge with Quicksilver member Dan Barger and his teammate Tom Christofk finishing the course around 10 p.m....an amazing display of talent. And Quicksilver horses RO Grand Sultan and Tiger Lady did themselves proud. Barbara McCrary loaned her mare, Tiger Lady, to daughter Susan and son-in-law Butch Huff while Rio was ridden by two veterinarians from Virginia. They all finished before the moon set.

The McCrary's started the weekend off with a super pasta feed Friday night followed by the ride briefing with Head Veterinarian Roger Bruce explaining the criteria. The Sunday Awards breakfast was equally satisfying.

On the ground helping their riders was a myriad of Quicksilver members that included Doug and Lena Spillman, Brian Reeves, Jennifer Layman, Dick Carter,

Becky Hart, Eric Thompson and Katelynn, Bob Suhr and others. Chuck and Vivian Beebe spent their day standing by as needed to transport disqualified horses back to camp.

The Swanton Pacific course offers as great a variety of scenery as can be found on any trail in the country. The thickly wooded redwood trails of Big Basin Park can be even more beautiful in the fog than in the clear. The lumber roads offer a welcome break from the narrow knee knockers and good going leads you to the first vet stop at Bloomquist Flat where you can watch the deer walk among the horses. Then the climb to the airstrip where on a clear day you can see forever. Management provides food and drink for both riders and horses before the drop down to Gazos Creek Road. and a little welcome flat going before arriving at the historic Cascade Ranch for the second one hour respite. The climb to the chalk ridges precedes the descent down the shaley (is there such a word?) Henry Creek trail. Cross the creek and you are on easy going along Waddell Creek and then the southward journey through the Big Creek Mill. A half hour hold and it's out to Siberia. Moonlight on the water guides you to Swanton and the last check point before the six nostalgic miles to camp. Food and rest for both man and beast...richly earned and richly deserved. A tough ride for tough horses and riders. Life doesn't get any better.

Thank you, Barbara and Lud

For a real change of pace, the McCrary's are off to England for a couple of weeks. Barbara visited England several years ago with her good friend Joan Parsons. Her enthusiasm for the country was contagious because Lud is joining her on this second journey.



Quicksilver Members Maryben Stover and Trilby Pederson attended the AERC Mid Year Board Meeting in Kansas City in July. This is Maryben's report.

NOTES FROM THE MID YEAR BOARD MEETING

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP IS DEFINED AS MARRIED OR DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP, LIVING IN THE SAME HOUSEHOLD AND THEIR CHILDREN UNDER 21 -- PASSED

RAISE DUES \$10.00 -- DEFEATED.

RAISE FAMILY DUES \$10.00 AND LOWER INDIVIDUAL DUES \$5.00 - DEFEATED.

RAISE VET DUES -- DEFEATED.

ONE TIME \$10.00 REGISTRATION FEE PER HORSE -- PASSED

JANUARY ISSUE OF ENDURANCE NEWS WILL BE LAST ISSUE UNLESS DUES ARE PAID -- PASSED

\$25.00 FEE FOR RETURNED CHECKS. AFTER TWO OFFENSES, SOME FORM OF CASH, MONEY ORDER, ETC. WILL BE REQUIRED -- PASSED

AERC WILL NOT ACCEPT POSTDATED CHECKS -- PASSED

AERC DRUG FEE WILL REMAIN \$1.00 PER EVENT -- PASSED

RIDE MANAGERS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR \$10.00 FOR NON MEMBERS IF NOT COLLECTED AT TIME OF RIDE. PASSED

RULE REGARDING SANCTIONING OF LIMITED DISTANCE RIDES WILL BE ENFORCED -- PASSED

FORMATION OF WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE WITH GEORGE MCGRAW OF TEXAS AS CHAIRMAN. HE IS IAHA REGION 9 CHAIRMAN. IF YOU HAVE FUND RAISING IDEAS, CONTACT GEORGE.

TASK FORCE TO BE FORMED AND REPORT TO AERC REGARDING DRUG RULE.

MOTION TO RAISE AGE LIMIT TO 6 FOR 100 MILERS. WOULD REQUIRE BYLAWS CHANGE.

RAMEY STROUD ELECTED TO LEGAL COMMITTEE. *- passed*

\$2.50 FEE TO RESEARCH PAST RIDES RAISED TO \$10.00 PER RIDE. *- passed*

MOTION TO RESCIND 4% RULE RE WEIGHT DIVISIONS -- DEFEATED.

Pacheco's Pinnacle of Beauty

Vistas, history lend new park its grandeur

By Paul McHugh
Chronicle Staff Writer

San Luis, Merced County

Ranger Clark Dooley says the chief appeal of California's newest state park lies in its vistas. That's true in both physical and a historical senses. It was from a Pacheco Pass vantage point in these coastal hills that John Muir, traveling on foot, first glimpsed peaks of a distant, snow-clad Sierra, and dubbed it a Range of Light.

Over the years, Pacheco also was visited by outlaws Joaquin Murietta and Three-fingered Jack, by the first Butterfield Stagecoach line and — for one shining week in 1894 — by the nation's only Pony Express mail relay handled entirely by buckeroos pedaling bicycles.

Today, the terrain of Pacheco State Park makes a remarkable vista itself. A mix of rolling savanna and blue oak woodland cooled by fogs sweeping through natural passes from Monterey Bay, this part of the Diablo Range remains much as it was during the prime of the early pioneers and the local Yokuts tribes. Its preservation is due to the persistence, generosity and foresight of the late San Francisco socialite Paula Fatjo, a descendant of original Spanish land-grant holder Juan Perez Pacheco.

Fatjo, who used her ancestral holdings to breed and raise fine Arabian horses, bequeathed all 6,890 acres of her beloved Rancho San Luis Gonzaga to the state of California upon her death in 1992. She also endowed \$900,000, as well as the income from a windfarm lease, to the new park, specifying that not a dollar should ever get diverted to the state's General Fund. It all was to remain exclusively devoted to planning, establishing and running a public park on the site.

In spring of this year, the new Pacheco State Park swung wide its gates, inviting hikers, equestrians and mountain bikers onto 23 miles of winding trails occupying the western third of the former ranch that currently is open to the public. "Eventually, we hope to have 100 miles of trails here as well as campgrounds," ranger Dooley says. "Actually, I'd like to get some primitive camps set up here by mid-summer. These hills in the summer moonlight are just beautiful."

Other planned projects include: astronomy-interpretation programs (making use of clear night skies), links to the 80,000 acres of Henry Coe State Park lying to the north, links to the Monterey-Yosemite trail proposed by Santa Clara County parks, and links to the San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area that lies just to the east of the new Pacheco Park.

The emerging hook-up to this reservoir's boat ramps, campsites and other facilities also contain a trenchant irony. Now submerged under the lake waters lie the land originally occupied by Paula Fatjo's ranch buildings — including an

San Francisco Chronicle
Thursday, May 22, 1997



BY FRAN COX/SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

A pair of equestrians set out to explore rolling savannas along 23 miles of trails in newly opened Pacheco State Park

VISITING PACHECO STATE PARK

Thanks to inland movement of coastal breezes and fogs, Pacheco State Park is cooler than other sites in the Diablo Range — which is why it has blue, valley and coast live oaks and no chaparral or pines. However, it still gets quite hot at noon on summer days; so a morning or evening visit makes the most sense. Visitors should bring plenty of their own water bottles because the park's water is not yet drinkable.

Some cattle are still being grazed in the park as part of a vegetation control program designed to restore native perennial grasses. When you come across fences made with a single strand of wire, do not touch it; there's a small elec-

tric charge.

To reach Pacheco State Park, go 24 miles east of Gilroy on Highway 152, and take a right on Dinosaur Point Road. The entrance lies another half-mile to the southeast. The parking area is a few hundred yards inside the entrance gate. Park hours are currently 8 a.m. to sunset. Day-use fees are \$5 per car. Campsites are currently only available at San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area to the east. (For tent or RV site reservations, call (800) 444-7275.) For more information about Pacheco State Park or to become a volunteer there, call (209) 826-6283 (the park), or (209) 826-1198 (the district headquarters).

PACHECO

Pacheco State Park's enviable situation — a perpetual endowment of operating funds — begs comparison with the rest of the state parks system, which has taken severe budget hits in recent years.

Pacheco enjoys a \$900,000 bequest and lease revenue from a 167-turbine electric windfarm on the ranch. This revenue has been \$290,000 annually but will drop after energy deregulation takes hold.

The whole state-park system's budget for fiscal year 1996-97 is \$180.6 million; of this, 36 percent comes from the general fund. More than twice that percentage was general-fund money in 1980.

The department responded to a call for austerity by consolidating 51 district administrations into 23 management positions through attrition. Revenue enhancements included raising fees, increasing concessionaire operations and founding a new state parks store, as well as new user programs.

Despite these measures, finding a stable funding platform for the department has been difficult. Efforts to pass comprehensive bond issues or build a trust or designated tax base for the system have failed. Two new bond measures that could help state parks have been introduced this year in the Legislature.

— Paul McHugh

1846 adobe fortress built by her ancestors to protect them from raids by Indians and bandits. The State Water Project, however, condemned this land and obtained it to create San Luis Reservoir, the world's largest off-stream water-storage site in 1962-63, to smooth out peaks and valleys in deliveries of aqueduct water to customers south of the Delta pumps.

After losing her battle against the state, Paula Fatjo was forced to move her buildings 12 miles west, to the present site of the park headquarters. In transit, the adobe fort built by her forebear, Don Francisco Pacheco, collapsed; just two end walls, now shrouded in plastic, sur-

vived. On the highlands of her last remaining acreage, Fatjo had to create her life all over again. Given this history, her generosity toward the state and all Californians is nothing short of astounding. (It does explain, however, the shrewd terms of her bequest.)

Fatjo moved back to these hills from San Francisco in the 1940s to recover from tuberculosis. Its hot, dry air and the athletic ranch life made it possible for her to survive into her 70s. She even entered the Tevis Cup, a 100-mile endurance ride, mounted on one of her beloved Arabians in 1957. It was both to preserve and to share this hill country and its wildlife that she enabled the cre-

ation of Pacheco State Park.

It's possible for visitors here to see golden eagles, coyotes, bobcats, hawks, blacktail deer and even some feral pigs that have (as they generally do) mucked up shores of the ranch's six year-round ponds. Although the park has been open barely two months, hikers, equestrians and mountain bikers are starting to flock to it, in approximately equal numbers.

"This fulfills Paula's wishes to help people get out of cities," says state park worker Sandy Hyreos, who greets and direct visitors on weekends. "She really hoped others could enjoy the trails and nature and wildlife that she loved."

How a Rebel Mount Endured to Become The Stuff of Legends

Stonewall's Steed Was Ugly,
But His Hide Was Tough;
No More Bones to Pick

By TONY HORWITZ

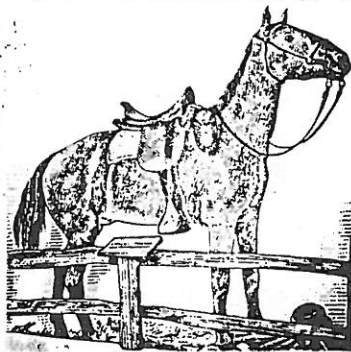
Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
LEXINGTON, Va. — The world will little note nor long remember what was said here, but many will never forget the weirdness of what they did here this week. Six score and 14 years after his last ride in battle, Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson's war-horse was finally laid to rest in a walnut casket with prayer, pomp and a parting carrot.

At least part of him was.

"I wish they'd bury the whole horse," says Martha Boltz, gazing at Little Sorrel's hide, mounted on a lifelike frame on display at the Virginia Military Institute's museum here. Studying the horse's oft-repaired flank, she adds, "He looks like he's been reupholstered one too many times."

Mike Whitaker, another visitor, disagrees. "I've got deer mounts on my wall that look a whole lot worse," says the cookie distributor from North Carolina. "I say let the ol' boy keep riding as long as he's able."

How Little Sorrel came riding here at all is a long, strange story winding back to 1861, when Jackson, a brilliant Confederate commander, procured the reddish-brown horse from a captured Union train. Jackson, an awkward rider, liked the gelding's gentle gait — "as easy as the rocking of a cradle," he wrote — and often slept in the saddle. Mount suited master in another way; both were unimpressive physical specimens whose attributes weren't obvious. "Little Sorrel was as little like a Pegasus as he [Stonewall] was like an



Little Sorrel, on display at VMI

Apollo," wrote one Jackson aide. Others recalled "a dun cob of very sorry appearance" and an ugly "old rawbone sorrel."

But the small, dumpy mount proved tireless on the march and calm under fire, surviving a bullet wound and bolting just once, when Jackson was accidentally shot in the arm by his own troops as he rode in the dark during the battle of Chancellorsville in northern Virginia. His arm was amputated but the wound proved fatal to Jackson, who had earned his nickname for his "stone wall" defense of Rebel lines at the first battle of Bull Run.

After the war, Little Sorrel toured county fairs and rebel reunions; souvenir-seekers tugged so many hairs from his mane and tail that the horse required guards. In death, at the age of 36 — just three years short of Stonewall — the horse's fate again mimicked its master's. Jackson was buried in pieces, his amputated arm at Chancellorsville, the rest of him in Lexington, where he had taught at VMI before the war. His horse, meanwhile, was mounted on a plaster of Paris frame by a taxidermist who took the bones home to Pittsburgh as partial payment.

Little Sorrel's Bones Put to Rest

Continued From First Page

their way to VMI, where the skeleton was used in biology class and the mounted hide displayed in the school museum. Then, when the science department relocated in 1989, the bones languished in moving boxes in the museum storeroom.

"It seemed weird and sad to me that Little Sorrel was never buried," says Juanita Allen, head of the Virginia division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Not long ago, she visited the horse's boxed remains. "I picked up his teeth and rubbed his nose bone. I was petting it and talking to him, telling him how sorry I was and how we'd take care of him."

Ms. Allen, an executive assistant at McKinsey & Co., a consulting firm, decided the Daughters should bury the horse with military-style honors. To her, this seemed the Christian thing to do, as well as a natural extension of the never-ending interest in the Civil War.

"You can only talk so many times about what your great-grandfather did at this or that battle," she says. "But no one ever talks about the animals, who had no choice in the matter. They were just faithful beasts of burden who suffered terribly." An estimated 3.5 million horses and draft animals died in the war.

A Grave Affair

Ms. Allen got VMI to agree to bury Little Sorrel's bones on the parade ground where the horse had once grazed, but this raised a ticklish question. What about the hide? Standing stiffly in a diorama-like display scattered with stones and leaves, Little Sorrel's hide has cracks on its face and lines on its flank where the leather has separated over the years.

"He's done with the Yankees — humidity's his worst enemy now," says the museum's director, Keith Gibson, who calls in a taxidermist from the Smithsonian Institution every few years to glue the hide's tears and seal the cracks with beeswax. Despite its flaws, the horse remains the main draw at VMI's small museum, which attracts 50,000 visitors a year. The gift shop sells Little Sorrel postcards, refrigerator magnets and cuddle toys. Visitors even leave apples at the mounted hide's feet.

"This place is a reliquary, it's a piece of the true-cross kind of thing to be close to Sorrel's remains," says University of Pennsylvania Civil War historian Drew Gilpin Faust, visiting Lexington to witness the horse's burial. Even so, Ms. Faust finds the mount's fate and enduring appeal a tad strange. "You have to wonder," she says. "If Southerners wanted to stuff Stonewall Jackson but stuffed his horse instead."

General Interest

Nor is Little Sorrel's hide the only shrine in Lexington, a Shenandoah Valley town of about 7,500. Robert E. Lee, the South's most prominent general, also worked here. For Civil War pilgrims, the town's other holy sites include the two generals' graves, Stonewall's house, an exact life-sized statue of Lee and the nearby grave of his war-horse, Traveller. Visitors often leave carrots and coins on Traveller's grave, and flock to the stable — now a garage — where he was kept.

"If it wasn't for our dead generals and their dead horses this town would be, well, dead," says Doug Harwood, publisher of the Rockbridge Advocate, a Lexington newspaper. He is often bemused by the town's idol-worship. "You turn a corner in the VMI museum and come face to face with the mighty Stonewall's mighty war-

horse — and it looks like it couldn't pull Donald Duck in a wagon."

But even Mr. Harwood turned out this week for the burial of Little Sorrel's cremated bones. Originally, VMI hoped to keep the interment quiet, even planning a night burial for fear of turning the event into a circus. But as word leaked out, and interest grew, it became clear that Little Sorrel would not ride quietly into the night. In the end, it took a minister, bagpipe player, fife-and-drum band, color guard — even a Stonewall impersonator astride a horse meant to resemble Little Sorrel — to lay the horse's remains to rest.

Nikki Moor, who bought the horse for her Stonewall-playing husband, concedes that the handsome Arabian isn't a perfect match of Jackson's mount, but it is the closest she could find. "Most people don't advertise that they have a short, fat ugly horse for sale," she says.

The interment, held beneath a statue of Stonewall, drew about 500 people, including women in period mourning garb. After prayers and speeches and the playing of "Dixie," pallbearers clad as rebel soldiers lowered the coffin as Confederate riflemen fired musket volleys. Then the crowd filed past the grave and scooped in clods of dirt gathered from 14 battlefields where Little Sorrel served. Some mourners also tossed in carrots, oats and horseshoes.

"Once again, Little Sorrel is beneath Stonewall Jackson," intoned James Robertson, a Jackson biographer. "May you continue to have good grazing in the boundless pastures of heaven."

After the burial, the crowd proceeded to the nearby museum to pay their respects to Little Sorrel's hide, still on its frame. Even the cynical publisher, Mr. Harwood, was struck by the dignity of the event. "You didn't see anyone trying to cash in with T-shirts or tacky mugs," he said. "There wasn't even a politician here."

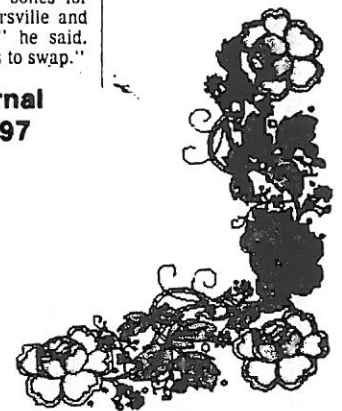
But Mr. Harwood did wonder if the remains might have been put to better use. "We could have traded these bones for Stonewall's arm up in Chancellorsville and brought the limb back here," he said. "Now, we've got no more relics to swap."

Wall Street Journal
August 23, 1997

QUICKSILVER

HISTORY

LESSON



The article written by Connie Schein that appeared in the August Quicksilver Quips originally appeared in the Campbell Express on June 7, 1997. The editor regrets that credit was not given at the time of publication of the August Quicksilver Quips.



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SEPTEMBER 1997



- Sept. 6 LASSEN CHALLENGE 50
Sandi Hess 916-547-3857
- Sept. 10 QUICKSILVER MEETING
Canceled
- Sept. 12 QUICKSILVER MOONLIGHT RIDE
Chere Montgomery 408-268-2911
- Sept. 13 CUNEO CREEK 25/50
Elaine Kerrigan 707-443-0215
- Sept. 13 PAN AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP
- Sept. 20 LAS TRAMPAS 25/50
Liz Leahy 510-838-7546
- Sept. 20 VIRGINIA CITY 100
Connie Creech 702-882-4591
- Sept. 27 GOLD COUNTRY 30/50
Cherryl Holbrook 916-272-9222
- Sept. 27 MANZANITA RIDE 25/50
Terry Woolley 619-598-6926