



THE MHA

Trail Blazer

METROPOLITAN HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION • OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

DECEMBER 2015

City Stables Is Open for Business!

by Rachel Royce

After more than twelve years shuttered, Oakland City Stables, located at 13560 Skyline Boulevard in Oakland, has reopened, under the management of Diamond Equine Services (DEQS).

The historic ranch opened for limited boarding in early June 2015, followed by its first summer camp, providing horsemanship and riding lessons to Oakland youth.

In partnership with the City of Oakland, Office of Parks and Recreation, and Oakland Unified School District, DEQS will be providing community and educational programming to foster life-long learning, good will, and volunteer opportunities to the local community.

Continued fundraising efforts are under way to help with the phased renovation and rehabilitation of the existing buildings on site. Donations and volunteers with skilled labor capabilities are needed, to see how you can help and be involved, contact Melanie Diamond at (510) 990-6170.

Got used tack to donate? Any useable items can be dropped off at Vista Madera Feed & Tack, 3908 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. Call the store at (510) 531-1989 and speak with Kathy Dunn.

The rehab of Oakland City Stables is a huge undertaking and will require the help of many.

To donate to this worthy cause online:
<https://fundrazr.com/campaigns/2wce8>

Visit the City Stables Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/metropolitanequestrianpreservationsociety/>

To learn more about Diamond Equine Services:
<https://www.facebook.com/DiamondEquineServices/>



Logan Bearden from Poplar Place Stables rides to victory at the August 23, 2015 Hunter/Jumper Show at Sequoia Arena.

Bikes on EBMUD Trails

In preparing to revise its 1996 master plan for management of watershed lands, the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) is considering allowing bicycles on these trails for the first time.

At a public hearing held at EBMUD headquarters in downtown Oakland on August 20, equestrians, hikers, and mountain bicyclists voiced their reaction to the planned changes.

Mountain bike enthusiasts propose that watershed trails be opened for their use, initially through limited-access, docent led organized rides. Advocates for the Bay Area Ridge Trail are in support of allowing mountain bicycles on segments of the Ridge Trail that cross EBMUD property.

Unlike the nearby East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), the water company has no mandate to provide recreation. Stewardship of watershed

lands and protection of drinking water supplies is the agency priority.

If you would like to voice your opinion on this issue, comments are being taken via email:

watershedmasterplan@ebmud.org

An update will be presented by EBMUD staff to elected directors on the morning of December 8, 2015. For further information, see the EBMUD website: <http://www.ebmud.com/recreation/east-bay/east-bay-watershed-master-plan-update/>.





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Official organ of the Metropolitan Horsemen's Association.

Published quarterly.

Serving horse people in and around Oakland since 1938.

MHA

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Oakland CA 94602

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Questions?

Call Amelia at (510) 482-9718

Welcome Kenilworth Stables

Our newest Oakland hills stable owner is not a newcomer at all.

Competitive hunter/jumper rider Julia Nagler grew up riding at Lorimer's equestrian center on Redwood Road. Now, under the ownership of Julia and her family since last summer, the barn has been renamed Kenilworth Stables.

"I grew up riding here, from the age of four through twelve," Julia comments.

"At that point, I started competing on the A circuit statewide. But even when I was training in Carmel Valley, I kept horses here to ride in the winter.

"It was always my dream to own this place myself. I spent my entire childhood here. I know the trails so well, and the Hunt Field."

"We are primarily a hunter/jumper barn," Julia explains. "Our primary mission is to provide a big riding school. We want to have a fun community where kids and adults can start with the basics and learn everything about horsemanship. We will do everything we can to make this a healthy place for riders and horses."

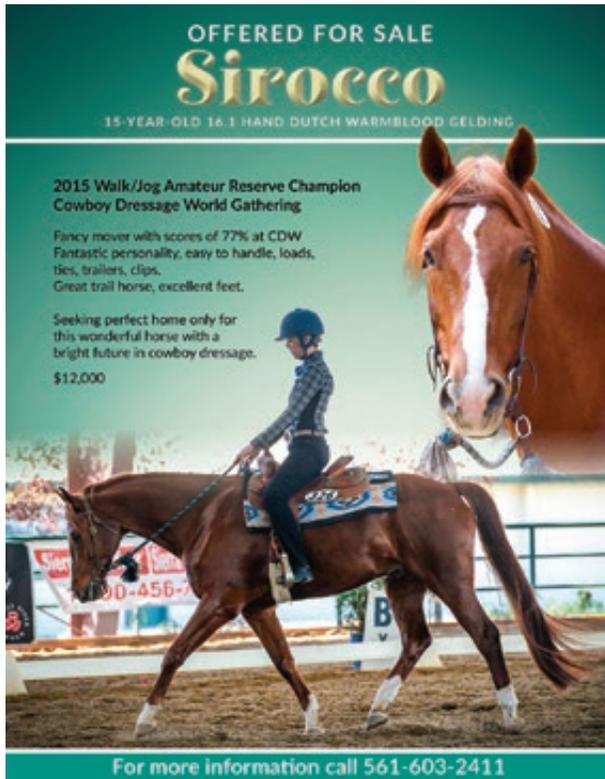
Trainer Kelsey Rinehart is in charge of the riding school. She and trainer Emma Brooks also grew up riding at Lorimer's, and are familiar with the local trails.

When she is not traveling to compete, Julia herself works with a few clients who are interested to advancing to competitive riding.

"There is no pressure on our students," says Julia.

"If someone wants to just walk and trot for the rest of their lives, that's okay. But we do want to give our students and opportunity to achieve the level of riding they desire."

The MHA welcomes Julia and her associates back to Oakland. We are delighted that this historic equestrian center is safe in the hands of dedicated horse people.



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2016 Calendar of Events at Rawking Horse Ranch

Rawking Horse Ranch and Anthony Chabot Equestrian Center will be co-sponsoring these upcoming events in 2016 at Rawking Horse Ranch:

Brandi Lyons Clinic	February 26-28
Eitan Beth Halachmy Cowboy Dressage	March 18-20
The Californios Clinic: Learn to work cattle!	March 26-27
Chris Ellsworth Horsemanship	April 22-May 1
Ricky Quinn Natural Horsemanship	May 20-22

For updates and further information, visit:
<http://rawkinghorseranch.com/events/>

Rawking Horse Ranch

1131 Bear Creek Road, Briones CA 94553



Trail Blazer History Corner: How Horses Helped Me Beat Polio

By Lucy Hupp Williams, as told to Amelia Sue Marshall

Lucy grew up in Orinda when it was a much more rural place than it is today.

“In the early 1940s, I remember that my brothers used to fish for trout in the creek that flowed by the Orinda country club,” Lucy recalls.

“Money for groceries was tight, and there were plenty of fish to be caught for dinner. They could also catch trout in the creek off Brookwood Road, where there used to be a restaurant called The Willows and there is now a two-story real estate office.”

When Lucy was nine, a family friend told her that there were horses at Grizzly Peak Stables. She soon persuaded her mother to take her up there.

Lucy became lifelong friends with Ray and Elizabeth Engsminger. Ray had built the stable in 1948.

“Ray was like a big brother. If I cleaned a stall, I got to ride one of his rent horses for an hour. Otherwise, I would have had to pay a dollar. Sometimes he would let me ride a horse into Tilden Park. I could lead a group of people who rented horses. I was only 12, but you grew up fast. A lot of kids learned to ride, and were able to take a group out like that.

“We’d go out on the Sea View Trail. In those days, Tilden did not have all the tall trees that are there now. You could see all the way across the bay. We’d go through Tilden down to the Little Farm, where they had a little garden and chickens, and animals like a petting zoo.

Lucy bought her own horse when she was twelve years old.

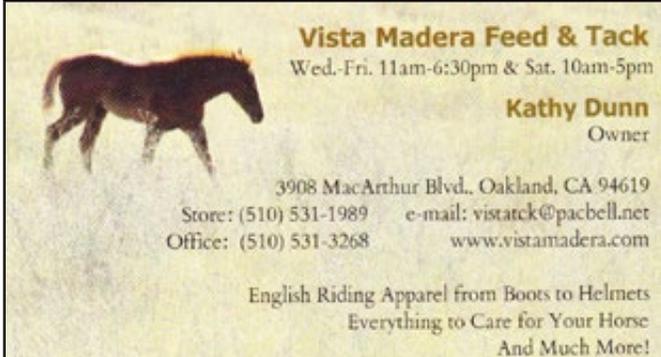
“My mother told me that I would have to buy my horse. I had a paper route, and carried the *Oakland Tribune* up and down El Toyonal Road in order to save up money. I pulled the papers in a wagon. In those days, they did not have bicycles that could go up the steep hills, only creaky old Schwinn. The paper route had to be in my brother’s name, because girls were not allowed to have paper routes.

“Finally, I saved up enough money. Ray went with me to an auction and I bought my horse for \$105. I named him Don Quixote. The rule at the auction was that if you bought a horse, you also had to buy a saddle and bridle, and Ray helped me with that. The bridle I got had a brow band mounted with silver scenes from the story of Don Quixote, so that was where I got the name. He was a bay, with black mane and tail, and a white circle on his forehead.

“Sometimes we’d ride all the way to Redwood Park, to Miss Graham’s Redwood Riding Academy.

“In those days, there were no fences, fewer houses, trees, and bushes. We had a lot of freedom.

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Vista Madera Feed & Tack
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New Saddle Shop in Moraga

Dover Saddlery has opened a new store at 444 Center Street in Moraga.

Attendees at the November 13 ribbon cutting ceremony included Moraga Mayor Roger Wykle, James Cullen of Dover Saddlery (with scissors), and Mari Parino of Xenophon Therapeutic Riding Center. Dover made a donation to Xenophon as part of the store opening festivities.



MHA is on Facebook

<http://on.fb.me/21c1G9d>

The *Trail Blazer* is seeking a part-time account executive to sell advertising.

Gain work experience and earn a little money—while you provide service to the local equestrian community.

Call Amelia at (510) 482-9718 for more information

History Corner

Continued from page 3

At the age of 15, in 1954, Lucy contracted polio. She was a freshman at Accalanes High School. The public health department went around and posted red quarantine notices on the mailboxes of houses where a family member was afflicted, or on telephone poles, telling people to stay away.

“The doctor scared me. He told me that no one would want to play with me, and people would want to stay away from me because I had polio. But my riding friends said they weren’t afraid of polio.

“So I said, ‘I don’t care! I want to ride anyway.’ Elizabeth Engsminger lifted me up onto my horse. At first my legs were weak, but gradually I got well and could ride. I was active again by the spring of 1955.

“I really wanted to ride. I wanted to be accepted as a healed-up person.

“You had to do that. The children who did not have the will to recover died.

“My two little roommates in San Francisco Children’s Hospital died. One was five years old and one was nine. I sang to them and told them stories, but that was not enough. They lived up near Lake Tahoe. Their parents could not come see them; maybe they were working. They would have had to come down the mountain, and the hospital rules were that the parents could only stay with the kids for 15 minutes and they had to wear masks.

“When I learned that Jonas Salk had developed the vaccine in 1954, I had a screaming fit on the lawn. If they had passed it out in the spring, I would not have gotten polio.”

Lucy got married in 1959, and she and her husband, Rolfe (“Buzz”) Hupp

moved to Walnut Creek. In 1963, he got a job teaching high school in San Mateo, so they moved to the Peninsula. Lucy enrolled at U.C. Berkeley, from which she graduated in 1964. Lucy and Buzz now live in Foster City. But Lucy has kept up her ties with Orinda, and is past president of the Orinda Historical Society.

The next issue of the *Trail Blazer* will be available online and via email subscription. To save money, we will not be mailing hard copies to members. Some hard copies will be available at local barns. Do we have your current email address?

Got news, announcements, and/or advertising? The deadline for all submissions is **Monday, February 15, 2016**. Send your materials via email to the editors at trailblazer@mhaoakland.org.



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