



MINNESOTA  
HORSE  
COUNCIL

# QUARTERLY

P.O. Box 30481 St. Paul, Minnesota 55175

A SPONSOR-BODY MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN HORSE COUNCIL

Winter 1982

## NEW MEMBERS

The MHC welcomes the following new members to our organization: Bonnie Johnson, Guy Warner, Gail Gustafson, Margaret Streadwick, David Genadek, St. Croix Saddlery, Tanglewood Manor Morgan Horses, First Priority Paso Finos; and a special welcome back to the Minnesota Paint Horse and Minnesota Thoroughbred Associations.

## EXPOSITION

Your MHC is working hard to finalize the plans for the Minnesota Horse Exposition on April 17-18 at the Minneapolis Auditorium. Over half the booths are already sold and sales on the remaining spaces look very promising. Most breed organizations will be there (about 30 horses), as will several large corporations. Two speakers have been confirmed: Richard Shrake of Oregon will give a session on bits and biting and a session on horsemanship and showmanship. The other speaker will be Joe D. Geeslin III of Indianapolis (a tax specialist). Films too have been ordered. A 1981 Quarter Horse filly will be offered as one of the prizes in the (free) public drawing. We are also looking at a possible parade in downtown Minneapolis the Friday before the Expo. For those those who will be exhibiting, a special newsletter will be forwarded to you in the near future detailing other arrangements and instructions regarding this event. But keep in mind that March 1st is the deadline to at least reserve your booth if you want to be included in the program and obtain all other necessary information in time to complete your plans. Full payment of your booth must be made by March 15th. In the meantime, please help us promote the Expo to others.

## SPRING CLINIC

The University of Minnesota and your MHC co-sponsor an annual, all-day Spring Clinic at the St. Paul Campus. This year it is scheduled for Saturday, April 3rd. One of the speakers scheduled is Lon Lewis of Colorado who will speak on nutrition. (Note: There was a certain amount of confusion and irritation last year because of a last-minute cancellation of the clinic due to an unexpected snow storm. This year's event will not be cancelled under similar circumstances.)

## PARI-MUTUEL

House File #376 for pari-mutuel (horses and dogs) was passed by all House committees and will now go up for vote before the full House. A similar bill in the Senate, File #303, passed the first Committee (6 to 4) and now goes before the Judiciary Committee and Rules Committee before being presented to the full Senate for vote. The Senate bill so far only includes horses. Note: The State Constitution, as it presently exists, states that there shall be no lottery in Minnesota. When the Constitution has to be changed for any reason, the State Legislature cannot act alone but must present the bill before the public for a vote. A majority is required for passage. That is all these two bills propose to do: to put the issue before the public as to whether pari-mutuel racing will be allowed in Minnesota. It does not ask anything further. Alternatively, if the Attorney General rules that pari-mutuel is not a lottery, then the Legislature can act on this question alone. So far, the A-G has not replied to this question. In any case, if this second route is taken, it is quite likely it will be challenged in the State Supreme Court.

The Minnesota Horse Council, through its former President, Jim Lane, testified before the first Senate Committee on behalf of pari-mutuel.

Jim has followed this up with a letter. The MHC will monitor the progress of these bills and will assist in their passage where it can. YOU, however, must decide whether you want this question put to a vote by the public. You must make your own decision. The MHC requests that you contact your senators and representatives NOW. It could very well make the difference if passage is assured.

Incidentally, the Thoroughbred and Standardbred Associations are pushing to ultimately have 1/2 of one percent of any revenues received from pari-mutuel be dedicated to the University of Minnesota Vet College for scholarships and research. According to Joyce Farrell, this produces approximately \$600,000 per year for Illinois. (Joyce can be reached at 1/658-4706 if you need additional information on pari-mutuel.

#### HUMANE SOCIETY

The Minnesota Humane Society has approached the MHC for support in passage of a bill of mandatory minimum compliance and voluntary licensing of stables (and pet shops). A committee of three has reviewed this bill and recommended changes in its structure and wording to make it acceptable to horsemen. The bill is being rewritten and will again be submitted to us sometime in the future for consideration before its submission to the Legislature next session. We will keep you informed.

#### COMMITTEES

Karen Humphrey has requested that she be allowed to withdraw from her "academy circuit" plans for 1982 in order to chair a committee within the MHC on riding for the disabled. Ron Resch will chair a committee on labor laws and taxation as they affect horsemen. Other committees will be formed in the near future. Anyone interested in helping?

#### COURAGE CENTER

The MHC contributed a total \$378.38 to Courage Center from their first annual endurance/competitive ride on their behalf last October. Additional donations are still expected which should bring it close to \$500.

#### EQUINE RESEARCH

(1) Joyce Farrell states that the Standardbred and Thoroughbred organizations want to start a fund for the benefit of the University of Minnesota's surgical unit. The unit is in desperate need of a variety pieces of equipment. (2) According to Dr. Dean Peterson, the University of Minnesota will be setting up an Equine Research Center to promote and receive funds toward equine research at the University. (3) The MHC is now looking at the possibility of having its first (competitive/endurance) "Ride for Research" in June. More on this later.

#### LOCAL EQUINE RESEARCH

Marijo Kent of Prior Lake is a graduate student at the University of Minnesota and (along with fellow cytogeneticist Lance Beoun and Dr. A. F. Weber) is doing research in new field: X-Y Sex Reversal Syndrome. It has been discovered that certain mares have a special type of fertility problem. There are two versions. One is called testicular feminization. Here the mare has a cervix but, where the ovaries are normally located, one finds small intra-abdominal testes. These mares are producing not only a large amount of male hormone, but exhibit male or stallion-like behavior. The second version is called gonadal dygenesis. This mare exhibits a complete but infantile female tract; she may produce follicles but is sterile. Marijo states that most horses she has looked at to date are (expensive) Arabians. She indicates that there appears to be a very strong degree of inheritance; the carrier can reproduce but she has a one-in-four chance of producing another carrier, and a one-in-four chance of producing a sterile animal. Marijo states that she foresees an aminocentestis-type test that can be used as a tool to determine whether the horse is a carrier of this gene. This test would allow testing of unborn foals in their second or third month to determine normalacy. Apparent-

ly these horses are not really mares but a mutated look-alikes. They have female reproductive tracts but are really male animals (created by a mutated gene located on the X-sex chromosome that in essence masks the effect of the Y chromosome; i.e. normal stallion characteristics don't develop). Marijo states that some of these horses have a combined female and male sex organs, together in the same animal; externally they are female but internally they are a mixture.

(Note: Last fall a hunter in Minnesota shot what he thought was a many-pointed buck, but discovered instead an animal with female organs. The University was unable to obtain blood samples, but the organs are being dissected in this lab under the same research program.) Marijo is surprised at the prevalence of this problem in horses; "It's a high percentage. The mare is the carrier." She suggests that all horse breeders be alert to their mares if they are producing a whole lot of fillies. "This is a warning sign, especially if coupled with fertility problems."

Marijo states that insurance companies are now looking into this problem and may, in the future, require a test -- just like they do for Coggins -- for this defect before issuing coverage. She states that, although the horses she has primarily tested to date are Arabians, this syndrome is also being discovered in other breeds, as well as cattle and other animals. If anyone notes a high incidence of fillies and/or infertility in their breeding mares (other than Arabians), Marijo would like you to contact her. (Marijo Kent, Cytogenetics Laboratory, Dept. of Vet Biology, An.Sci. Vet Bldg., Univ. of Minn., 1988 Fitch Avenue, St. Paul 55108: 612/376-5647 or 447-6317.) She would like to document these cases so that she can statistically compute incidence in all breeds of horses. Incidentally, Marijo is an Arabian breeder and trainer herself and will be presenting a paper on this topic in Milan, Italy, in June.

#### SLOBBERS

Dr. Stowe of the University of Minnesota (with others) has discovered that, on very wet years, a fungus grows on the bottom side of plant leaves (primarily legumes like clover). When eaten by horses, the horse salivates excessively ["slobbers"]. The remedy, obviously, is to take the horse off pasture and put him on dry feed.

#### TAXES NO. 1

The American Horse Council provides the MHC with frequent "Tax Reference Service Bulletins." One recently received tells of a new tax credit available for rehabilitating an old farm building -- increasing up to twice the amount previously allowed in some cases. A 15 percent tax credit will be allowed if the building is at least 30 years old, and a 20 percent credit if at least 40 years old. Note this change, however: no credit is allowed if the building is under 30 years old. The improvements must be "substantial" and no more than 25% of the existing exterior walls can be replaced. Improvements are "substantial" only if the costs of the improvements exceed either the tax basis of the building or \$5,000 if the tax basis of the building is less than \$5,000.

#### TAXES NO. 2:

Also according to the AHC, under a tax bill just signed into law, horses acquired in 1981 and thereafter must now be depreciated over either a 3-year or a 5-year period. All race horses over two-years old and other horses over 12-years old are eligible for the three-year write-off. All other horses must be written off over five years. The only exception: you can use a longer life under certain conditions if you would rather do so. The schedule also applies to light general purpose trucks and automobiles used in connection with your horse business.

#### CORRECTION NO. 1

The Fall 1981 Quarterly contained an article regarding "The Bart", a horse owned by M/M Franklin Groves who lost a photo-finish at the Arlington

Million. Your editor was misinformed. This horse is not a gelding but in fact is a 5-year-old stallion. "The Bart's" 1981 race earnings now exceed \$470,000 and his career earnings \$625,000. His total race earnings in 1982 could exceed a million dollars.

#### CORRECTION NO. 2

The Summer 1981 issue of the Quarterly contained an article regarding the status of the Coggins controversy in the State of Florida. This information was obtained from a newsletter publication by C.H.A.T.S. (Concerned Horsemen Against Test and Slaughter, 152 East Juneau Ave., Milwaukee Wis. 53202). Your editor has been informed by C. L. Campbell, D.V.M., of the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services that this information was incorrect. Apparently the court's final judgment was found in the reverse of that article. My wholehearted apologies to the State of Florida for publishing this misinformation.

#### LOSE A HORSE?

(Article from Arabian Horse Times, 1/82): The "Save Our Horses Federation" suggests you contact the Dept. of Agriculture for the location of all horse slaughter plants with a 800-mile radius (listed below) that the thief could reach within 16 hours. (Theft of horses in Florida has increased by about 400 percent in the past few years and the current recovery rate is less than two percent.) Insist on giving a picture of your horse to the USDA Inspector at the kill plant. Be certain he is the person who checks the hoses prior to slaughter. Georgia passed an amendment requiring a 4-day holding period on the slaughter house premises prior to slaughter; the vehicle license plate and state of issue of vehicle and trailer transporting the horse be recorded; an identifying description of each horse maintained at the premises; person delivering or selling the horse identified by his driver's license number and address and said number recorded on the bill of sale; inspection by the Georgia State Dept. of Agriculture to enforce the law. Persons violating the provisions of the Act are guilty of a misdemeanor. Perhaps Minnesota too should consider such a bill.

#### PACKING PLANTS

-- that slaughter and pack horse meat for shipment overseas (within approximately 800 miles of T.C. area: (1) Jet Pack Int'l, Inc., 12980 NE Central Ave., Mpls.; (2) Central Neb. Packing, Inc., 2800 East 8th St., North Platt, Neb. 69101; (3) Liberty Packing Co., Inc., Range Road, Kingsford Hts., Ind. 46346; (4) Country Pride, Inc., Cty. Rd. 70, Creston, Ohio 44217.

#### ECONOMY

(American Horse Council Convention) The Agricultural Development Director of Oklahoma City's Chamber of Commerce recognizes the horse industry's economic potential and courts its business. Their formula to estimate the revenue flow to the community is the number of horses times 3-4 persons per horse, times the number of show days, times \$100 per day. They estimate that dollar turns over 3-8 times within the community, generating considerable income with a modest (2%) sales tax. Oklahoma City considers horse events a \$20 million growth industry.

#### VIRGINIA

A recent survey was completed for the period 1979-81 in this state, primarily by 4-H members and respective extension agents. The reports indicate that there are a total of 86,753 heads of equines in Virginia, owned by a total of 36,469 owners. There is a total investment of \$697 million in land, buildings, equipment and equine. There are 114 saddle clubs, 169 riding schools, 427 training establishments, 1271 breeding farms, and over 700 establishments board and rent out horses. There are 641 shows with 39,969 participants and 190,505 spectators each year. The horse industry provides employment for 5,963 citizens. Total production costs (supply and service revenues) amount to over \$250 million per year. The

industry returns a total of \$70 million income per year. The annual gross product-contribution to the economy amounts to \$32,981,936.

#### IMPORTS

News from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Dept.: Under current regulations, breeding-age horses -- those over 731 days old -- can be imported from countries affected with CEM if the nation's veterinary officials can certify from records acceptable to USDA that the imported horses never had been bred and ever had been kept at an establishment where horses are bred. An amendment to this rule states specifically that this certification applies only to Thoroughbreds from West Germany, the United Kingdom, Ireland and France, and to Standardbred horses from Australia. The amendment also includes the specific certification procedure and records that will be accepted by the USDA.

#### CONDITIONING

According to an article by Earl Ola (Horse & Rider, 1/82), in order to build bone density, a horse should be jogged distances of up to eight miles, and that part of each day's jogging should be on cement or black-top. He states that it is extremely rare to find shin sores on two-year-old race horses in Europe because the yearlings are jogged all winter at least five miles daily on paved roads. He advises further that the horse should be kept barefoot if at all possible. Shoes, he states, can cripple your horse because it grabs and causes a horse to slide when he hits the ground.

#### INFLUENZA

The University of California/Davis, reports that some ages and breeds of horses are more susceptible to equine influenza than others. The foal is extremely susceptible at age two to six months. Also, for unknown reasons, the Quarter Horse breed has a greater susceptibility.

#### BOTS

According to an article in the Draft Horse Journal (Iowa State University), veterinarian), horses that haven't been dewormed routinely shouldn't be treated for bots from March through August. Cliff Nelson, D.V.M. states that during this time the bots are large and firmly attached to the stomach lining. If many larvae are detached by treatment, large areas of ulcerated stomach lining are left exposed. Bots not treated during this period will detach themselves at intervals. However, if horses are wormed routinely, this probably won't occur. He also warns against administering wormers to horses suffering from diarrhea or severe constipation. Do not worm horses showing symptoms of colic, respiratory ailments or infectious diseases, nor horses under influence of tranquilizers, muscle relaxants, central nervous medication or insecticides.

#### EQUESTRIAN INJURIES

JAMA (The Journal of the American Medical Association) 10/20/78: Closed head injury was the most common equestrian injury. This injury occurred most frequently to the amateur riders and was commonly associated with the lack of headgear. The second most common injury in the hospitalized patient was blunt abdominal trauma. Upper extremity fractures were the most prevalent injury in the group that did not require hospitalization. According to their data, age and riding skill have little correlation with injury risk in the amateur population. A number of riders suggested that a fall or injury was a direct result of failure of their tack.

#### TRAILS

A multi-use trail from Houston to Fountain has been on shaky ground for some time, but it now looks like some of the "locals" are beginning to appreciate the advantages of putting this trail through. The DNR now hopes to present a trail blueprint to the 1983 Legislature for approval to sell bonds to pay for construction. If approved, the trail could be open one or two years after construction begins. This is an abandoned railroad.

Although little work has been done on the trail to date, it is now open for non-motorized uses but it is not encouraged. Rail ties have been removed excepting bridges.

#### INSURANCE

Your MHC has discovered an insurance policy that covers horse events with \$1 million dollars of public liability and \$100,000 property damage (plus a surety bond for \$1,500 for your Treasurer) for a yearly premium of only \$130. Please contact the MHC if you wish more information.

#### ENDURANCE/COMPETITIVE

UMECRA (Upper Midwest Endurance & Competitive Ride Assoc.) now reports an increase from 15 to 45 rides in five years in this area (which now includes Montana) This is more rides than any part of the country. And interest is continuing to grow.

#### GOODBY TO A FRIEND

Eaton's Tack Shop of Apple Valley is closing its doors this month. The Highway Department wants the land for road construction and Eaton's have decided not to set up shop elsewhere. Eaton's was established first as a riding stable (1930-1972), and then a tack shop in 1970. The shop's beautiful interior of log beams will be missed, along with the convenience of the store and the cheerfulness of its owners and staff. Best of luck to the Eatons for the future.

#### DISABLED

Vinland has begun a introductory program of riding for the disabled at Alpine Farms. Contact 724-7296 if you are interested in this program.

#### BREATH

(Article by Christopher Charles, HorsePlay 12/81) Did you know that a horse breathes about 17 pounds of vapor or two gallons of moisture per day? This excess moisture can cause wood to rot and paint to peel. It also aggravates respiratory problems with the horses. Obviously, ventilation is important.

#### FLY STOPPER

VitaPlus with Equitrol (Farnum Companies) is the first equine feed supplement with fly control compound. The compound passes through the horse's system without being digested. When dropped by the horse it "effectively controls developing fly larvae." It's approved for pregnant mares, foals and weanlings too.

#### ARABIANS

According to the Arabian Horse Times (12/81), there are 250,000 Arabians in the worlds, and approximately 150,000 of them are in the U.S.A.

#### HISTORY

According to Don Burt of Horse & Rider magazine (1/82), nine percent of all horses that ever lived are alive today. Over a period of 300,000 years, more horses are alive today than lived and died throughout the entire paleolithic era.

#### MANURE

News from Harland E. White, forage specialist at V.A. Tech, Blacksburg, VA, "Manure is usually high in nitrogen content which stimulates growth of grassy weeds. This is especially true when manure is applied after the first and second cuttings when crabgrass, fall panicum, foxtail and other summer grassy weeds are germinating." There is also the possibility that manure applications will contribute to weed and disease problems in alfalfa. "If the alfalfa stand is thin and has considerable grass present (such as orchardgrass), applying manure is certainly beneficial." White said, "Applying manure to an old alfalfa stand shortly before rotating to another crop also is helpful in providing nutrients to the next crop."

#### DRAFTS

The Nova Scotia Agricultural College (Box 550, Truro, N.S. Canada), offers courses for those interested in drafts horses in commercial forest operations: "Introduction to Draft Horses" (5 days) and "Draft Horses in Basic Forest Operations" (8 days).

#### REAGAN

Newsweek magazine had a short blurb on President Reagan's new addition at Camp David: a stable designed to accomodate eight horses (three have been acquired so far). The National Park Service (which maintains Camp David), has opened several new riding trails for his excursions.

#### CIVIL WAR

On May 22-23, the Historical Societies across the U.S. are sponsoring on a reincarnation of the Civil War in Becker, MN. One hour each day they will have war games with cannons and firearms; the rest of the time they will have a set up of a war camp and historical information. In the evenings will be fiddling and banjo contests. They expect anywhere from 20 to 30 thousand people, the U.S. Calvary, National Guard and 4-H County Police. This will be on national T.V. and P.M. Magazine. Carriages will be used to transport people from vehicles and around the camps on the 300 acres.

#### BYLAWS

The MHC will be suggesting a revision of this organization's Articles and Bylaws at a future meeting. A committee will be formed to review the old set and suggest changes to all members. A vote will be necessary to adopt the new versions.

#### DUES

Many of the 1981 MHC members have not paid their 1982 dues. These sums are needed to keep us going. Your copy of this Quarterly will be stamped "complimentary copy" if your dues are not yet paid or if the copy is an extra copy being mailed out for your organization. Please help us as early as you can.

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

MHC Directors's meetings (open): 3/9 and 4/13, 7:30 p.m., Medina Ballroom.

Jack Frost Horse Shows, J&R Stables, Chaska: 2/20, 3/6, 3/20, 4/3, 4/17.

North Central Morgan Clinic, Eden Prairie Clinic (riding & driving), 3/13-14.

Dr. Wes Schroeder will present a program on Horse Health Management (Animal Humane Society Auditorium, 845 Meadow Lane North, Golden Valley), March 1, 7:30 p.m. Reservations requested: 522-4325.

Third Annual 4-H Winter Horse Fair, February 20 (10-4), UofM Livestock Pavilion (includes tack sale); free.

Quarter Horse show, Cannon Falls, March 13-14;

MINNESOTA HORSE EXPOSITION, Minneapolis Auditorium, April 17-18.

**DIRECTORS OF MHC**

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**MINNESOTA HORSE COUNCIL**

Member Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Check membership desired:  
(Dues renewable January 1 of each year)

Send to: **MINNESOTA HORSE COUNCIL**  
**P.O. Box 30481**  
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**Certified Stable**  
\$35 first year  
\$25 annually

**Organization**  
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