



MINNESOTA
HORSE
COUNCIL

QUARTERLY

P.O. Box 75481

St. Paul, Minnesota 55175

A SPONSOR-BODY MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN HORSE COUNCIL

Fall 1987

NEW MEMBERS:

We welcome Charlotte Seltz, Phyllis Younglove and Richard J. Lindeman (a Shrine Horseman) as individual members.

RESIGNATION:

Bob Kuefner resigned as a director of the MHC. He and his family have moved to Ocala, Fla., to become more deeply involved with Arabian horse racing. Many thanks for your help, Bob. Best of luck on your new venture.

ANNUAL MEETING:

The 1987 annual meeting of MHC members will be held Saturday, December 5th. The Zuhrah Shrine Horsemen have again graciously allowed us to use their clubhouse in Chaska. Members are receiving additional information attached to this newsletter. Please come.

EXPO:

1. In the last issue of the Quarterly we expressed our excitement at the super opportunity presented to us by Canterbury Downs for the 1988 MN Horse Expo. Since then, however, a few rugs have been pulled on us. Canterbury Downs does not now know when they will open the track for their 1988 season, and in fact may not set this date until February. This not only does not allow us enough time to prepare a complete show but, should their opener be later than first suggested, several costs (that were originally to have been shared) are now totally ours and are prohibitive. (No other adequate space is available in the Twin Cities area for that time of year.) We regret to inform you, therefore, that the MHC directors have voted to cancel plans for a full-blown 1988 MN Horse Expo.

2. However, come February we will look at another idea. We may still produce an "events only" one-day affair in coordination with the track's pre-season opener. We have a number of ideas for equestrian events never before observed by most people and which could potentially draw a lot of people. The only "booth space" we are considering selling would be to equestrian organizations so that they could still promote their breeds and take part in the event. Over the winter the Expo committee will concentrate on designing just such a program so that it is "ready to go" should the opportunity present itself. We will keep you advised.

FARM LOSS:

A couple of years ago the MHC was successful in deleting this provision from MN tax laws. Certain federal legislators are trying again to incorporate this law on the federal level. [The option of concern to horse people would limit to a maximum of \$25,000 the amount of farm losses deductible against other income in any year. Losses in excess of \$25,000 would be subject to passive loss restrictions, regardless of the actual material participation, of the farmer/horseman.] If this provision is passed, it will have a very destructive impact on the horse business in America and that will ultimately affect us all. We have contacted several legislators asking them for their support. Your individual letters and phone calls to them are solicited. THEY DO COUNT! Please help us defeat this proposal!

STATISTICS:

Legislators Note!!

1. "A survey conducted by the AQHA revealed that, in 1985, AQHA members spent more than \$2.4 billion dollars for horse health care and feed; saddles, tack and equipment, western wear and jewelry; travel equipment; and video cassette recorders and home computers. . . . American Quarter Horse exhibitors . . . purchased more than 221,000 round trips on commercial airlines, rented cars for 300,200 days and spent nearly 927,500 nights in

motels and hotels in 1985." (Note: The 1986 All-American QH Congress drew nearly 1,600 halter and performance entries in nine days of competition.) (Midwest Big & Bridle, 7/87)

2. The same survey notes that 57% of AQHA members are male, with an average age of 42 years; 82% are homeowners; 63% live in rural areas; half of the households list professional, technical, managerial, administrative or owner as their occupations; another 25% have farming, ranching or equine-related occupations. The average earned income before taxes in 1986, per household, was \$52,447. More than 1/3 of the heads of households are college grads, and 30% earned between \$40,000 and \$59,999 last year. (MQHA Newsletter, 10/87)

3. Did you know: (A) that Americans consume about 400 million bushels of oats for feed per year? Cereal makers use another 85 million. (Arabian Horse Times, 8/87); (B) There are 17 million horse back riders in the USA, (Trail Tracks, 9/87)

LEGISLATIVE:

1. The MN State Fair is asking for support of a legislative bill (to be introduced in January) to allow the State Fair to retain the sales tax income from the gate and grandstand admissions for gradual replacement of major fairgrounds buildings and facilities. "The only alternative available for funding these future capital replacements is a serious increase in gate fees, space rental rates and other necessary operating assessments [which they] wish to avoid." We would like your input on this one.

2. In the last Quarterly we indicated that the UofM Advisory Task Force on Planning was recommending the elimination of certain programs (including the College of Veterinary Medicine) in order to free up monies to improve other programs. On behalf of the MHC, President Gus Johnson wrote a flurry of letters in opposition. We have now been assured that the veterinary college will not be eliminated. Many thanks, Gus!

SPORTS COMMISSION:

The State of MN has appropriated nearly \$30 million to construct amateur sports facilities in Biwabik, St. Cloud, Blaine and other MN sites. Among those appointed by the governor to the new MN Amateur Sports Commission are John Daniels, Jr., Esq., (a horseman who served on the MN Racing Commission), Herb Brooks (MN North Stars Hockey) and Matt Blair (MN Vikings Football). (St. Paul Pioneer Dispatch, 9/12/87)

RACING:

1. Canterbury ended its third racing season October 12th. [The first 30 days (with mixed QH racing) produced revenues above management's projections.] Overall, there was a drop of 26.8% [average 8,800] in attendance and 16.5% [average \$960,163] in betting handle from 1986. Per capita wagering, however, increased 14.2% to \$108.38. The State received \$5,154,363 in pari-mutuel taxes, \$608,403 in breakage and \$393,958 in admissions tax. Shakopee received \$98,490 in admissions tax. (From /Across the Tracks (10/87)) [The legislature last spring defeated a bill to adjust the state's share of the pari-mutuel tax. With reduced purses, quality TB horses, trainers and jockeys were reassigned to other tracks.] [Note too: Closing day brought 7,505 people who bet a record of \$157.54 or \$1,182,348.]

2. A new [co-sponsored] legislative bill [submitted by the Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association and the MN Thoroughbred Assoc.] would tax pari-mutuel wagering at the same level as that imposed on charitable gambling. It would provide 10% to the state for takeout, 39% for purses, 5% for the breeders' fund, and 46% to the track. "Legislators who did not vote for the tax relief measure [last session] have said they could live with the new proposal." (Thoroughbred Times, 9/25/87)

3. Cost of the Heartland track [Little Falls], projected at \$13.2 million, will be financed through the sale of stocks and bonds. Construction is scheduled to begin in June of 1988, with opening day set for May 20, 1989. Seventy percent of the races will be for Thoroughbreds, the remainder for Quarter Horses." (From Across The Tracks, 8/86)

VETERINARY:

1. A letter summary of a study released by the Morris Animal Foundation seems to indicate that avocado toxicity in horses may be due to a special sensitivity that only certain horses exhibit. (10/5/87)
2. The Drugs and Medications Committee of the AHSA recommends no more than a maximum daily dose of 2 grams of phenylbutazone (IV or orally) per 1,000 lbs. body weight be administered at no fewer than 12 hours prior to competition. (The Morgan Horse, 8/87)
3. Potomac Fever has now spread to 35 states and Ontario (with unconfirmed cases in Europe). Financial assistance is sorely needed for additional research. (Contact Potomac Fever Fund, Univ. of Illinois, College of Vet. Med., 2001 So. Lincoln Ave., Urbana, Ill. 61801.) [Note: A new study to determine which insects transmit PF began this fall at No. Carolina State Univ. through a grant from the Morris Animal Foundation. The study joins five other equine projects in various stages of progress. Companion Animal News, 8/87]
4. The North Central Morgan Association reported a bad break of swamp fever in Manitoba this year. Some shows were cancelled because of it. (The Morgan Horse, 8/87)
5. Average to good alfalfa is much better nutritionally than grass. On the average it provides 15-20% more energy, two to three times more protein and calcium, and more Vitamin A precursor than grass. Companion Animal News, 8/87]

WILD HORSES:

"Scientists from MN and Utah state universities are experimenting with three different types of birth control in an \$1 million effort to trim herds of wild horses in the West. . . . The National Academy of Science is administering [the funds] allocated for the project by Congress under the Wild Horse and Burro Act. The work, scheduled to continue into 1990, costs an average of \$300 per horse [which is] less costly than rounding up the animals and keeping them penned. . . . Nevada is estimated to have about 30,000 wild horses and burros, about 65% of the national population." (Star & Tribune, 10/8/87)

TRAIL RIDE:

"History's longest horseback journey" will consist of 15,000 miles in 2-1/2 years, crossing both American continents. The riders plan to leave Argentina this December and arrive in Alaska in June 1990. They will be riding "Criollo" horses (mustangs). (Alaska State Horsemen, Inc., Newsletter, 8/87)

TRAILS:

Of the 120,000 miles of railroad right-of-way abandoned since 1920 (including over 10,000 miles in just the past four years), only about one percent have been converted to trails. Approx. 15% of these converted miles are in Iowa, which leads the nation in number of conversions. (Trail Tracks, 9/87)

HAY:

Agricultural Commissioner Jim Nichols has indicated that hay conditions were not favorable this year to MN (especially the east-central area). "Hay prices are reaching \$80/ton and could hit \$100 to \$120/ton [this] winter." (Stable Sheet, 8/87)

4-H:

The 4-H now offers a program called the "4-H Horseless Horse Project." Youths enrolled learn all about caring and feeding, tack and grooming, and the showing of a horse through booklets and workshops and by pairing the youngster with a 4-H member who does own a horse. (Dakota County Extension Service)

ARABIANS:

The annual Arabian Fall Festival in St. Paul includes a stallion auction. This year (October 3) the MN Arabian Horse Breeders Association received over \$75,000 in breeding fees with the highest amount received for "Ik Papillon," owned by Bill & Thelma Thomas of Prior Lake: \$4,500.

4. Harness racers have indicated that their track (once financing is obtained) will be built at either Blaine, Brooklyn Park or Lake Elmo. This facility is expected to cost \$15-25 million. (Star & Tribune, 10/10/87)

5. Because of the costs involved and disappointing results at Canterbury, Wisconsin racing enthusiasts may settle for a moderate horse operation or dog tracks. (Star & Tribune, 8/24/87) [A lottery is also under serious consideration.]

6. Over 500 horses broke loose at Gillette, WY, when a tornado tore through the backstretch on July 23. Only 15 horses were injured, but 43 of the 48 permanent buildings were destroyed. (Northern Racer, 9/87)

7. The Russians Are Coming! After 21 years, they accepted an invitation to participate in the October 31st (36th running) of the International Stakes at Laurel Race Course. (Thoroughbred Times, 8/28/87)

CERTIFIED STABLES:

The certified stables program calls for an annual clinic of some form for its participants. However, we thought we would do something you might appreciate even more this year: we will be sending you a copy of the recently updated and published American Horse Council tax booklet for horse owners. It is an excellent source of information on the new tax code. We hope it is helpful to you. If others are interested in a copy, please let us know and we will order some more (cost apx. \$2).

NEW ORGANIZATIONS:

1. North Central Pleasure Tennessee Walker Horse Association (contact Lu DeBono, 612/937-1947).

2. The last Quarterly gave a couple faulty contacts for the MN Appaloosa Racing Enthusiasts. Contact Mike Kandle, 1850 Gunn Rd., Grand Rapids 55744 [218/326-1911 of 1617] for further info.

COURAGE CENTER:

The 1987 Camp Courage Wagon Train on June 12-21 (Menomonie, WI. to Camp Courage, Maple Lake, MN) picked a month of extreme heat for their event but still managed to raise more than \$100,000 (including a \$40,000 contribution from Tom Thumb Food Stores). These funds will be used to support benefits for the physically disabled at Camp Courage and Courage North.

EQUUS:

Yours editor was interviewed by phone by a local reporter for this national equine magazine a few months ago. Even though special effort was made to relay information correctly, I was badly misquoted (October issue) on trails: (1) The MN Horsemen's Directory is not published by the MN Horse Council. I alone am author and publisher of this publication. (2) The MN Horse Council has 6,000 to 7,000 members (not 70,000). (3) All state park trails are not open to horsemen at no additional fee. All state forests are open to horsemen; certain state parks are open to horsemen at no additional fees. Letters were sent asking for a printed correction but no confirmation has been received. (But look for a super full page article on Gus Johnson and the MHC in the November issue!)

HONORED:

Grace Carter Lindley was awarded the Melpomene Institute's 1987 Sports-woman's Citation on August 22nd at a hunter/jumper event in Stillwater. The Melpomene Institute is a center for the study of women's health and fitness. Previous recipients include Billie Jean King, Carol Mann and Debbie Bancroft. "Grace is the first rider and skier to be cited. [S]he has ridden winning hunters and jumpers all her adult life; and has contributed to the sport of riding in Minnesota and on the national level. [S]he was a member of the first Women's Alpine Ski Team for the 1936 Olympic Games and was several times U.S. and Canadian National champion in slalom and downhill." She is still fit and active and continues to enjoy both sports at

71. Congratulations, Grace!

MORGANS:

A "Morgan Room" will be installed at the Earl Brown Continuing Education Center at the UofM for lectures and meetings. The North Central Morgan Assoc. is committed for \$10,000 (out of a total \$19,000 needed) to furnish the room. (The Morgan Horse, 8/87)

POA:

Former director Joan Schulz of Edina advises that her family is the proud owner of the top national halter POA mare. Congratulations, Joan!

QUARTER HORSES:

1. Congratulations also to David & Janet Otis of Prior Lake who have the leading two-year-old halter stallion in the USA this year. "Mr. Impressive Jay" earned 41 Grands and Reserves with numerous circuit championships in 5-1/2 months. (MQHA Newsletter, 10/87).

2. "Quartermaster," a 10-year-old gelding claimed a gold medal for the USA in a three-day eventing competition at the Pan-American Games at Indianapolis in August. (MQHA Newsletter, 10/87).

3. Charles & Pat Laubersheimer of Brooklyn Park recently sold seven of their best reining horse stock to a stable in Florence, Italy: a 3-year-old, two mares and four weanlings for \$100,000. (St. Paul Pioneer Press & Dispatch, 10/21)

SHIRES:

The Shire Horse Chronicle (10/87) reports 64 shires born at the Fox Valley Draft Horse Farms in Marengo, IL, this year. The farm is building a large tourist attraction around their Shire horses.

ENDURANCE:

The Central Time Zone team won the first place gold at the North American Championship ride in September. First across the line was Mary Koefed from Minnesota on "Dana's North Lite." Mary also won the individual gold. Many of the riders on this team frequently compete in Minnesota rides.

SADDLE CLUB:

The Hamel Trail Dusters is one of the oldest (31 years) of the 185-member Western Saddle Club Association, which includes 17,000 members statewide. (Star & Tribune, 9/27/87)

NEW DISCIPLINES:

Endurance riding and vaulting have received status as recognized disciplines at an AHSA board meeting. The recognition means that those events will now be considered recognized member shows. (Arabian Horse Times, 8/87)

WORLD COMPETITION:

The first World Equestrian Games will be held in Stockholm (7/24-8/5/1990). The disciplines will include show jumping, dressage, three-day eventing, driving, endurance and vaulting. These Games will be held only once this century as they require at least 12-year intervals. (USCTA Cross-Country, 9/87)

CLINICS:

Modern Horse Breeding and Texas A&M are co-sponsoring "Breeding Technology Workshop III" in Phoenix, AZ (November 13-15). Contact Fleet Street Corporation, 656 Quince Orchard Rd., Gaithersburg, MD 10878-1772: 301/977-3900).

GOLDEN HORSES:

The MN State Capitol has a golden three-horse sculpture over its entrance. From this a hockey team, called the "Minnesota Golden Horses," has been formed, comprised of legislators, staff and lobbyists. (Star & Tribune, 10/5/87)

FINAL NOTE:

"My daughter's husband owns Thoroughbred horses, and she was unhappy because he was spending so much time with them. One day, while out shopping, she saw a bumper sticker that read, 'Treat her like a Thoroughbred so she won't become a nag.' She bought it and put it on the back bumper of his pickup truck. At work, amused colleagues teased him. That evening he came home

for dinner on time, kissed his wife and gave her a small box wrapped with blue ribbon. Inside were two sugar cubes." (original source unknown.)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

11/11 - MHC Board meeting, HCVT Stables, Eden Prairie (7:30 p.m.) (open)
12/5 - MHC Annual membership meeting, Chaska
1/12 - MHC Board meeting (call for location)
2/9 - MHC Board meeting (call for location)

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This publication offers advertising space to the public for \$20 per quarter page. Distribution is approximately 500 copies, some nationally. Issues are printed Feb/May/Aug/Nov. Material should be submitted prior to the end of the month preceding publication. Camera-ready copy only, please!

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MINNESOTA HORSE COUNCIL

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