

Rain soaks competitors in trail horse trials Sunday



COOKING IN THE RAIN! Pat Thompson of Acton shelters under the pavilion as she attempts to boil corn at the Rockwood Trail Riders Trail Horse Trials Sunday.

The weather for which this summer is becoming famous drenched the Rockwood Trail Riders annual Trail Horse Trials held at the Halton Presbytery Grounds, Blue Springs Line Nassagaweya, Sunday.

Downpours created some extra obstacles in the six mile course and dampened barbecue fires, but contestants remained sunny and declared the day an unqualified success.

Organizers, club president Paul Thompson, secretary Pat Thompson, Gord and Marg Cox, Kaz and Sue Lewandowski, Mo McGinnis and Pat Beck, had some intricate obstacles arranged for the 60 contestants.

The initial trial was a smoldering fire ringed with smudge pots followed by a wooden gate. The horse was required to step calmly through the fire and proceed sideways to the gate while his rider opened it. Quite a few horses were very definite in their opinion of this obstacle.

Other obstacles on the trail leading through surrounding bush country included: bleating goats; a canvas blind to pass through; a steep slippery hill, bridges and jumps; a raccoon hat being dragged along the road simulating a scurrying animal; rider dismounting in a creek and mounting on the off side; riding into a pond to horse's belly depth and dipping water in a pail from the inside of an inner tube.

Dave Johnson of Rockwood had considerable trouble at this test; his horse, Travis, kept rearing in the middle of the water threatening to baptize his rider.

Like a body
The most frightening obstacle, according to a poll taken of the horses, was a bush draped with plastic, crowned by a hat and a man's glove, and shaken as riders approached. Carla Wood of Acton commented, "It looked like a body. Misty did the world's fastest pirouette and had to be led past."

Two divisions were featured, novice riders and open riders. English or Western tack was permitted. Riders were signalled to start at two minute intervals and performed the first four tests within the grounds before proceeding to the trail. The winding course brought them in the back of the camp where their final test was loading a hopefully willing horse into one of two trailers.

Barbequed chicken and corn-on-the-cob were served for supper before the awards were presented by Paul Thompson and Kaz Lewandowski. Contestants were marked out of ten for each obstacle and the results totaled.

Awards were as follows:

Novice: 1. Julie Scarlet, Alma, "Ginnie"; 2. Debbie Simpson, Vineland, "Icky-Poo"; 3. Don Johnston, Rockwood, "Sam"; 4. Janet Britton, Acton, "Flicka"; 5. Ron Flatt, Rockwood, "Lady"; 6. Liz Moss, Rockwood, "Fury"; 7. Brenda Cripps, Mississauga, "Amigo Sam"; 8. Brent Storey, Rockwood, "Flicka"; 9. Linda Buchanan, Rockwood, "Pepper Pot"; 10. Lorne Eckstein, Kitchener, "Lisa".

Julie Scarlet received an additional award, a halter made by Roger Johnson of Acton, for Novice Horsemanship.

Open: 1. Lee Tarbutt, Hamilton, "Coco"; 2. Ron Warmold, Beamsville, "Lucky Lady"; 3. Bob Grieveson, Peterborough, "Buddy Hancock"; 4. Rob Taylor, Guelph, "Cardinal's Kitten"; 5. Jim Cook, Caledon, "Ben"; 6. Ron East, Cambridge, "Winsome Dude"; 7. Wendy Taylor, Guelph, "Shawn"; 8. Robin Mitchell, Bright, "Holy Roamer"; 9. Larry Newbrigg, Moffat, "Pete McCue"; 10. Karen Doyle, Guelph, "Tater Bert".

Lee Tarbutt won the award for Open Horsemanship, a halter donated by Tack 'n' Togs of Georgetown.



"DECKA" STEPS GINGERLY over a smoldering fire as Jean Pettit of Rockwood urges the young Quarterhorse mare on at the Rockwood Trail Riders Trail Horse Trials held recently at the Halton Presbytery Grounds.



LIZ MOSS of Rockwood has no trouble riding Fury over a sheet of plastic covered with brush at the Trail Horse Trials held near Rockwood Sunday in very rainy weather.



The Olympics are over for another term and the only subject left to discuss is MONEY. The phenomenal cost of the games is not the only sore point. When it is so obvious that subsidized athletes from Communist countries are capable of a greater degree of training, the common complaint is our athletes aren't helped enough.

Where do our athletes get their money?
Look at equestrian team members. They have some of the largest expenses of all athletes. Not only do they train themselves, but they have to provide one or two very expensive horses and a great deal of costly equipment, not to mention the board, training, and transportation of the horses—all adding up to five and six figure sums.

Nothing but hard work?
Whenever I've asked a Canada Team member how a young middleclass youngster can hope to aim for the Olympic Equestrian Team, if all he/she has is talent; I get a variation of the same airy answer that "it's easy if you have determination and are willing to work hard."

No one of the equestrian elite will actually explain in detail how a young rider affords the necessary high calibre horses, the training, and the showing costs BEFORE that rider climbs the ladder high enough to be selected by the Team and therefore become the grateful recipient of a certain amount of subsidization.

Sponsors, please
Inquiries over the years have revealed many a promising rider is lucky enough to catch the eye of a wealthy sponsor, that is lucky enough to catch the eye of a wealthy sponsor, that is if his own family hasn't got the necessary funds. In some cases the sponsor is in the form of a businessman with a farm who wants a rising young name to ride his horses. Sometimes the sponsorship is more paternal (or maternal), especially if the rider is attractive.

Whatever, the case, the sponsorship has to be very discreet in order to retain the fragile amateur status of an aspiring Olympic athlete.

The rider is never paid as a show rider, but he may be hired as a farm manager. Or he may receive large amounts of "board" for horses he rides. The prize money for equestrian competitions is never for the rider, but for the horse. It's supposed to help defray the costs involved in bringing that horse to the show.

So all you young riders excited by the prospect of the 1980 Olympics; if you haven't been born with a silver spoon in your mouth, you'd better start going to the right parties.

Nary a ripple on pornography

A resolution from Wellington County Board of Education asking the provincial government to pass legislation controlling the distribution of hard core pornography, caused barely a ripple at Halton Hills council, Tuesday night.

The previous week the same reaction was shown by administration committee. Councillor Pat McKenzie

asked why the committee had not endorsed the resolution. He said he at least felt this type of literature should be discouraged, and suggested it be forwarded to Halton Board of Education.

Councillor Les Dudy said the committee felt they have to draw the line somewhere. "We can't get into everything and other people are dealing with this question."

Summertime picnic for Golden Age Club

The Golden Age Club met at the Hall on Tuesday Aug. 3 at 3 o'clock and travelled to the Rockwood Conservation Park for their annual picnic, where members of the Rockwood Club joined them.

They spent a half hour looking over the beautiful park and met again for fun and games arranged and planned by Bert Davidson and Dave Robertson. Mrs. Smith won first for knocking down cans; Mrs. Terry won in tossing balls into milk cartons; Mrs. Hannikainen and Mr. Turon won plate race; Mrs. E. Lambert the shoe kicking race; Mr. C. Nellis for the men's shoe kicking race; Mrs. 1.

McDonald won in pinning the plate on line; Mrs. N. Hannikainen for holding most clothes pins in her hand; and Mrs. Alva Miller the bean toss.

Supper
About 5:30 the tables were set and food put out for a very delicious pot luck supper which was enjoyed by all.

Notes of thanks were exchanged by Acton and Rockwood clubs.

Candy in a jar guessing contest had Mrs. Annie Lambert first and Mrs. Earl Lambert second. Music by V. Smith, H. Leachman and Bert Davidson set toes tapping and a few old time dances were enjoyed.

After the supper things were cleared away, all moved into the pavilion for a game of bingo. Lucky winners were Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Terry, Mrs. E. Lambert, Joe Fuller and Ivan Harris.

A very enjoyable day was spent by all.

Tannery was sponsor of blueberry picking

Many Actonians holiday in Muskoka, and some of them would see with interest a large old photograph published in the Bracebridge Herald-Gazette on July 29. It pictured employees of Beardmore tannery there crowded along a dock and on a ship.

The paper writes: "The people in the picture are employees of the Beardmore Tannery (the 'old' tannery which stood where Bracebridge Lumber have their premises on the Muskoka River west of Wellington St. and where Fowler Construction formerly was located.)

"It was the custom of the proprietors of the tannery (Peter Smith was manager) to give their employees a day off to pick blueberries, and to provide transportation to a good area. The picture was taken in the summer of 1916 or 1917. The boat took the party to Shanty Bay, on the west side of Lake Muskoka, which seems to have been an ideal place for the purpose of the trip in those days. Not all of the party was in the picture since some were seated at the stern of the steamer."

"The boat is the historic Queen of the Isles, then owned by the tannery company and used to transport from such ports as Foote's Bay and Rosseau the hemlock bark (tanbark) needed in tanning leather hides in the vats of the tannery. After the boat declined she was purchased by the late Captain Levi R. Fraser and operated for several years until he acquired the Niska."

"The two men standing well in front of the wheel house were captain Albert Leeder, who was in charge of the Queen of the Isles and Harry Croucher (Mrs. Harry Croucher lent the picture). Some of those known to be in the picture are Mrs. McCoubrey, Mrs. Prentiss, Mrs. Ross, Mrs. Pelo and Misses Ada Aikens, Ida Joques, Evelyn Leeder, Rhea Morrison and Ella Armstrong. There are also two McFadden girls and some of the Hepburn family.

Some Bracebridge employees came to Acton to live when the tannery there closed, merging with the Acton operation.

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