



BITS O' NEWS

Straight from the Horse's Mouth

March 2018

Message From The President

HERITAGE

Equestrian Center

EVENTS

Mar 13 - BOD Meeting
7 pm

Mar 17 - Barry Berg Clinic
9:00 am



Spring is on the way...

Springina Ahead



Alice Waters
Editor
cah2os2006@yahoo.com





The Alta Loma riding club held its Wine Tasting Event on February 17th at the Deer Creek home of John and Cassie Sanchez. The RSVP affair was an outstanding success with wine master Chris Starkenburg delivering the expertise.

ALRC guests were greeted at the door by delightful piano music by Julie Montana. They proceeded with their assigned wine glass to the patio area where they were offered a welcoming white or sparkling white wine. The nearly sixty guests were treated to an incredible array of aperitifs, cheeses, and hot hors d'oeuvres. The dessert table was loaded with chocolate covered strawberries and assorted cookies, creampuffs and cakes. These were supplied by the *Cucamonga Cakery* in Rancho Cucamonga. And for beer lovers, there was a beer tasting station with four specially brewed beers supplied by *Last Name Brewery* in Upland.

Mr. Starkenburg's theme for the evening was "*Drink What You Like*", explaining that everyone's taste pallet is unique. He spoke on the wines of France and Italy. ALRC members and guests were treated to four different wines that included a Pinot Noir from Burgundy, France, a Sangiovese from Tuscany, Italy, a Merlot-Cabernet Sauvignon blend from France, and a Cabernet from Fountain Grove in Paso Robles.

Mayor Dennis Michael attended and said a few words in which he assured everyone that the City would not approve the present plan of annexation to which everyone applauded. He paid tribute to the equestrian community and stated that the city is founded on the equestrian way of life.

Special acknowledgement and thanks go to the following who supported and donated to the Alta Loma Riding Club Wine Tasting Event:

Chris and Eileen Starkenburg
 John Gutzwiller, Doubletree Inn, Claremont
Last Name Brewery, Upland
 Lynne Kennedy, R.C. City Council
 Sam Spagnolo, R.C. City Council

Susan Arehart
 Barry Berg
 Captoria Boamah
 Barbara DeWitt
 Summer Duffy
 Sandy Grajeda

Marge Henderson
 Andrew Marlen
 Tim Martin
 Ali Smilgis
 Susan Venable
 Roy Willard

Special thanks to John & Cassandra Sanchez who hosted this event in their beautiful home, making this a huge success!



COMING EVENTS

Mar 17 9am	Barry Berg Clinic - Learn to move your horse with confidence. (See page 3)

BARRY BERG *Clinic*

Moving Your Horse With Confidence
through
Clear Communication

MARCH 17

9:00 am

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World War II Horses In Pomona

David Allen, Columnist
Inland Valley Daily Bulletin
Published November 23, 2017



Wierna

You may know that an Arabian horse show takes place regularly at Cal Poly Pomona, and has since 1926, a condition of the property's donation to the state by cereal magnate W.K. Kellogg. But you probably don't know the story of how the U.S. Army rescued some Arabians from Nazi-occupied Poland, and how some of those horses ended up in Pomona. At least I didn't. But the rescue operation formed the basis of a 2016 bestseller, "The Perfect Horse." Author Elizabeth Letts came to Cal Poly earlier this month to talk about it.

Why, with apologies to Mister Ed, are Arabians the perfect horse, of course, of course? Well, it's opinion, but as Letts tells it, breeders called Arabians "the great improver" because the offspring of an Arabian stallion with a mare of another breed tended to lead to a better temperament and a better ride.

Growing up in Michigan, young Kellogg and his siblings used to jeer and torment the family's Arabian nag, until a neighbor told him to lay off, informing the boy that the Arabian was "the most regal breed of horses the world has ever known." The lesson made an impression, and after making a fortune from cornflakes, Kellogg in 1925 bought 377 acres of land outside Pomona for \$250,000 to create an Arabian breeding farm, which became known as Kellogg Ranch. Celebrities visited, a stallion named Jadaan became a movie star and Charles Lindbergh flew over in his Spirit of St. Louis.

Kellogg got Arabians from a stud farm in Poland. During World War II when the Nazis occupied Poland, they took over that farm's breeding program and proved that their obsession with bloodlines extended beyond humans. The Arabians' blood was deemed pure and clean, and through breeding they were said to elevate lesser breeds without muddying their own.

Kellogg deeded his property to the University of California in 1932 along with \$600,000 and 88 Arabian horses. The university turned it over to the Army's Quartermaster Corps in 1943 to aid the war effort. Horses were still a big deal in the early stages of the war. They'd been crucial during World War I, and military thinking held that the same would be true again. With the addition of Kellogg Ranch, the U.S. War Department had seven facilities for horse breeding.

As Letts joked during her talk: "I've seen World War II movies. I see tanks, airplanes. This made no sense to me. What were Arabian horses doing in the War Department?" I had the same question when I wrote about Pomona's Quartermaster Depot for my Pomona A to Z series of columns. American strategists were alarmed that the Germans had 750,000 horses to our 750 and set about acquiring more horseflesh. As it turned out, the world had changed, and personnel and supplies could be transported faster and more reliably by Jeep and truck, not horse. The horse had its adherents, though, including General George S. Patton and Col. Hank Reed.

And so when a horse-loving German spy was captured on April 25, 1945 and asked the Americans' help saving Lipizzaners and Arabians from the Russian advance, it was a good thing that Reed, a horse fancier who had nicknamed his regiment Thoroughbred, was the one consulted. Patton then gave the OK for the rescue.

Rather than spoil Letts' book, we'll trot ahead to the shipments of 231 horses to the United States. But 37 ended up in Pomona, including 21 Arabians, among them the mare named Wierna.

Kellogg Ranch fell into a protracted limbo as the War Department turned it over to the Agriculture Department, which, controversially, began selling off horses. They were shipped to auctions in Nebraska and Oklahoma in an attempt to avoid negative publicity. Horrified, one Southern Californian flew out to an auction and bought 10 Arabians, Letts said.

In 1949, the ranch was deeded back to the state, which eventually built Cal Poly Pomona there while continuing horse breeding and shows. More than 80 Arabians live on the property as part of the oldest Arabian horse-breeding program in the country, according to Jeanne Brooks, director of the University's Kellogg Arabian Horse Center. The blood of Wierna, one of the rescued horses, courses through the veins of today's Kellogg Arabians thanks to her grandson Bay-Abi. "All the horses here have a direct bloodline through that one horse," Brooks told me of Wierna. "Which is pretty cool, I think."

Of course, of course.

One extra little note: the horse that became a movie star was Jadaan, Rudolph Valentino's horse! (Ali Smilgis, Membership Director)

Spring Ahead Sunday, March 11



Aguada, Puerto Rico

Our longtime ALRC member, Paul Santiago, spent 3 months in Puerto Rico after tending to business in his hometown of Aguada and then experiencing both Hurricanes Irma and Maria. He wanted to share his sincere appreciation to our members who helped out during the aftermath of those devastating hurricanes.

“Thank you for all your well wishes and donations to me and my family in Puerto Rico. It was greatly appreciated. Things are slowly improving but there are still parts of the island that do not have power. It will be a long recovery because the infrastructure is weak. I’m happy to be home and appreciate all we have here in Southern California.” - Paul Santiago

Charlene Ariza, Publicity Director



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The ALRC Board meets at 7 pm on the second Tuesday of every month at Heritage Park Equestrian Center. Everyone is welcome to attend as spectators and to submit agenda items for discussion.

If you have an item you would like to place on the agenda and bring before the Board, please contact Martha Cowan, Secretary, at: 909-912-2117 or marthacowanpaintings@gmail.com



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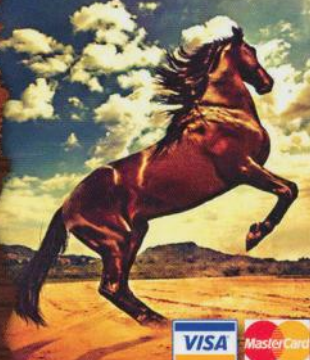

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