



Wildwood Farm CLIPS & CLOPS Oak Harbor

November 2024

YOUR NEIGH-BORHOOD HULLABALOO

CREATED & EDITED BY HEATHER CARDER

The History of the Steeplechase Ride

Images of Steeplechase rides have fascinated equestrians and carnival enthusiasts because the closest most have seen at present day midways are usually the type where you squirt water, or roll balls, into a funnel-type hole and the amount of balls, or pressure, moves your horse, or other animal, racing across the booth. But watching a horse race, and riding a horse in a race, are totally different experiences.

Steeplechase rides involved full-size horses which raced around an inside-outside track that often ran the circumference of the amusement park. They were fast, cozy rides where wooing men could hug their sweethearts as a safety feature without fear of reprisal. Children rarely rode alone, ladies rode sidesaddle, and safety straps weren't used until the third or fourth decade of the 20th century.

The first and most famous of these rides was The Steeplechase Ride at Steeplechase Park on Coney Island, New York that opened in 1898 with 8 tracks; a large fire consumed it in 1907. The rebuilt ride reopened in 1909 with 8 tracks as well, but they were on two levels of four each. Somewhere around the 40's and 50's one of the levels was taken down and the ride ran with 4 tracks until the park closed in 1964.

A Coney Island institution for almost seven consecutive decades, Steeplechase Park was the longest-lived of the three great amusement parks at Coney Island. It predated both Luna Park and Dreamland by over five years and outlasted Luna Park, by then the only other remaining amusement park at Coney Island, by twenty years. Steeplechase's success is based on the principle of its founder, George Tilyou, that the secret to running a successful amusement park is actually quite simple: make people laugh and they will come back.

Steeplechase Park stood in stark contrast to Luna Park and

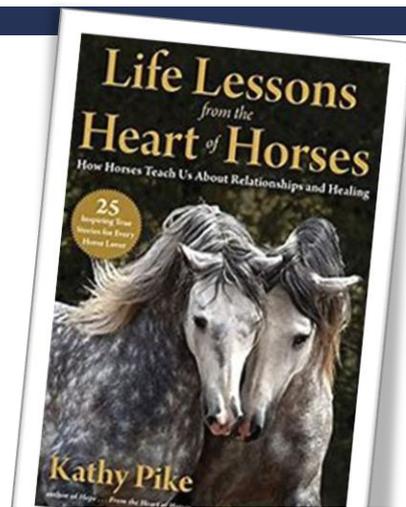
Dreamland. Tilyou was undeniably the most sensible and business-savvy of the major amusement park owners and was as able a marketer as Luna Park's Thompson. He operated Steeplechase Park under an entirely different business model aimed at driving sustainable profitability. Tilyou purposely shunned the extravagant attractions and flair that made Luna Park and Dreamland worldwide sensations at their peaks. Instead, Steeplechase Park focused on comparatively simple group rides and slapstick activities that entailed significantly lower maintenance costs and that did not have to be revamped every season. Tilyou's park attracted families and groups of friends in the context of a safe-but-fun environment. Compared to Luna Park and Dreamland at their peaks, Steeplechase was a simple place. Yet, Tilyou's vision for Steeplechase Park ultimately triumphed by surviving decades of social and technological changes that transformed the amusement park industry. *Continued on page 11*

WHAT'S TRENDING NOW

Life Lessons from the Heart of Horses: How Horses Teach Us About Relationships and Healing

Horses are sensitive creatures with hearts ten times larger than humans and much more to share with us than meets the eye. *Life Lessons from the Heart of Horses* offers poignant short stories about the trials and tribulations of befriending horses. Equine expert Kathy Pike brings you on a healing journey that includes lessons a wild horse taught her, how horses teach humans in her equine facilitated learning programs, and personal insights about living off the land and engaging with the dynamics of a herd each day.

Every story in this inspirational book highlights lessons about trust, surrender, timing, and building relationships.



Some stories are light and playful, others are insightful, and some are even a bit heart-wrenching, bringing you on the journey as if you are in direct relationship with each horse. Questions offered after each chapter invite you to apply this book's lessons to your own life or relationships.

Life Lessons from the Heart of Horses will deepen any horse lover's understanding of the invisible and emotional bond between horse and human.

Available on Amazon.com

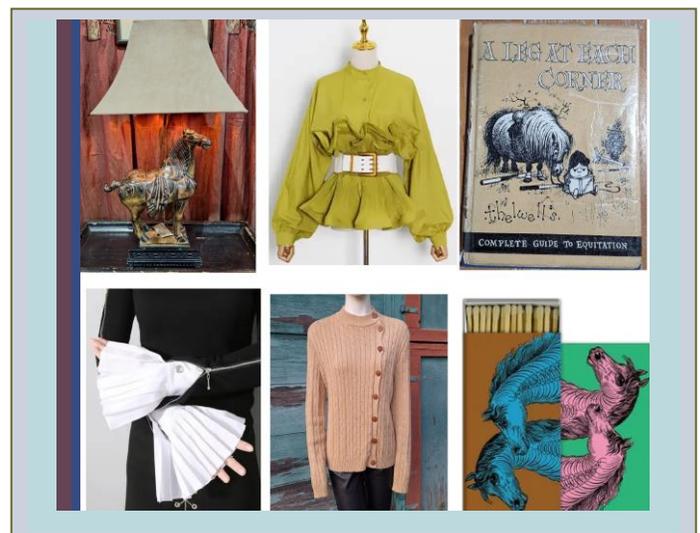


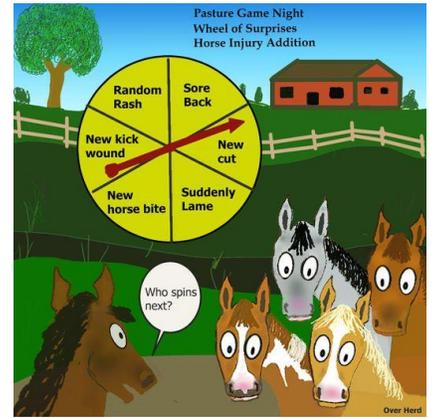
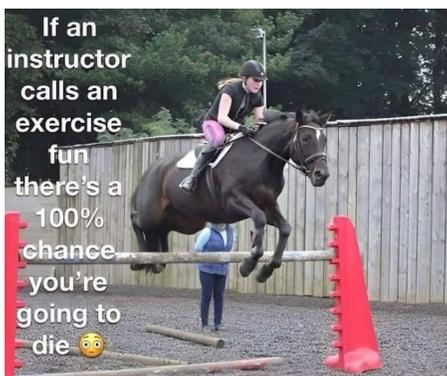
Our Store is currently open by Appointment.



Shop Online!
www.noblehorsegallery.com

New Items for November





When I mistakenly bring treats for just one horse in the pasture.



my kidnapers returning me after finding out I own horses and will never be able to afford a ransom

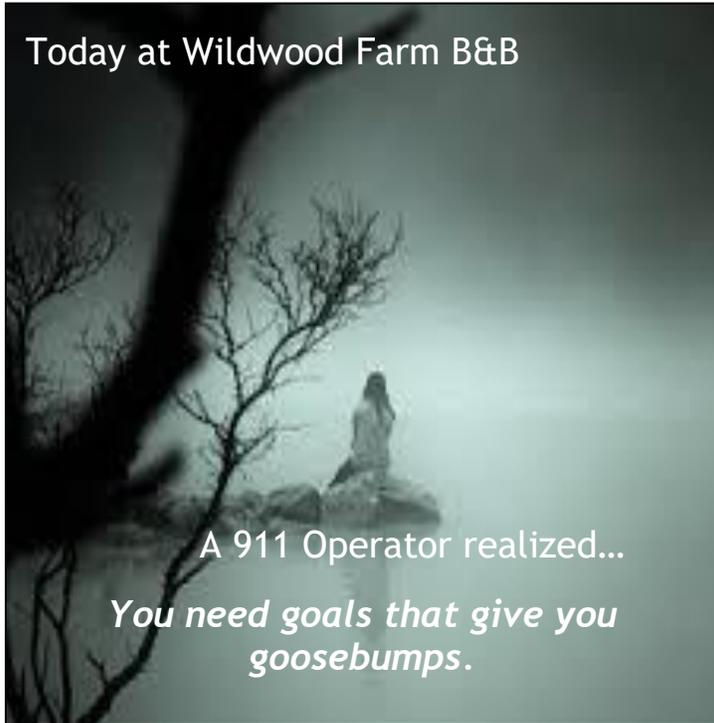


WILDWOOD FARM B&B



This is your moment.

Today at Wildwood Farm B&B



A 911 Operator realized...

You need goals that give you goosebumps.

Immerse yourself in the equestrian world at Wildwood Farm B&B located on beautiful Whidbey Island.

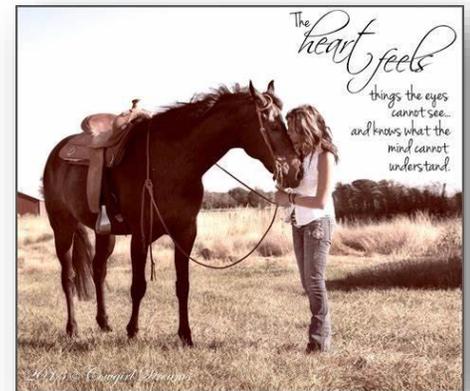
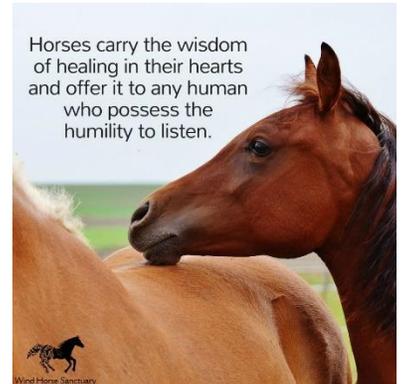
Our ranch has a long history of igniting the spark between horses and humans, whether you want a small introduction or total immersion.

Come experience the power of possibility with these magnificent creatures and explore the abundance of silent repose.

www.wildwoodfarmbandb.com

WILDWOOD FARM HAS IT ALL!

PACIFIC NORTHWEST
PNWA
Riding Academy



WWW.PNWRiding.com

PACIFIC NORTHWEST
RIDING ACADEMY

Five more Horses Euthanized In Heath Taylor Barn at Los Alamitos Due to EIA.

Paulick Report on MSN



Under the supervision of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and dictated by state and federal standards, five additional horses have been euthanized at Los Alamitos racetrack in Cypress, Calif., after they tested positive for Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA).

This follows the euthanasia of seven other EIA positive quarter horses earlier this month. All 12 horses were trained by Heath Taylor and stabled in his barn at Los Alamitos. An additional six horses from Taylor's barn at Lone Star Park tested positive for EIA and were also euthanized.

As was reported Oct. 3, CDFA ordered three of the Taylor horses to remain in quarantine as part of a group including those that tested positive. All three of those horses later tested positive and were among the five euthanized on Wednesday.

After EIA was detected among Taylor horses in other states as well, CDFA and United States Department of Agriculture initiated epidemiological tracing of the disease. As such, all of Taylor's horses at Los Alamitos were tested by CDFA. Those tests identified two additional positives in the Taylor barn, resulting in their euthanasia. The other horses tested by CDFA have tested negative but six remain in quarantine. The six are identified as "close contacts" while in another state.

Epidemiological tracing is ongoing, and CDFA is actively monitoring the situation.

All fatalities are reported on the CHRB website on a weekly basis consistent with existing statutory requirements. More information about EIA is available at www.equinediseasecc.org.

Equine Infectious Anemia is a bloodborne disease that can be transmitted via bites from contaminated deer- and horseflies; from pregnant mares to their foals in utero or via milk; via breeding, from stallions to mares; through the use of infected blood and blood products; or through contaminated equipment like needles.

A horse with EIA can be asymptomatic, or it can have a fever or die suddenly. Horses that are chronically infected with EIA can be weak or anemic, lose weight, or have swelling in the legs, abdomen, or chest.

A Coggins test can confirm whether a horse is positive for EIA. There is no known treatment, and infected horses pose a risk to all other horses. Horses that are positive for EIA can either be placed in lifetime quarantine or euthanized.

There is no vaccine for EIA, so prevention relies on quality fly control and sterile equipment for injections and treatments.

Nutrition Corner

Can Horses Eat Pumpkin?

Q: I'd like to make some festive holiday horse treats as gifts for my friends, and it seems like everything is pumpkin flavored this time of year. Is it okay for horses to eat pumpkin and/or pumpkin-flavored treats?

A: The short answer is yes! Orange pumpkins are safe to feed horses, and this includes the seeds. However, avoid generalizing that all squashes and pumpkins are okay for horses to eat. In the scheme of human foods pumpkin has a relatively high potassium level, providing about 0.4 grams per cup. In the context of the typical equine diet where an average grass hay is providing 8.5 grams per pound, the amount in a sensible serving of pumpkin is likely nothing to worry about. However, if you have a horse with hyperkalemic periodic paralysis, where you are trying to limit potassium intake, it might be wise to skip the pumpkin treat. Pumpkin seeds are often touted for their health benefits, and certainly human-focused research in the scientific literature suggests

they might have benefits thanks to their positive impact on nitric oxide levels. Nitric oxide is an important cellular signaling compound and powerful vasodilator. We don't know what the benefits might be to horses, but there are lots of anecdotal discussions online about the potential benefits.

Before you go throwing the decorative pumpkins from around the barn to your horse at the end of the season, please do use common-sense. Don't feed horses pumpkins that might have candle wax in them or that have started to rot. Also consider that it's never wise to suddenly add large amounts of a novel food to your horse's diet. With that in mind keep pumpkin intake to a couple of cups a day or about one small pumpkin.

Try suspending a smaller dessert (or pie) pumpkin as a stall toy. This could also make a cute gift for a friend's horse.

Alternatively, cook the pumpkin and use the softened flesh to make horse treats.

WILDWOOD FARM AND TRIPLE CROWN FEEDS.

Our partnership with Triple Crown began in 2014 through a promotion with the USEF encouraging farm members to compare their current feeding programs with Triple Crown products. We have found the TC products to be superior to other products primarily because of the EquiMix technology and the research support of a leading-edge team including independent representatives of Equine Universities, Medical clinics and top-level riders and trainers

Meet Marengo

In 2007 we had a crop of boys – 5 of them – and only one filly. This meant we had a rough and tumble group of colts that grew up together and when I tell you they played rough, it was hard to watch at times!

It made us realize that there is little us humans can do to really hurt a horse, based on how they played. It wasn't just the rearing, but the body slams, biting of the legs, striking and open-mouth bites that drove some to their knees – where they proceeded to bite the fetlocks and hooves. Then they jumped up and chased each other around the pasture. Boys!

Marengo was the smallest but most stout of our colts that year, and he was clearly the captain. He never got in the middle of the battle, but he directed it. One shake of his head and the boys would clear out, taking their frustrations out on each other for the beta positions. Yes, Marengo was the leader of the pack beyond dispute.

Marengo's mother was our lovely Bridgette, a dapple-grey English Cob mare that I found at an auction in Canada. She looked and moved like a Lipizzaner and was one of the smartest mares I ever knew.



His sire was a lovely bay Andalusian that a friend or ours had imported from Spain. This cross really looked like a small Friesian and Marengo lived up to that athleticism.

When Marti (Margene) was two we started him in basic training, but that only lasted 30 days. He was so quick to learn and excel, after 30 days our trainer had little left to show him – he wore a saddle and bridle, was long lined, pulled a cart and knew hand and voice commands – extremely intuitive and intelligent. We wanted him to have a chance to grow up, so he didn't start his formal training until he was four. Sally – his sire's owner – decided to purchase him and put him in training with Mike Osinski – a well-known dressage trainer and S/FEI judge- who was impressed with his abilities and disposition; he was trained and competed through Grand Prix and although he was small, he held his own with the warmblood horses he competed against. He retired from competition in 2023.

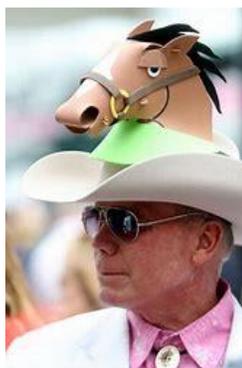
Horse Maze



Can you help the horse find the way through the maze to its foal?



FABULOUS DERBY HATS!



Wooden Horse Museum

Stockholm, Sweden

This small museum nestled inside a souvenir shop is dedicated to Sweden's most well-known toy.



THE DALECARLIAN HORSE, ALSO KNOWN as the Dala horse, has become the unofficial symbol of Sweden with deep ties to ancient Swedish folklore and art. These wooden horses have been a fixture in Swedish society dating back to the mid-16th century. The artisan horses may now be more well known than the nation's flag.

The Wooden Horse Museum in Stockholm's Old Town is nestled in a backroom of Runstenen, a crystal and craft souvenir shop. While it may seem like just another tourist attraction, this museum is dedicated to exploring the rich history and cultural significance of Dala horses.

On display throughout the museum are several dozen antique horses from a variety of artists, some of which were crafted as early as 1920. Small signs point out their age, region of origin, and if known, their maker. Painters would often leave specific patterns on a finished horse that served as their signature, sometimes making identification difficult.

Larger signs located throughout the museum explain the history of crafting these horses and the method in which they were created. There is even a section dedicated to fake horses and how to distinguish them from the real deal, which is no easy task.

consider it to be one of the city's worst equestrian statues because of its poor proportions.

The museum is not very large, but well worth the stop while strolling through the Old Town. It's also a nice way to learn some quick facts about Sweden's most famous toy.

Know Before You Go

Entrance is free. Open Tuesday-Saturday 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

The Yakutian Horse



The Yakutian is a hardy Russian horse breed native to Siberia. Also called the Yakut horse, they are one of the oldest breeds of horse. They stand 12-14 hands and weight 700-1000 lbs.

Yakutian horses have small, compact builds and are extremely hardy. Locals have long relied on these horses for transportation, milk and even in some cases, meat. Yakutian horses exhibit long, shaggy coats during winter similar to that of Woolly Mammoths. The horses appear to have evolved from domesticated horses brought with the Yakuts when they migrated to the area beginning in the 13th century, and are not descended from wild horses known to inhabit the area in Neolithic times.

Yakutian horses are able to withstand frigid temperatures that other horses would not be able to. They have evolved to survive winters in the Yakutian region of Siberia, where temperatures can drop as low as -40 degrees Fahrenheit. This incredible breed has undergone morphologic, metabolic, and physiologic adaptations in just 800 years.

In winter, the hair on the Yakutian's body can reach eight centimeters long and is extremely dense. During the winter, they reduce their metabolism while staying on their feet in what is referred to as standing hibernation. They are the only breed of horse to possess this unique capability.

During fall they develop fat reserves and by spring they have increased carbohydrate metabolism. Scientists even believe they are able to reduce the volume of circulating blood when temperatures become frigid to avoid frostbite.

Facts About the Yakutian

- The Yakutian is closely related to the Mongolian, Fjord and Icelandic horses.
- Though their origins are not known for sure, they are likely descended from the Mongolian horse.
- There are three types within the breed: Indigenous, Kolyma and Yansky.
- Over time they have gotten smaller, with shorter legs.
- The Yakutian horses have played a vital role in the lives of the Yakut people.

There are several subtypes of the Yakutian horse. The *Northern type* is the purest bred Yakut, and is sometimes called the Middle Kolyma or Verkhoyansk horse. It is usually bay, gray or light dun in color, with primitive markings including a dark dorsal stripe and zebra-pattern stripes on the legs. Stallions measure 13.3h at withers on average, mares are 13.2 h. This variety is considered to be the most valuable. The second variety is the *Smaller Southern type*, which is also considered a pure but less valuable breed. Average height is 13.1h in stallions and 13.0h in mares. The third variety is the *Larger Southern type*, which is the result of crossbreeding with other breeds, and is widespread in central Yakutia. This type measures 14.0h in stallions and 13.2 h in mares.

Cont'd from page 1

The Origin of Steeplechase Park and its Namesake Ride

George Tilyou, a longtime Coney Island entrepreneur, watched Captain Paul Boyton and his Sea Lion Park with great interest during the summer of 1895. If Boyton's innovative idea of charging admission to an enclosed park actually worked, Tilyou figured he might be able to do the same. After all, Tilyou's family had acquired all of the land from West 16th Street to West 19th Street, from Surf Avenue to the water, over the course of years when land in West Brighton was relatively inexpensive. Tilyou also was no stranger to amusement rides, having recently built Coney Island's first Ferris wheel next to the Iron Tower, and owning various profitable standalone rides and additional parcels of land leased to small businesses throughout West Brighton.

At first, Tilyou wondered why people would pay admission to enter an enclosed park. It actually seemed more restrictive than walking around the rest of bustling West Brighton, where people could pick-and-choose among the large number of pay-per-ride standalone amusements as they went. But Tilyou noticed that people actually went to Sea Lion Park. Why was this? Were crowds going only because Boyton was famous, and they liked his aquatic stunts? Or was Boyton's patented Shoot the Chutes ride what drew them in? Or his aquatic animal acts? Tilyou mulled this over, because he knew that if he could reproduce the idea of an enclosed amusement park, it would revolutionize his amusement rides business.

Tilyou decided the idea could work, but only if he had a hit ride to compete with Boyton's Chutes. He'd also have to create an overall ambience of controlled fun in the park that individual rides couldn't reproduce on their own. Tilyou began scouring American and European carnivals and world's fairs looking for the next hit amusement ride, just like he had done to find his Ferris wheel. One idea from England struck him in particular. It was a gravity-powered ride in which people raced each other while riding wooden horses that glided along parallel metal tracks over a long and curving course. It checked all of Tilyou's boxes: unique, social, safe, family-friendly and immediately recognizable. After all, horse racing was the most popular national pastime, and several nearby racetracks drew huge crowds to Coney Island. It was also something that groups could do together, giving it the same fun competitive dynamic that made racer coasters popular. This should be a hit, Tilyou thought to himself. He bought the rights to the ride and began designing his new park around it.

When the park opened in 1897 you entered through the Barrel of Fun—a revolving cylinder that passed beneath the park's emblem Funny Face, that vaguely sinister, widely smiling man whose visage still haunts the Coney Island boardwalk. It was an immediate success, and the main attraction was the simulated Steeplechase Horses. It featured a 1100-foot curved metal racetrack with double-saddled wooden horses on wheels and it operated using only gravity. Attendants were dressed as jockeys and buglers and the ride added realistic touches such as hurdles and a streambed. On exiting, the riders were suddenly on a stage where air vents blew up the ladies' skirts and the men were menaced by a clown who chased them into a corner of barrels piled precariously high, or to a box from which a devil's head popped out. The audience, comprised of previous riders, all laughed uproariously at what they themselves had just experienced.

Tilyou approached the amusement industry from the viewpoint that *people entertained other people*. While the individual rides on his combination ticket were not spectacular, many of them placed people in communal situations where spontaneous, silly slapstick humor could occur in a funhouse environment. The key was that the other riders and their reactions would be different every time you rode, keeping the experience fresh. The attractions, as simple as they might have been, never got old. Economically, this also meant the rides could be inexpensive and never had to be replaced, completely different than Luna Park's more hit-driven business model. At Steeplechase, you might see the person in front of you (accidentally) fall onto their date in the Barrel of Fun, the now-classic cylinder that rotates as you try to walk through it; you might team up with someone to win king of the hill on the Human Roulette, where a group of roughly fifty people would sit in the center and try not to get spun to the outside as the disk rotated faster and faster; or you might ride the Down and Out and then laugh as your friends came out after you, all dizzy from going round and round in a coiled metal loop that was 60 feet tall.

The Pavilion of Fun played a significant role in helping to make Steeplechase Park the longest surviving of Coney Island's great amusement parks. The Pavilion of Fun survived to the day that Steeplechase finally closed its doors in 1964. George Tilyou's timeless recipe for making people laugh continued to draw crowds even then. It was only when crime in New York City and its subways made it difficult for people to get to the park that the Tilyou family made the difficult decision to close. Subsequently, Fred Trump purchased the site and tore down Steeplechase in an unsuccessful attempt to develop condos on the site.

In 1972 Norman Kaufman of the Coney Island History Project learned that the Steeplechase horse race, the namesake ride that the Tilyou had sold to Pirate's World Park in Dania, Florida, was up for sale. Norman bought the ride and sent twelve workers to Florida to number the tracks, horses, and various other pieces, and then trucked them back to Coney Island for a future reassembly on the original site. He stored the ride in shipping containers while he made plans to rebuild it. The horses made the papers in 1975 when they were stolen but later found in Pennsylvania and returned. The ride was never reassembled, but one of the original Steeplechase horses is now on display at the Coney Island History Project, courtesy of Norman Kaufman.

WILDWOOD FARM Clips & Clops Newsletter

2326 Happy Valley Rd
Oak Harbor WA 98277

Other Steeplechase Rides of History and Modern Day

The Forest Park Amusement Park in Chicago, Illinois contained the only Steeplechase Ride in the Midwest. Built in 1909, the 6-track ride was gravity-driven whereby the wooden horses were pulled up the incline by chain, and then allowed to glide down and around the track like a coaster. Since the more weight the horse carried, the faster it went, romance-hungry couples used the ride as a way to squeeze tight without raising eyebrows. Forest Park's *Steeplechase Ride* was half of a mile long and built between the *Chutes* lagoon and the *Giant Safety Coaster*. Although popular, in 1913 Forest Park razed *The Steeplechase Ride* along with others during restructuring to make room for newer rides. Today, the Eisenhower Expressway cuts across the location where Forest Park's Steeplechase and other rides once provided family entertainment.

Peck's Prancing Ponies in Old Orchard Beach, Main

This was a gravity-powered 4-track steeplechase ride operating from about 1910 onwards. The 1909 patent by Charles F. Peck states, "The invention...will give the passenger a rocking motion similar to that which is obtained by riding a horse without injuring the person or any undue jarring during the manipulation of the device."

Blackpool, UK, *The Steeplechase*.

Although the Steeplechase ride at Blackpool wasn't opened until 1977, it is a very good representation of the ones that have been torn down to make room for "improved" rides. Blackpool's version runs 3 parallel tracks for a length of 1500 ft with 30 mph maximum speed reached. Peck was right in that it was the nearest thing to riding a live horse, but from the videos and comments of this ride, it was thrilling and scary, filled with jarring bumps and turns. From an advert:

Get ready to ride the Steeplechase! Swing your leg over your very own horse and buckle up ready for a race with jumps, twists and turns. The Steeplechase is a one of a kind three lane steel coaster where there can only be one winner!

Under the usual height and physical ability requirements, we see you need the ability to keep your posture under "dynamic conditions" as well as "withstand high G-forces and/or sudden changes in direction of forces." Basically, they are the same as for any high-speed coaster.

The main difference between the original and the modern steeplechase rides is that the older ones weren't banked, therefore you didn't lean in and go smoothly around a corner but stayed upright for a more jarring experience. And although most of us wouldn't want to lean over and stare at the pavement forty feet below, or another coaster crossing beneath your feet, it is easier on the body if it's a smooth transition around the bend.

On Coney Island today you can still have the thrill of the Steeplechase with a nod to the signature attraction of the historic Steeplechase Park –Steeplechase Rollercoaster at Luna Park in Coney Island invites guests to feel the open-air experience of racing at the derby and the nostalgia of Coney Island's past. The equestrian themed coaster is equipped with saddle like seats and innovative harnesses that allow for the carefree sensation of horseback riding. Saddle up and get ready to go 0 to 40 mph in less than 2 seconds while you giddy-up along a 1,476-foot track, featuring a series of "jumps" and 65-degree curves that would challenge the best of jockeys. Steeplechase is the perfect ride for anyone chomping at the bit for fun!

Thanks to Anita Mae Baker www.anitamaebaker.com