

Reprinted by permission from the March 1978 Region I newsletter. Thank-You Jo Ann Throgmorton and Jim Jeffers.

## Do you know ?

How and why did NATRC come about? Have any of you ever asked that question? While it is not possible to write the whole story I would like to present a composite for our members at this time. Those who are more interested should take the time to read the NATRC scrapbooks which are available at every NATRC convention.

September 1940 was the first Concord Mt Diablo Ride, sponsored by the Concord Chamber of Commerce. The ride was 41.2 miles one way from downtown Concord to Barbeque Terrace, camp overnight and return the next day. The ride became an annual event and a quote from the Nov/Dec 1944 Western Horseman gives us some background, " Participants and judges alike were impressed by the marked improvement in the types of horses entered in the 4th annual Concord Mt Diablo Trail Ride in Sept. Each year has seen a better quality of entries but 1944 was outstanding. Comments of the riders also indicated that the cause of better horsemanship has been considerably advanced through experience gained in the rides. This was made evident by wiser handling of the horses on the trail and a planned and more thoughtful conditioning of the mounts prior to the ride. Riders who participated in the three previous rides had benefitted by studying the judging charts, supplied upon request by the secretary of the Concord Chamber of Commerce. 43 riders started and 35 finished."

Over the next 20 years much was learned and thus our founding fathers established in 1961 a set of rules, aims, articles of incorporation and by-laws that were so sound in concept and principle that very little change has been needed over the years. Their foresight and vision are to be commended for had there not been a self perpetuating board of directors in the early years NATRC would have ceased to exist. Only when the number of riders and rides were sufficiently established and interest steadfast could NATRC become a democratic organization.

NATRC has come a long way since that November day in 1968 when we riders clamored for a right to vote for our board of directors and have a say in the government of NATRC. WE got our wish on that day and were soon to find out that running a budding organization was not all fame and glory but was blood, sweat and tears.

Riders had all caught that "NATRC FEVER" and could not wait until the next ride even though we complained about the lack of information as to when the next ride would be. We felt management was making a deliberate attempt to put us in great races over narrow trails and that the judging was inadequate and personally directed to embarrass us. Those of us most vocal in our complaints were soon to find out what NATRC was all about, as we became managers running our own rides and judges ourselves, that our complaints were born out of ignorance of the sport. Our overbidding love for the sport coupled with our ignorance put us in a poor position to see the sport in its true light. With time and experience now in our favor we have developed tolerance, patience and understanding and a lasting appreciation for the true spirit of NATRC.

Little does the rider realize when first starting competitive trail riding that besides the learned skills of horse and rider there will be other rewarding offshoots to competitive trail riding. Many new friendships will develop which will become a part of a future lifestyle. Your "Family" will suddenly increase for NATRC members across the U.S. share common problems, ideas, likes and dislikes. You discover the true meaning of sportsmanship...understanding and compassion for others problems.. "to error is human". You learn to forgive management who would have you gallop over boulders or find your way home in the dark when finding that perhaps the reason behind this was that some thoughtless person took down the ribbons. You learn to thank ride management for the courage and tenacity to take on the task of managing a ride. Last but not least, what other horse activity would have created the situation for you to journey to other parts of the country (be it your own state or another) and be given the opportunity to see all the spectacularly beautiful countryside of these United States astride your team partner and friend the horse who you have truly come to know and admire!

Bless you George Cardinet, Bob Bohannon and others who kept NATRC going through the early trials and tribulations of budding infancy. We appreciate your long range foresight and are thankful that your wisdom, strength and determinations were rewarded. As original founding fathers of NATRC you are to be commended.

- Joan Throgmorton

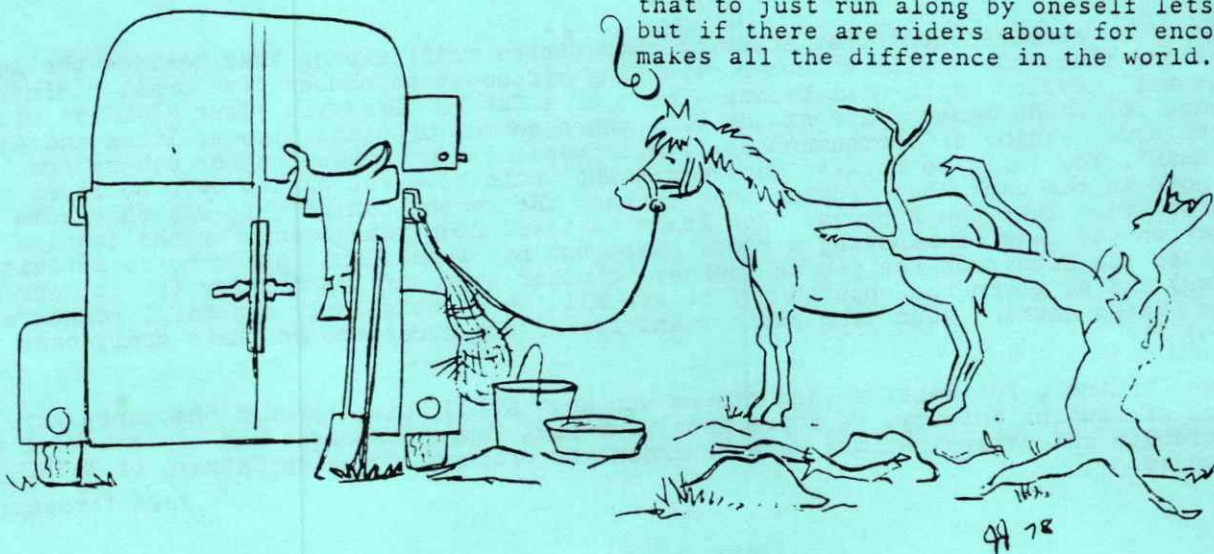
# NATRC

## History:

- 1940 First Concord-Mt Diablo Ride - Labor Day. Concord Mt Diablo has films of the 1944 & 1946 rides. George Cardinet has photo album of 1944 ride.
- 1944 Concord-Mt Diablo Ride. 43 started, 35 finished. 41.2 miles in 2 days. Western Horseman Nov/Dec 1944: "Participants and Judges alike were impressed by the marked improvement in the types of horses entered in the fourth annual CMDTR in September. Each year has seen a better quality of entries but 1944 was outstanding. Comments of the riders also indicated that the cause of better horsemanship has been considerable advanced through experience gained in the rides. This was made evident by wiser handling of the horses on the trail and a planned and more thoughtful conditioning of the mounts prior to the ride.  
Riders who participated in the 3 previous rides had benefitted by studying the judging charts, supplied upon request by the secretary of the Concord Chamber of Commerce, founding and sponsoring organization of the Concord-Mt Diablo Trail Ride.
- 1961 Formal organization of North American Trail Ride Conference was concluded at the March 26, 1961 meeting held at the Concord Inn, Concord, California. 5 California rides. Awards presented at Cow Palace Grand National.....to become yearly event.
- 1963 8 sanctioned rides.
- 1964 Arizona has first NATRC ride. First NATRC Symposium, May 2, at Pacific Coast Equestrian Farm in San Luis Obispo with Went & Linda Tellington.
- 1965 10 sanctioned rides.
- 1966 NATRC divided into two regions - Northwest (Region I) and Southwest (Region II). Arizona had 5 rides.
- 1968 November 2 Convention - Judges symposium, awards dinner, etc. Original Board of Directors was 9, increased with appointed additions Al Moss and Bill Throgmorton. Membership started.
- 1969 November Convention. Right to vote awarded all members. Board increased to 12 members. No Regional awards (1970, also). Added National Championship instead.
- 1971 Region III created. Regional Championship reactivated.
- 1976 Region IV and Region V created.

THE TEVIS CUP - Saturday, July 22, 1978.  
An interesting facet that has developed within the Western States Trail Foundation is an annual Runners 100 Miles One Day Run, which will be held this year in the month of June. Two people have completed the 100 miles in the 24 hour limit and last year two runners finished overtime (26 hours) one 53 years old and one 54 years old. The Foundation people are delighted to have this development and feel it can be a fun thing for the riders training for the 100 Mile Ride. The runners say that to just run along by oneself lets lonesome, but if there are riders about for encouragement it makes all the difference in the world.

PETER PERFECT



We have received a letter from one of our NATRC members questioning Patricia Perfects' use of the cattle when mounting her horse (Dec. issue). "JJ" answers: They are acceptable so long as the rider does not pull the horse or equipment off balance.