

Trails and Tales of Balboa Park

Linda Bradley Dowdy and Anne Stephens Vafis

"Wherever you live, wherever you grew up, wherever you first loved horses, the Balboa Park story will ring familiar bells for you. For those of us of 'a certain age,' this is how we learned to ride and love the Saddle Horse."¹

Until 1960, when a freeway interchange altered the southwest corner of Balboa Park, horse stables and 17 miles of bridle paths attracted equestrian enthusiasts,



Rachel Wegeforth, founder of the Silvergate Riding Club, on horseback, September 14, 1925. ©SDHC UT #8164.

young and old. The county boasted an estimated 9,500 riding horses and 33 organized clubs.² This article describes the people, events, and activities enjoyed by generations of San Diego horse lovers and their friends.

Balboa Park's first stable was located next to the San Diego Zoo, in the vicinity of the current Spanish Village. Dr. Harry M. Wegeforth, founding president of the Zoological Society of San Diego, and his wife Rachel

stabled their horses at the facility, known as Balboa Park Riding Academy. The Panama California Exposition (1915) had concluded while the California-Pacific International Exposition (1935) had yet to begin.

In 1924, Rachel G. Wegeforth founded a private equestrian society, the Silvergate

Linda Bradley Dowdy was born in La Jolla and spent most of her life on a horse, riding at Balboa Park Stables. After her own showing career, Linda trained many juvenile equitation riders. Linda currently lives in Rancho Santa Fe. **Anne Stephens Vafis** developed a passion for horses at an early age and spent much of her teens training at Balboa Park Stables. Anne, an alumna of the University of Southern California, attributes her love of the outdoors to her horse-riding background.



Balboa Park Riding Academy, August 10, 1932. Sensor photo. ©SDHC #80:7421.

Riding and Driving Association, later renamed the Silvergate Riding Club.³ A room in one of the old exposition buildings served as club headquarters. At that time, the only place where people could ride horses in Balboa Park was on the automobile roads. In 1927, the group began raising money to start the bridle paths envisioned by city planner John Nolen.⁴ Nell A. Stearn, who began riding in Balboa Park in 1925, recalled, "Silvergaters created *all* the trails at their own expense!"⁵

Alice Ware of La Jolla was selected as the first president of the Silvergate Riding Club but Rachel Wegeforth assumed the role of leadership of the organization for



Long-time supporters of equestrian events, Chris and Charlotte Anderson, in one of their four buggies. A carpenter and cabinet maker, Anderson came to San Diego from Denmark in 1914. Courtesy of Linda Dowdy.

the next six years. The latter's "devotion and enthusiasm were unending..." according to a 1946 *San Diego Union* article, "Under her leadership the members not only enjoyed many park rides, breakfasts, steak fries, barbecues and Spanish suppers, frequently in conjunction with the La Jolla Bridle Trails association, but had many parties and dances at the Zlac clubhouse, San Diego Rowing Club, La Jolla Yacht club and San Diego club."⁶ A regular

club event was the Sunday morning ride, followed by breakfast at a downtown restaurant or a picnic under the eucalyptus trees. In 1967, Rowena Derr noted, “Quite a few of us recall with a good deal of nostalgia the Sunday morning rides—sometimes down into Mission Valley—along Eleventh Street Canyon and other park areas” as well as breakfasts at Ye Olde Golden Lion on Fourth Avenue between Broadway and C Street.⁷

Following an August 1933 fire that destroyed the stables and killed 17 horses, the Balboa Stables were relocated across the streetcar tracks to the west of Park Blvd. and the Balboa Naval Hospital.⁸ Completed in 1935, the complex included a barn, stalls, and a large riding/show ring and grandstand to accommodate crowds of visitors attending the California Pacific International Exposition.

Balboa Park’s first horse show was held in 1933, under the direction of club president Dr. George Cruikshank.⁹ This became an annual charity event for the next thirty years, raising money for groups such as the Boys and Girls Aid Society. In 1935, the program included jumping contests, an exhibition drill by the San Diego Mounted Guard, a polo pony race, open five-gaited stakes, open roadsters, hunter hack sweepstakes, three-gaited horses, rescue races, and five-gaited novice class.¹⁰



An aerial view of Balboa Park, c. 1954, showing the Balboa Park Stables at the bottom right hand corner of the photo. ©SDHC UT #8248-385.



Silvergata Riding Club members in the "Heaven on Earth Room" at Balboa Park, June 6, 1939. ©SDHC Sensor #13-74.

During this era, Harry S. Simpson, brother of City Councilman Fred W. Simpson, provided leadership at the Balboa Park Stables. Increased interest in hunters and jumpers during his leadership in 1937 and 1938 resulted in the construction of a large jumping course adjacent to the show ring. In addition, one end of the stable was renovated to house the Silvergata Riding Club.¹¹

In 1939, Robert C. "Bob" Bradley assumed leadership of the Balboa Park Stables. At this time the stable entrance was given a new face in keeping with the Spanish-Mission architectural style of the park buildings. A new clubhouse was built and furnished and the grandstand was enlarged.¹²

In order to further their interest in riding and the advancement of horsemanship, a group of young women decided to form the Balboa Mounted Troop in 1935. The group, originally organized, trained, and commanded by Harry Simpson, was the only women's riding group in San Diego at that time.¹³ One of the first exhibitions of the troop was a spectacular drill performed by 24 of its members in the show ring at the 1935 Exposition.¹⁴ In the years to follow, a main focus of the Balboa Mounted Troop was the staging of the Annual Charity Horse Show to benefit the Boys and Girls Aid Society of San Diego.¹⁵

Perfect drill work skills continued to be a top priority. The ladies of the Balboa

Mounted Troop, smartly dressed in white breeches, tall black boots, black riding coats, white ascots and black derbies, won numerous awards. Stearn recalled, "We all rode in a formal drill at the Exposition and, as a matter of fact, won our first trophy there. We also used to ride at the National Horse Show in Coronado, taking our horses across on the ferry—each one caring for her own horse all the way."¹⁶ The Balboa Park Stables proudly maintained a glass case for the purpose of displaying their trophy collection.



Robert C. "Bob" Bradley with his longtime secretary Edna Glorud on her horse Cherry Pie at the entrance of the barn, with watering trough in background. Courtesy of Linda Dowdy.

Over the years, this group of women exhibited in numerous horse shows and parades. In 1939, they performed in a "Wild West rodeo, circus, and thrill jamboree" at Balboa Stadium along with Hollywood stunt men and motorcycle racers.¹⁷ In 1946, eleven members of the troop appeared in the third annual South of Broadway horse parade, along with hundreds of mounted horsemen, drill teams, bands, and drum majorettes. The parade marched up Broadway, turned north on Fifteenth Street, then filed into Balboa Stadium for the awarding of trophies. According to the *San Diego Union*, 1,000 horses of all breeds participated in the event, "from strawberry roans to palominos, from pintos to sorrels and black and white."¹⁸

During the 1940s, breakfast rides at the Balboa Stables were a place for socializing. This was a regular event that was popular with family members of



Groups of riders often traveled along the horse trails on the west side of Balboa Park. Courtesy of Linda Dowdy.



Riders at the Balboa Park Stables supported the San Diego Children's Home. Mounted, left to right: Mrs. Harry Simpson, Mrs. Ray A. Vurgason, Mr. John Holler, and Miss Helen Bragg. Center: Mrs. Winifred Percival, director of the San Diego Children's Home. Courtesy of Linda Dowdy.

all ages. In anticipation of a breakfast ride, the riders cleaned their tack, polished their boots, and saw to it that proper attire was ready to go for this special Sunday morning ride. Following a two-hour ride through Balboa Park, the aroma of hot coffee, potato pancakes, hot cakes, eggs, and bacon awaited them.

In 1946, the Bridlewise Club—a group of junior riders—was established by then-president of the Silvergate Riding Club, John S. Cameron. Under the expert direction of Bob Bradley, it succeeded in turning out many of San Diego County's outstanding riders. In the late 1950s, the Club produced the "Under 18 Pacific Coast Riding Champion" for three consecutive years. In 1952, Charles Gordon "Champ" Hough, Jr. competed internationally to win an Olympic bronze medal as an equestrian representing the U.S. in Helsinki, Finland. Norman E. Brinker, later a famous



Bob Bradley jumping Grey Cloud at the Balboa Park Stables in the 1940s. Courtesy of Linda Dowdy.



The Balboa Mounted Troop with Bob Bradley at the left. Courtesy of Linda Dowdy.

restaurateur, also competed on the 1952 Olympic equestrian team. His first wife, Wimbledon Champion Maureen Connolly, shared his passion for horses.

Junior riders could join the Bridlewise Club by invitation only, as advanced riding skills were a requirement for membership. An extensive written exam also had to be passed. Topics covered on the test included knowing all the parts of the horse, saddle, and bridle, the diseases of the horse, and the names of the breeds.



Young horsewomen, from left to right, Linda Bradley on Chico Lee, Sharon Campbell, and Anne Stephens Vafis on Mananita. Courtesy of Linda Dowdy.

During the 1930s and continuing into the 1950s, riders of the bridle trails of Balboa Park had choices of wide open spaces and expanses, offering scenic vistas, in the developed and undeveloped areas

of the park. According to Rowena Derr, they “had views and expanses never possible since.”¹⁹ Many of these trails have vanished with the passage of time. Taking the trails through Gold Gulch and Pepper Grove entailed crossing the streetcar tracks leading along the rim of the canyon toward the Zoo and the Merry-Go-Round. This required riders and their horses to cross the tracks with caution and careful timing. A trail leading to the west took riders to Cabrillo Canyon, beneath the Cabrillo Bridge, for a



Linda Bradley at the Balboa Park Stables with a view of the El Cortez Hotel in the background. She rode Dancing Doll at the first Del Mar National Horse Show in 1945 at the age of six. Courtesy of Linda Dowdy.



Sunday morning breakfast ride with the Silvergate Riding Club. The clubhouse at the back of the photo served pancakes, eggs, and punch. Courtesy of Linda Dowdy.

ride along a dirt road. Another trail led northeast, toward Morley Field via Florida Canyon. The bridle paths meandered through rocky hillsides of sagebrush, cacti, and other flora and fauna. The nearby Balboa Golf Course was strictly prohibited to riders. Mischievous children got in big trouble if they ventured to take their horses on the beautiful greens.

Imagine playing a game in which hiding astride a horse is a requirement? Hide-and-Go-Seek was played in the sage and chaparral, the sparsely treed areas of



The Bridlewise Club, a youth group, performed at a horse show in the 1940s. Courtesy of Linda Dowdy.



The Bridlewise Club in 1951 with Anne Stephens Vafis on the right. Courtesy of Linda Dowdy.

traded our live horses for the menagerie the carousel had to offer. We climbed astride a favorite animal and positioned ourselves to grab the coveted brass ring, which meant a free ride. All this took place as our horses waited patiently on the sidelines while we chanced our luck.

A few teenage riders were known to have braved a ride over to the Ford Bowl to find a “ringside seat” (astride their horses) and a glimpse of a Starlight Opera performance. The Bowl was located to the



Bob Bradley with an adopted spider monkey named Josephine, or “Jo Jo.” Courtesy of Linda Dowdy.

Cabrillo Canyon beneath the Cabrillo Bridge and in Gold Gulch. This was considered a special treat and offered as an alternative to regularly scheduled Saturday morning classes of riding instruction.

The authors recall that in the 1940s, one of our favorite rides took us through Gold Gulch and Pepper Grove, entering the Park near the Organ Pavilion. We headed for the carousel (located to the south of the present day location). Here we tied our horses to a nearby hitching post, bought a ticket, and ran! En masse, I am sure we were quite a sight as we



Sharon Campbell and Linda Bradley at the Balboa Park Stables. Courtesy of Linda Dowdy.

north of the stables, only a short distance away.

Every year at Easter, the Balboa Mounted Troop sponsored the “Bunny Hunt.” Decorated Easter eggs were tied to trees and bushes in an area of the park designated for this activity. Riders, astride their trusted mounts, set out to gather eggs, hoping to collect the most. The winner was awarded a prize and perhaps free riding lessons. Children and their families looked forward to this annual event.

At Halloween, Balboa Park Stables celebrated by putting on a Comedy Horse Show. Children and adult equestrians dressed in their favorite costumes. Some painted their horses, adding



Bill Stephens, Linda Bradley, and Lenore Aufdenspring with her poodle at the Balboa Park Stables. Courtesy of Linda Dowdy.

eyelashes! Feathers, plumes, and an assortment of paraphernalia were added to complete the look that gave each a chance to win a prize. Once there was a Headless Horseman, an old friend from Sleepy Hollow, slinking along the trails of Balboa Park to the show ring. He carried his head in his hand. The atmosphere was eerie in the dark of night. A good time was had by all!

A "Fox Hunt" (California style) was held annually in the vicinity of Morley Field. As many as 42 young riders participated in this event. The horses and their riders chased

up and down a rocky path lined with torn paper leading to the "fox" (a fox tail or brush taken from a fur hunt cap substituted for the real thing). It was hung from a bush and on one occasion "run to the ground" by DeeDee O'Toole Scott (then 13-years old). To add realism to the hunt, Johnny Guerin was appointed huntsman or keeper of the hounds (stable dogs that had been collected for the event and let loose on the trail at the appropriate time).

Black Dan was the name given to a horse stabled at Balboa Park, and a gift from Mayor Percy J. Benbough and his wife in 1935. Old Dan traveled his Balboa Park beat with patrolman Frank Bonnet for eight years between 1935 and 1946.²⁰ The horse was the last of the city's Mounted Police horses, with the exception of a temporary one-horse patrol that was assigned to Mission Valley in 1948 to curb "wild riding." Dan spent his last years on the softer paths of Balboa Park trails, and eventually retired to a policeman's Poway ranch. In 1952, at the age of 28, the horse was put to rest. The horses ridden by the San Diego Mounted Police, stabled in Balboa Park's Gold Gulch, were sold in 2009.

Grey Cloud was a very special horse who made her home in Balboa Park. A large, rather unattractive horse who stood 16 hands, 2 inches high, she had come from Lakeside as a filly. She was rented out 6 days a week as a school horse for beginners but, "on the seventh day, like an equine Cinderella, she jumps," wrote Ilma Pourade in the *San Diego Union*. In 1943, Grey Cloud, with Mr. Bradley riding,

competed in a “jump-off” where she tied six times with a horse being shown by Ellen Crabtree. Each jump off required that the jumps be raised. Eventually, Grey Cloud won. This mare took more children over their first jumps than any other horse at the Balboa Park Stables. She also won more ribbons for more children while shown as a child’s equitation horse than any other horse of her day.²¹

Grey Cloud’s best friend was a wild goat. Following the horse shows, Grey Cloud would receive her reward when she returned to her big comfortable box stall. There, she would find all she could eat and her companion, “Billy the Goat,” awaiting her return. Grey Cloud and the goat were inseparable, according to observers. The latter “bleats at her departure and leaps excitedly on her return.” Grey Cloud would settle into a deep satisfaction as she trotted into her roomy stall to find the goat there ready to nuzzle her.²²

Not all residents of the Balboa Park Stables were horses. Josephine, or “Jo Jo,” was a spider monkey who had been obtained by a tuna boat fisherman on one of his cruises to the South American coast and given to Ray Furuya, a Japanese resident of Solana Beach.²³ Director of the San Diego Zoo Belle J. Benchley asked her friend Mrs. C. Angus Smith for her advice about finding the monkey a home. Smith suggested that Bob Bradley could care for the creature so the monkey became a permanent resident of the stables.

Jo Jo was inclined to wander away from the stable on occasion. One Sunday, clad only in a pair of blue shorts, she started out on an adventure that took her through the treetops in the neighborhood of San Diego High School. This escapade came to a halt as the rain began to fall. At this point, Jo Jo made her way to a nearby home. Mrs. Ella Mae Johnson was entertaining guests when Jo Jo appeared at the door at 1316 A Street. After being summoned to the house, Officer Tom Calloway, from the San Diego Humane Society, returned Jo Jo to her owner, Bradley.

Another resident of the Balboa Park Stables was Joey, a black Himalayan bear, who had come home with Bob Bradley from a horse auction in Los Angeles late one night. Bradley’s nephew, Don Sloan, happened to be spending the night. The following morning he awakened exclaiming, “Hey, Uncle Bob, did you know there is a bear tied up to



A variety of animals accompanied riders on the trails in Balboa Park. Photo courtesy of Linda Dowdy.



Marilyn McNeish in Western riding clothes and Mary Lynn Riehl in English apparel at the Silvergate Horse Show held at the Balboa Park Stables with James-Highland King, a saddle-bred, 3-gaited horse, May 12, 1954. In the background is the El Cortez Hotel. ©SDHC #22123-1.

the tree in the back yard?" In September 1949, as San Diegans sweltered under a record heat wave, Joey was found in a haystack eating an ice-cream cone.²⁴ He joined stable favorites Freddy the Fox, Sammy the Seal, and eventually numerous other monkeys. There were also Rex the Boxer (who spoke only German), Tommy the Tomcat, Rocky the Raccoon, and Henrietta the Goose. The children involved in the riding program at Balboa Park Stables acquired a deep affection for this menagerie.

Other animals were boarded at the stables for short periods of time while performing in specially scheduled community events. They included camels, sheep, goats, donkeys, and ponies. In 1950, Francis "the Talking Mule" arrived with movie star Donald O'Connor to promote the movie, *Francis*. The mule received the key to the city, festooned with carrot tops, from Mayor Harley E. Knox before attending other promotional events.²⁵

Among the personalities who frequented the Balboa Park Stables were Norman Brinker; Champ Hough; Belle Benchley; Dr. and Mrs. Harry Wegeforth; General Walter Greatsinger Farrell, his wife Mary and daughter Micki; published author and newspaper journalists Richard and Ilma Pourade; San Diego County Livestock Inspector Dr. Earl R. Quartrup with his daughter Brenda; noted polo player Willis M. "Bill" Allen; San Diego Major Percy J. Benbough; and Rear Admiral C.C. Hartman, Commandant of the Eleventh Naval District. Mary Maddox Grandell

and her father, residents of National City, were known to trailer their horses in Balboa Park to ride the trails. Nackey Meanley, daughter of E.W. Scripps of Miramar, also was associated with the Silvergate Riding Club.

Men and women representing the U.S. military often spent off-duty time on horseback in the park. During World War II, the Navy often paid for horseback riding for their men out of recreational funds. On weekends, following the Navy's twice-a-month paydays, the 17 miles of tree-lined trails were dotted with sailors on horseback. Riders took their horses on a trail leading to a bridge especially built for horses only. The bridge crossed Cabrillo Canyon and the highway below, today's State Route 163. To the west of the highway a most inviting tree-lined trail existed. Navy horsemen, although shifted from base to base, and ship to ship, would often go to great lengths to return to this scenic setting to ride.

Many of the nurses stationed at Balboa Naval Hospital also became regular

riders at the Stables. Several had membership in the Silvergate Riding Club. Other organizations that frequented the Balboa Park Stables included members of the Army stationed at Camp Callan, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Children's Home Society, Jewish Day Camp, and ZLAC Rowing Club. There was a rental string of horses that was saddled up daily and reserved for these riders. Members of entire families showed up to ride through the peaceful trails of Balboa Park on a regular basis.

Balboa Park Stables trained a wide variety of horses for show. There were American Saddlebred three and five-gaited horses, hackney ponies, driving horses, Tennessee walkers, western pleasure, hunters, and jumpers.

The Stables offered a variety of

opportunities for its customers to enjoy horseback riding. Among the most popular of all were the riding lessons taught. Classes filled quickly.

Bradley's specialty was training young children for English equitation events.



A program of August 4, 1946 announcing the Ninth Annual Charity Horse Show at Balboa Park. Author's collection.



A donkey was among the residents of the Balboa Park Stables. From left to right: unknown boy, Jamie Clinton, Michael Jacques, and Brenda Quortrup. Courtesy of Linda Dowdy.

The children began at five years old with group lessons. Later, they matriculated to more advanced classes and private lessons. As proficient riders became experienced in the show ring, their parents would consider purchasing that special horse.

Lessons, training, and practice culminated in the National Horse Show, first presented in 1946 in conjunction with the Del Mar Fair. Every adult and child who was elected to participate looked forward with great anticipation to this very special event. People came from all over the country to compete. In the 1950s and 1960s, it was the largest children's horse show in the world. San Diego County proudly boasted of having more horses per capita than any other county in the United States—9,500 horses, or one horse for every 100 persons.²⁶

Each show season, Bradley took approximately 125 horses to Del Mar along with riders whom he had trained to participate in English, western, and jumping events. Championship trophies were offered for English horsemanship, western horsemanship, children's stock horse; children's jumper, parade horses, fine harness; Tennessee walkers, novice jumpers, pintos under saddle, and palominos under saddle. In addition, eighteen riders and horses were "crowned" with championship titles at the close of the Del Mar show as a result of winning exhibitions during the previous year.²⁷

In addition to the show events, there were other perks for young participants. They were known to go en masse for those "wild, wild rides" and junk food. The children also looked forward to seeing the numerous movie stars who appeared each year at Del Mar, particularly Dan Daily and Tab Hunter. The duration of the show was two weeks, and included both day and evening events.

An important member of the staff at the Balboa Park Stables was manager Christy Anderson. He started riding as a student at San Diego High School. He accompanied his classmates across Park Boulevard to ride at the Balboa Park Stables after classes let out on school days. Over the next several decades, he went on to teach generations of equestrians from South Bay to North County, in addition to training a variety of horses, though he specialized in the American Saddlebred. He became a fixture at the stables, as well as Bob Bradley's right hand man. Children as well as adults took to the ways of teaching of this soft-spoken man.²⁸

Among Christy's protégés was Joan Embery, the long-time ambassador for the San Diego Zoo. She was author of several books featuring animals, including *On Horses* (1984) in which she saluted Anderson as her mentor. On his death in 2000, she said, "Christy was one of the more influential people in my life. He was so quiet, so encouraging. I idolized him." She went on to say, "It was through the influence of Christy that I developed the confidence to work with big animals. All my work with horses allowed me to excel at the zoo. I took everything I learned from Christy into my Zoo work."²⁹ Christy also prepared many actors, including Lloyd Bridges and George Peppard, for their riding roles in movies. People from all walks admired him because he was such a kind soul. He remained with the Bradley family for over 50 years.

There were many wonderful families who participated in the riding program in Balboa Park but the Stephens family stood out. Mrs. William T. Stephens (Gwen) would load up her green woody with tack and other supplies; pack her children (Anne, Bill, Lyn, and Cathy) into the rear, and drive several times a week from the family home in Bonita to Balboa Park.³⁰ They would spend the entire day taking lessons, trail riding, or just plain having a good time. Gwen was always smartly dressed in her "frontier pants."



The Balboa Mounted Troop. Courtesy of Linda Dowdy.

Bill Stephens was a winner of many San Diego County Champion Jumper events. He exhibited his beautiful black mare, Mananita. In the course of his jumping career, Bill and Mananita won nearly every class in which they competed. Once, Bill entered a three-in-one event that required riders to show in English Equitation, Western, and Jumper events consecutively. He was the only contestant to ride the same horse in all three events. Bill placed second, with Freddie Lyman winning, and Ted Gildred placing third.

In 1960, squealing tires replaced pounding hooves when the proposed Switzer Canyon freeway project and the widening of the Cabrillo freeway eliminated the Balboa Park Stables and miles of scenic trails. Derr recalled, "In spite of the persistent efforts of members and friends dedicated to the goal of keeping riding in Balboa Park—'Progress' won and the Cross Town Freeway obliterated the stables and the beautiful scenic trails."³¹ A *San Diego Union* article noted that Balboa Park "was a haven in downtown for horseback riding—but freeway construction has doomed the stables and trails which once wound through the open land."³² Only 4 or 5 miles of bridle trails remained. By 1970, the city of San Diego had lost all of its public stables and the park's bridle trails were in disuse.

The Balboa Park Stables moved to Bonita, becoming known as Bonita Valley Farm. In 1969, Bradley stabled more than 200 horses in what horsemen referred to as "a horse-show supermarket." The unique operation provided all three kinds of show horses—western, saddlebred, and hunters and jumpers—for large groups

to show. Bradley continued to train riders, many of whom became national champions. It was estimated that every week two hundred children came to ride at Bonita Valley Farm from as far as Phoenix and Los Angeles.³³

Through the years of riding the trails of Balboa Park, showing horses, and experiencing extensive instruction, there was particular emphasis placed upon developing the qualities of leadership, good sportsmanship, and thoughtful citizenship. We like to think these disciplines have made a difference in the lives of many San Diegans living today.

NOTES

1. Linda Bradley Dowdy and Anne Stephens Vafis, with Alan F. Balch, "Trails and Tales of Balboa Park," *American Saddlebred* 27, no. 4 (July/August 2009), 48.
2. E.G. Martin, "Giddyap! County Horse Total, As A Century Ago, Is Muy, Muy Bueno With 9,500 Here," *San Diego Union*, August 9, 1959.
3. Those involved in the foundation of the club included Dr. Harry M. Wegeforth, Mrs. Tom (Nackey) Meanley, Col. C.M. Tobin, Dr. J.C. Hickman, Mrs. James (Josephine) Scripps, and Miss Alice Ware. Rowena Derr, "The Story of Silvergate Riding Club," March 1967, San Diego History Center Research Library (SDHC), Silvergate Riding Club and Balboa Mounted Troop Records, MS 207, 1/1.
4. Capt. Fenton S. Jacobs, "Plea Made for Bridle Paths in Park to Stimulate Interest in Horsemanship," *San Diego Union*, October 23, 1927.
5. Nell A. Stearn, Silvergate Riding Club, October 29, 1964, SDHC MS 207 1/1.
6. "Silvergate in Review...13th Annual Show Recalls Equestrian Club's History," *San Diego Union*, July 14, 1946.
7. Derr, "The Story of Silvergate Riding Club."
8. "17 Horses Burn in Balboa Park Academy Blaze," *San Diego Union*, August 30, 1933.
9. "New Horse Show Group," *San Diego Union*, May 18, 1933.
10. "Silvergate Horse Show Set for Park Ring This Weekend," *San Diego Union*, June 9, 1935; "Annual Charity Horse Show to be Held Today," *San Diego Union*, October 10, 1937. The annual Horse Show did not take place in 1943 due to World War II.
11. "Silver Gate Riding Club To Get Park Stables," *San Diego Union*, October 3, 1939.
12. "Silvergate in Review." In 1952, watercolorist Tom Stephens painted a scene depicting the entrance of the Balboa Park Stables and a second painting that featured the grandstand and adjacent show ring.
13. Rowena Derr, "Balboa Mounted Troop," March 1965, SDHC MS 207, 6/2.
14. "Blooded Horses, Trick Riders to Perform at Expo," *San Diego Union*, September 10, 1935.
15. "Balboa Mounted Troop Horse Show Arranged," *San Diego Union*, September 8, 1940.
16. Stearn, Silvergate Riding Club.
17. "Thrill Show Billed Today," *San Diego Union*, October 29, 1939.
18. "Balboa Mounted Troop Practices for Big Entertainment Along Broadway," *San Diego Union*, May 25, 1946; "1000 Horses Parade in Colorful Pageant," *San Diego Union*, May 26, 1946.

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19. Derr, "The Story of Silvergate Riding Club."
20. "Expo Excerpt," *San Diego Union*, August 5, 1935.
21. Ilma Pourade, "Grey Cloud Works 6 Days, Then Equine Cinderella," *San Diego Union*, May 8, 1949.
22. Ibid.
23. "Alien Gives Up Pet Monkey—Zoo Gets Attraction," *San Diego Union*, February 8, 1942.
24. "Temperature Marks Fall as Hurricane Threatens," *San Diego Union*, September 8, 1949.
25. "Welcome for Francis: Talkative Mule To Sell Seals," *San Diego Union*, March 5, 1950.
26. Martin, "Giddyap! County Horse Total."
27. "18 County Riders To Receive Awards," *San Diego Union*, June 18, 1950.
28. Picture a small girl, five years old, out on the trail with her trusted instructor, Christy Anderson. They were riding side by side when out of nowhere a tree branch appeared overhead. The small girl chose to cling to the branch as the horse went off without her! We were taught to climb back up on the horse no matter what. And Cathy Stephens Worthington did just that.
29. *San Diego Union Tribune*, July 7, 2000. The stables in Balboa Park had relocated to Bonita at the time that Embery began her training. See also, Joan Embery and Robert Vavra, *On Horses* (New York: William Morrow and Co., 1984).
30. Anne Stephens Vafis rode with her sisters Lyn Stephens Gildred and Cathy Stephens Worthington.
31. Derr, "The Story of Silvergate Riding Club."
32. Martin, "Giddyap! County Horse Total."
33. Lew Scarr, "County Shows Horse Sense," *San Diego Union*, April 14, 1969. Bradley's grandsons, Scott and Ritch Robinson, became champion riders. Today, his great-granddaughters Samantha and Natalie Robinson are showing horses throughout the U.S., including the World Championship Horse Show in Louisville, Kentucky. Dowdy, Vafis, and Balch, "Trails and Tales of Balboa Park," 54.



Bob Bradley training a horse at the Balboa Park Stables with the Naval Hospital in the background. Courtesy of Linda Dowdy.