

ORIGINS OF THE LAKE OSWEGO HUNT

PART I

Dreams of having a member owned horseback-riding facility began in the 1920's. The idea was hatched by a group at Highlands Riding Academy. They first moved to the Fairfield Riding Academy at 92nd and E. Glisan St. in December 1929.

In April 1930, the Multnomah Hunt was incorporated. The Hunt purchased 10 acres at E. Glisan and Villa Road, but decided the location would soon be urbanized. They then moved to the Ruby Stock Farm at 209th and Glisan.

In the late 1920's, there was a Forest Hills Hunt in Lake Oswego. They too, wanted to build a member owned facility. At the time, they were in a facility located where Wizer's is now in downtown Lake Oswego. There was a barn and arena, grooms quarters, a kennel, and a polo cage. Liddy Hilbruner and Carey Evans remember swimming their horses in the Lake (Duck Pond). They speak of the fun they had, as did Frank O'Connor and others.

In 1935 or 1936 the Multnomah Hunt and Forest Hills Hunt merged to form Lake Oswego Hunt. (LOH). Oregon Iron and Steel Co. deeded 19.38 acres to LOH at its present location, on November 30, 1936. They also loaned LOH \$10,500 to partially finance the facility. There were also a number of Proprietary Members who each gave \$1000. The completion cost was \$25,000. There were a number of financial difficulties, but the debt was retired in 1945.

Did they really hunt fox? Were there other hunt clubs? What kinds of activities did they have at LOH? These questions and many more will be answered in subsequent articles.

Source: Lynch, History of Lake Oswego Hunt (1929-1971)

Interviews with: Carey Evans and Liddy Hilbruner



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