

# ORIGINS OF THE LAKE OSWEGO HUNT

## PART III: THE STABLE IN DOWNTOWN LAKE OSWEGO

Contributed by Adrienne Brockman



The Multnomah Hunt group moved from the east side of Portland in the late 1920's from the east side of Portland to a livery stable in downtown Lake Oswego. It had been in operation for many years and was located on "A" Avenue between "A" and the Lake and between First and Second Streets where Wizer's Grocery is located now. Carey Rocky Evans and Liddy Snow Hilbruner, as children, started riding there in about 1930. They tell us the following about the facility. Starting on "A" Avenue going towards the Lake, "you had a garage (big auto garage), then the arena, then the barns and behind the barns, the grooms quarters, then the kennel and the polo cage. There was a shop between the railroad tracks and the Lake". The riders jumped their horses, hunted, and participated in a variety of riding activities. A few had played polo in college and played at the Polo Field".

The Ladd Estate Company and Paul Murphy were developing Lake Oswego for residential purposes, and in 1928 they built a polo field at the current LOH location. There were no stables or buildings on the site. Portland Polo was playing on a field located near Waverly Country Club. The goal was to woo them from the Waverly field to the newly built LO field. The LO field was tiled for drainage purposes and built with attention to every detail. The depression hit in 1929, and the Portland Polo Club did not move. So the riders from the LO stable played at the field. (A future article will be devoted to polo.)

The horses were stabled at the facility in downtown LO while the polo field was some distance away where it is presently located on the grounds of the now, Lake Oswego Hunt. Iron Mountain Blvd ended at Fairway Rd. by the Country Club. There was no road beyond the Country Club to the polo grounds so the horses had to be ridden to the polo field. This job fell to Carey Evans, Liddy Hilbruner and Betty Eason Heisley. They each rode one horse and led two. They tell us that the houses were on the north side of "A" Avenue. "A" Avenue was two lanes wide and had a large gravel sidewalk on the north side. Between the sidewalk and the houses was a row of trees. They rode the horses up the sidewalk and along the road to Fairway Rd. There were few - almost no homes between "A" Avenue and the Lake. There was a trail up the south side of "A" which went as far as about 6<sup>th</sup> Street and then went into the woods. It was too narrow for three horses abreast. Once at Fairway Rd., they rode up the Road and connected onto the still existing trail to the polo field. That trail had a fork in it. The upper fork of the trail went up the mountain and connected to Glen Eagles. There were no homes there. It then connected to the existing trail that goes down the steep hill to the Club. At the fork the trail also went down the mountain gradually and connected to the bottom of the other trail at the west end of the polo field.

Carey Evans tells us that there were stores around the LO stable. On the corner of "A" and State Street was Allen's Drugstore, next to it on State Street was George Roger's Grocery Store "which was a major grocery store because it delivered to all of Dunthorpe." On "A" Avenue just west of the alley was the bank which is now the Tillamook Creamery. There were also some houses in what is now called First Addition located on the north side of "A" Avenue. There was a bar located where Terwilliger now enters State St. Carey tells us that the adult riders would stop, tie their horse to a post and have a drink. Later, the Log Cabin Restaurant was opened on State Street at "D" Street. It was a large Chinese Restaurant and had a bar and dance floor. It was a rather seedy place. The adult riders rode there too. Bobby Saunders remembers riding to lunch there. The junior riders: Carey Evans, Liddy Hilbruner, Betty Eason Heisley, Polly Lusk, and Clara Owens rode to Allen's drugstore for ice cream or a shake. Carey says, "we dropped our horses in a lot behind the building and hoped they stayed".

Frank O'Connor told about their favorite sport, sliding the horses down a long steep hill into Tryon Creek canyon. The Tryon Creek area was being logged. The logs were pulled out of the canyon by a motor driven engine. It created a steep and slick log chute. They loved to slide their horses down it. Carey tells us, "Well, it wasn't intended for that purpose. We were careful not to be observed doing it. It was pretty exciting."

The trails were endless and many had **big log jumps (see historic photos below)** which the more timid could ride around. Liddy tells about riding across a covered bridge which spanned Sucker Creek on a trail along the Willamette River to West Linn. She said that it was a beautiful ride. Carey tells us there were no houses on what we now call the Lake Oswego Duck Pond. There were trails around it. It was a great fun to swim the horses in the Duck Pond. Going north on First Street, there was a trail behind the Catholic Church into Tryon Creek canyon. The Canyon, now Tryon Creek State Park was filled with trails and another sport was jumping the horses into Tryon Creek. Actually, there were no bridges across the Creek so forging the Creek was a must. The trails went as far west as where Interstate 5 is now and as far north as Tryon Creek Park and Dunthorpe. In fact, there were trails into Dunthorpe.

The extensive trail system provided the opportunity for paper chases -- another frequent and favorite activity. Shredded paper was placed on the ground on the trails. Since there were so many trails that interconnected, it was easy to lay a trail that had many dead-ends. The paper stopped, but of course, the trail continued. This meant the riders had to reverse direction, and there was a pile-up of riders. The first to get turned around had an advantage. It was sort of like trying to gallop through a maze with a lot of dead ends. As Carey said, "they ran flat out". With miles and miles of trails this was possible. The first rider to get to the finish won. According to Bobby Saunders, Bob Mount and Marge Besson were the expert paper chase layers.

Sources: *Interviews with Carey Evans, Liddy Hilbruner and Bobby Saunders. Frank O'Connor told many stories to Adrienne Brockman over the years.*

George Saunders  
1951



Joan Menefee  
1954



Lucy Ostrum  
1954

