



# "ORIGINS OF THE LAKE OSWEGO HUNT"

Contributed and Copyrighted by Adrienne Brockman



## **PART VII: THE CORPORATE STRUCTURE OF LOH FROM 1937-1970'S The Membership, Riding Groups, and Fiscal Problems**

### **The Directors and Officers**

The initial Articles of Incorporation called for the election of nine Directors with staggered terms. Following the annual election, the Directors selected among themselves a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Master of Fox Hounds (MFH). Since LOH never had fox hounds, the function of the MFH was to plan member activities.

Until about 1970, the composition of the Board was three members from the Polo group, three from the Posse and three from Hunter / Jumper / Hack (HJH) group. The Directors were responsible for the management of all facets of the operation of LOH.

The structure remains the same in 2006 except, for many years, the Directors have not selected a MFH.

### **Committees**

The LOH Member's Handbook, published in 1951, identifies the following standing Committees: Junior Activities, Arena, Finance, House, Maintenance, Membership, Public Relations and Trails.

### **Membership**

Initially, there were three membership classifications:

**Active Proprietary Membership.** The initiation fee was \$250. The dues were \$6 per month. There were 50 such voting memberships.

**Inactive Proprietary Membership.** This classification was for a Proprietary member who went inactive but retained the right to vote.

**Associate Member.** The initiation fee was \$18 and the dues were \$3.60. An Associate member had no right to vote.

**Junior Membership.** In 1941, the Directors added a Junior membership classification, but this change is not reflected in the Articles of Incorporation.

At the annual meeting in 1948, the membership classifications were discussed. The argument was that the Inactive Proprietary Members votes were necessary for a quorum but, since they were not active in LOH, they should not be voting because they did not understand the issues. It was decided to look into the matter.

At some point in the history of LOH, the membership classifications were changed to the present structure of Regular members who have a vote, and inactive members now called Social members who do not have a vote. According to the 1951 Members Handbook, the Senior membership initiation fee was \$120 and dues were \$6 per month. This included everyone in the household including children under 21 years of age. Junior membership was available to children under 21 years of age whose parents were not members. They were charged \$1 per month.

Membership was not automatic. According to the 1951 LOH Members Handbook, "Membership in the Club is limited to those who, in the opinion of the membership committee and the Board of Directors, will be an asset to the Club". The minutes reflect that the Committee did check references and that membership was denied to applicants on occasion.

Guest privileges were available for 60 days.

### **The Annual Meeting: 1937 - 1970**

Until the 1970's, the annual meeting was a social event. Members dressed in the manner they would as if invited to a private club in Portland. In addition, there was interest in LOH, and members came to the annual meeting both with ideas to enhance the Club and with issues that needed attention. The meeting was followed by a party with food and drinks. Meetings were well attended because it was a party and it was fun.

About 1970 there was a dramatic change in the social base that comprised the membership of the Lake Oswego Hunt. As the sport of riding evolved competitively, members now felt they required trainers in the hunter, jumper, dressage and eventing disciplines. For many members, their primary allegiances now gravitated toward their respective trainers and disciplines - rather than to LOH as a whole. The social structure of the Lake Oswego Hunt became fractured. As a result, personal interest in LOH as a whole facility waned and interest in the annual meeting dwindled.

### **The Groups of Riders within LOH**

The following groups of riders rode at LOH. Subsequent parts of the LOH History will explain, in detail, about each group and about the members and their activities, antics, and contributions to LOH.

**1. Hunter / Jumper / Hack (HJH):** This group originally came from the facility in downtown Lake Oswego and was composed of riders who rode hunters, jumpers, trail horses, drove their horses, or rode gaited horses, Arabians, or other breeds. For many years, Jerry Smith assisted the members in training their hunters and jumpers.

**2. Polo:** This group originally came from the downtown LO facility. Polo ended in about 1969 or 1970. The polo players believed the LOH field was too hard, and they built a new field in the Canby area. The LOH manager from about 1957 - 1969 was a professional polo player.

**3. Posse:** The Clackamas County Sheriff's Posse was formed in 1939 and stopped using the LOH facility in 1972. It still exists in 2006, but uses the Clackamas County Fairgrounds in Canby for its practice drills. The Posse was nationally known, having been featured on the TV program, "You Asked For It!" in 1955.

**4. Junior Hunt:** The Junior Hunt was formed in 1941, and there was a big group of juniors who rode at LOH. The Junior Hunt was in operation until the 1980's. It is unknown when it ended.

**5. Arabian Horse Riders:** There was a small group of riders who rode with an Arabian horse trainer, Ward Wells. This group stopped riding at LOH in the 1970's.

**6. Dressage:** This activity was part of the very early days at LOH, but it was a blend of the type of dressage associated with a three day event and high school dressage. Copies of an early dressage program will be included in a future issue of the "Origins of the Lake Oswego Hunt" history. In the 1950's, a trainer, Herta Taylor, reintroduced dressage at LOH. She was followed by Claudia Campf Cojocar.

**7. Western Riders:** In addition to the Posse, there were a number of riders who enjoyed riding western and showing in western pleasure classes and stock horse classes. For the most part, this was during the 1951-1955 period when LOH was managed by a western trainer; however, there were enough western riders in the early days that LOH was actually built with an English and western tack room.

**8. Cattle Cutting:** During the 1951-55 period, there were a dozen cows at LOH, and a group trained their cattle-cutting horses in the LOH arena on Sunday afternoons.

**9. Eventing:** Eventing was introduced at LOH in the early 1950's by trainer Herta Taylor, and she was followed by Claudia Campf Cojocar. It ended in about 1964 and was resumed in 1972. In 1972 the newly hired managers, Julie and Bill Bradley, brought Olympic level eventing to LOH. This activity continues at LOH in 2006.

**10. Pony Club:** Pony Club was started in 1956 at LOH, and it ended sometime in the 1970's. Many people, including Kevin Freeman and Claudia Campf Cojarcar, assisted with Pony Club -- but Mard Emery and Nan Gilliland were the mainstays. There were 50 Pony Club members, and it was very popular. Pony Club was responsible for bringing dressage clinicians to LOH.



Did you know? Pony Club is one of the leading junior equestrian organizations in the world, represented throughout 30 countries. The United States has over 600 individual Pony Clubs spread throughout 48 states and the Virgin Islands, with more than 12,000 members.

**11. Dressage:** Dressage riding, as a separate activity from eventing, started again in the 1950's and continues in 2006.

**12. Show Jumping:** Show jumping has always been a part of the LOH program and is still a part of the program in 2006.

**13. Oregon Riders Unlimited:** This program was started in the 1980's by Lorne Chang, and ended sometime in the 1990's. Dee Piculell was a mainstay of this program.

**14. Vaulting:** The program was started in early 2000 and continues in 2006.

### **School Horse Program**

From the beginning, LOH had a school horse program. Until 1951, there was a 10-12 string of school horses. The school horse program included Saturday trail rides as well as lessons. There was a trail with jumps and everyone looked forward to jumping. No one wore helmets. After 1951, the program was suspended for a time. Starting in 1957, there were 4-5 school horses. The school horse program ended in about 1969. A small program was started sometime later, enlarged in about 1995, and it is very strong in 2006.

### **Number of Members**

The membership history of LOH is best characterized as one of peaks and valleys. The valleys are generally the consequence of a popular trainer leaving and taking a group of riders with him or her, or as a result of a program ending. In 1970-1972, there was a dramatic reduction in membership when a very popular trainer left to start her own barn and, additionally, polo ended and the Posse left LOH. The following membership data is taken from minutes and various documents.

1936 = 40 Charter Members  
1946 = 47 Posse Members plus Proprietary and Associate members  
1947 = 138 Members

(Note: LOH began the year with 14 Proprietary Members and 49 Associate Members. They then had a membership drive and added 75 new members in 57 days. (See Board Minutes). At this time, the barn had a 50-stall capacity. The large 1947 membership was possible because so many members kept their horses at home and trailered to LOH or rode on the trails to the facility. This was true of the Posse members, Polo players and some of the Hunter/Jumper/ Hack riders.

1971 = 42 Senior Members 28 Junior Members (19 were Pony Club members and 6 were polo players.) At this point in the LOH history, there were about 20 horses in the barn.  
1974 = 47 Senior members  
1975 = 63 Senior Members  
1977 = 75 Senior Members  
1986 = 63 Senior Members and 25 Junior members  
1992 = 101 Senior Members  
2006 = 62 Regular Members and 60 Social Members

### **Financial History: 1937 - 1970's**

In the "History of LOH", Jack Lynch writes, "On May 26, 1938, the Reconstruction Finance Corp. refused our application for a loan on the grounds that we were financially irresponsible. A local banker later explained that we were not financially responsible, we were in fact bankrupt, but we hadn't found it out." (p. 10) "On December 3, 1942, the Ladd Estate filed foreclosure proceedings on the \$10,500 mortgage." (p. 12) The Ladd Estate agreed to abate the suit provided that LOH paid them \$2,000, spent \$1,000 on repairs, made a \$125 monthly payment and paid the back taxes and fire insurance. An assessment was levied. A special finance committee was appointed, and the committee determined that bankruptcy was inevitable. They then decided to have three fiscally conservative members manage the finances. (p. 12)

By January 1945, all debts were paid but by December 1945, LOH was back in a precarious financial condition. There were probably many other fiscal low points, but the memorable ones in the 1937 - 1970 period were in 1951, 1964 and 1970. This cycle has continued to 2006.

LOH finances have been marked by too-frequent peaks and deep valleys, probably because there are many factors which have affected the operations of the property. There have been unforeseen expenses such as for the sewer, the fire protection system and the bedding. In addition, delayed maintenance because of cash flow problems has had its own ultimate costs. The biggest problem, however, is when a popular trainer leaves and takes half of the barn with him or her. It takes years to recover.

LOH has been very fortunate to have members who have quietly kept the property tax collector from putting LOH on the foreclosure list. This has happened too many times to count.

A word of caution to future Board members is that LOH should not be allowed to go too far into debt. Historically the Lake Oswego Hunt has experienced regular cycles of fiscal deficit and is still vulnerable to the same, unplanned loss of revenues as in the past.

## Lessons to be Learned: 1937-1970

### LOH at a Low Point

In the early 1960's a very popular trainer left to start her own barn. Many riders followed the trainer. Then the polo members left, as well as the Posse. The barn was down to 20 horses. There was no school horse program to generate revenues. It was a very difficult time.

### LOH at Its Zenith

LOH was at its zenith in the years 1951-1955. Zenith is defined, in this context, as a time when there was great harmony among the different groups. There was incredible energy and excitement, and everyone was having fun. The manager, at that time, was a western trainer, and there was cattle cutting. The manager also played polo, rode in the Posse and owned a hunter. There was a volunteer hunter/jumper trainer, named Jerry Smith. Polo was very active, and they hosted teams from San Francisco, Spokane, Yakima, and White Swan. There was an Arabian horse trainer, as well as a Dressage and Eventing trainer. The Dressage/Eventing trainer was a cousin of the trainer of the Olympic Team. The first aisle was filled with hunters and jumpers, the middle aisle was filled with polo ponies and the third aisle was filled with dressage and eventing horses. The outside stalls were filled with western horses and horses in training.

The Fall Horse Show was beautiful executed, and there were wonderful parties. One thing that was different, then from now, was that most women did not work. This made a big difference in getting things done.

The Posse rode on Friday nights only. They did not stable at LOH, but did pay full dues. If the Posse was still at LOH in 2006, the dues from the Posse alone would be more than \$24,000 per year.



**ADRIANNE  
BROCKMAN**

Adrienne Brockman is the author of the copyrighted, "Origins of the Lake Oswego Hunt". She is a long-time member of the historic Lake Oswego Hunt, and a valued member of the Lake Oswego Hunt, Historic Preservation Committee.

Adrienne spends countless hours reviewing historic documents and interviewing past members of the Lake Oswego Hunt, to write the "Origins of the Lake Oswego Hunt" for all LOH members and the historic preservation community at large to enjoy.

Past issues of the "Origins of the Lake Oswego Hunt" are posted on the LOH website, [www.lakeoswegohunt.com](http://www.lakeoswegohunt.com). (Click on "About LOH", then "Historic Preservation", then "History".)

**Note:** If you enjoy reading the "Origins of the Lake Oswego Hunt" and would like to contribute to this extremely important historic preservation effort (the cost for printing and mailing each newsletter issue is approximately \$160.00) your contributions would be most welcome! Lake Oswego Hunt, Historic Preservation Committee, P.O. Box 344, Lake Oswego, Oregon, 97034.