

April 29—Auburn Fifty Mile Ride—50 Miles

This will be the first year for this ride, which will be run over the Western States Trail between Auburn and Sacramento, California. It is being initiated by a group of experienced endurance riders, so will probably be governed by the rules that generally apply to the other rides mentioned in this article.

Write: Auburn Fifty Mile Ride, P.O. Box 986, Auburn, Calif. 95603.

May 13—Napa Valley Vintage Cup Endurance Ride—50 Miles

Each ride seems to encompass a historical location of one type or another. The Vintage Cup Ride is no exception as it traverses the nationally famous wine country of the Napa Valley. The varied terrain goes from rugged to the gently sloping green hillsides with views of San Francisco Bay and some of the surrounding Bay Area landmarks. The convenient loop trail is used to advantage here, as both the start and finish of the ride are at the Hidden Valley Ranch of Will Tevis. Since he is considered one of the greatest horsemen of all time, his ranch seems a fitting location for such an event. All finishing riders will receive a silver belt buckle. The Vintage Cup is presented to the winning rider and the Silverado Cup goes to the rider of the best-conditioned horse among the first ten to finish. Breed trophies are also awarded at the dinner following the ride at the Napa Town and Country Fairgrounds. Twelve-hour maximum time limit.

Write: Vintage Cup Endurance Committee, P.O. Box 741, Napa, Calif. 94558.

May 21—Castle Rock Challenge Ride—50 Miles

The Castle Rock Challenge Ride is second only to the Tevis Cup in number of events held, and like its predecessor, must turn down disappointed riders each year. It offers a variety of terrain starting on the coast above Santa Cruz, Calif., and progressing through the stately redwood trees of Big Basin and Castle Rock state parks. A well-organized staff with a lot of experience keeps the event rolling smoothly. For the beginner, there is enough of a challenge to whet his appetite for the longer rides. And the regular circuit followers like it because it is tough enough to demand their best efforts if they are to come in near the top. The first-place and best-condition "Rock" trophies are highly prized awards in endurance riding. This ride also gives awards for the first Appaloosa, Morgan, Arabian, Quarter, Thoroughbred, and grade horse to finish. All those completing the ride receive the pewter Challenge

Cup at the award barbecue Sunday night, and some households sport enough of these to line a shelf. Eleven-hour maximum time limit.

Write: Castle Rock Challenge Ride, 14675 Horseshoe Drive, Saratoga, Calif. 95070.

June 18—Blue Mountain Endurance Ride—50 Miles

Now entering its fourth year, the Blue Mountain Endurance Ride puts you into the heart of the gold rush country—the old *Mother Lode* gold mining areas of Calaveras County. This ride emphasizes a relaxed atmosphere and while a comparatively easy 50-miler, its increasing popularity speaks well for those in charge. It is repetitious to refer to each ride as "beautiful," but this is the thing that most of the rides have in common—beautiful trails. This particular event is no exception and the lovely campsite, the rolling hillsides, the streams, and the good weather at this time of the year result in a thoroughly enjoyable experience for all the participants. The Railroad Flat Volunteer Fire Department puts on an excellent barbecue which attracts as many spectators as riders, and the awards are similar to those given at the other rides with all completing this ride receiving a specially designed, bronze, medallion-type belt buckle in recognition of their achievement. Ten and one-half hour maximum time limit.

Write: Blue Mountain Endurance Ride, 9649 North Jack Tone Road, Stockton, Calif. 95205.

July 1—Diamond 100 Miler—100 or 50 Miles

Most endurance riders would rather celebrate the grand and glorious Fourth on the back of a horse than at a fireworks display. And the Diamond 100



• A veteran endurance-ride enthusiast speeds up on the homeward stretch of a long ride. Photo by Charles Barieau

Miler in California gives the rider a choice of just how much he wants to undertake on this particular holiday weekend. With a trail mapped out in the shape of a figure-eight, the rider can choose just one of the loops and make a 50-mile ride or he can make both loops and go for 100 miles. Whichever he chooses, the national holiday gives entries an extra day of vacation to get to and from the scenic Lassen Park area. The management even gives the ladies another decision to make. They can choose between a silver buckle or a silver bracelet if they complete this lovely ride through the Diamond International timber lands. Cool mountain streams and the shade of the forest make mid-summer riding a pleasure here. A Diamond 100 Miler trophy goes to the winning rider and the Wendell Robie Cup to the rider of the best-conditioned horse. Eleven and twenty-four hours maximum time limits.

Write: Diamond 100 Miler, Rt. 1, Box 290, Red Bluff, Calif. 96080.

July 16—Tri-Cities Endurance Ride—50 Miles

The Tri-Cities Horsemen's Association is sponsoring its third event this year. One would think that it would be difficult to find a satisfactory 50-mile route so close to a major metropolitan area, but this group lets the rider who might feel quite alone on an oak-studded hill catch glimpses of the Carquinez Straits, the ships, and the refineries in the distance. This ride starts at the Tri-Cities arena and circles the San Pablo Reservoir before returning to the arena. An unexpected heat wave made this a very demanding ride for 133 riders and horses last year, and resulted in a low percentage of finishers. However, the route over the golden hills has been shortened a bit and it should make for an easier ride. The awards are a handsome plaque for the first-place horse, a saddle for the best-condition winner, and the popular breed awards. A gold and silver buckle goes home with each rider who negotiates the trail. Ten-hour maximum time limit.

Write: Tri-Cities Horsemen's Association, P.O. Box 124, San Pablo, Calif. 94806.

July 29—Tevis Cup—100 Miles

This is the *big* one! The blueprint, the pacemaker, 18 years young! Snowbanks, alpine meadows, boulder fields, rushing rivers, forest trails, blazing canyons—it has them all. And each one is to be treasured, relived, and dreamed about for next year. Squaw Valley to Auburn, and for this one day, forget the rest of the world and concentrate on yourself, your horse, and the Sierra Nevada. Sam Foss wrote

(Continued on page 150)

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of the Realistic Artists Guild. He was exhibiting his work in one-man shows up and down the Pacific coast and as far east as Chicago. In 1955 he stopped all other work and devoted full time to painting. By 1963 demand for his pictures had increased until he had to withdraw the canvases he had left from sale.

Finding the right subject and creating new pictures is time consuming, so to stay in the market Ray has had to have prints made of many of his etchings and paintings. These are sold by a number of outlets in Oregon at about the same price as other prints.

In May '71, Eyerly was honored by the Oregon State Legislature for preserving much of the tradition of the American west through his paintings. So the boy who long ago wondered if his first commercial painting had any value has earned a splendid success and had a lot of fun doing it. And he is still playing his banjo.

Endurance Rides

(Continued from page 61)

in a poem, "Bring me men to match my mountains." He should have added "and horses to match my men." It is a cherished experience to pit yourself and your horse against this natural divide and arrive safely in the foothills of Auburn under the full moon and know that at the banquet Sunday night a very special buckle awaits you. The first-place horse and the best-conditioned horse receive a tiny medallion to keep, and their names are inscribed on the perpetual trophies—the Tevis Cup and the Haggin Cup. If you complete ten of these rides, you get a thousand-mile buckle. It's been done by four intrepid men and there are others who have but a few rides to go before joining this exclusive group. Twenty-four hours maximum time limit.

Write: Western States Trail Ride, Inc., P.O. Box 1228, Auburn, Calif. 95603.

August 25—Bonanza Ox-Trail Ride —102 Miles

An endurance ride that is going to attract a great deal of attention this year is the Bonanza Ox-Trail Ride, sometimes billed as the "toughest ride in the west." Over 102 miles of Nevada desert and mountains, it offers conditioning rides of approximately 50 miles each month, starting with one on April 8th. Different parts of the trail will be ridden for those who want to become familiar with the course prior to the big ride. The conditioning rides will have awards also. The most radical change is the offering of sizable cash prizes. As far as this



• "Golly! I can't decide if I want to stay short and be a jockey . . . or grow tall and be a western clothing model!"

writer knows, this is a complete departure from the traditional awards given for endurance in recent years. However, it appears the horses will be protected by a minimum time rule. The only horses eligible for cash awards will be those finishing in between 16 and 18 hours with the highest cash award of at least \$800 going to the horse in the best condition in this group. The second-place horse will receive \$400 minimum, and the third horse will receive \$300 minimum. Trophies will also be awarded. This ride is unique in another aspect for instead of starting in the early morning as most rides do, it starts on a Friday evening. The way the trail is routed, this avoids the extreme heat of the desert by putting the riders on the tree-covered slopes of the Sierra Nevada during part of the mid-day heat. An award dinner is held on Sunday which gives the riders time to rest and relax after the finish of the ride Saturday evening. Twenty-four hour maximum time limit.

Write: Bonanza Ox-Trail Ride, Inc., 102 Ranch, P.O. Box 10, Sparks, Nev. 89431.

September 16 (tentative)—Virginia City Ride—100 Miles

The Nevada All-State Trail Riders, Inc., counts among its members the most dedicated endurance riders in the country. Participating in all the rides listed here, they are endurance riding's greatest supporters and take home more than their share of trophies. Consequently, when they put on a ride of their own, they know how to do it



• In a typical scene of endurance riding, a competitor trots his horse out for veterinarian inspection.



• After completing the 50-mile Castle Rock Challenge Ride, Margot Scannell watches the veterinarians check her mount which is owned by Ed Bailey.

Photo by Jim Whitcomb

to the utmost satisfaction of the entries. With the start and finish in Virginia City, there is plenty for the ground crews and spectators to do while waiting for the riders to show up. Meanwhile, back in the desert, the riders have a morning sunrise, a sunset over Washoe Lake, and the distant night lights of Carson City to occupy their time and efforts. The ride has always attracted a lot of young people and there must be many of their classmates who look in awe on Monday morning at the handsome 100-mile buckles won by their more rugged counterparts the day before. The non-horsey tourist in Virginia City on ride day must think he has stumbled into a day right out of the old west as the riders clatter down the main street.

A noon award dinner on Sunday gives the riders an early start for home. Twenty-four hour maximum time limit.

Write: Nevada All-State Trail Riders, Inc., P.O. Box 7083, Reno, Nev. 89502.

September 23—Drakes Bay Endurance Ride—50 Miles

A pleasant way to approach the end of a summer of endurance riding is to go to Drakes Bay. What other ride gives you a chance to gallop your horse in the surf of the Pacific Ocean and view wild elk and herds of wild deer? It can be foggy or sunny, but whichever, the Point Reyes Peninsula is always special. This can be a fast ride with miles of galloping for those who are going for the top, but it can provide a serene setting for riders more interested in reflecting on the magnificence of the California coastline. The people are friendly, and while still a new ride, it is well managed and when it is all over, one regrets the passing of another endurance season. First-place, best-condition, and breed trophies are awarded at the evening barbecue in nearby Point Reyes Station. In keeping with the historical significance of the area in early California history, a Drakes Bay plaque is given to all finishers. Eleven-hour maximum time limit.

Write: California Endurance Team, Inc., General Delivery, Nicasio, Calif. 94946.

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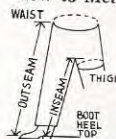


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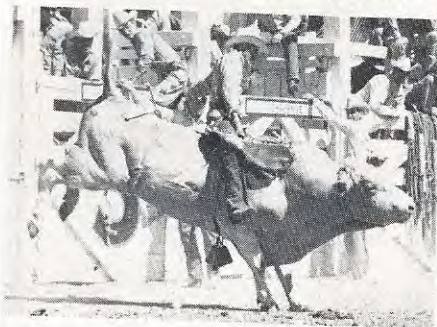
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