



Winter 2000 Newsletter

SPECIAL EVENT

Shedding Horse Social

with IaDCTA

April 15, 2000, 12:00-3:00 pm
at Kirkwood Community College,
Washington Hall

Come and meet other "horsey" minded people.
Speakers, Social Time and
Tour of Kirkwoods NEW Equine Facilities!
Contact: Nancy Barta (319)363-6687 or Dana
McCullough (515)292-9403 to **R.S.V.P.**
Contact IaDCTA about carpooling!

Next meeting - **Tuesday, March 7, 2000**
6:30-7 pm Social Time, 7 pm Lecture
At Washington Hall, Kirkwood

Topic: Dr. McNutt speaks on Changes in Equine
Medicine. For Info, contact Nancy Barta - 362-2846

Note: The regular Tuesday meeting in July would
be on the 4th, we will be hold it one week later on
Tuesday, July 11, 2000

**IF YOU HAVEN'T RENEWED
YOUR MEMBERSHIP
PLEASE DO SO ASAP!
THERE'S A FORM ENCLOSED,
USE IT OR PASS IT ONTO A FRIEND!**



Megan Ward
1228 Hertz Drive, SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403



Eastern Iowa Dressage &
Combined Training Association is a USDF Group
Member Organization • Members automatically
become USDF Group Members



For more information contact: eidcta@mwnet.com or <http://www.mwnet.com/eidcta>
Barb Putnam, *President* at 319.626.2516 or Nancy Barta, *Vice President* at 319.362.2846

EIDCTA had a planning session for it's January meeting. It
was a great turn out and we had many new ideas presented.

For our regularly scheduled meetings:

- Everyone wanted to see more Live Demonstrations; topics suggested were Reining and Driving.
- Another favorite was Veterinary Lectures, topics suggested were DJD (Degenerative Joint ?), Lower Leg Lameness, Joint Supplements, EPM, and a Lecture by Dr. Freeman, DVM.
- Have a USCTA representative come speak
- Equine Massage - Homeopathic Equine
- Saddle Fitting
- Baby Tour - Imprinting and Handling Lecture
- How to dress for a clinic.
- Presenting a well-groomed horse.
- Conditioning the horse
- Stallion Review
- Volunteering at shows

Sheri Neff offered to do a lecture on Show Preparations and Lyse Strnad has offered to host a live demonstration for our April or May meeting.

For extra events:

- Have a clinic
- Hold 'Adult Pony Club' - activities for horse and rider
- Host Schooling Shows
- Field Trips to Recognized shows
- Road trip to Rolex
- Kentucky Derby Party
- Iowa Games Rally and Party

Suggestions for the organization:

- Bring more men into the club. Why do men join the Hunt but not EIDCTA? Jim Powers & Sheri Neff volunteered to work on this.
- Keep the 'Social Time' at regular meetings as 6:30 - 7:00
- Develop a resource library.
- Create a Buddy List for volunteers willing to help groom at shows
- Create a list of people willing to share a horse at a show, to save on expenses help each other as groom.
- Put more pictures on the web site
- Do an EIDCTA directory and put in Trainers Résumés

Meanwhile your fearless leaders have been talking among themselves. We had many similar ideas. Here are the ones that were not previously mentioned

- Keep having the January meeting as dinner and planning session at The Brown Bottle in North Liberty.
- Keep our Annual Potluck at Randal's Park in Solon for each August meeting.
- Keep Tack & Yak at the Saddle & Leather as our December meeting.
- 'Fireside Chat' - the last one at the CRHC was a huge crowd and received a lot of positive response afterwards.
- Form & Function of running an event
- Show Etiquette
- Judging Preferences
- How to find a good trainer
- Dressage on the Levels
- Paul Kathen Lecture as a Special Event
- Darren Chiacchia Lecture as a Special Event

For the organization :

- Develop a budget
- Create New Member Packets
- Make Club Stationary
- Education - give certificates / recognition for continuing education (books/clinics/auditing/perfect attendance?) Present at December or January meeting.

Via email, here are Fundraising ideas from Nicole Durbin:

1. Cookbook: include a special gourmet pet section for horses, dogs and cats. Plus, other unique recipes like Nancy Barta's summer mist to keep cool at clinics and shows; snack foods people prepare for clinics and shows; drink mixes for Hunts. Plan on publishing the book in May and sell it this summer at dressage shows and clinics, horse sales etc. Maybe Barbara Hall would do the artwork for the cover.

2. Calendar of local barns, local horses and local horse people with their horses. Really push the local barns to submit a picture that they want to represent their barn, but also encourage other people to submit photos of their horses doing funny things or just really neat shots. Select the photos by August and go to print by September and have the calendars ready to sell by October 1st —Xmas gifts. Plus this would be a pictorial history.

**QUEST FOR COMMONSENSE
HORSEMANSHIP
OR
A FAVORITE BOOK SPEAKS VOLUMES**

By Charles Bennett

"Theory without practice is of little value, whereas practice is the proof of theory. It is the theoretical knowledge that will show the way to perfection. Theory is the knowledge, practice the ability. Knowledge must always take precedence over action." - Alois Podhajsky

Knowledge is acquired in many different ways - books, videos, clinics, mentors, trainers, etc. This column is devoted to our favorite books, mentors, etc., those people whom we enjoy and from whom we learn the knowledge necessary to become better horsepeople. You are encouraged to submit to this publication your favorite author, trainer, etc, so the rest of us can find a new or additional guru. In the meantime you get one of my favorite authors, Capt. Vladimir S. Littauer, (1893 - 1989 - See sidebar for more information on Littauer).

Littauer gives you his reasons why he does what he does, why he disagrees with other methods, why nothing is written in stone and why you had better think for yourself if you are going to become a horseman.

Vladimir Littauer, was a Russian cavalry officer during the first World War who escaped Russia after the revolution in the early 1920's. He came to New York City and with a couple other Russian Cavalry officers started a riding school. He mentions that Americans have little patience and want instant gratification. Gee, imagine that. We were spoiled even back then. At any rate, he developed his teaching methods based on a commonsense approach to riding based on the needs of modern day riders. According to Littauer, American riding had improved greatly by the 1970's, due mainly to female participation in equitation activities. He felt women were better riders and trainers than men were.

He was a strong advocate of forward riding, not just the forward seat. He maintained that forward riding encompassed the forward seat, forward schooling, and forward control (more on this later). Littauer's interest, in addition to teaching riding, lay in training hunters, jumpers, and hacks. His methodology consisted, both

riding and training, of three levels - elementary, intermediate, and advanced. He had definite criteria for all three levels. For example, at the elementary level the horse was ridden on a loose rein only. He considered this very primitive, but he thought many riders should be at this level so they didn't abuse their horse.

Littauer uses the term artificial when he describes the dressage movements. Collected movements might be preformed naturally by a horse but only when excited. The dressage trainer works to get the horse calm and relaxed when performing these movements. Also dressage trainers change the horses balance by shifting the weight to the hocks.

I was fascinated by the book but the main reason I liked it was because he helped me to solidify my understanding of different equitation disciplines and to understand where all the pieces of the puzzle fit concerning dressage, or natural horsemanship or any other type of training.

*Taken from the article **The 50 Most Influential Horseman of the 20th Century** in *The Chronical of the Horse*, Volume LXII, No. 52, Friday, December 24, 1999*

CAPT. VLADIMIR S. LITTAUER. 1893 - 1989

Capt. Vladimir S. Littauer, who was born in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1893, was one of the primary proponents of **Federico Caprilli's forward** seat system in North America, throughout most of the 20th century. Littauer reverently preached the theory for almost 60 years as a teacher of thousands of students and as the author of nine influential books. He died in August 1989 at age 97.

Littauer graduated as an officer from Russia's Nicholas Cavalry School, then fought in both World War I and the Russian civil war in the Imperial Russian Cavalry. But after the revolution, he fled, with his father and sister, through Siberia to Canada and then the United States. He reached New York City in 1921, and six years later he met two other former officers, with whom he formed a riding school called Boots and Saddles.

Within two years the Great Depression was raging, but Littauer and his partners were so busy teaching that they opened three more stables in New York's Westchester County, on Long Island, and in Connecti-

Riding and Training at Tempel Farms
by Barb Putnam

On December 29th, 1999, my daughter, Mandy, and I departed with our horses in tow for a week of lessons with George Williams, head trainer at Tempel Farms in Wadsworth, Illinois.

Tempel Farms is home to one of the largest herds of Lipizzan horses in the United States. During the summer months the farm puts on several performances a week, similar to the performances in Vienna. The stallions perform all the airs above the ground. The performance is very beautiful and well worth seeing. The farm also hosts the NAYRC (National Association of Young Riders Championships) every other year, an annual dressage show in June and various clinics.

Tempel Farms is a beautiful, spacious place filled with history and tradition. All of the charming buildings are painted white with green trim. The Lipizzan stallions have their own stabling area in the barn, complete with ornate stalls and aisles of inlaid patterned brick.

The weather cooperated and we had a mild, sunny day to travel. We arrived at the farm in the afternoon. The horses settled in nicely to the very comfortably heated, forty degree barn called *The Annex*. My horse, Herod, was stabled next to a very sweet Lipizzan mare.

Our lessons began the day after we arrived. We were at the barn early to check on the horses and enjoy the atmosphere. The Lipizzans are trained between 8:00-11:00 am every day. Some are ridden or lunged while others are worked in hand to train the various movements. On one occasion, a stallion did a *capriolle* right in front of me! This is the movement where the horse leaps up and kicks out behind.

It was wonderful to be around the barn during our stay and to take in all the day-to-day activities of life in a busy dressage barn. I enjoyed observing the training sessions. The level of riding and the intensity of training are inspirational. These people really ride! Some of the trainers ride all day long beginning with the stallions then going to the horses that are there for training. The

barn also houses horses that belong to boarders, yet most of the activity there occurs during the daytime and the arena is usually empty at night.

Having a lesson every day for a week was a wonderful experience and I really learned a lot. George is a patient teacher with lots of great exercises and he knows exactly when to push for the maximum effort. George would alternate the trot and canter work from day to day to prevent the horse from having any muscle soreness. It is easy to see that he loves horses and is full of praise for them during training. Each lesson was full of new challenges and new ideas for training.

We worked on Prix Saint George movements, like flying changes, canter pirouettes and lateral movements. One of the highlights for me was to begin training the passage. George is a master of training this movement and the results were really amazing. Herod really started to get the idea of it and I was on cloud nine.

Training at Tempel Farms with George Williams was an experience I will never forget. I thoroughly enjoyed my time there. I have so many things to practice and perfect.

Do I plan to go back? You bet!

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

USDF Dressage Camps for Adults

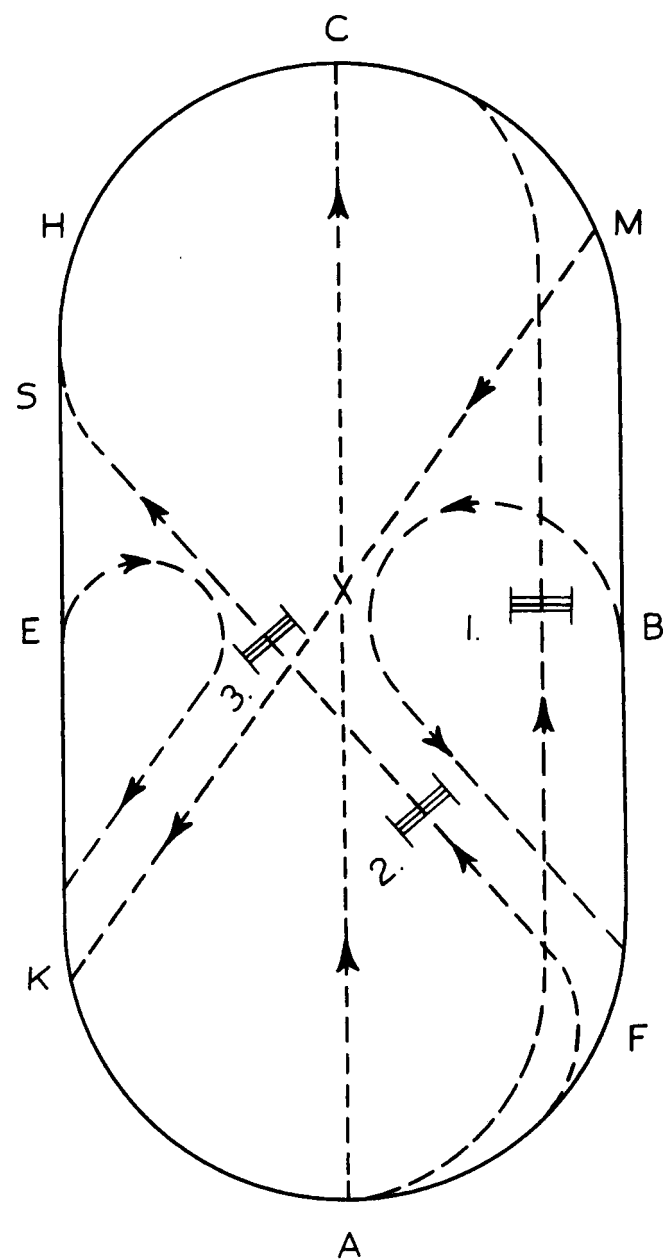
May 5-7, 2000
Denison, IA (NDA)
Beth Baumert, Sarah Giekie, Pam Lifton
Contact: Ly-Lee Funk, 712/886-5521

ABIC/USDF Region Four Championship

September 8-10
Mason City, IA
Manager: Lloyd Landkamer
612/420-2280
Qualifying Dates: 8/16/99 - 8/07/00

USDF 2000 Convention

Nov. 29-Dec. 3, 2000
Hyatt Regency
Cincinnati, Ohio
Contact: USDF office, 402/434-8550
E-Mail: usdressage@navix.net



ENTER HERE

From *Schooling Your Horse*, by Captain Vladimar S. Littauer - pages 132-134

The peculiar lettering of the arena was arrived at by retaining certain letters (only those necessary for the test) in their respective positions of the F.E.I. STATUTES—GENERAL REGULATIONS. I am not certain whether this lettering is important but I have used it thinking of those riders who participate in other tests and are accustomed to finding certain letters in certain positions.

THE PROGRAM RIDE TEST

Enter at a trot, at A, and trot on middle line to X (center of arena)

At X halt and stand still for about five seconds, then walk fast to C

at C take track to the right & start ordinary trot; trot to E at E half-circle, maintaining the speed, (about 45' in diameter); trot to K

at K halt and back six steps; resume ordinary trot and trot passing A to the straight line of approach to the obstacle # 1; gradually turn to this line.

Take the obstacle # 1 at a trot; continue trot on a straight line to the short wall which is now facing you and upon reaching it gradually take track to the left; continue ordinary trot to H

at H fast trot to K

at K ordinary trot to F

at F slow trot to B

at B start ordinary canter and canter to F (almost once around the ring)

at F change directions across the arena to S, negotiating obstacles # 2 and 3; canter to M. Nearing M you should be on the right lead and if not, then interrupt the canter to change leads somewhere between H and C

at M change directions diagonally across the arena to K, changing leads in the center at X (preferably flying change); canter to B

at B half-circle (about 65' in diameter or larger) preserving the speed of the ordinary canter and change leads when nearing the wall (preferably flying change); canter to A

at A walk, gradually getting on loose reins; walk on loose reins to E

at E gradually pick up your reins and start a canter; canter to C

at C gradually increase the speed and gallop to A

at A gradually decrease the speed and canter (ordinary) to E

at E slow down the speed as much as you can without collecting your horse; slow canter to C

at C maintaining a slow canter make a *short* turn to the middle line and continue slow canter to X

at X halt, back six steps then start ordinary trot to A at A leave the arena

I am curious as to how other people see the puzzle so I have prepared a few statements for your discussion.

1) The term "Dressage" as used today no longer means training, it is referring to the sport of Dressage. Therefore, the statement "all horses could benefit from Dressage" is inaccurate. What should be said is "all horses need training."

2) There is no perfect universal horse, one that can do everything.

3) The Natural Horsemen (Parelli, Lyons, etc.) work with the horse's natural movements whereas the Dressage trainers work with artificial gaits.

4) The Dressage portion of the 3-Day Event is not really Dressage.

Send comments to eidcta@mwnet.com and keep watching for ongoing discussions!

cut. The busy schedule couldn't keep him from writing books to help riders who couldn't get to his schools: *Jumping The Horse* (1931), *The Defense of the Forward Seat* (with Sergei Kournakoff, 1934), *Riding Forward* (1936) and *More About Riding Forward* (1938).

Littauer left the school in the late '30s but continued to teach from his home on Long Island and in a regular series of clinics at riding schools, hunt clubs and colleges around the country. Littauer also continued to write, including his two most influential books, *Commonsense Horsemanship* (1951) and *Schooling Your Horse* (1956).

A passage from *Commonsense Horsemanship* demonstrates Littauer's devotion to the Caprilli school:

"If free and quiet, horses move with long, flat strides (at all gaits), holding themselves in an extended attitude. Consequently, their constantly fluid balance is on the average a 'forward balance,' because the centre of gravity of the horse is (on the average) not over the centre of his body but over the area immediately behind the withers.

"If the horse has been schooled to move under the rider in this natural way, and is controlled in such a way that the results of schooling are preserved, then in order to be united with the horse the rider must use the Forward Seat which puts his centre of gravity over the area

I want to thank Chuck for his article. I read one of Littauer's books and have often paraphrased this quote: "I know innumerable horses which became nervous wrecks merely because too much was asked of them by riders who, without mastering the technique of doing it, just blindly followed the advice they found in books. Too many books are written by great riders exclusively for great riders without any consideration of the average ones."

On the following page is a test from Littauer's book, *Schooling Your Horse*.

I found it fascinating, since there has been club discussions about cross training; the benefits of teaching the dressage horse to jump and an article by Lendon Grey on old Dressage tests that included jumping.

I know it is a personal goal of Chuck's to be able to complete this test and live to brag about it. I also want to give it a whirl, but my mount has been explaining how it would be more efficient to skip all the turns and go straight for the jumps at a full gallop.

Good Riding Everyone! - Megan Ward

immediately behind the horse's withers. Good performance in cross-country riding and jumping depends on this unity of the Forward Seat, Forward Control and Forward Schooling.

"The better the horse is schooled, the less forceful control is necessary. The aids become mere signals, and discipline is replaced with cooperation. It is not difficult to arrive at this level, providing that the method of schooling is stripped of movements which are not essential and which easily upset the horse and hence provoke resistance, for instance — collection on a full bridle."

Wrote William C. Steinkraus in the fore word to Littauer's posthumous book *The Development of Modern Riding* (1991), "Volodya (as he permitted his friends to call him) was truly unforgettable. Though a self-contained realist, he was in fact extremely idealistic and loved theoretical ideas, even if the facts didn't work out. He was a born bibliophile, with a private equestrian library that would admit few peers.

"Not particularly interested in competitive riding per se, he was far more concerned with the needs of the average rider and the average horse. Even so, his influence extended, both directly and through such disciples as Jane Marshall Dillon, to many competitive riders, among them Bernie Traurig, Kathy Kusner and Joe Fargis."