

HORSE TIMES

EGYPT'S OFFICIAL EQUESTRIAN MAGAZINE

Free Copy

Issue#13, Jan. 2004

Exclusive!

Interview with
Princess Alia
bnt Al-Hussein

The Arabian Horse's
History
by: Judith Forbes

Plus!

Interview with Prince
Khaled
bn Abdel-Aziz

Gelgelah Al Badeia
(Imperial Madori x Anhar Albadeia)

Desi



View point

HORSE Times
Issue #13, Jan. 2004

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Permanent Press Ltd.

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HORSE Times is a **quarterly** magazine founded in 1998 in Egypt by Khaled Assem. HORSE Times is a pioneer in its field; it is issued for riders, breeders and horse lovers nationally and internationally. Issues are Complimentary, **FREE OF CHARGE**, and not for sale by any means. Please allow a period of one issue for delivery. Please notify us of any changes of address in advance.

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Khaled Assem competing at the Movenpick- 1993

Dear Readers,

A very happy new year to everyone, may 2004 bear better prosperity, happiness, health, and fortune for all. We concluded 2003 with outstanding Arabian horse festivities at Al Zahraa Stud farm and Sakkara Country Club, HORSE Times would like to extend its deepest gratitude to HRH Princess Alia and HH Prince Khaled for their participation at the Al Zahraa show and for allowing us to interview them and get their perception on different issues regarding the Arabian horse.

On a different note, Year 2004 will start with a most prominent show jumping event at the Movenpick hotel under the auspices of the Egyptian Equestrian Federation, this is the 9th time that this event takes place. We would like to congratulate General Ihab Abdel Aziz, Mr. Peter Hoesli, General Manager of the Movenpick, Mr. Adel Atta, Assistant General Manager and the Movenpick crew that worked on creating this spectacular show. In fact I have competed myself several times in this event, it really is about getting to know and meet all the foreign professional riders, "learn more and ride better." Its a wonderful event for Egypt and all of its riders

Moreover, Dr. Nasr Marei, deserves more than just congratulations; Nasr "Hats off" for you, you made us proud of our heritage with winning the world champion title with your mare Gelgelah Al Badeia.

Finally, my colleague and fellow rider, Ms. May Al-Khishen, has joined our team in HORSE Times; "welcome on board May."

Dear readers, this magazine belongs to all of us: join in, participate, and let's look forward together to a "spectacular HORSE Times!"

Sincerely,

Khaled Assem
Editor in Chief

On The COVER!

Gelgelah Al Badeia
(Imperial Madori x Anhar Albadeia)



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Let us Hear From You!

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The First Egyptian Arabian

World Champion



Dr. Nasr Marei and his winning Mare Gelgelah Al Badeia

Last December all eyes were on Paris - the "city of lights" where all the finest Arabian horses gathered from vast ends of the world to compete for one of the most prestigious titles in the equestrian world, the "World Champion". This year's star was Egypt's very own **Gelgelah Al Badeia** (Imperial Madori x Anhar Albadeia), bred by **Dr. Nasr Marei**, who took Europe by storm, winning all competitions throughout the continent, ending this year's season by becoming the **2003 World Champion**, thus being the first Egyptian Arabian mare to attain this most prestigious and sought after title in the world of all equestrian competitions. In her road towards this distinguished title she had won several European Championship titles, including "The European Championship Mare" in Verona, Italy. She has been initially trained in Egypt and actually won two times championships in the breeders Association show and left to her training center in Germany on April 2002.

On interviewing Dr. Marei, he was very proud of his seven years old mare and of its impressive performance during the last season. Moreover, Dr. Marei, was asked to give us his opinion on how could a horse breeder improve his/her horses' status, in which he responded by saying that in order for a breeder to develop a more refined eye with which s/he could evaluate his/her horses and breeding program as a whole, s/he must participate in as much shows as possible, especially in international ones.

I'm sure a lot of the members of the Egyptian horse lover world have asked themselves time and time again why has there been minimal foreign participation in Egyptian horse shows, Dr. Marei gave us the answer, which was due to the fact that foreign (especially European) breeders are constantly occupied with the shows taking place on their side of the world, adding to that the high expense of transporting their horses to Egypt.

Dr. Marei's love for horses is an inherited gift, passed on to all members of the Marei family by his grandfather, the initiator of the Arabian horse breeding program in their family. Dr. Marei believes that the sole motive for breeding horses should be the love for horses; without waiting for any form of materialistic reward in return, as that will cease to happen.

Coming to the end of our interview with one of the most prominent horse breeders of our time, Dr. Marei gave us his

own personal insight on how to improve and enhance the Arabian breeding industry in Egypt; all successful breeders like himself should try to pass on their expertise and experience to the newly rising horse breeders, hence enabling them to start off where they have already reached.

Finally, Horse Times would like to congratulate Dr. Nasr Marei and his wonderful mare Gelgelah Al Badeia on this immense achievement, wishing them even more success with each passing year ■



Gelgelah Al Badeia (Imperial Madori x Anhar Albadeia)

45th Washington International Horse Show “Where the World Comes To Ride”



The largest crowds in history at a hunter/jumper show in the United States packed the MCI Center in Washington, DC for the Friday and Saturday evening performances of the Washington International Horse Show, October 24 and 25.

Thrilling exhibitions and competitions including the Puissance and President's Cup Grand Prix, terrier races, bull riding, barrel racing, and trick riding (including jumping over fire) kept the spectators cheering and the atmosphere in the MCI Center electric.

Ticket sales were up 33% over last year, and the show, a charitable non-profit organization, gave \$150,000 to the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation and will donate the remainder of its proceeds to other worthy local and national charities.

Christopher Reeve received the donation check from Show President Dr. Sheila Johnson on Saturday evening. Before he could begin to speak, he was given a 6-minute standing ovation. "This is one happening horse show," Reeve told the thousands of spectators. "Rock on!" "Johnson has turned the show into an A-list celebration of all people and things equine," wrote the Washington Post. Johnson hosted an invitation-only party in the café overlooking the arena attended by key sponsors, participants, and VIPs including Bruce Springsteen and his wife Patti Scialfa, who were there to cheer on their daughter who qualified for the prestigious WIHS Equitation Finals. Johnson also arranged for singers Patti Austin and Peabo Bryson to perform during course builds.

"This show has just been unbelievable. I've never seen so many spectators at a horse show. It's great to ride out there and have so many people cheering," commented Aaron Vale, who won the \$100,000 President's Cup for the second time in 3 years. "There's nothing else like this in the United States," said McLain Ward, who won the Leading Jumper Rider award. Course designer Richard Jeffery stated, "There was a fabulous audience here this week. The audience here was the biggest I have ever seen at a horse show, and the audience seems to be getting more educated about the different equestrian competitions each year."

Extensive media coverage of the show, including all the NBC's Today Show, all local television networks and the Washington Post, Washington Times, and many top radio stations helped achieve records crowds. The Friday and Saturday evening performances were designed for spectators, complete with pyrotechnics, acrobats from France who jumped the courses on foot, and Kiss Cam and Fan Cam.

Johnson commented on next year's plans which are already underway, "My only problem now is figuring out what can we do next year to top this!" ■



South Africa bans British rider!!

By: Carol Phillips

The BSJA is investigating allegations of equine abuse surrounding British showjumper David McPherson, who has been banned from competing in South Africa

British show jumper **David McPherson** has been banned from taking part in any future jumping competitions in South Africa following allegations of equine abuse, which are currently being investigated by the BSJA. In a circular sent to South African National Equestrian Federation members, the federation says it received "numerous complaints, video tapes and photographs" following the South African Derby in Johannesburg last month, relating to the abuse of horses and involving a number of its own riders as well as David.

The federation has said it "will leave no stone unturned in order to deal with the guilty parties in the strongest terms" and has passed the complaints and supporting evidence relating to David to the BEF, which in turn has passed it on to the BSJA. The BSJA would not confirm the details of the allegations but said that it is undertaking its own investigating at present and will pass the matter on to the stewards if necessary.

BSJA spokeswoman Jackie Knightly says: "Incidents like this are damaging for all concerned - for the sport, the rider and ultimately and most importantly, the horse. The BSJA does not condone anything that has a negative impact on horses' welfare and will do our utmost to prevent it from happening." The BSJA is aware that, historically, there have been horse welfare issues relating to performance enhancement and believes it is mainly a commercial problem.

"The more money that is available, the more competitive people become and, in some unacceptable cases, it is the horses that suffer. This is not just applicable to show jumping, it is relevant to every sport," explains Jackie. The association has been extremely active in promoting equine welfare within show jumping, with initiatives introduced to stamp out unsuitable behaviour including the stipendiary stewards scheme.

"The stipendiary stewards are in the collecting rings at shows to ensure every horse competing is comfortable and able to enjoy the sport. They can advise members on issues such as biting and ill-fitting tack, and also have the power to check the inside of boots and bandages, to ensure the horse is comfortable. "If, for example, any foreign objects were found inside a boot or bandage it would be viewed extremely seriously by the stewards." David McPherson has strongly denied the allegations ■

Welcome Back!

9th Movenpick International Equestrian Competition

BY: May Elkhishen

After a long seven year break from their last competition, the Movenpick Hotel and Casino Cairo- Heliopolis is proud to announce its hosting of the 9th International Equestrian competition from the 9th to 17th of January here in Egypt.

Mr. Peter Hoesli, the General Manager of the hotel is very enthusiastic about its participation in organising the competition, working in coordination with General Ehab Abdul Aziz, a well known equestrian technical consultant and international judge.

This very much awaited event will be held under the patronage of Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Youth and Sport, the Egyptian Equestrian Federation, all in cooperation with the Police Sports Union.

The Movenpick Hotel and Casino Cairo- Heliopolis is located in metropolitan Cairo, where it has a large garden, ideally suited to become a marvellous riding arena perfect to stage such a spectacular event.

What signifies this upcoming event? The answer to this question lies in the "Perfect" mix used to make this

event a smashing success.

The first ingredient is Egypt's perfect winter weather, breathtaking tourist attractions and horse loving people, followed by that is the fact that all courses have been laid out by Frank Rothenberger of Aachen, Germany, who has promised that all courses will be a challenge for all riders.

Adding to that, the International Equestrian Federation (F.E.I.) is going to sanction the competition and will be represented in Cairo by its senior officers attending the competition.

After that comes the final and most important ingredient of this wondrous mix, the riders participating in the event, varying from the country's best local riders and a total of 36 top international riders from 25 different countries from all over Europe and the Middle East.

Amongst these great riders are; Jos Lansik from Belgium, currently ranked 4th in the F.E.I., his most recent achievement was winning 1st and 2nd places in this year's Major Individual competition held in

Details of the event

Monday the 12th of January, 2004:

Class no. 1:

It's the international class, with maximum height 120cm, speed of 350m/min

This class includes the F.E.I. rules for show jumping events and this competition is of one around against the clock.

Thursday the 15th of January, 2004:

Class no.2:

The "Grand Prix" class is of maximum height 135cm, speed 375m/min, it is also under the rulings of the F.E.I. for show jumping events.

The competition is over two non-identical rounds with the second round against the clock. 25 percent of riders of the first round return for

the second based on the penalties and the time in the first round.

Friday the 16th of January, 2004:

Class no.3:

A special competition for mixed teams of 3 to 4 riders per team in the first round, the second round only 3 riders per team and no drop score, in case of a jump off, only one rider per team can participate.

The class is with maximum height 125cm, speed 350m/min; this class includes the F.E.I. rules for show jumping events. The competition is judged under the table and not against the clock of two identical rounds and one jump-off against the clock for first place.

Bordeaux and Zurich respectively. Also from Belgium, Samantha McIntosh whose recent achievement was winning 1st in last year's (2002) Major Individual competition in Munchen.

Coming from Italy is Massimo Grossato, latest achievement was winning 2nd place in the 2002 Nation's Cup.

There are several riders from Germany like, Rene Tebbel, his latest achievement was winning 2nd place in this year's Major Individual competition in Dortmund.

Another qualified German rider is Heinrich Engemann, who won the 2002 Major Individual competition in Gijon. Also from Germany is Egypt's very own Andre Sakakini, whose latest achievements were winning 1st place in the 2002 Mixed competition in Switzerland and winning 1st in Vejer de la Frontera in Spain.

A long time has been spent trying to come up with a 7-day fun-filled and entertaining week for the event's guests; here are some of the things planned; on Saturday 10th all riders will choose their horses at the Cavalry department.

Some of the most important



Part of the Movenpick garden that will be used as a riding arena during the event.

places that are to take place during the week are paying a visit to Zahraa stud farm for Arabian horses, a planned trip to Sharm el Sheikh.

Finally, a farewell gala dinner in the Malikat ballroom at the Movenpick hotel and Casino will be organized for all the participants and guests.

A full day trip to Alexandria is planned, which will include visiting King's Ranch equestrian club, sponsored by the Egyptian Equestrian Federation. (E.E.F.)

We would like to welcome all the international riders, judges, participants and audience who will be present in this honoured event. And good luck to all participants competing in the event ■



Right to left: Engineer Atef Abd Alhamid, Chairman of Egypt Air, Dr. Mamdouh El Beltagy, Minister of Tourism, Nermeen Magdy, Movenpick PR manager, Mr. Samy Negm, Equestrian Federation board member, Mr. Peter Hoesli, Movenpick General Manager, and General Ihab Abd Alaziz, international Judge & organizer.

Complete list of international Riders

1. Mr. Philippe Rossi France
2. Mr. Markus Marshformann Germany
3. Mr. Sadyr Mamytov Dubai
4. Mr. Alfredo Fernands Duran Spain
5. Ms. Jonella Ligresti Italy
6. Mr. Joa Aragao Belgium
7. Mr. Attila Szase Hungary
8. Mr. Barnabas Heversy Hungary
9. Mr. Michal Aabo Germany
10. Mr. Thomas Schepers Germany
11. Mr. Rob Ehrens Switzerland
12. Mr. Marcel Groen Netherlands
13. Mr. Jan Brock Netherlands
14. Mr. Francois Mathy Belgium
15. Mr. Merethe Jensen Netherlands
16. Mr. Jean Wingis Netherlands
17. Mr. Yasser El Sherif Syria
18. Mr. Khaled El Zibibi Syria
19. Mr. Wassim Anzerouti Syria
20. Mr. Aghti Kabani Syria
21. Mr. Francis Kasselmann Germany
22. Mr. Simone Pollmann Schwedhorst Spain
23. Mrs. Martha Ortega Italy
24. Ms. Massimo Grossato Belgium
25. Mr. Jos Lansink Germany
26. Mr. Rolf Goran Bengtsson Germany
27. Ms. Helena Lundbaeck Frankfurt
28. Ms. Samantha McIntosh Belgium
29. Mr. Jean Claude Van Geenberghes Belgium
30. Ms. Samantha Detheux Belgium
31. Mr. Rene Tebbel Germany
32. Mr. Juan Carlos Gracia Italy
33. Ms. Maryline Vorpe Switzerland
34. Mr. Andre Sakakini Egypt
35. Mr. Markus Merschformann Germany
36. Mr. Henrich Engemann Germany

The Egyptian National Arabian horse Championship



This Year's Egyptian National Arabian Championship was held on December 12th & 13th in Sakkara Country Club; under the auspices of H.E Prime Minister Dr. Atef Ebaid. Eighty eight colts and stallions, within ten different classes, participated in the competition. For the qualifying classes, each of the following categories were judged separately on a scale from 1-20: type, head and neck, body and top line, legs, and movement.

As for the results; first the Junior National Colt champion is 'Hafeed Ali Al Dahab' (MA Alisha x Ken Alya) owned by El Sharbatly, and the reserved Champion is 'Ajmal Sinan' (Ansata Hejazi x Sinana) owned by Al Khorafi. Moreover, the National Stallion Champion is Ghazal Sakr (Shaheen x Alidarra) owned and bred by Sakr, and the reserved Champion is 'Simeon Sharar' (Asfour x Simeon Shoala) owned by Al-Badeia.

Furthermore, after this two day championship, The Egyptian Arabian Horse Breeders Association (EAHBA) organized a seminar in Sakkara Country Club on "how to judge Arabian horses". This seminar is the first to be held in Egypt. The main goal of holding such a seminar is to help the breeders understand and know the basis upon which judges give points to the horses, which could help them develop a judging eye that is close to that of the international judges. Mr. Ahmed Abdel Razek, Secretary of the EAHBA, mentioned

that around thirty to forty breeders wanted to attend the seminar, however they had to allow for only thirty breeders to attend.

The seminar was given by Mr. Pat Maxwell who was the chairman of the European Commission for Arabian Horses Organization (ECAHO) for eighteen years, and Mr. Klaus Beste from Germany. According to Mr. Abd El Razek, breeders who succeeded in passing the seminar, will take an inter-

national judging course next March, and will be registered as international judges in the ECAHO ■



The Two winning Stallions.



Breeders attending the seminar in Sakkara Country Club.

Al Zahraa International Event

By: May El-Khishen

Through out the course of history, the Egyptian Arabian horse has always been an icon of beauty and utter elegance, in order to prolong their greatness the Arabian horse breeders' association was created more than 13 years ago. The association's members were primarily a group of stable farms cooperating together to reach their initiative objective, which was to fund the preservation and protection of the Egyptian Arabian horse.

The association's activities have evolved to organising an annual festival/competition at Muhatat Al Zahraa, homeland to all these glorious events. Muhatat Al Zahraa is looked upon as the origin of all Egyptian Arabian horses in the whole world. Adding to that is that all horses and stud farms in the country must be registered there, it also being the official registrar of the W.A.H.O. (World Arabian Horse Organisation)

Last October (17th to the 20th) Muhatat Al Zahraa has hosted its 10th Egyptian National competition and its 6th International competition for Arabian horses. HORSE Times had the privilege to interview Ms. Naila Hayek, an international judge from Switzerland and Mr. Ahmed Abdel Razik, Secretary of the Arabian Horse Breeding Association, through which we try to deliver to our readers two of the most influential perspectives of the event, the judge's and the breeder's point of view.

On interviewing Mr. Abdel Razik, this is how he started talking about this competition and of course Egyptian Arabian horses: "Primarily, I would like to give you a brief insight on what differentiates an Arabian horse from an Egyptian Arabian horse. The Egyptian Arabian horses are the ones registered in Egypt, and their ancestors can be traced hundreds of years back, back to the very early horses, which were registered through the very first Egyptian breeding program, initiated by Mohamed Ali Tawfik pasha the first, prince Kamal Hussien and Ali pasha Sherif.



Mr. Ahmed Abdel Razik and his son Adel

Moreover, I can proudly say that the Egyptian Arabian horse is the purest of all Arabians, as the Egyptian registration authorities were among the first to actually start implementing the process of registering the horse and its origins. An example of two of this industry's unbeatable horses were "Shahin Nawasha," bred by Omar Sakr and "Mubarak Ikhnaton," bred by Mostafa Omar of the Ikhnaton stables.

HORSE Times then asked Mr. Abdel Razik to tell us how can a regular person who just enjoys watching horses become a successful breeder?

"If you do not see a beautiful horse, you wouldn't know what a beautiful horse really is." The first step is to teach one self how to have an analytical view, be able to distinguish each horse's unique characteristics, whether by watching horses at competitions or in different stable farms. According to what will catch your eye, you will be able to decide upon the characteristics you seek most to find in your horses, followed by that is the actual process of selecting the mare and sire's origins, then you can finally start your program. Breeding programs are evaluated every seven years, as by then the breeder will have two consecutive generations of the horses s/he have bred.

Asking Mr. Abdel Razik about the beauty competitions held, he started off by saying that the aim of these competitions is simply to motivate all stables to continuously work on breeding better horses, using the "competition" concept as a tool to enhance and develop their horses' physical appearance thus improving their breed. It is also thought of as a great opportunity for all stables to evaluate their production, by seeing how the outcome of their work has turned out to be, depending on their achievements in the competitions.

The interview ended by touching upon the positive and the negative points of this last competition from Mr. Abdel Razik's point of view. During the last 5 to 7 years, competitions in Egypt have developed immensely, creating a healthy competitive environment among all stud farms, which has helped establish each stud farm's own distinctive method of breeding and improving the quality of the participating horses. "I have to admit that this last competition has improved relatively but there were still some drawbacks that need to be worked on, like advertising and publicity, and the organisation in general as, for example, the sequence of participants was not in order and lastly the number tags and presenters' uniforms needed slight redesigning. However, the increase in the number of participants was very impressive."

Mrs. Naila Hayek honored us with her presence in the event and she was also one of the international judges appointed to judge the competition. Mrs. Hayek is also the regional manager of the well-known valuable LONGINES brand name. Our interview with Mrs. Hayek went as follows:

H.T: When where you first introduced to the Arabian horse world?

I have to say that I have been introduced to this Arabian horse society 20 years ago. I bought my first Arabian horse from Al-Zahraa here in 1977, so I have been breeding Egyptian Arabian horses for over 20 years now. My first experience was here in this office, Dr. Marsafie's office. He was the first to tell me all about the old horses, I did not see them because they were dead. He told me about all the old lines "don't touch this one because it is difficult to breed and here you have some problems with the legs". So I learned a lot of these things from Dr. Marsafy and I really appreciate him and I think he is one of the really good old breeders.

H.T: Since you are a horse breeder, it's known that Egypt and the Arab world used to be the sole providers of Arabian horses. However, now there are competitors and they are doing much better. What do you have to say concerning this issue?

I don't think its right to say "they do better"; you know Egypt was and still is a source of pure Arab blood for the Egyptian Arab Horse, and I think we really have to preserve it. I think this kind of breed is in danger since the 70s, all or most of the really good horses were sold for a lot of money to stables and now good horses are sold to the United Arab Emirates, to Qatar, and to Saudi Arabia. I think we have to keep some of the good horses here in Egypt so as to keep the source of the breed. So I think it's really dangerous; selling horses is good to promote the breed, but you have to keep some old lines, because if you lose it, it's going to be over.

H.T: A lot of breeders are against cross breeding between Arabian horses and other breeds, what is your opinion concerning this issue?

I am not against it, but I think it's only a 'gain' for the other breeds. So the Arab horse was always used to cross breed with other breeds and I think they have to do it because they need the hardness, the heart, and the courage of the Arabian horse. But we should really try to preserve this blood, its very important.

H.T: When we first say Longines of course everybody thinks of elegance, eminence and luxurious images, what comes to your mind when we say an Arabian horse?

For me it's the same. It's luxury, its beauty; it's a really special expression.

H.T: In your opinion, what is it that makes them so special or unique?

The Arabian horse is really special because of its personality. If you ever own an Arab horse, and you own other horses, you will see the difference.

Arabian horses are so clever, they always try to be your friend, try to create a bond or a relationship with you, and always try to do what is good for you; this is a really important thing about the Arab horse.



Mrs. Naila Hayek

When *Royal* is NOT just a title...

"I think a good Arabian horse should have the same qualities; so I am not very much pro saying Egyptian or Jordanian or whatever and they all really come from the same "Manba'a" or origin. But Egypt obviously has a wonderful place and has its standing internationally"



Her cheerful smile, welcoming voice, and modesty reflects her heritage of nobility; her Royal Highness Princess Alia Al Hussein Al Saleh, is her title and she sure is royal. It was my first time to meet a prince and meeting princess Alia made it quite a lovely first experience. Although it was a long tough day of judging in the competition Princess Alia agreed without hesitation to meet us for an interview. She even answered all our questions with deep insight and details, and a delightful smile on her face. I would like to cease this opportunity and thank the Princess for her time, effort, words, and above all her royal friendliness.

What is the first thing that comes to your mind when the word "Arabian Horse" is mentioned?

I have a slightly visual memory, so I think I just see one. But I think it is something closely related to history, it's something positive and nice. It's beautiful, it's clever, and it's like a good force.

How many horses do you have?

Well in the national stud we have around 140.

Do you have a special horse?

They are all special; I suppose the present world champion, which we bred and his great grand mother was my great grand father's mare probably is the most special, his name is "Helayl Ramada" he was the reserved champion last year; then sadly the champion was disqualified and he become champion. It's not a very nice way to win, but I was very proud that he was reserved champion anyway.

How old is he?

He is seven this year.

In your opinion, what is the significance of this festival?

It is very important because I think it's a good chance, and it's really nice also that it's international this year, because it's very important for us as breeders to be able to assess our horses against other competitors, even here there are horses from abroad that all show recently. It's also good because you get a different perspective; i.e. it doesn't really matter what you do on the day, as long as the horses look good and show well because it could be first one day, it could be champion the next, it could be tenth the day after with the same group of horses. A lot of it depends on the mood, how well they go and also the eyes of different judges. Judges have different priorities, obviously it should be basically a good horse, a pretty horse and a sound horse that move well, but everyone has a slightly different taste. This difference is nice because it also makes you realize it's not conclusive, it just means that hopefully it's a good opportunity to try again and just to grade yourself among the other competition, but it really shouldn't mean that one takes it too seriously.

What makes the Arabian horse superior to other Horses?

Well, its beauty that is most obvious, and quality; but it's also extremely intelligent, brave and very good with endurance and long distance. This is the reason why people, from Europe and from all

over the world, through out history have been wanting to get Arab Horses and to mix them with the breeds they had; even if they weren't pure bred, they always add the qualities which they have. They add quality without distracting anything, so they've always improved other breeds and that is another reason why the breeders use them because they add quality, beauty, and courage.

Are there any differences between the Egyptian and Arabian horses?

Well, Egypt had obviously its sort of group of horses for many years which are registered and internationally accepted and they have been reasonably in a quiet tight circle, that they have a certain type now that people recognize. Mainly they are not being extremely pretty, but I believe also that they are good long-distance and race horses which is nice maybe a left hand side of it. I think the danger with shows sometimes is that people just care for a horse to be pretty and stops being a functional animal, but I think he should be both. It's nice to see athletic animals here as well and be able to always see that in shows all over the world.

Could you rank the Egyptian Horse with other Arabian blood lines?

It's hard to say the rank of the Egyptian horse abroad, there are clubs here to straighten this up. But I think the main thing is that they are all Arab horses. The Egyptian horses do have a kind of look that people tend to recognize, but I think a good Arabian horse should have the same qualities; so I am not very much pro saying Egyptian or Jordanian or whatever and they all really come from the same "Manba'a" or origin. But Egypt obviously has a wonderful place and has its standing internationally, when you say Egyptian there is a certain type of horse that people think of; it has a very extreme kind of head, a lot of personality, and I think also it has a strong character.

How does the Arabian horse bred in the Arab countries compete on the world level?

Oh, I think they can compete easily; the nice thing is that now I think most of the Arab part of the world really established themselves on the world scene and we are able to compete in Europe and in America. This is because now we have our own shows and our inhandlers and people are getting much better and starting to be able to really condition the horses, take them abroad and compete on other people's terms and still win; I think that's a notion we should be proud of. Like Dr. Marei have a wonderful Mare "Gelgelah Al-

Badeia" who did fantastic on the world's scene last year and it's really something we should be proud of. It's great when you go there, ok it's all the Arabian horse but it's nice to see the Arab horse that has been bred by Arabs, not just bought by them, actually doing nice. We had a couple of shows together and you know we kind of support each other, and even when each of us had only one horse left still competing and we actually get results with that one; its fantastic, especially when it's a horse that your family bred; its lovely.

During a certain time in the USA all the Arabian horse breeders were tax exempted so as to encourage them, why don't we apply this in the Arab world?

You should speak with the ministers about that, I wish it would happen, because it is obviously rather expensive, you know horses are expensive to maintain, obviously it would be great. But in a way it wasn't so good also abroad because the prices went up astronomically. It wasn't realistic and a lot of people went into it as an investment but not for the good of the horse. So maybe this is in a way for the good of the actual horse so that the people, who own them, would really want to work with them and it is not just a play thing. But everything has its good and bad side.

How would genetic engineering affect the purity and originality of the horse?

I don't think it should affect the purity because they are all pretty much documented now, and I think no matter how much we try to Engineer things "Rabena" (God) has his own plans of nature or whatever you want to call it. I think no matter how clever we try to be, God is going to step ahead; he is the creator. I am not very much for fuddling around with things. However, I might say that now, but maybe if I had a mare that I want to get a particular foal from and she had a problem maybe I would resort to it. So it's easy to talk but sometimes we don't apply it in life; but I think the less we mess around with things the better.

Could you rank all the countries that breed the Arabian horse?

I think every country has good quality horses, now its becoming so international, but really it's hard to say that because there are also artificial insemination and its really difficult. I mean America has the largest number, but when they are not necessarily winning and again they have a certain different kind of an eye. Really it's hard to say. I think Jordan and Egypt were the first to have their stud books accepted within certain indigenous horse's records. Now I think almost most if not all the Arab countries have Arab horses and they did great in that. Most of Europe, Eastern Europe, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand have very good horses. Australia used to have a reputation that "the English took their bad horses to Australia"; but in fact when we went there we were pleasantly surprised. They had beautiful horses, and also very athletic because they use them, they still use them to work with cattle and so they actually are very good physically as well, they are not just pretty. Obviously America, South America

have been to really interesting places in Arabian horses. In Argentina once, I had an Arabian horse and the guards were like "what is this pretty little horse" but when they rode it one day, the next day they asked "could we ride the Arabian again?!" And know there are a lot of cattle farms in America, in fact, just drive Arabian horses. They say when you are on the saddle, you want a horse that would help you and do part of the work for you and the Arabian horses Anticipates and are able to take a lot of the load off and the stress off the human beings. They do what you want; they are clever even when working with other animals.

Are you with or against cross breeding?

As long as you don't try and pass off a non-pure bred as a pure bred, its fine. I think on the contrary you add quality and the genetic rule is widened, I don't have a problem with it, as long as you don't try to say it is Arabian or it isn't - that's fine.

How different do you find this festival from last year's?

This year it is slightly more organized I think. The handlers this year are much quieter, much calmer with the horses. I wish they could be still a bit calmer and just let the horses understand what is it they want from them. But maybe it's hard for them because they haven't been to a lot of shows themselves. It's different because they see professionals coming from abroad and doing certain movements and they don't know why they should do them; that could confuse everyone. I noticed yesterday, I was trying to explain to one of the jurors, that some of the handlers who obviously maybe just had one or two horses and they really didn't think they knew what they are doing. They were much quieter and in fact they got a better performance out of the horse because they weren't confusing it. The ones who thought they knew a lot were really actually just confusing everyone. Really it is a very clever animal and it could do what you want if it knows what the message is; but when you run one minute and pull it the next, they get confused. So I think they should just take it slowly, but it's difficult when the pressure is on and everyone is excited, I understand.

What do you think of the media coverage of this festival and of horse back riding events in general?

In fact I think it is extremely important, because we noticed at home that when the media started covering it properly and putting it on television, people started enjoying it more and understanding what it is about. Even sometimes when the media cover such events, they didn't actually know what they are talking about very well, so they just get statements from someone and print it; sometimes though I attended an event, I don't understand what they say about it later on T.V, so it's difficult. I think that the media should attend more, and then they will get more of an eye themselves, they would start enjoying it more, and they would be able to relay it much better to people. It will really have a big impact on how much people like to go to shows and enjoy them; it becomes much more interesting for everyone to follow the news and to get involved in it ■



Her Royal Highness Princess Alia with the international Judges during the 6th international Championship for Arabian Horses.



Her royal Highness with one of her horse in Jordan.

The Pure Arabian PRINCE

His Highness Prince Khaled Ibn Abdullah bn Abdel Aziz honored us with his presence in this year's 10th Egyptian National Championship & the 6th International Championship for Arabian Horses in Al-Zahraa stud farm. Interviewing Prince Khaled was like "sailing into the lands of wisdom and experience"; his love and passion for Arabian Horses and the fact that he lives where all Arabian horses originated "Saudi Arabia", were combined together to bring us a deep insight of the Arabian horse. We thank prince Khaled for his time and for the most valuable information.

What is the first thing that comes to your mind when the word Arabian horse is mentioned?

The origins of it, with this I mean Saudi Arabia, the place were Prophet Mohamed was, Al Gazira Al Arabia.

What's the difference between an Arabian horse and any other breed?

In my opinion, I think all other types of horses came from Arabian horses. It is just a mixture between the far bred horses and an Arabian Stallion.

We heard that the Israeli and Americans through genetic engineering are sort of competing with the Arabian countries and the Arab world in breeding horses. How far is that true?

I never heard of that, but definitely America, Europe, and other countries have excellent Arabian horses. And unfortunately they have been taking more and better care of it than the Arabian countries for the past 30 or 40 years. But now, I think in the past ten years, Saudi Arabia concentrated more and I believe in the next ten or twenty years we will gain back the beauty in the Saudi Arabian breed.

Does this mean that they sort of passed us in breeding, I mean are their breeds better?

They did, not only in the past 40 years, more than that. They have been concentrating on it and valuing it, while we were totally ignoring it, except in few Arabian countries. One of the countries that tried to hold the quality of what we call "the Egyptian blood" is Egypt, because the Egyptian line is now one of the best breeds.



Regarding this issue, why is the differentiation? You said in the beginning that Arabian horses originated from Saudi Arabia and we are all Arab countries, why is there today differentiation between the Egyptian breed and the Arabian breed?

They are all Arabian horses but each one has different characteristics as Arab. And it doesn't mean that one is better than the other one, it is just that each one has a different type of beauty, and a different type of strength.

What do you think of cross breeding?

We only breed from the same family of horses, we have a pure Saudi breed, we don't compete with it in beauty contests, we only compete with it in races. They are not the most beautiful horses, but we are proud of it because it is a pure Saudi and we try to protect it. I am with cross breeding so long as it is an Arabian horse, not with other kinds of horses because the Arabian horses have to be pure.

What are the determinants of the value of the Arabian horse? What makes one horse very expensive and the other not?

Normally we see the blood line, the sire, and the mare, also the beauty of the horse. Some kinds of horses are only for racing; like the French I believe have the best Arabian racing horses.

How long have you been in the breeding horses industry?

Breeding horses! You better say "how long I have been in love with horses?" I started riding horses when I was only six years old, but I don't ride them now ■



His Highness Prince Khaled with Khaled bn Laden during the 6th international championship for Arabian Horses..



His Highness Prince Khaled and Her Highness princess Alia bnt Al-Hussein and his winning horse during the 6th international championship for Arabian Horses.

The Hilton King's Ranch: A Riding Paradise!!

"The most exquisite creature after man is the horse, the best employment is that of rearing it, the most blessed of all domestic actions is that of feeding it and the most delightful posture is that of sitting on its back."

BY: May Elkhishen

The King's Ranch is ideally situated outside the city, next to Borg El Arab airport, 10.5km of Borg El Arab road, between the Alex/Cairo desert road (28km from Alex and 190km away from Cairo) taking you away from the hustle and bustle of the traditional city life. This unique location enables you to



fully enjoy all the facilities and services provided there, making it an unforgettable experience for you, your friends or family, and last but not least your horse.

All of you in the equestrian world for sure know what is expected to be found in a riding club or an equestrian centre: at least one riding arena, some horses, stables, grooms and an instructor; but what differentiates King's Ranch and makes it stand out amongst the rest of all other traditional riding clubs here in Egypt?

From the moment you set foot inside, you are spellbound by the magnificent sight that lies before you, a rider, horse lover and even horses' true heaven. Entering from the club's main gate, you will notice that it is separated by an s-shaped path, dividing the club into two sections. The left section includes two grass arenas (official Olympic size, 90 times 70 meters), surrounded by two warm up sand and fiber arenas (60 x 40 meters). Where as the right section includes two other warm up sand and fiber arenas, situated in between them is an Olympic sized sand and fiber arena. All arenas have automated sprinklers and night lights enabling riders to enjoy riding at anytime of the day, even during the evening. Coming to the end of the path you will find an area designed especially for lounging horses or ponies, behind that is the stable area. The stable area consists of three yards; each containing a total of twenty-four stables, in the midst of each yard is a square-shaped garden, so not only do us (humans) get to enjoy a great view from our rooms, but so do our horses!! On the right side of these yards, there is a newly installed walker, and another one hundred and ten stables.

Since Alexandria is famous for its rainy winter season, King's Ranch is currently constructing a new covered sand and fiber arena (next to the 110 stables, similar to the covered arena in the Police riding club/ Basateen), hence creating a solution for the wet and muddy rides, which frustrates both the horse and rider. The entire club is surrounded by a sand and fiber track, being an essential form of exercising your horse and also a great treat for the horse and his/her rider.



One of the very unique services King's Ranch provides is organizing tutorial sessions, i.e. clinics in numerous horses and riding related fields by some of the world's most distinguished experts in the equestrian field. An example of the different sessions held there under the auspices of the F.E.I. (Federation Equestrian International): course designing (given by Olaf Peterson), judging and for farriers.

Others were focusing on increasing one's veterinary skills given by Ludger Beerbaum's (my favorite rider) vet, Rudiger Brems, who will be coming from three to four times per year. Moreover, various instructors from all around Europe have already given training sessions, like Barnabas Heversy from Hungary, Thierry Pommel from France, Robert Ehrens and Arno Neessen from the Netherlands. Furthermore, the club is also planning to organize sessions, given by international experts to local vets, on how to undergo surgical operations on horses.

Well, I'm sure that all of you horse lovers who have already been there before must have known all that, but do any of you know that there's still more hidden surprises! According to King's Ranch equestrian club manager, Mr. Abdullah Christopher Sargis, a new riding school is expected to open as of January 2004, him being in charge of it. And to all you Polo players, a new arena is being developed about five hundred meters away from the club, which will be dedicated only to Polo, with a 1km sand and fiber track surrounding it, which is expected to start operating sometime next year.

There's one more piece of good news, after last summer's competition season's success, King's Ranch has decided to make this an on going tradition every summer. To start with, this summer will definitely be a busy one in the King's Ranch as several riders and horse lovers from all over Eastern Europe (Russia, Bosnia, etc...) are coming this June, to ride at the ranch.

Moreover, when you're not riding, taking care of your horse or competing, there's more than one way to pamper or entertain yourself, you can laze around by the pool, without having to worry about your children, they have got their own pool or you could even enjoy sitting in an open air Jacuzzi, or you feel energetic and fit, you could go workout at the gymnasium or play a round of tennis, or you could try out one of their restaurants, they have got an exquisite collection, one to suit each and every mood, even sitting in your hotel room is bound to be enjoyable, all this is managed by Hilton, one of the world's most successful hotel chains throughout the world.

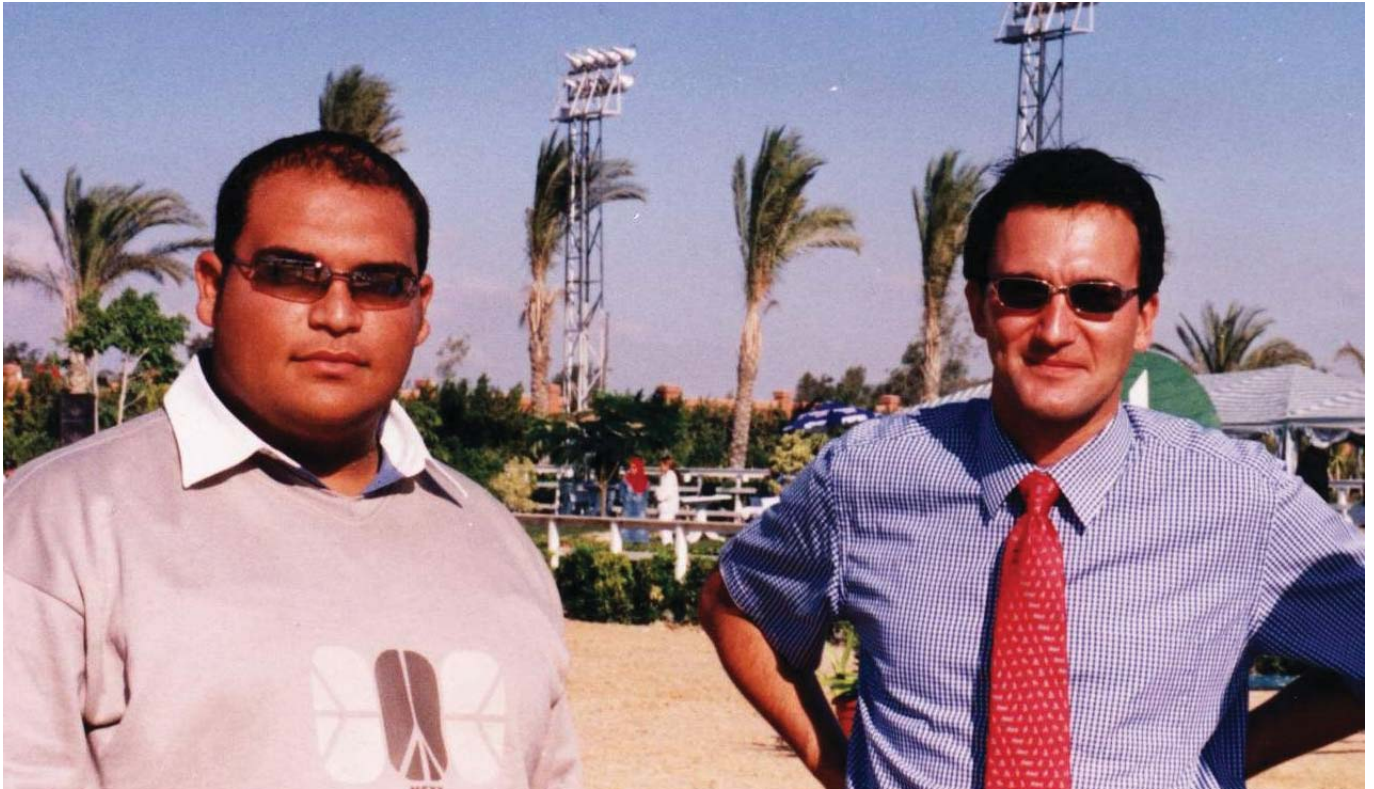
King's Ranch has been declared to be the official club of the African Equestrian Federation, which is headed by one of the place's co-owners Eng. Abdelfatah Ragab, also the president of the Egyptian Equestrian Federation. This makes Eng. Ragab's aims at improving horseback riding not only in Egypt, but all over Africa. King's Ranch long term objective is to be able to be perceived by anyone in the equestrian community or wishes to become part of it, as an ideal place for a fun and horse filled holiday, and I guess they are definitely reaching it.

Everyone out there, if you're a horse lover and addict, like myself then I'll definitely see you there!!



Straight From The Heart

By: Ahmed Talaat



Ahmed Talaat and the international course designer Mr. Olaf Peterson Junior

This summer I went to Hungary with the Egyptian team during their training, where I also had the chance to work in the Hungarian championship with Olaf Petersen junior, our last season's course designer. During one of my friendly conversations with Mr. Peterson, we talked about show jumping in Egypt; Mr. Peterson mentioned that show jumping advanced to a great degree that we could easily say "show jumping in Egypt and Hungary are on the same level of competition".

Moreover, he also thinks that the Egyptian show jumping national team improved during the last period. When Mr. Peterson saw the team for the first time, here in Egypt he felt that they need way more training to be able to compete. However, when he met them in Germany during the last summer training, he was fascinated by the progress they have achieved in show jumping in general and in passing his dad's tough courses. Although some of them faced some difficulties with the 'water jump', this could be justified, since they did not practice it during the season in Egypt. However, he believes that overall the team is doing very well.

Asking him about the courses he designs in Egypt, Mr. Peterson joked about the fact that "most of the riders here in Egypt don't like him and hate his courses!!" as they believe his courses were too tough and technical. However, he is also sure that the riders will start liking his courses when they compete internationally since they won't find the big difference, they always faced, between the courses they are used to in their training, and the courses designed in the international shows.

Designing an easy course is not a problem at all for any course

designer, but he believes that the Egyptian plan is to upgrade the courses designed nationally to be up to and even similar to the European standard. During the first show in king's ranch, Mr. Peterson designed a tough course for the A2-class with which Eng. Abd El Fatah Ragab, President of the Egyptian Equestrian Federation, was very proud, and he told Mr. Peterson that this is the kind of technical design that they need here in Egypt. Mr. Peterson also added that no one in charge in the Egyptian Equestrian Federation ever asked him for easier courses which only means that this is what they needed.

Thinking about my significant conversation with Mr. Peterson, I

found out that I totally agree with what he said and that if I was in his place I would do the same i.e. technical courses. Mr. Peterson is one of the best course designers I ever worked with, and he actually taught me a lot. I consider him my role model in course designing as well as his father. Moreover, world wide, the number of the riders in the jump off is approximately one sixth of the total competitors in that class, and honestly this is the same ratio here in Egypt.

I would like to add a very important fact which has really improved this year; there wasn't a big gap between the c-class and the b-class as in the past years, where it was hard for the horses who jumped clear rounds in the c-class to come out with 4 or 8 faults in the b-class and it wasn't easy for the riders as well; and that has changed today. Finally, I would like to thank Mr. Peterson so much for all what he helped me learn and for his continuous back up for the Egyptian team ■

“The Egyptian plan is to upgrade the course's designs to be up to and even similar to the European design”



brief History of the Egyptian Arabian horse

BY: Judith Forbes

The following is summarized from "The Classic Arabian Horse" by Judith Forbis, Copyright 1975 and published by Liveright, New York. Extracted from the "Reference Handbook of Straight Egyptian Horses" volume 11.

Egypt's Arabian horse heritage is an ancient one. Magnificent tomb paintings and various inscriptions indicate that the Egyptians employed the horse at least as early as 1580 B.C. when they drove out their hated Hyksos Oppressors. The Warrior kings of the XVIIIth Dynasty who followed held their spirited Arabian chargers in great veneration.

The large scale military use of horses in Egypt began under the reign of pharaoh Thotmose III (1504 - 1450 B.C.). Amenophis, son of Thotmose, "was given the very best horses of the stable" and it was known "he could not be over taken in the races." The noble coursers of Ramses II saved his life in a battle against the Hittites. Thereafter he lavishly rewarded their valor and proclaimed: "Henceforth their food shall be given them before me each day when I am in my palace...." When Pharaoh Piankhi (751 - 715 B.C.) learnt that Namlot, a rebellious Egyptian king, had left his stable in total disorder, he poignantly despaired: "I swear as Ra loves me... it is more grievous in my heart that my horses have suffered hunger, than any evil deed that thou hast done, in prosecution of thy desire."

Pharaonic splendor was dimmed by conquering foreign armies and by 525 B.C. the Egyptian Empire had crumbled. However, events began shaping in the Arabian Peninsula which in a few centuries resulted in another incursion of horse-loving "people of the east" into the valley of the Nile. Like a sandstorm, the Arabians swept out of the desert to spread the Word of the Prophet Mohammed. Indeed, the Prophet's teaching that "every man shall love his horse" bore fruit. By the year 632 A.D. the eruption of Islam shook the whole civilized world. Bedouin warriors, mounted upon noble Arab steeds and Armed primarily with the new Islamic creed, proved to be invincible. Egypt was included in the many states which were engulfed by the Arab tide.

The land of the Sphinxes and pyramids was ruled as a province by Moslem caliphate governors for two centuries. They were followed by that incredible breed of horsemen, the Mamlukes. Ahmed Ibn Tulun, who subjected Egypt to his will in 868 A.D., epitomized this mounted warrior ruling class. Palatial gardens and estates provided a magnificent setting for the great hippodrome he built to

house his choice collection of Arab horses.

Historians still speak with awe about the illustrious Salaheldin who founded the Ayyubid Dynasty (1193 - 1250). He built the Citadel and fought valiantly against the Crusaders, preventing Richard the Lion Hearted from taking Jerusalem and Egypt. Of Saladin's swift Saracen steeds, Sir Walter Scott penned in *The Talisman*: "They spurned the sand from behind them - they seemed to devour the desert before them- miles flew away with minutes, yet their strength seemed unabated..."

The most enterprising of all Mamluke sultans was Baybars (1250 - 1277). On ceremonious occasions his regal mounts trod on oriental silks and satins which had been laid in the road to provide a luxurious pathway for the sultan. No sum was too great to lavish on the coursers who bore Islam's warriors, and Baybars was known to have given away as many as "one hundred and eighty horses in one hour" to those who became converts for the Holy Cause.

The house of Kalaoun (1279 - 1382), when headed by sultan Nasser Mohamed Ibn Kalaoun, brought a new height to Arabian breeding within the realm. The fabulous Meydan (Hippodrome) el Naceri was constructed and El Nacer's passion for only the choicest Arabian steeds became known to all the Arabs. Price was no object. Over one million drachmas passed from his treasury for horses in one day alone. He paid from 10,000 to 30,000 drachmas per horse and as much as 80,000 to 90,000 drachmas for broodmares. One daughter of "Al-Karta," a celebrated mare, was purchased for 100,000 drachmas, plus some property of land in Syria as an added inducement to the seller. There was no Arab tribe which failed to send to this sultan min Keraim Khoyoul-hom (Ar. "of the most elect of their horses"). Horse races were abandoned after his demise but were resumed in 1382 A.D. under the reign of the Burjite Sultan Barquq. He too loved horses as evidenced by the keenness which he displayed towards equine sport. When he died, there were some 7,000 horses left in his stable and all said to be mares.

After the Ottoman conquest, Egypt sank into the position of a mere province of the Turkish Empire until the rise of Mohammed Ali the great, an Albanian who brought about the Renaissance of Egypt.

The government of Constantinople conferred upon him the Pashalik of Cairo in 1805 and him and his son, Ibrahim Pasha, dominated the Middle Eastern scene for the next Forty Years. Mohamed Ali became entranced with the beauty and nobility of Arabian horses and wasted no time in building elaborate stables and spending millions of gold pounds to gather the finest animals available. The rebellious Wahabi sect in Arabia provided him even greater opportunity to obtain horses when they despoiled the Prophet's tomb and incurred the wrath of the Sublime Porte for committing a sacrilege. Mohamed Ali was requested to suppress these fanatics so Tousson Pasha, his eldest son (and father of Abbas Pasha) was dispatched to punish the offenders. Fate was on Egypt's side when Saud, the Wahabi leader, died of fever and his son Abdullah saw the wisdom of signing a peace treaty. As



Ibrahim Pasha

part of the terms for peace, Mohamed Ali requested and received many of Saud's priceless desert steeds. The treaty was subsequently broken by Abdullah and Ibrahim Pasha defeated him in another battle. As a result of these campaigns in Arabia, many choice horses were sent back to the royal stables of Egypt. Eventually over 1100 spectacular animals were stabled at Mohamed Ali's luxuries country estate at Shoubra, providing European artists with the most ethereal equine subjects they had ever seen. James St. John, visiting the stud in 1832, spoke of the genuine Nejd horses and remarked about the high quality typified by "a small, dark chestnut horse, of the true blood, as his points would testify. He had a fine snake head, with an expanding and projecting nostril... a remarkable small pointed ear. His forehead was wide, with an eye expressive of boldness, generosity and alacrity. His shoulder was thick through, and finely laid back; his ribs and loins were round and deep; his legs short and very powerful... there is no doubt he would be elastic, speedy, and lasting," the Bedouins did believe in beauty as well as utility!

Abbas Pasha fell heir to many of these superb steeds for Mohamed Ali had early noted his grand son's passion for Arabian horses and given him charge over the breeding stations. Abbas had also been enthusiastically collecting on his own and having freed Feysul ibn Saud from the Citadel where he was being held as a political hostage, Abbas secured the everlasting gratitude of the Bedouins and their assistance in the quest for horses.

Lady Anne Blunt was to write of Abbas that he: "ransacked the desert of Arabia and broke down, by the enormous prices he offered, the traditional refusal of the Bedouin breeders to part with their best mares. In order to achieve his object Abbas employed native agents, Arabs from Nejd of high birth and position whom he retained in his service in Cairo and treated with all possible considerations and who in return served him Faithfully in a business he considered the most important of his reign. He thus got together some 290 mares with stallions to match, the absolute pick of the desert which still are spoken of there with wonder and regret as the most authentic collection of pure blood ever made outside the peninsula. These he established as a breeding stud in a fantastic desert home." His horses became legendary in their own time and dignitaries the world over paid them tribute, saying "these horses rival those of King Solomon."

Abbas Pasha was most concerned about the absolute authenticity of his stud, and his envoys trekked many a weary mile ferreting out every detail of history about the strains and families of all the horses he acquired. This information was compiled into a book and presented to Abbas by his devoted Mamluke, Ali Gamal el Din el Shamashirgi Bey.

Lady Anne continues in her letter: "Nevertheless at Abbas's death

in 1854 the whole of his desert establishment was broken up. The palace which had cost a million to build was abandoned to the bats and owls, and the priceless stud was sent by his heirs to the hammer. At the public auction in that year great prices were realized, and King Victor Emmanuel transferred a moiety of the stud to Italy where it flourished till his death in 1879.... The other moiety, however, and as the Arab affirm, the most valuable, remained at Cairo, the best mares and stallions having been bid for and bought on the advice of Hashe, Abbas's chief Bedouin groom, and who best knew the ins and outs of the pedigrees, by Ali Pasha Cherif, then a young man of high family, the largest land owner after the Viceregal family in Egypt, and as great an enthusiast as Abbas himself had been about horses. Under the new management and transferred to Cairo, the stud maintained itself for 20 years and more in full efficiency, and continued to be recognized still as beyond question the first and most authentic Arab stud out of Arabia. Ali Pasha made it his one hobby and delight. The broodmares were seldom seen abroad, being kept secluded in their 'Harem' like the Eastern princesses they were, but the horses were a feature in the Cairo streets. They were entered from time to time in the local races and generally won, the horse 'Wazir' being the most prominent of those that were put in training."

The Pasha instilled in his sons the love of horses. Among them, Ibrahim Bey became a fanatical collector of race horses, the obsession nearly causing his financial ruin. When the stud of Ali Pasha had to be dispersed, owing to difficult financial problems, Lady Anne poignantly wrote of the auction "Sunt Lachrymae return (there are tears for things), and especially at this hour of evil omen for all Eastern sublimities, we cannot but be saddened at the final disappearance of what was in its day a noble thing, a type of Oriental magnificence passed away forever."

A number of the horses came into possession of the Blunts who retained some at their Sheikh Obeyed Stud in Egypt and shipped others to Crabbet Stud in England. The majority of the sale horses remained in Egypt and shipped others to Crabbet Stud in England. The majority of the sale horses remained in Egypt among the royal and titled families. Such men as Prince Ahmed Kamal Pasha, Prince Youssef Kemal, Prince Kamal el Din Hussein, H.R.H Prince Mohamed Ali and the Khedive Abbas Hilmi II, among others, loved Arabians and continued to preserve the legacy of their forefathers. As a consequence of their zeal and devotion, the Egyptian government was made aware of the necessity to continue breeding Arabian horses for the overall good of the country, and the Horse Commission was established in 1892 with Prince Omar Toussoun at the helm. This led to the establishment of The Royal Agriculture Society in 1908, and the best descendants of the horses originally imported by Abbas Pasha and Ali Pasha Cherif were gathered together by its dedicated leaders.

The original stables of the Society at Bahtem became inadequate in 1928 to house the priceless collection then in hand due to the generosity of the contributors to the cause, so the society built an ideal breeding farm north of Heliopolis - the ancient City of the sun - about 20 Kilometers from the busy center of Cairo. Through the establishment of the new farm, the society realized its aim of preserving the athletic ability as well as the classic beauty of the Arab horses for which Egypt has been renowned more than 3500 years. Arabian horse breeders in America and throughout the world indeed owe a debt of gratitude to those farsighted men who founded The Royal Agricultural society. It is now named The Egyptian Agricultural Organization, but the change was in name only for the same policies continue and its present leaders are equally devoted to the horse. We wish it continued success and prosperity throughout the future. The Arabian horse could not exist today if it weren't for Egyptians, past and present, who preserved the horse through sacrifice and dedication ■

Disciplining Your Horse-

What works and what doesn't

By: Rebecca Sweat

Sooner or later, your horse is bound to do something he shouldn't. Perhaps he nips at you when you saddle him up, focuses on his pasture mates rather than on you, or tries to run you over when you're working with him on the ground. Maybe you've been struggling with your horse's bad habits for weeks, months or even years.

If this is the case, chances are you're not using effective correction techniques. Discipline that is harsh, inconsistent or after the fact doesn't solve behavior problems. Rather than improve a situation, inappropriate discipline usually reinforces the bad behavior or creates new problems. Your horse will become confused about what is expected of him, he may decide you're someone who either can be bullied or is a bully and the relationship between you and your horse will suffer.

The truth is, you don't have to make your horse feel bad to teach him a lesson. When you discipline him properly, both you and your horse come away winners.

Here are seven suggestions for disciplining your horse:

Interrupt the Behavior

When you notice your horse getting ready to do something he shouldn't, your best strategy is to interrupt the behavior. "You might simply let your horse run into your elbow as he is attempting to bite you, by simply meeting him half way," says Steve Rother, a horse teacher and clinician in Medford, Ore. This correction is effective because the human does not

“More harsh methods only seem to disrupt the behavior momentarily, lacking long-term effects”

appear as a "bully" to the horse. With the horse's poor depth perception, he will think he just misjudged the distance and not take it as a challenge from the human. This method of discipline, sometimes called blocking, simply involves lifting your elbow toward his head or neck at the moment the horse approaches you with his body.

More harsh methods only seem to disrupt the behavior momentarily, lacking long-term effects. For example, you can disrupt a bad behavior by blasting an air horn or making some other loud noise. This will make your horse stop what he was doing and refocus his attention on something else. However, you might need the horn again time to exert the same effect. As opposed to harsh interruptions, timely positive reinforcements are more effective and should be stressed in your regular training sessions.

Make your Corrections Timely

Corrections, defined here as any intervention to modify behavior, must be applied at the very instant your horse misbehaves. "If your horse bites you and then you hit him after the incident has occurred, you are too late and you will simply teach your horse to bite you quicker next time," Rother says.

Your horse won't understand that you're correcting him for something he did 15 seconds earlier. In addition, the hitting might be interpreted simply as pain inflicted for no reason at all.

Be Consistent

Respond to the same behavior in the same way every time. Consistent positive awards work best in a training program and when attempting to modify behavior. The use of carrots, candies, small amounts of grain, gentle rubbing, or simply easing the task at hand are examples of positive rewards. Soothing conversation may also help, but don't count on the horse understanding your tone. Whatever the mode, these rewards must be delivered in a consistent fashion, with the magnitude of the reward proportional to the achievement. Too much reward also nullifies the effect, of course.

Consistency also applies to punishment: "if you let a bad behavior slide, even just once, your horse will take note of it," says Dr. Dean Scoggins, Equine Extension Veterinarian at the University of Illinois. "You have to be consistent with your corrections and do it every time. If you're inconsistent, your horse will periodically challenge you to see if you're still in charge."

Avoid Harsh Punishments

Punishment such as slapping, poking, whipping, yelling and excessive jerking are rarely, if ever, effective, says Sandy Arledge, a horse trainer and breeder with American Quarter Horses in San Diego, Calif. You don't accomplish anything constructive when you're harsh with your horse; it just irritates or scares him, which only exacerbates an already bad situation. If you get mad at your horse and lose your temper, all your horse is going to think about is that he wants to get away from you; he's not going to be in the right frame of mind to learn.

Firecrackers, loud fog horns, whips and spurs are injurious and do not curb bad behavior in many cases.

Be Fair

Make sure you are meeting your horse's needs before you discipline him. For instance, "it would be unfair to punish a young horse for feeling good, if he's been locked up in his corral for a week, Arledge says. "That would be your fault, not his."

Don't Set Your Horse Up to Misbehave

If you know the particular circumstances that evoke bad behavior, try to avoid the scenario. For example, don't provoke a biter by playing with the shank of his mouth. If a horse is defensive about his food, don't startle him by barging into the stall at the start of feeding. If your horse is a biter, you shouldn't hand feed him or pet his nose or face. If you do, you will in effect, be setting him up to do something he shouldn't.

On the other hand, feeding by



hand "can be used to reduce aggression," says Dr. Nicholas Dodman, professor and animal behaviorist at Tufts University school of Veterinary Medicine. A bad behavior like biting is obviously complex, and you may have to try different approaches, depending on the response of the horse.

Use Timely Positive Reinforcement

We constantly apply pressure to our horses by asking them to work, sometimes at increasing difficulties. We are careful to plan the increments of pressure, but sometimes we neglect to stage the rewards carefully. The use of positive reinforcement can start to outweigh the need for negative reinforcement and modify bad behavior. This can be done by simply releasing your pressure on the horse at the moment you see real progress or by rewarding the horse with a treat at this very moment. A moment too long, and the positive reinforcement is ineffectual. The best riders and trainers have an excellent sense of when to back off and reward the smallest achievement.

Put your horse in situations where you know he will behave properly so that you can reward him with praise and an occasional treat. "You should be thought of by your horse as someone who provides stability and leadership," Scoggins

says, "not as being the source of something that is associated with pain and discomfort."

When These Principles Don't Work

Despite all efforts, some horses still do not respond to interruption (blocking) techniques, persuasion, fairness, consistency and positive reinforcement. If you think you are running into a brick wall and out of patience, you are not alone. In fact, behavioral oddities for many years have been a leading cause of relinquishment, sales and slaughter and many broken hearts.

Before giving up, however, you should consult a veterinary behaviorist and trainer to give you some tips. Haul your horse into some good clinics and get some outside opinions. Take a look at www.horsehelp.com, a very helpful website run by clinician Robert Reich, who also consults online.

Behavioral modification is one of the most challenging activities with animals. It is tremendously rewarding when good results are obtained because some of these "offbeat" horses are also the smartest and athletically the most talented. The key is to stay within the bounds of the horse's personality and not to expect too little, and to react appropriately to change in behavior, both good and bad, in a consistent fashion ■

Article extracted from the Internet by: **Nada El-Fekhy**

How Horses Learn...

"You get the best out of others when you give the best of yourself."

-Harry Firestone

Horses have strong instincts and, in training, it is an advantage to work with, rather than against, their natural behavior and responses. However, they are also very adaptable and quick to learn from their experiences. It is possible to teach a horse to respond to quite subtle signals, and even to overcome their natural instincts, such as fear from of unfamiliar object or sound. Given the right training, a horse can become a willing and responsive equestrian partner.

INSTINCTIVE AND LEARNED BEHAVIOUR

It is undoubtedly easier to teach a horse to respond to a signal when the desired behavior comes naturally. A horse will readily move forwards to a squeeze from the leg but he will be reluctant to respond to a signal to move backwards when he cannot see what is behind him. By understanding the natural behavior of the horse, we can use and develop his strengths, rather than work against them. Similarly, we should always work to develop the natural shape and paces of the horse, rather than attempting to force him into an unnatural gait or posture.

Although the horse will respond to situations instinctively, he can also learn responses based on his own observation and past experience. We can make

the most of his quickness to learn and his ability to remember how he successfully jumped a difficult fence on a previous occasion.

As well as learning through his own experience, he can be taught how to respond to particular signals. A conditioned response is one that is established by training to a stimulus that is not natural. When a young horse walks forwards of his own accord - perhaps following another horse - some trainers will make a clicking sound with their tongue. When this technique is repeated over a number of occasions, the horse will start to associate the clicking sound with going forwards. Soon, he will move forwards whenever he hears this sound.

Similarly, a horse learns that a response he makes will be followed by a particular consequence. For example, he learns that by kicking the stable door he will be fed, or that by halting to the pressure of the reins the pressure will be released. The feeding of the horse is a positive reinforcement to his initial act of kicking the door - the horse is therefore encouraged to continue with the bad habit because he gets food as a result.

The release of the reins is a negative reinforcement of the initial response of halting - the horse is encouraged to respond to the aids so that the pressure on his mouth will be released.

Show Jumping

Stumbling

Stumbling is a symptom observed in both young and old horses, they suffer from it when they commence schooling. Especially during the initial stage; as soon as the horse has to carry the additional weight of the rider, it disturbs the horse's natural balance. Therefore a decisive factor in his schooling will be to reinstate, his balance, otherwise this stumbling phase could develop into a permanent habit. Later on, when the horse commences his schooling in jumping when mounted, the same procedure of readjusting his natural balance may be continued. At this stage, while jumping mounted, it is important that the young horse bascules over the fences without any restrictions of the rein aids and without the slightest interference by the rider's weight. The horse must be completely free and independent, otherwise he may be spoiled and develop into a habitual and inveterate peck-on-landing horse.

Habitual stumbling in older horses may be caused by various factors:

- Badly shod feet, with toes left too long
- Forefeet too hard and too dry
- Pastern joints which are too straight, particularly those of the forelegs
- Badly ridden- too much on the forehead
- Physical weakness or laziness
- Being overworked or just plain clumsy
- Nervousness, stumbling out of impatience when regularly

ridden by a tense, impetuous rider. If such a rider constantly pulls on the horse's mouth it will learn to lean on the bit, using it as a fifth leg. The horse's stride becomes hasty and irregular. As soon as the rider yields the reins the horse loses balance and stumbles. The horse will become so dependent on the support of the rider's strong hold on the bit that he is not able to move on his own four legs without stumbling.

Curing stumbling

Firstly, consider the cause of the habit. Find out whether the rider or the horse is at fault. If the rider has defaulted the stumbling can indeed not be cured by taking a stronger hold on the bit in order to hold up the horse's head. Believing it can is a natural, but wrong, reaction in many riders. The chief concern of the rider should be the unloading and transference of the horse's excess weight from his forehead to his quarters. Once this is obtained, the horse can be ridden freely at all paces (jumping as well) on a long rein without further stumbling.

The horse should be lunged daily with the Chambon, as well as being exercised on foot, especially reining back. He should also do regular free jumping.

These suppling exercises are valuable in the development of the elasticity of the back and quarters muscles required for pure movement.

A Principle in a Tip!

BY: Mr. Mohamed Zohairy

One of the many benefits of horse riding is that men and women can compete on equal terms, and that both the young and the more mature can ride successfully. Unlike so many other sports, you can continue riding and improving for life time. It is both a sport for all and a sport for life. It is important to be taught initially. If you establish the core skills early on, everything else falls into place automatically. Rather like a snowball rolling down a hill, which becomes bigger and bigger as it gathers more layers of snow, every ride will bring new knowledge and help you to develop your expertise.

With the right foundation stones, you may well be one of the tens of thousands of ordinary people who find that horses and horse riding allow them to do extraordinary things.

In horse back riding, there are many ways of doing things, for example, two riders may use different aids to ask a horse to canter. Although this will achieve what I required, it is important to recognize that simplicity and best practice are the keys to success. Some techniques or pieces of equip-

ment may have been accepted for many years, but it is important to be flexible enough to allow a good idea to give way to a better idea and make any necessary changes to your approach.

If you ride, you influence your horse, for good or for bad. The horse is very adaptable and willing to respond to any consistent stimuli, so, if your horse makes progress, it is easy to become deceived into believing that you must be training in the right way and, worse still, into assuming you are a good trainer.

The partnership between horse and rider can be inspiring and motivating. We can all benefit and achieve more as result of our work with horses. You will be invigorated by the moment of freedom, courage, and success. Horse back riding can bring you, and this can motivate you to give more in other aspects of your life, too. If you believe in yourself, it is possible to achieve extraordinary results.

From the introduction of COMPLETE HORSE RIDING MANUAL,
by William Micklem

Dressage...

The Pirouette and the Half-Pirouette

BY:Eng. Emad Zaghloul

1. The pirouette (half- pirouette) is a circle (half-circle) executed on two tracks, with a radius equal to the length of the horse, the forehead moving round the haunches.
2. Pirouettes (half-pirouette) are usually carried out at a collected work or canter, but can also be executed when attempting to make a piaffe.
3. When attempting to make a pirouette (half-pirouette) the forefeet and the outside hind foot moves round the inside hind foot, which forms the pivot and should return to the same spot, or slightly in front of it, each time it leaves the ground.
4. At whatever pace the pirouette (half- pirouette) is executed , the horse has to be slightly bent towards the direction in which it is turning, remaining "on the bit" with a light contact, turnaround smoothly, maintaining the exact cadence and sequence of footfalls of that pace. The poll stays the highest point through the entire movement.
5. When making a pirouette (half-pirouettes) the horse should maintain his impulsion and never, even in the slightest way move backwards or deviate sideways. If the inside hind foot is not raised and returned to the ground in the same rhythm as the outside hind foot, the pace is no longer regular.
6. In executing the pirouette or the half-pirouette in canter, the rider should maintain perfect lightness of the horse while accentuating the collection. The quarters are well engaged and lowered, show a good flexion of the joints.
7. The quality of the pirouettes (half-pirouettes) is judged according to the suppleness, lightness, cadence and regularity and to the precision and smoothness of the transitions; pirouettes (half-pirouettes) at canter, also according to the balance, the elevation and the number of strides (at pirouettes 6-8, at half-pirouettes 3-4 are desirable).

How To...

DETERMINE THE WEIGHT OF YOUR HORSE

W	P	W	P	W	P	W	P
555	194	470	180	360	163	91	102
565	196	475	181	364	164	137	116
570	197	480	182	380	165	182	128
580	198	486	184	385	166	240	140
591	199	495	185	387	167	250	143
594	201	500	187	400	169	273	148
595	203	510	188	412	171	300	152
600	204	515	189	435	174	305	155
610	206	520	190	440	175	318	156
615	207	532	191	450	176	320	157
625	209	545	192	465	178	346	159
630	210	550	193	468	179	350	160

P: Chest Diameter

W: Weight

ref. Dr. Mohamed Razzaz

Shoeing...

Step

Step

by

“The easiest way in which to understand the shoeing is for us all to pay a supposed visit to a forge and see step by step what goes on there and the reason for each step”

The need to shoe a horse- that is to say to fit a band of iron or steel to the foot- is the direct consequence of domestication, in that the wear occasioned to the wall on a hard road surface is greater than the rate of new growth sent down from above.

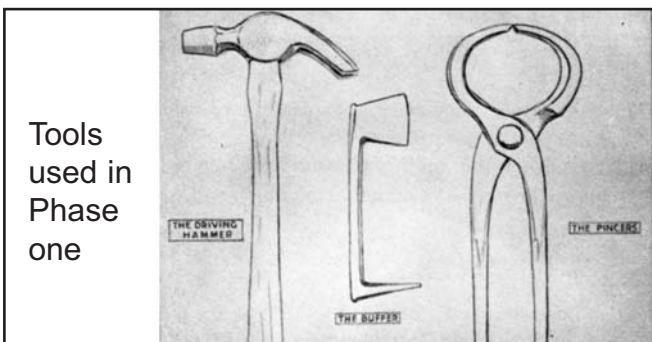
If we persist in working a Horse unshod on a hard road the day will eventually arrive when as a result of extensive wear to wall and sole the horse goes footsore or even lame. The answer to the problem lies in protecting the foot against such excessive wear by shoeing a horse.

The easiest way in which to understand the shoeing is for us all to pay a supposed visit to a forge and see step by step what goes on there and the reason for each step. The process of shoeing a horse falls into six definite phases each of which will be considered in turn.

so as to release the shoe. The clenches are cut off clean with the buffer after which the blacksmith levers off the shoe with his pincers.

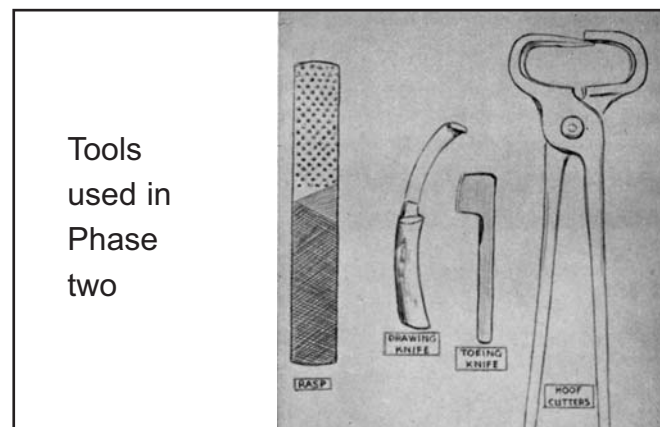
Phase 2

Phase 1



This is called **REMOVAL** and that is to say, the removal of the old shoe. For this task the blacksmith needs his buffer, shoeing hammer, and pincers. You will readily recognize them for you must have seen them in use many times.

The shoe as you know is held by the clenches and therefore the first thing to do is to lift the foot and cut the clenches



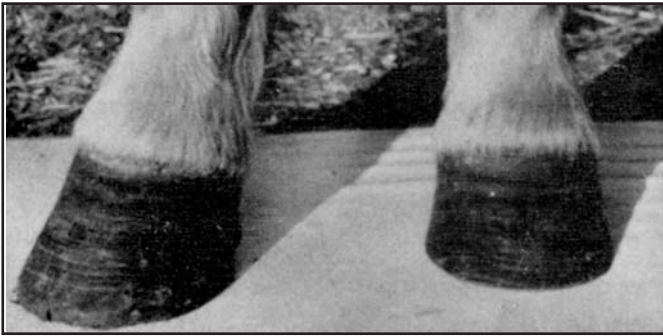
The next stage is called **PREPARATION** and in this stage we prepare the foot for the new shoe. For the most part this consists in the removal of the overgrowth of the horn of the wall and ragged pieces of the sole and frog. The wall has continued to grow since the pony last went to the forge but has been protected from any wear by the presence of the shoe. Hence it has become overlong, making things uncomfortable for the horse, interfering with his action and possibly causing him to stumble. Preparation means reducing the wall once again to its natural length.

The tools used by the blacksmith at this stage are the drawing knife, toeing knife, hoof cutters, and rasp. For the most part he employs his drawing knife both to cut away the overgrowth of wall and also to tidy up the sole and frog. The use of his knife on the sole or frog, calls for discretion since the less they are cut about the better.



Whatever the blacksmith does in the way of cutting and tidying up he always ends up by using his rasp. You will note that he is using it only on the ground surface of the foot.

The use of this tool depends upon the creation of an absolutely level surface to the foot on which the new shoe is to rest. The blacksmith then inspects his work to see that he has reduced the foot sufficiently, by shortening the length at the toe and by lowering the height at the heels, and that such has been affected equally on both inside and outside so that the horse stands squarely and evenly on his feet. Here is a picture of a foot before and after reduction so that you may properly appreciate all that has just been said.



Phase 3

FORGING, this phase is mainly concerned with the making and forging of the new shoe. For this a fire and anvil are necessary. The iron from which shoes are made is sold to blacksmiths in long lengths of various weight and shape. The first thing to do therefore is to cut off lengths suitable for the making of the new set of shoes; for this the use of a sledge hammer is necessary.

The iron must now be made red hot so that the blacksmith can turn it and shape it into the form of a horse shoe. Then the nail holes are fashioned so carefully with the stamp, and the drawing of the clip, and then the shoe is ready to try on.

Phase 4

This stage is called **FITTING**. The shoe while still slightly hot is carried on the pritchel to the horse's foot and tried on.

The shoe may prove to be too broad or too narrow and if so adjustments must be made. It will almost certainly be too long at the heels, but this is deliberate as the blacksmith likes to cut off the heels, using a tool called a heel cutter, so as to leave them at the exact length required. The part of the foot on



Fitting the new shoes

which the new shoe is to rest is called the bearing surface, and if this is not quite leveled, then the horn will be seared by the hot shoe more at one point than another. Here again the nec-

essary adjustments can now be made with the rasp.

The procedure just described to you is known as **HOT SHOEING** but you will of course appreciate that a fire and anvil are not always available. In such a case the blacksmith is under necessity to resort to the procedure known as **COLD SHOEING**, where a readymade shoe is taken into use, fitted cold and adjusted as far as may be possible in a cold state.

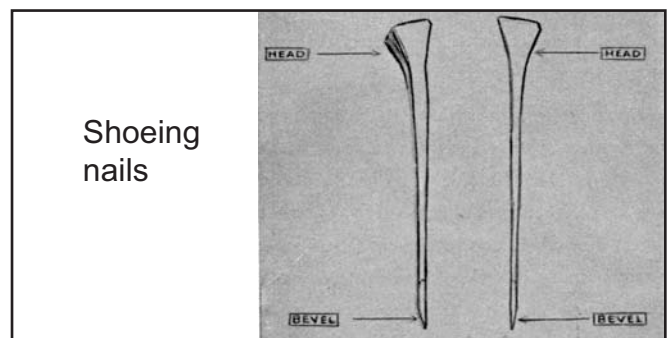
Phase 5

The shoe is now ready to nail on, which brings us to the next step namely **NAILING**. The blacksmith drives one of the toe nails first of all. By doing so, he can then swing the shoe round slightly so that the heels come into their exact position. Note how carefully the nails are driven.

The blacksmith starts off by tapping lightly and only when he is quiet sure that the nail is so pitched that it will not go too deep and injure the horse, does he drive it hard home. The point of the nail should come out some distance up the wall - not too far up or it may press and hurt (coarse nailing)- not too low down or the grip on the wall will be insecure (Fine nailing). The point of each nail where it comes out of the wall is wrenched off with the claw of the hammer, leaving a small piece projecting which eventually forms the clench.

How many nails should a blacksmith use? The answer generally given is seven -three on the inside and four on the outside. A better answer however is to say "the minimum necessary for security" and only the blacksmith knows just how many that maybe, though often it is seven. When an odd number of nails is used, why are more placed on the outside than the inside? The answer here is that the outer side of the hoof takes a slightly longer sweep at the quarters than the inside and also that it is slightly thicker.

Nails are made of various sizes to suit different sized horses and ponies but they are all of this peculiar shape which is quiet unlike any other kind of nail you know. Note that the bevel on one side of the point. Its purpose is to direct the point of the nail outwards instead of inwards when being driven, that is to say away from the sensitive parts of the foot. If you watch the blacksmith nailing on a shoe, you will see that he always glances at each nail before putting it into the shoe, so as to make sure that it goes in the right way round which means with the bevel to the inside.



Shoeing nails

Phase 6

The last step: **FINISHING**. The blacksmith makes the clenches, tightens them up and beds them firmly. He then gives them a final rub with the rasp to smooth them off. The toe clip is tapped back lightly into its position. Lastly the rasp is run round the rim of the wall to blunt its sharp edge and to prevent splitting. So the job is complete, however you must remember that a visit to the forge is necessary every month



Horse'n Around

LOLs....

Did you find my horse well behaved?
Indeed, whenever we came to a fence
he let me over first!

This Kentucky horse breeder had a filly that won every race in which she was entered. But as she got older she became very temperamental. He soon found that when he raced her in the evening, she would win handily, but when she raced during the day she would come in dead last. He consulted the top veterinarians and horse psychologists to no avail. He finally had to give up because it had become **a real night mare!**

JUNIOR: Daddy, there's a man at the circus who jumps on a horse's back, slips underneath his belly, catches hold of its tail and finishes on the horse's neck!
FATHER: That's nothing. I did all that
the first time I rode a horse!

A Blonde s Ride!

A blonde decides to try horseback riding, even though she has had no lessons or prior experience. She mounts the horse unassisted and the horse immediately springs into motion. It gallops along at a steady and rhythmic pace, but the blonde begins to slip from the saddle. In terror, she grabs for the horse's mane, but cannot seem to get a firm grip. She tries to throw her arms around the horse's neck, but she slides down the side of the horse anyway. The horse gallops along, seemingly impervious to its slipping rider. Finally, giving up her frail grip, she leaps away from the horse to try and throw herself to safety. Unfortunately, her foot has become entangled in the stirrup, she is now at the mercy of the horse's pounding hooves as her head is struck against the ground over and over. As her head is battered against the ground, she is mere moments away from unconsciousness when to her great fortune... the Walmart manager sees her and shuts the horse off!



Foolin around !!

A woman knocked her man on the head with a frying pan.
"What was that for?" the man asked.

The wife replied "That was for the piece of paper with the name Jenny on it that I found in your pocket".

The man then said "When I was at the races last week Jenny was the name of the horse I bet on"

The wife apologized and went on with the housework.

Three days later the man is watching TV when his wife bashes him on the head with an even bigger frying pan, knocking him unconscious.

Upon re-gaining consciousness the man asked why she had hit again???

She replied: "Your horse phoned"!!!!!!

Clip News...

No you SHUT UP... No YOOCOU shut up!



In the
No-house
www.martycarlson.com

Rural Road Rage On the
Increase!!!

Cartoon
Carlin

All items presented are compiled by
our stuff from the internet.

CLIP ART

BY: Fawkia Hammouda



Picasso & Leila

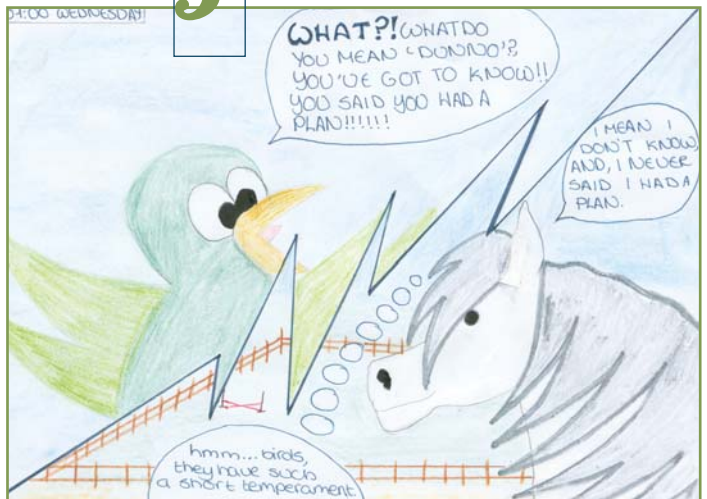
1



2



3



Serenity

"Ideals are like stars: you will not succeed in touching them with your hands, but like the seafaring man on the ocean desert of waters, you choose them as your guides, and following them, you reach your destiny."

Carl Schurz

GET A LIFE! IT'S YOURS FOR THE TAKING

There is a quality that is the possession of every person. It is an inheritance available to all, but claimed by few. This quality is called POTENTIAL. There is a proverb that tells us that "much food [potential] is in the fallow ground of the poor". Just under the surface is an abundant lifestyle, but many people miss it and live frustrated, dissatisfied, under-productive lives.

Potential is "what might be or could be, but does not yet exist."

A young child is seen running around the football or baseball park showing extraordinary flair and skill. With incredible agility and the quick thinking of a veteran he steers his team to victory. Talent scouts mark him as someone who "COULD" be anything. Several years later we witness that very same person. He's the overweight storyteller at the bar having one too many drinks, the has-been who COULD HAVE BEEN anything. Through lack of discipline, lack of integrity, lack of determination or wrong choices the young man voted "Most Likely To Succeed" has missed his true potential. In reality this make-believe scenario, is repeated far too many times all around the world.

What is the difference between "should be" and "should have been", or "might be" and "might have been?" It is the fine line between FULFILLED OR FAILED POTENTIAL. It is the fine line between getting a life, or missing it completely.

Many people live captive to a victim mentality. A passive, powerless philosophy. This defeated thinking believes you have no control over your future. "Whatever will be, will be. You get what you are given, and that's that."

What a lie! Potential is within every person. Potential to change your world for the better. But in order to have it and utilise it we first have to actively seek it out.

In the hit movie Forrest Gump, winner of seven Academy Awards, the central character believed that life was like a box of chocolates: "You never know what you're going to get. Life may hand out challenges and trials and no-one has any influence over the outcome."

Gump's philosophy, which he wisely used to deflect any attempt to put him down, was Stupid is as stupid does." In other words, you are rewarded according to what you believe about yourself.

If you believe that you're clumsy, you will be. Believe you're unemployable and you won't find a job. Believe you are not worthy of success and you will never achieve anything. And if you believe you are stupid, you will do stupid things.

What you believe IS, sets the tone for your life. That belief then establishes foundations in your life which are vitally important. It is possible for a person to live their entire life on a platform of perception which may be ripping them off. It is imperative that you and I genuinely believe that we have a purpose in life and that we are capable of fulfilling it.

Understanding this then establishes a starting point for realized potential. If you live with a positive foundation and act according to that belief, you will be rewarded.

Helen Keller once said "Life is either a daring adventure, or nothing." How many times has somebody emerged from mediocrity to become great because they had MORE courage, MORE perseverance and MORE faith than the average person? We see this in the sporting arena, music industry, the arts, and it is clearly seen in the business world.

During one of my speaking trips to Queensland, I met a young man who told me his brother lived in my home town of Sydney and captained a football team. I asked which team it was, expecting an answer such as the C Grade Guildford Brawlers, but he replied "The Manly Sea Eagles." Straight away he had my attention. Manly is one of Australia's finest professional rugby league teams.

When I asked who his brother was, I was again impressed. It turned out that he was a famous international footballer who later became a TV commentator and the host of one of the most popular sports shows in the country.

This young man explained that he also had had great potential as a footballer, but a heavy tackle damaged his knees and from that moment his rugby league career was reduced to what could have been.

Rather than take the soft option and retreat to a life of unfulfilled memories and lost potential I'm happy to add that, unlike many people who give up, he changed his focus and is succeeding in other areas. Serious injury could not deter him from achieving great results.

Realizing your potential requires that you ignore:

- The limitations and expectations of others.
- The limitations and restraints of your own thinking.
- The limitations of your environment and upbringing.

When you subject yourself to these limitations you become an under-achiever. But when you choose to live according to your potential, you find yourself going above and beyond, far exceeding all limitations.

- ABOVE - discovering the higher way

- BEYOND - going further

- EXCEEDS - easily surpassing

These words describe a life of success, a life that impacts others, and a life of plenty. Now that is not the life of an underachiever.

Napoleon said "Impossible is a word found only in the dictionary of fools." Extraordinary people do extraordinary things. They push past the acceptable levels that many settle for. They push through the barriers that contain and they go over the top in the arena of achievement. They are the kind of people history tends to record.

Much of today's established perception stifles potential. It has people thinking "from behind", from the "bottom of the pile".

Looks at modern day living in the light of wisdom for the heart. It endeavors to reveal the quality of life available to you. It unlocks the process of claiming that potential, living it to it's maximum and helps you discover fulfillment along the way.

KNOW THAT:

"You only live once, but if you work it right, once is enough."

Joe Lewis

"Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence.

Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent.

Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb.

Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts.

Persistence and determination are omnipotent.

The slogan 'press on' has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race."

Calvin Coolidge

"These words describe a life of success, a life that impacts others, and a life of plenty. Now that is not the life of an underachiever"

SPOTLIGHT

Celebrating *Beauty* in Sakkara Country Club

This year's Egyptian National Arabian horse Championship took place on the 12th and 13th of December in Sakkara Country Club. It was a bright sunny weekend in Sakkara where all the Arabian horse's breeders, owners, and lovers enjoyed watching this historical competition. Like precious gems, the brilliant Arabian horses captivated the onlookers gathered in this authentic magical place to make this celebration of beauty a very unique one. Horse Time's stuff was present at the event and recorded it to its readers through these photos of the most honored audience.



Ibrahim Samy, Nagwa El Dally, Khaled Assem, Hussein Kamel, and Nazin Salam



Nazih Salam, Hussein Kamel, and Wahid Seha



Mrs. Wegdan Al-Barbary, and Ibrahim Samy



Mr. Omar Sakr, and Ibrahim Samy



Mr. Nasr Marei, and Khaled Assem

SPOTLIGHT



Mr. Nasr Marei, and Ibrahim Samy



Assmaa Ahmed, and Khaled Assem



Mohamed Hamza, Ahmed Hamza, and Khaled Assem



Amr Assem, Moli, Tarek Nassar, and Dr. Mohamed Yousri



Mostafa Sabry, Sherif Wagih, Lina Shaarawy, Tarek Fahim, and Adel Abd El-Razik

SPOTLIGHT



Nada El-Feiky in Ferousia Club.



Malak Assem, Mona Adnan, and Haya Assem



Dr. Omar Hashim, his wife Mona, and their son in Sakkara Country Club



Moustafa Bassim



Mohamed Hassan Hemeida



Hana Khalifa on Kahramana in King's ranch, summer 2003



Yasmine Sherif in Gezira club



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