

# Effort To Save Graham Hill Show Grounds Is Continuing

Show Grounds

Throw enough pancake breakfasts to buy the \$1 million Graham Hill Show Grounds?

Sounds like Mission Impossible, but the Santa Cruz County and San Lorenzo Valley horsemen's associations are game for a try.

They want the 173-acre parcel bought by the county, with local support, to keep it intact and free from commercial or residential development. The Cowell Foundation has named \$1 million as the asking price.

Charles Hall of M.C. Hall and Sons Realtors, agents for the Cowell Foundation, has envisioned a combined public-private recreational development on the property, preserving it as a "view shed" and for equestrian uses. But no capital has yet been forthcoming.

Next event in a series of fundraisers put on by the horsemen's associations will be a Play Day Sept. 21, beginning with breakfast from 7 to 10 a.m. Pancakes, sausages, orange juice, coffee and hot chocolate will be offered for \$1.75 per person.

From 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Play Day events at the show grounds will include barrel racing, single stake races,

keyhole races, a ribbon race and pole bending races. Musical tires, a fun-type event, and a "dollar bill marathon" in which riders compete bareback while sitting on a \$1 bill, will finish the day.

There will be a \$5 entry fee for Play Day. Age groups competing will be 12 and under on ponies, 12 and under on horses, 13-17 (on horses) and 18 and over.

A "horse fair" — kind of like a flea market — also will be going on all day Sept. 21. Horsepersons will swap and sell tack and other horsey items in a special area of the show grounds.

Donna Rodoni of the Santa Cruz County Horseman's Association said her group expects 30-40 entries in Play Day events.

The public is encouraged to attend the breakfast and day of events Sept. 21, Rodoni said, to see the possibilities of the show grounds as a community recreational area.

The show grounds have been used by many organizations during the 20 years that the association has held a lease on the property. Included in these are the Boy and Girl Scouts,

Camp Fire Girls, Little League and school groups. The horse clubs have a clubhouse and storage hut, and the juniors have improvised a paddock area in a camping site for overnight and special events.

About \$3,000 has been raised so far, and money and pledges are being accepted from individuals and groups. Donations can be made at the Front and River streets office of County Bank to the Graham Hill Purchase Fund. For more information call 423-8786.

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Suzy Rodoni practices pole bending, one of the competition events of Play Day at the Graham Hill Show Grounds. She and other county youngsters will participate in the Sept. 21 fundraiser, planned as part of an effort by local horsemen's associations to gain public purchase of the show grounds.

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