

SC Sentinel 12/6/70 p 33

Soquel Horsewoman Publishes Book on Art of Vaulting

Author

In the United States Elizabeth Friedlaender of Soquel is somewhat of a pioneer in the art of vaulting (gymnastics on the moving horse).

In 1956 she began teaching her Santa Cruz County Pony Clubbers this branch of horsemanship used since Roman times and widely practiced in Europe today, after observing it for the first time in Germany. As far as she knows this was the first vaulting instruction in the United States.

Now she's written the first book in English on the subject which has been published by Stephen Green Press, Brattleboro, Vt., and Commonwealth rights already have been sold to Pelham Books Ltd., for circulation in England, Australia and New Zealand.

Her book, VAULTING, is available at Plaza Books 'n Stuff and she will be in the store Monday from 4 to 6 p.m. to greet the public and to autograph her books.

In her foreword she notes that modern vaulting or gymnastics on the back of a cantering horse is done mainly by children and practiced most widely in Germany, where many riding schools have vaulting clubs for children.

"In vaulting," she says, "the children become more supple and graceful in following the movements of the horse, their rhythm improves and they become more confident and courageous. In short, they truly become one with the horse—the goal of serious riders."

The book definitely is a technical handbook for the instructor and the student and a much needed addition in equestrian circles.

Liz Friedlaender is the coach of the Kennolyn Riding School vaulting team and photographs used in the book



LIZ FRIEDLAENDER

are of her students.

First championship competition of the American Vaulting Association took place at the Santa Cruz County Fair in Watsonville.

Mrs. Friedlaender started the Santa Cruz County Pony Club in 1955 — then the first Pony Club west of Chicago and the 36th in the United States. She served as regional supervisor for Northern California, was national vice president of U.S. Pony Clubs and now is a member of the National Board of Governors and a national examiner for U.S. Pony Clubs. She also is a dressage judge for American Horse Shows Association.

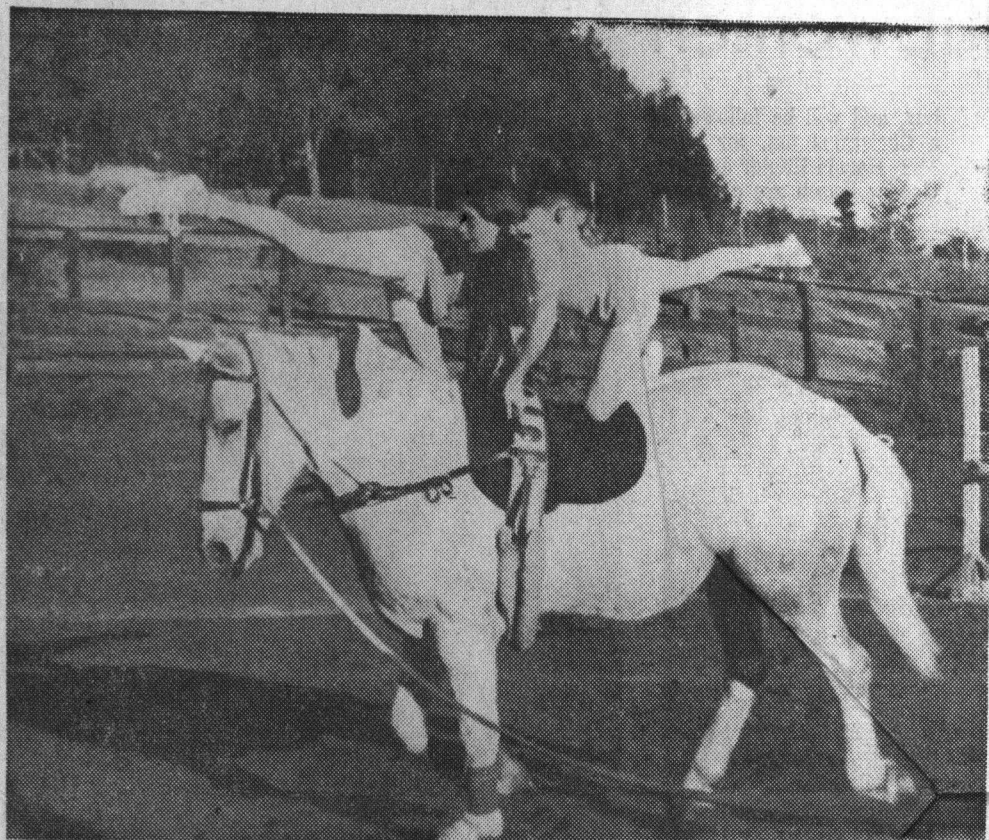
In 1969 she was the co-founder of the American Vaulting Association. Vaulting, she says, is growing throughout the U.S. in leaps and bounds. Although the greatest concentration of interest is in the Western states teams now exist in Missouri, New Jersey, Massachusetts and Hawaii.

Mrs. Friedlaender has won many dressage events including being named national dressage champion and Western American Fourth Level Dressage champion by the American Horse Shows Association in 1963. This year she received California Dressage Society Second Level Horse of the Year award as trainer and rider of Gambit, owned by Mrs. Alma Read of Pebble Beach.

The owner of Molehaven in Soquel, she trains horses here and gives private riding instruction. At present she has horses in training from as far away as Colorado and has working students from Iowa and Utah. She gives dressage and jumping clinics twice a year in Hawaii, four times a year in Arizona, and a number in Los Angeles and Colorado.

Pride of her stables is Klutz, a four-year-old gelding Hanoverian horse which she bought this past spring in Germany. She says the Hanoverians are bred to move brilliantly and are much heavier in every way than American breeds. She has entered him in the California Society's 1971 Dressage Futurity for four and five-year-olds, to take place next October in Santa Ynez.

—Mildred Ann Smith



Chris DuMond and Kim Gusserhoven of Watsonville, members of the Kennolyn Riding School Vaulting Team, perform a half flag and reverse half flag in the team's free style program.