

On the Trail with the Sage Riders



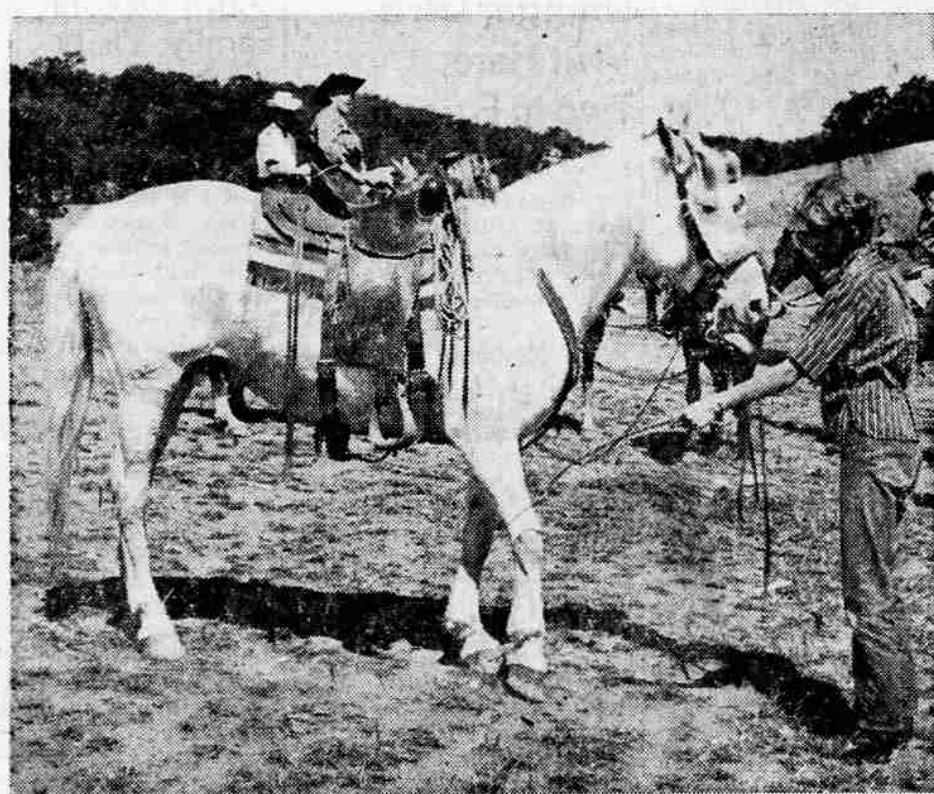
Leader of the Sage Riders, one of the Rogue valley's newest riding clubs for children, is Mrs. Mike Jacoby, who is shown above with her husband as they paused to survey the Immigrant lake scenery when the group went on a trail ride recently. Mrs. Jacoby devotes many hours each week to train youngsters in horsemanship and feeding and care of their mounts.



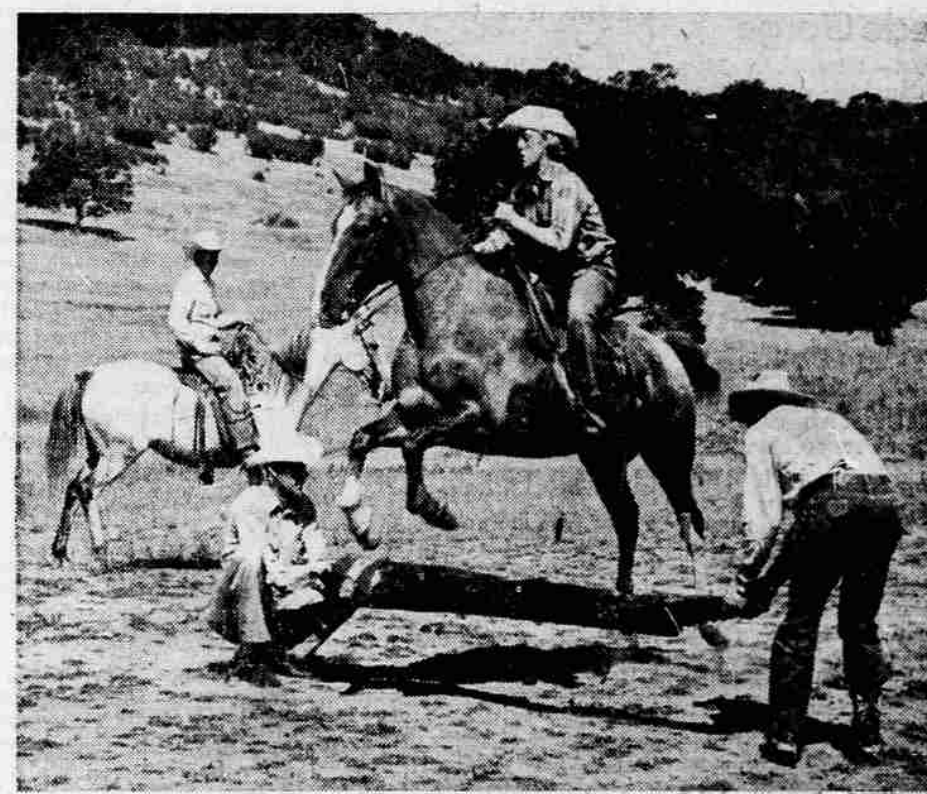
Listening to the soft "chik chok" of horse's hoofs on the dirt road and the squeak of saddle leather, members of the Sage Riders round a bend on the last leg of their 12 mile trail ride to Immigrant lake. The group started out at 6 a.m. from Jackson Hot Springs and camped out for the night after bedding was brought to the site by pickup truck. Another pickup served as the "chuck wagon."



The Sage Riders, organized in May of this year, are already an accomplished drill team, and can do a number of intricate maneuvers as a unit. Above they form a double circle with the inside group going in one direction and the outside the other.



Rita Mapes, Ashland, a member of the Sage Riders, demonstrates above how her Arabian mare, Twinkles, counts by pawing the dirt with her front foot. Twinkles also knows how to stand on a pedestal.



Above, Judy Baalman, Valleyview, puts her horse, Pepper, over a jump during a rest stop on the trail ride taken by the Sage Riders. Looking on is John King, while Macon Peck and Mike Jacoby hold up the ends of the small log that served as a makeshift jump.



Horseback riding is not a strenuous exercise for experienced riders like teenagers Darlene Hanscom, Rita Makes and Sharron Jacoby, above, but a rest stop is always welcome and the girls take advantage of the pause to put on a freshening dab of lipstick. There were 18 members of the club making the 12-mile trek, including adults.



Teaching children to care for their animals is one of the purposes of the Sage Riders club. According to Mrs. Jacoby, a horse often reflects near-human intelligence and is sensitive to maltreatment. The boys are, left to right, Gene Pan-kenhorn, Billy Lively, Mike Peck and Dick Westfall, all of the Ashland-Valleyview area.



Watering their horses on the edge of Immigrant lake after a long ride, the Sage Riders and their mounts make a picture that is reminiscent of the days of the old west, when horses were the main means of transportation.