



The USEA is turning 60 years old in 2019 and to celebrate we are looking back at the history of the Association! Each issue of *Eventing USA* will remember another decade. To kick things off we are remembering our founding and the first 10 years of existence: 1959-1969.

THE FOUNDING OF THE USEA

BY DENNY EMERSON

Sometime during the Pan American Games week of September 2, 1959, a meeting was held at Patrick Butler's home in Oak Brook, Illinois, at which the United States Combined Training Association (now the United States Eventing Association) was founded and the nature of American eventing was fundamentally changed.

Jack Fritz, then the secretary of the U.S. Equestrian Team (USET), and Alexander Mackay-Smith, Editor Emeritus of *The Chronicle of the Horse*, were among the 25 men and women present that day. It is from them that I have been able to reconstruct the circumstances which led to the creation of our Association.

According to Jack Fritz, it was the three-day event at the 1948 Olympic Games in London which "stimulated an interest among British sportsmen, especially fox hunters." In 1949 the Duke of Beaufort held the first three-day event at Badminton. In May of 1950 the British Horse Society called a meeting of those interested in eventing with the idea of regulating and encouraging this new sport. It was decided after much head scratching to call the sport combined training.

American interest in eventing developed in the 1950s. Leaders in creating interest in the sport in the East were

Mackay-Smith and his neighbor H. Steward Treviranus, a Scotsman who was a member of the 1952 Canadian team at Helsinki. A leader in the West was Richard Collins. Major Jonathan R. Burton was also a promoter of the sport to the extent his military duties allowed.



Alexander Mackay-Smith, credited as the "Father of the USCTA"

It was apparently pretty slow going in those early years. "Although the USET and the American Horse Show Association (AHSA) both set up three-day event committees," said Fritz, "these committees main interest was the three-day event as the basis of developing riders and horses for international competition." There wasn't much in the way of a grassroots structure in the 1950s and for those of us eventing today, there would have been an even more dramatic difference.

Fritz continued, "In 1955, the USET sponsored the first National Three-Day Championship for the Wofford Cup, named for the first president of the USET, Colonel

John (Gyp) Wofford. The event was held in the Metamora Hunt area north of Detroit. National USET Championships were held at the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs in 1957 and 1958, the latter being the selection trial for the 1959 Pan American Games."

Meanwhile, back in the eastern part of America, the Green Mountain Horse Association (GMHA) in South Woodstock,

3rd PAN AMERICAN GAMES

Chicago, Ill. - Aug. 27-Sept. 7, 1959

(Equestrian Events - Sept. 2-7)

GRAND PRIX de DRESSAGE

Sept. 2 - Oak Brook Hunt Club,
Hinsdale, Ill.

U. S. DRESSAGE TEAM

Trish Galvin, Santa Barbara, California
Jessica Newberry, Ausable Forks, N. Y.
Karen McIntosh, Bedford Village, N. Y.

THREE DAY EVENT

Sept. 3 - Inspection of Course,
Oak Brook Hunt Club

Sept. 4 - Dressage Phase

Sept. 5 - Cross Country Speed
and Endurance Phase

Sept. 6 - Stadium Jumping

U. S. THREE DAY TEAM

Walter Staley, Jr., Mexico, Mo., (Captain)
Bill Haggard, Nashville, Tenn.
Michael Page, Briarcliff Manor, N. Y.
Michael Plumb, Syosset, N. Y.
Erich Bubbel, Santa Barbara, Cal. - Coach

PRIX des NATIONS EVENT

Sept. 7 - Soldiers Field, Chicago

(Closing ceremonies of
3rd Pan American Games)

U. S. PRIX des NATIONS TEAM

Bill Steinkrans, Westport, Conn. (Captain)
Hugh Wiley, Towson, Maryland
Frank Chapot, Wallpack, New Jersey
George Morris, New Canaan, Conn.
Bertalan de Nemethy, Greenwich, Conn.
Coach



An advertisement in the USET Newsletter announcing the 1959 Pan American Games in Chicago, Ill. This is where the first USCTA meeting took place.

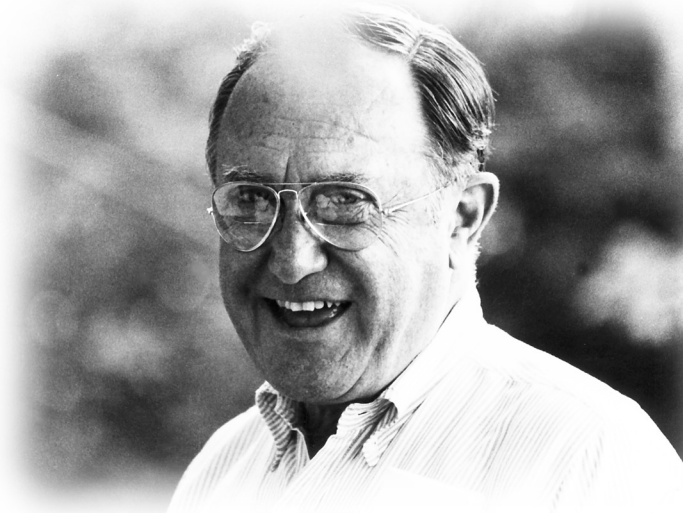
Vermont began to assume a leadership role in support of eventing. Pomfret, Vermont summer resident Philip B. Hofmann (president of Johnson & Johnson) and long time GMHA officer Roger Maher organized eventing clinics taught by Brigadier General John Tupper Cole, Treviranus, H.L.M. Van Schaik, Fritz, Trudy Balboni, and Jean Campbell. During the mid-1950s famous eventing personalities like Denis Glaccum, Roger Haller, Lana Du Pont, Donnan Sharp, and Dr. Mary Alice Brown were among the hundreds who got their initiation into eventing in that lovely valley.

Mackay-Smith, as Editor of *The Chronicle of the Horse* and as a director of the USET, was in a strong public position to push for promotion of combined training events. He didn't feel that the AHSA and USET were doing enough to promote eventing and so it was Mackay-Smith's urging and his influence, according to Fritz, that ultimately led to the meeting in Illinois where the USCTA was born.

Fritz made the unequivocal statement that, "Alexander Mackay-Smith merits the title 'Father of the USCTA.' No one did more than he to get the Association formed and functioning. Second in importance is Hofmann, who as first president calmed the fears of the USET and the AHSA that this new organization wanted to take over their roles."

Mackay-Smith realized that there was a need for some sort of Association between Pony Club for youngsters and the USET for international riders if eventing were ever to get established in the United States.

"Accordingly, I sent a letter to everyone I knew interested in eventing to come to a meeting during the Pan



Captain John "Jack" Fritz, one of the founding members of the USEA.

American Games in Chicago in September of 1959. About 25 people came to the meeting. We founded the USCTA and elected officers pro-term, with Hofmann as president," said Mackay-Smith.

Fritz and Mackay-Smith can't remember all of the people who were there at Paul Butler's home that day, but some of them they do recall were Dr. Joseph Rogers, Edward Harris, Marilyn and Stewart Treviranus, Col. Francis Appleton, Donnan Sharp, Lana du Pont, Iris Winthrop, Margaret Lindsley Warden, and Roger Maher.

This fledgling Association only had about two dozen members. Later that fall, in November, Hofmann convened a second meeting in New York City to elect officers. Hofmann was elected president, Edward Harris as vice president, Alexander Mackay-Smith as secretary, and Joe Rogers as treasurer. Stewart Treviranus and Jack Fritz were charged with writing a horse trials rule book based on the British book. The first annual meeting of the USCTA was held January 31, 1960 at the New Yorker Hotel in New York City.

Even though six decades have passed since that meeting in Illinois, many of the 'pioneers' from that day are still active as leaders and innovators in American horse sports. I would hope that they feel gratified that the little Association which they had the vision to create has grown into such a respected and significant leader in the American horse community. The USEA is synonymous with good sportsmanship, good riding, and an emphasis above all else on a respect for the well-being of the horse. That's quite a legacy. →



1959

The USCTA is founded during a meeting at the Pan American Games in September. Philip B. Hofmann is elected the first president of the USCTA in November, and he serves until 1965.

SALISBURY HORSE TRIALS
 HOLLEY HILL FARM, ROUTE #41, SALISBURY, CONNECTICUT

ENTRY FORM
 JENNY CAMP TRIAL Saturday, May 27, 1961
 ONE-DAY HORSE TRIALS Sunday, May 28, 1961

ENTRY FEES: Jenny Camp Trial - \$6.00; One-Day Horse Trials - \$7.50.

STALL FEE: A limited number of stalls available at \$5.00 each.

MOTELS & INNS: The Committee will gladly make reservations for exhibitors.
 Salisbury - Ragmont Inn, Stone Terrace, White Hart Inn;
 Lakewood - Farnam Tavern, Interlaken Inn, Iron Masters Lodge Motel;
 Shaftesbury (Mass.) - Blue Bell Inn, Stagecoach Hill, Trees Club Motel.

PLEASE FORWARD ENTRIES TO, and make checks payable to:
 Mrs. Robert Patterson, Lakewood, Connecticut, (Helmlock 5-9181).

ENTRIES CLOSE SATURDAY, MAY 20, 1961. Post entries cannot be accepted.

Owner's Name and Address:

Division	Name of Horse	Color/Sex/Age	Rider's Name and Address

Stalls Required / Dates:

Overnight Accommodations Required / Dates:

entries @ \$6.00 each	+ \$		= \$	TOTAL FEES
entries @ \$7.50 each	+ \$		= \$	All fees must be paid
stalls @ \$5.00 each	+ \$		= \$	before starting time.

In Submitting these entries I agree to abide by the rules of the Salisbury Horse Trials and will accept the decisions of the Steward of these Trials as final. I agree not to hold responsible the Salisbury Horse Trials, the USCTA or any official of either, or owners of property on which these trials take place, in the event of accident, damage, injury or illness to horse, rider, or any person or property.

Signed _____ Date _____

1961

Entry form for the Salisbury Horse Trials in Connecticut. Entries were \$7.50 for the one day horse trials with stalls costing \$5.00 each.

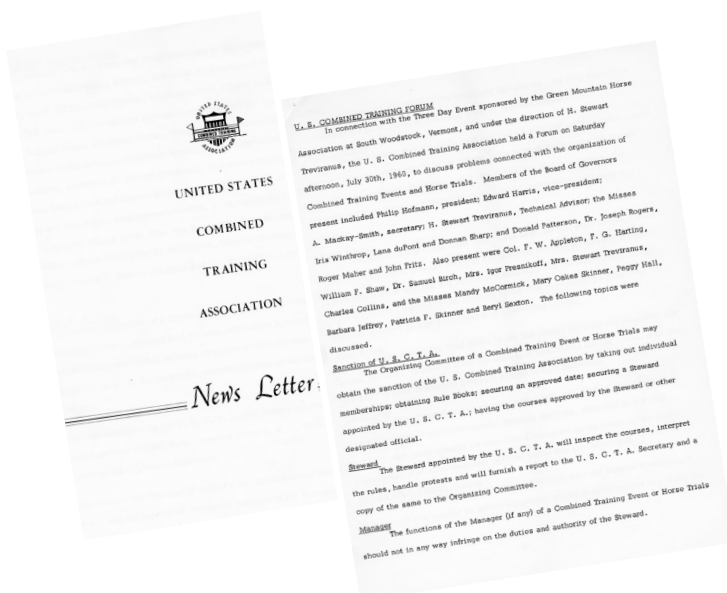
1960

The first USCTA *Rules for Eventing* is published. Stewart Treviranus and Jack Fritz were charged with writing the book based on the British Rule Book.



1964

The first edition of the *USCTA News* is published. Marilyn Treviranus served as editor.





1966

Edward Harris, who was USCTA Vice President from 1959-1965, was elected president of the USCTA. He would serve until 1968.



ALLEN STUDIO PHOTO

1969

J. Gibson Semmes was elected president of the USEA.

1968

Lana Du Pont became the first woman to ride in an Olympic Games.

The U.S. Team won a silver medal at the Tokyo Olympics. The team included:

- J. Michael Plumb/Bold Minstrel
- Kevin Freeman/Gallopade
- Michael Owen/Grasshopper
- Lana Du Pont/Mr Wister

The U.S. won a team silver medal for the second Olympics in a row. The team for the Mexico Olympics included:

- Kevin Freeman/Chalan
- Michael Page/Foster
- J. Michael Plumb/Plain Sailing
- James C. Wofford/Kilkenny



Denis Glaccum - the first ever USCTA Champion.

YEAR END AWARD WINNERS

1960

National Champion of the Year - Denis Glaccum on Kilkenny

1961

National Champion of the Year - Denis Glaccum on Camouflage

1962

National Champion of the Year - Suzanne Cove on Firecracker

1963

Rider of the Year - J. Gibson Semmes
Horse of the Year - Duck Soup

1964

Rider of the Year - Miss Lee Troup
Horse of the Year - Whispering Sam

1965

Rider of the Year - J. Michael Plumb
Horse of the Year - Johnny O

1966

Rider of the Year - J. Michael Plumb
Horse of the Year - Evening Mail

1967

Rider of the Year - J. Michael Plumb
Horse of the Year - Thunder Road

1968

Rider of the Year - Mason Phelps Jr.
Horse of the Year - West Country

1969

Rider of the Year - M. Lockie Richards
Horse of the Year - M'Lord Connolly