

“Trotting is better than cantering”, she said with conviction, proving that we can learn something new each and every day. From experience of a 10-year-old-soon-to-be-fifth grader this sage information can save a rider on horseback from sliding irreverently from the saddle. Her dressage lessons happen a few times a month. With lessons come the learning how to put on the saddle, muck out the stable. Touching, patting, and talking to the horse comes naturally for this gal.

Ever since Rhett Butler bought his daughter Bonnie a pony in the 1939 epic movie of “Gone with the Wind”, little girls took hold of the reins of a bridle and jumped to the top of ownership of horses. Author Margaret Mitchell helped so many future little girls find a first love with her 1936 novel. Only little girls ride horses, now, leaving the old-time codgers in the dust. Those dust devils in the open fields may be the remnants of wrangler’s minds as the ghosts of past contemplate the conundrum.

Fairgrounds are usually filled this time of year with equestrienne girls, teens and their coaches as they go through the trotting, cantering and galloping in the Dressage performances. The Oxford Desk Dictionary reports this is the “training of a horse in obedience and deportment”. Perhaps, this is something that the old timers never thought of doing. Or it may have come naturally in their Western style of riding. Knees and toes seem to have an abundance of words in the least bit of movement from rider to horse at Rodeos, too, showing that there is room for both Western and English style Horsemanship. And Horsemanship?

Times are a changing as the phrase goes. So, too is the use of the laundry hanging gismo known as the Clothespin. Backyard clotheslines used to tower over green lawns of yesteryear at every home. However, with the electric clothes dryer comes the artistic value of the clothes pin.

The “pinchers” are now used to help young artists create art by dressing them and turning them into dolls. Yarn is wrapped around the top of the pin for a head and then different colors of yarn is wrapped around the wider portion and on down to show only show the legs and feet, the widest part. An artist is born.

“It is easy,” says the 7-year-old artist who has been making these dolls for a week or so. “You just take a strand of yarn and wrap it like this,” she tells a passerby. She is working the table in front of her home to show her artwork. Family

members and friends were invited to join in the Art Festival. Masks are mandatory, of course.

Whether trotting or cantering, horses now learn to enjoy the small hands handling the reins. “You are the master,” reminds the coach as Bo, the rider’s favorite horse, bends her head to take the lead. “Pull up on those reins,” the coach calls out. “There you go.” She tells the rider. “You are in charge.

There is no better fragrance than freshly windblown laundry being taken off the clothesline. Some household managers do this 1950 task with a 2020 flourish. And they enjoy it. Not all homes plant a clothesline, though.

So, trot on outside and devise a line and then hang your colorful bed sheets for that outdoorsy smell. Or learn how to dress a “pincher”. We now have more time to enjoy our surroundings.

Clothespins can be found Online.

Lana Russ



Dressage lesson for 10 year old.



Clothespin dolls dressed for an outing.