

MHSA AND BCHS JOIN FORCES TO EDUCATE COMMUNITY ABOUT HORSE HISTORY



Sidesaddle Outfit Shirley Hardwicke wore
Sidesaddle of Loula Long Combs
Both loaned by Karen Shelton Rader

How many people, aside from exhibitors, trainers, and family members, attended the last horse show in which you participated? I'm guessing that MOST of those present were already part of our equestrian family. Unfortunately, without an audience of "others", we lose the opportunity to introduce people to the horses and the sport that we love.

Earlier this spring, MHSA was presented with a golden opportunity to remedy that situation. The Executive Director of the Boone County Historical Society approached members of the MHSA Board and offered a portion of the Museum galleries as a space for an exhibit about the equestrian history of Boone County. We didn't give him the chance to think twice. The answer was a resounding YES!

Letters were sent to various sources of information, help was recruited, and the committee became a group of "hunters and gatherers" as they collected information, photographs and items for the display, which opened in time for the gala celebration of the Museum's 25th anniversary on Saturday, July 11. The exhibit traces the influence of the horse on the growth of Boone County, and features some of the iconic figures in Boone County's equestrian history, including Tom Bass, Mrs. Claude Drew, and of course,

Boone County's own Fern Palmer Bittner.

Other interesting items displayed are the sewing horse "Uncle Dick" Cook used for a lifetime, an original, un-retouched picture of Rex McDonald, and R.P. Glenn on the great five gaited stallion, Peep of Dawn. Two large pictures of Tom Bass were loaned to the museum by the current Tom Bass of Columbia, Mo. The MHSA year end awards for that association's Medallion program are on display, as is the Jeff Shikles Distinguished Service Award Trophy and the Ruth Palmer Equitation Award.

The exhibit will run through the end of 2015 at the Boone County Historical Society Museum, which is open to the public on Thursday, July 9, easily accessible from US Hwy 63 just south of I-70 in Columbia, Missouri. All horse enthusiasts, as well as all history buffs, are encouraged to visit, to feast their eyes on this marvelous display.



Assorted pictures of Christian College Stables

Skyrim Stables

Fern Palmer and her family

MHSA members are encouraged to take to heart MHSA's mission, which is to promote the light horse industry. This exhibit, which will reach a broader audience than we typically enjoy at our shows and events, is just ONE way in which we can promote the horses and industry we enjoy so much. If you would like to become part of our outreach effort, contact Janet Thompson at janianfarm@aol.com . You may also contact Lynn Frazee at terry661@centurytel.net.

MHSA could not have been able to make this substantial contribution to the industry were it not for the efforts of a dedicated committee, led by former MHSA President Lynn Frazee. Her committee included Sue Webster, Ann Cleek, Karen Shelton Rader and Janet Thompson. Lynn and her crew have created a showcase of the horse, past, present and future, that will benefit us all. A hearty BRAVA!! to the entire committee. Please check out the photos that have been posted on the MHSA Facebook page, which will give you a glimpse of this terrific exhibit.



Over the Tricolor Ribbons, pictures of a coach in four, Margaret Palmer winning the Ladies' Five Gaited Stake at the Boone County Fair, an original painting of the Old Boone County Fair Horse Show, Caroline Drew in formal attire, and an aerial view of the Stephens College Stables.