

Annetto Deaner

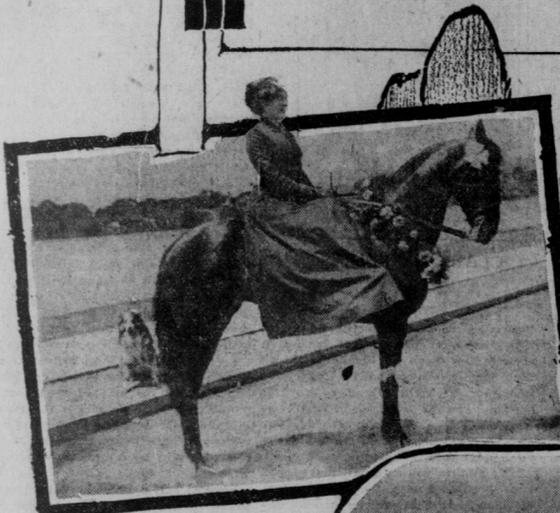
OAKLAND GIRL

Makes Her Horses

Do Everything
But Talk



TELLING 'SNOWBALL' A STORY



MISS DEANER ON HER KENTUCKY THOROUGHBRED 'GRACE' AFTER CARRYING OFF A PRIZE



MISS DEANER HURDLING A FENCE



MISS ANNETTE DEANER AND 'GRACE'

AT MISS DEANER'S COMMAND 'SNOWBALL' KNEELS TO PRAY

By Ida L. Brooks

It is somewhat out of the ordinary in this generation to meet a horse-woman that is a really skillful horse-woman, who spurns the dictates of fashion, rides by preference a fine single footer, refuses to post and, should she be deprived of her surcingle, would ride bareback as second choice. This description, nevertheless, fits Miss Annetto Deaner of Oakland, who can ride with the best in the manner of their choosing, and who has few peers in her ability to reach a horse's intelligence and train it to do unusual things. But post she will not, nor will she ride astride. In these matters she is obdurate.

"Any one can post; it is very easy," says Miss Deaner.

It is always refreshing to find one who does not consider the glance of the public eye or the scorn of the public lip.

Miss Deaner has decided opinions on the subject of riding and here they are in her own words:

"I have ridden horseback ever since I was a very small child. Of course, at first I rode astride. This is by far the

safest way for any one to begin, young or old.

"It made little difference to me whether I had a saddle or only a blanket. I can't remember learning to ride, but I believe it is history that the riding lessons preceded the reading lessons.

"It was on account of my father's owning a stock ranch that I had the opportunity to gain a large experience with horses. It may be due to my father also that I hold the opinions I do relative to women's riding. His state originally was Maryland. In his youth the women of the south rode single footers almost exclusively. The Kentucky thoroughbreds were, many of them, trained to this gait and were unrivaled in it.

"Today there are few riders who know anything about the gait of a good single footer, because single footers are so scarce. There is so little demand for them that it doesn't pay owners to have their horses broken to that gait, and this results also in a big price being paid when the demand is satisfactorily met. I have broken four, and my favorite of them all is now an occupant of the stables of Prince David in Honolulu. If this gait is judged by the poor specimens that are to be seen it is not surprising that it is held in small esteem.

"I consider it best adapted to luxury and grace in riding, and those being my only aims in this form of exercise, it has my preference.

"I have used a surcingle for years, just such a one as this," said Miss Deaner, indicating the narrow banding of her horse's back, and apparently of greater use in holding the blanket on than in making a seat for the rider. To it are attached a small horn, a small stirrup, a pocket big enough for a handkerchief and an emergency strap for the hand. The equipment is extremely dainty.

"Isn't it pretty and simple?" she asked with some show of pride. "The side saddle is a cumbersome affair. I shouldn't think of using one; but I think this position on the saddle is much more womanly as well as graceful, and so the surcingle just suits me.

"Aside from the comfort it gives in enabling the rider to sit right in the curve of the horse's back with only the blanket between, I firmly believe that there is a direct physical advantage gained, that from such close contact with a fine healthy animal the rider must draw new vigor. If a single instance will substantiate my argument, I have only to mention myself, who has had practically no acquaintance with illness in my life.

"Having expressed my opinion with

regard to riding sidewise, I think I need say little as to my dislike for posting. Have you ever seen a sidewise rider post? The effect would, of course, be the same, whether she used a sidesaddle or a surcingle. There is nothing that may be done on a horse's back that appears less pleasing, although in that it is difficult it is a good achievement. Posting in an English saddle looks all right and has a certain style to it, I am willing to admit; but the invigorating feeling of going with the horse which is got when sitting the saddle is entirely lost."

The stock ranch of which Miss Deaner speaks is located near Woodland. At several of the Yolo county fairs she entered in the horsemanship events. On each occasion she carried away prize money. She was also successful at the state fair at Sacramento seven years ago. One of the feats arranged there for the display of steady riding was the placing of rings in such a way that the rider coming on at a good clip with a 12 foot pole held under the arm should detach them in groups of four at a time and carry them away on the pole. Miss Deaner won great applause for her skill at this play.

Hurdling was another feature of these contests, and in this also she excels. She uses the surcingle even for this, and it must not be imagined

that it is an easy thing to accomplish. In the hurdling picture reproduced on this page, the clever work of one of The Call photographers, she is seated on Teddy Roosevelt, owned by John Wenzel of Oakland.

At the flower show conducted in Berkeley last year by the Board of Trade Miss Deaner again won the prize for horsemanship. As she passed the grandstand President Wheeler of the university doffed his hat gallantly, and it was he who presented the prize to her. He took occasion to express his personal preference for her style of riding and admiration for her position in the saddle. She sits perfectly in line with the back of her mount, so that, from behind her body cuts off the view of the animal's head. It requires great ease in the saddle to maintain that position when using a surcingle.

That day she rode a thoroughbred Kentucky mare of Mr. Wenzel's, a high blooded animal which edified the spectators with the Spanish march, Spanish trot and similar accomplishments.

The best results Miss Deaner has achieved in educating horses in high school and more advanced stunts have been in the case of Snowball, a beautiful pure white mare owned by Henry Stow of Seattle. At 1 year of age her education was begun. Soon afterward Miss Deaner took it up.

"Snowball is a perfectly formed ani-

mal," says Miss Deaner, "with remarkable intelligence. Horses, generally speaking, have much finer intelligence than they are credited with, and many more could have been trained to do stunts than have ever been trained. But Snowball is one of the sort that seemed to have been predestined to be an educated horse.

"She is like a kitten in her docility, and every one who goes near her fondles her instinctively. In all her education a whip has never been used. That is something that can't be said ordinarily of trained animals.

"In fact, I have never used a whip in training any horse. All that is necessary is to make a direct appeal to his intelligence. To a person who is familiar with horses it is easy to catch the quick response. It is surprising that more owners do not train their animals in this way. Presumably, if they were not so useful they would be given more accomplishments. It is a fascinating pursuit for the teacher.

"Snowball is a 3 year old, her education having been carried on now for two years. First of all, she can add, subtract, multiply and divide."

"Tell us how that is done. It looks very wonderful."

Miss Deaner smiled, as if she didn't intend to answer that question. But a little later she said something or other about using signs. There you have it in a nutshell. The horse is on the alert for the sign; the audience doesn't see it when it is given.

"For instance, a man in the audience asks Snowball to multiply 3 by 3. Snowball goes to the rack, takes a 9 from the rack and passes it over the edge of the stage. You have all seen it done. If it isn't quite as wonderful as it appears to be, it is remarkable enough, at any rate. Think of the number of signs the horse must understand and how alert he must be to catch them.

"When the blackboard is used in the demonstration, Snowball takes a cloth in her mouth and rubs off the figures

when the time comes.

"She makes superb statuary poses and is able to continue in them for several minutes. I have trained her to sit on her haunches just as a dog does and crossing her forepaws to wave the American flag.

"One of the finest poses she takes is the one in which she gets on her knees beside me on a bench and lays her head on my lap. She will continue in that position any length of time.

"The most remarkable feature of the matter is that she seems to take as much pleasure in learning the tricks or doing them afterward as I do in teaching them. She never has been known to display any signs of ill temper or inattention, even in the most difficult of them.

"It is a pretty trick she has learned which I have named 'Obedience.' She stretches out her forepaws, crossed, and lays her head right down on them. She also does the camel stretch, which position is somewhat similar.

"She has two very affectionate poses. For one of them she lies on her side and stretches up her head for a kiss. In the other she kneels on a box behind me and puts her right foreleg around my neck.

"She is very graceful in taking all these poses, and moves her body and limbs as if she loved every muscle in them and all the movements that they make possible. New poses are being taught her now, and it seems that if she understood English more thoroughly the poses would not even have to be illustrated.

"If I want her to rear on her hind legs I raise my arm and she does it. If I show her the flag, she knows she must lower her body for the patriotic stunt. Similarly, a downward movement of my arm brings her to her knees and other directions, quite as simple, bring her into other poses.

"There is no doubt that Snowball is destined for a famous career. If my love for her were the only consideration I would gladly accept the offer that has been made me."

Miss Deaner has been invited by one of the leading riding masters in this city to ride tandem here in Golden Gate park, using a pair of his horses. This is purely a stunt in riding and it takes considerable skill. Miss Deaner has done but little tandem riding, but enjoys it.