


A Brief History of the Equestrian Community in the East Bay Regional Park District

Board Presentation
October 1, 2024



Park District Grand Opening October 18, 1936





PROGRAM

PROGRAM

OPENING CELEBRATION, REDWOOD BOWL,
OCTOBER 18, 1936, 2 P. M.

In case of rain, program will be postponed to October 25th.

1:30 to 2 P. M., Preliminary Band Concert,
Regional Park Band

1. Music by University of California Band	Directed by Byron Wilson
2. Parade by the East Bay Riding groups; presenting Arabian, Thoroughbred, and Western types with riders in costume.	
3. Equestrian Cavalcade	East Bay Riding Clubs
4. Choral presentation—Pilgrims' Chorus from Tannhauser and Gloria	East Bay High School Choir Directed by Glen Wood
5. Three-minute address by Major Charles Lee Tilden, President, East Bay Regional Park District.	
6. Choral presentation—To Thee My Country University of California Glee Club University of California Treble Clef Society	Directed by Harrison Ward Directed by Temple Clewe Directed by Esther Simpson
7. Entry of composite Battalion R. O. T. C. representing Oakland, Alameda and University of California	Major Wm. I. Sherwood
8. Grand patriotic finale, "America", by combined bands, choral groups and R. O. T. C.	Major Louis Bowler

The audience is respectfully requested to maintain silence when the trumpet call is sounded.

Loud Speaker Equipment supplied by courtesy Langendorf United Bakeries, Inc.

Wm. F. Ewing
Dr. Robert Goff
Dr. Aurelia He
Brother Albert
Wm. G. Paden
Dr. W. E. Jacob
Dr. Virgil Dicks
Harry Jones
A. J. Cartwright
Otis E. Wilson
Dr. John Frankl
J. R. Sutton
Robert Sibley
Cornelia V. N.
R. D. Davies

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Early Trail Riders in the Parks



Left to right: Park District General Manager Richard Walpole, unknown (ask Amelia), Sidney Chown, and Board Director John MacDonald.



Left to right: EBRPD Board Director John MacDonald, [Reinhardt] Redwood Park Superintendent Wes Adams, and Sidney and Lucille Chown, 1962

- During the 1930s and 1940s, riders from local stables and cattle ranches cleared and built many of the trails that we enjoy today.
- Oakland grocer Sidney Chown hand-cleared trails in Redwood Regional Park while he was “between jobs” in the 1930s. He built Piedmont Stables on the site of a former Portuguese dairy.
- District staff and Board members rode horses to tour the parks.

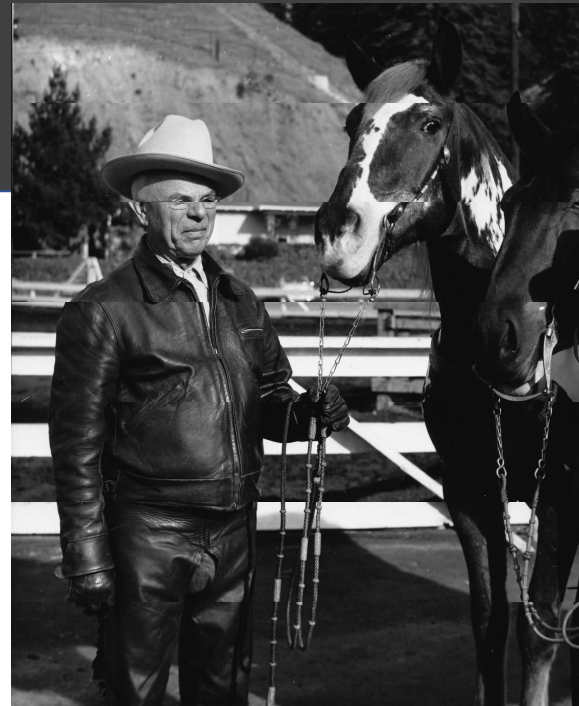
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Early Trail Riders in the Parks



Opening day at Grass Valley Regional Park (later renamed Anthony Chabot Regional Park) in 1952. Festivities included a trail ride with hundreds of horses.



Claud Brandon (1890-1967) holding the bridle of one of his horses Calico Pete.

- Claud Brandon rode his horses every day through the hill parks, often returning to Skyline Ranch after dark.
- The Brandon Trail in Anthony Chabot Regional Park is named in his honor.

Early Trail Riders in the Parks



Beatrice Graham who ran the Miss Beatrice Graham's Riding Academy in Oakland, Berkeley and later Orinda (1912-1938)

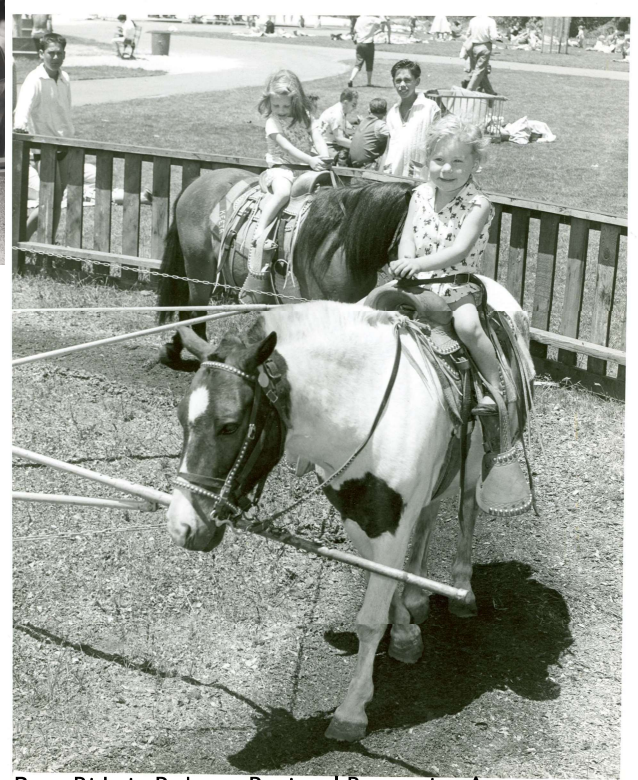


Mrs. John Capriola (right) who operated the Arlington Hills Riding Club in the 1940s

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Early Concessions



Pony Ride in Roberts Regional Recreation Area



Pony Ride in Tilden Regional Park

Early Concessions and Riding Stables



Anthony Chabot Equestrian Center

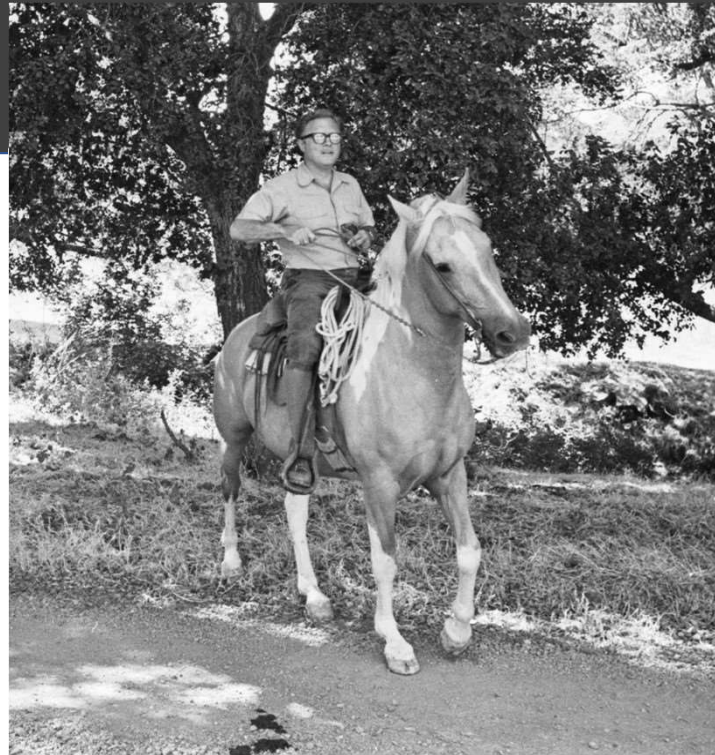


Historic photo of Skyline Ranch and Lorimer's Riding Academy, 1949

George Cardinet and Hulet Hornbeck



Dedication of the Skyline National Trail in 1970. George Cardinet is second from right, leading the first trail ride.

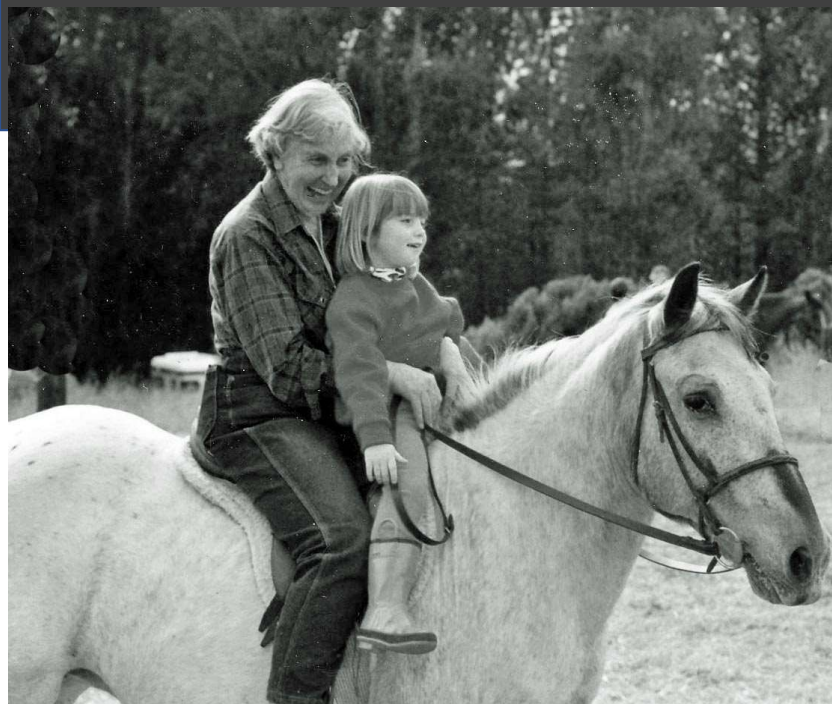


Hulet Hornbeck

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Es Anderson



- Es Anderson was a founding member of the East Bay Area Trails Council
- In the 1980s Botanic Garden volunteer and equestrian, Es Anderson and the Tilden Wildcat Horsemen's Association began advocating for a horse camp in Tilden to host trail rides.
- For over 20 years the Association's East Bay Hills Benefit ride has raised funds for the development of the Bay Area Ridge Trail.
- The Es Anderson Equestrian Group Camp in Tilden was named in her honor in 2000.



Volunteer Patrol Rangers



Miss MHA 1953 and Metropolitan Horsemen's Association trails chairman Sidney Chown



Lloyd Graham

- During the first 25 years of the Park District, law enforcement was provided by mounted volunteer rangers, including Sidney Chown and Lloyd Graham.
- Lloyd recalled having been issued a badge, a pair of handcuffs, and a pistol.
- Alameda County Sheriffs participated in deputizing the Rangers

First Hired Patrol Rangers



- Harry Brizee was the first mounted police officer hired by the park district.
- In 1964, General Manager William Penn Mott replaced the volunteer rangers with a professional police force.

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Volunteer Mounted Patrol

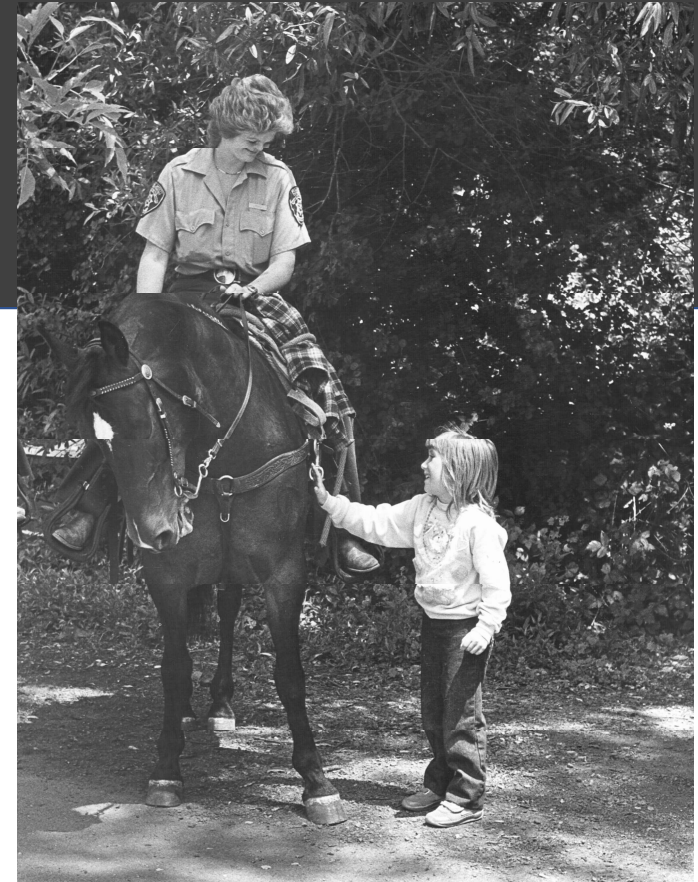


Theotis Brown



James Mendoza

- Mounted volunteers returned to the Park District in 1979 as part of the Volunteer Trail Safety Patrol.
- There are currently 21 Mounted Patrol volunteers.



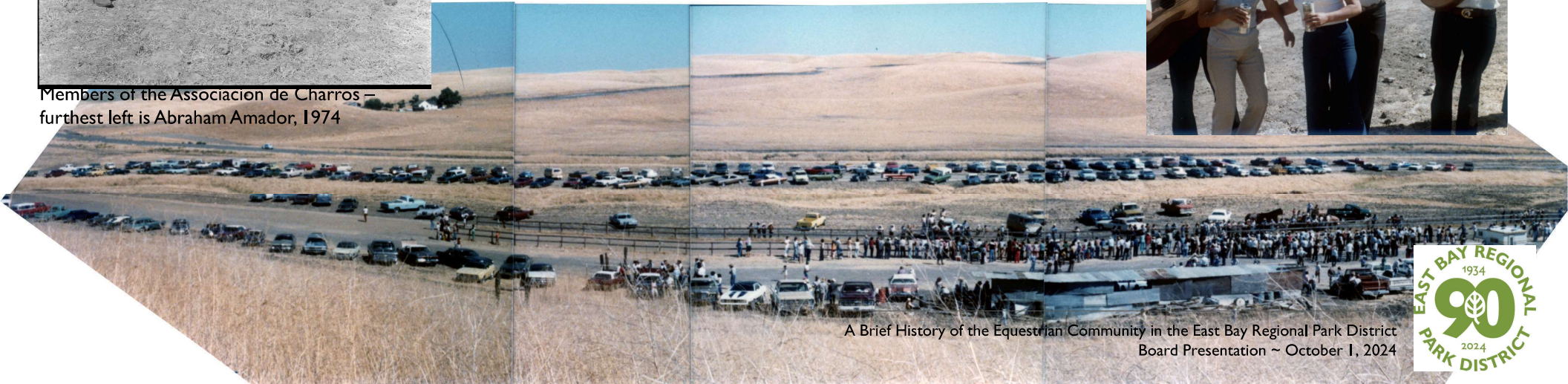
Kathy Baldwin

Association de Charros



Members of the Asociacion de Charros –
furthest left is Abraham Amador, 1974

- Los Charros events occurred in Contra Loma from 1974 to 2000.
- An arena and stable were built by the Association by lease agreement.



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Oakland Black Cowboy Association

- A number of Volunteer Mounted Patrollers have been associated with the Oakland Black Cowboy Association over the years, including: Bennie Theus, Steve Kidd, and Duke Mouton



Duke Mouton

Today's Equestrian Opportunities



Piedmont Stables – Redwood Hills Pony Club

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Today's Public Safety Mounted Patrol



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