

HORSE SHOWS in AMERICA

BY WALDON JAWCETT



Typical Prize Winner in the Pony Class



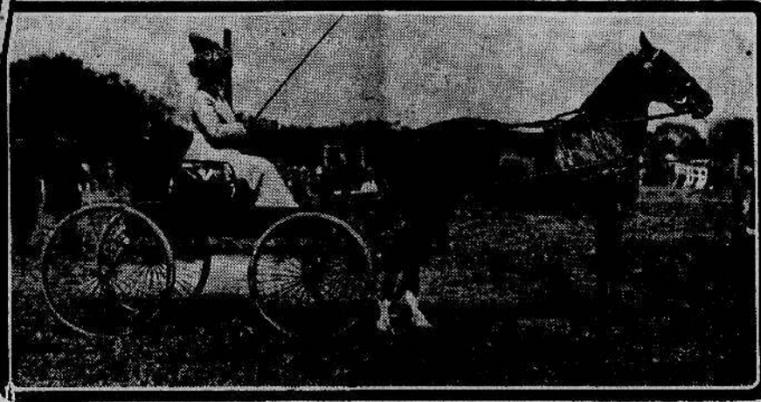
Miss Eleanor Sears



Mrs. Alice Potts



Miss Katherine Elkins Taking a Jump



Mrs. Lars Anderson

The National horse show in New York city, the week intervening between November 14 and November 19, followed by the International show in Chicago, the week of November 22 to 26 inclusive, may be fittingly said to mark the climax of the most remarkable series of horse shows in the history of America. If anything be needed to refute any impression that the automobile is driving the horse into oblivion it can be found in the remarkable series of horse shows—dozens of them in all—which have been held in the United States during the calendar year now drawing to a close. Never before were so many horse shows held in any one season; never were the prizes so valuable and the entries so numerous, and never in the past have so many spectators gathered at these shows and manifested so much enthusiasm.

The National and International horse shows are indoor affairs, the first of a series of such exhibitions of equines under cover that will stretch throughout the winter and spring. Fashionable society always fosters these indoor exhibitions as an opportunity for the display of gowns and jewels, but of late years there has been more interest manifested on the part of that large portion of the public which is fond of the horse for the horse's sake. This awakening has doubtless been due in no small measure to the growth in this country of late years of hunting and cross-country riding as a winter sport. With hundreds of men and women of the "horse set" riding to hounds once or twice a week all through the cold months it has naturally come about that things equine have held a place in the minds of a considerable portion of the public which there has been unflagging interest in everything savoring of the competitive in horse displays.

But it is not sought to give the impression that the indoor horse show is the whole thing in their field, by any means. On the contrary, it is the marvelous growth in popularity of the open-air horse show that has given the greatest impetus to the development of the sport and has been responsible for the heavy increase in the total number of horse shows held within the 12 months. Almost every fashionable playground—summer resort, winter resort, spring resort or autumn resort—now has its open-air horse show, and in that favored section of Virginia which has attained world-wide fame as the home of the thoroughbred, there has been established a "circuit" of out-door horse shows the like of which cannot be seen anywhere else in the world and which attract from all parts of the country admirers of and prospective purchasers of fine horses.

Another interesting development of the past few years has been the private horse show. Men such as Judge W. H. Moore of New York, multimillionaire promoter, and the much-talked-about Thomas W. Lawson of Boston, who own splendid strings of horses and have available private tracks or show rings, have taken to inviting their friends once a season to what are in effect private horse shows—equine parades in which the

ribbon wearing high-steppers are, in compliment, ridden or driven by well-known, non-professional horsemen and horsewomen who have accepted the invitation of the host to assist in the display of his charges. Yet another new factor that is adding to the interest of present-day horse shows is the entry of American and foreign army officers, particularly representatives of the cavalry branch of the service. The United States government is doing all in its power to breed a higher grade of mounts for the army, and to encourage horsemanship in the service, and it is therefore a natural sequence that officers whose vocation is horsemanship should be making their appearance in considerable numbers among the entrants at horse shows, especially when, as is now customary, special classes are listed for their benefit.

Finally in enumerating the influences that have contributed to the new vogue of the horse show in America we must not lose sight of the virtual abandonment of racing. With the snuff of popular and legitimate disapproval placed upon this sport, as conducted in the past, many of the wealthy horsemen who had maintained racing stables for love of the sport turned their attention to other vents for their enthusiasm. One of these new hobbies has been the "matinee races" of the gentlemen's driving clubs, in which the contesting steeds are driven by their owners. A large share of the well-to-do devotees of racing have, however, turned their attention to horse shows—and, for that matter, what are the "matinee races" above referred to but open-air horse shows, whereas, on the other hand, many a horse show of the conventional kind now has tacked on at the end of its program a number of speed contests that afford added excitement for the spectators. Of course, this new adjunct of the horse show is possible only where there is a track or where the show is held on an open beach that affords an impromptu speedway. And by the way, the ocean-side horse show, with cool breezes for spectators and exhibitors, no matter how hot the day, has been finding great favor these past few seasons.

The extension of American horse show activities, and especially the increase in the number of shows, has had one important effect in that it cuts out a full season's work for the horseman or the horsewoman with the means and leisure to make horse showing their principal occupation in life. The horse shows are arranged, in so far as possible, with non-conflicting dates and with some regard to geographical conditions—that is an effort to have the shows in one section of the country follow one another in quick succession in the same season of the year so that horse owners who appear in the territory for one show can, with a minimum of inconvenience, remain in the neighborhood for the others. Thus a horse owner may nowadays find occupation for the major part of the year by taking his horses from one show to another. Thanks to the new system above mentioned there are few long "jumps" between shows and when these do occur the special

equine palace cars that the railroads now provide enable the four-footed aristocrats to make the journey in perfect comfort.

Creditable as would be the horse show that might be gotten up solely by wealthy horse owners, who would bear their own expenses for the sake of the sport, there are no restrictions of this kind. In order to attract prospective customers the professional horse breeder is always glad to enter the pride of his stables, and at the more important horse shows the money prizes hung up are large enough to make it worth while for any horseman of moderate means to enter if he has any confidence in the superiority of his steeds. At this year's New York show for instance, the cash prizes will foot up \$40,000, which it may readily be surmised is sufficient to lure promising fanciers from Virginia, or any other locality more or less distant from the metropolis.

The modern American horse show has expanded in scope as much as it has increased in importance. The best evidence of what a complex and versatile character the present-day horse fair has assumed is indicated by the fact that the prize list prepared for the National show was made to embrace 151 different classes. Undoubtedly, the favorites today, as in the past, are the saddle horses for men and women, including as the showiest branch of the whole family, the hunters or jumpers that are depended upon to furnish the chief spectacular features for the show. Next to the saddlers probably the greatest interest is manifested in the driving horses for carriages, runabouts, etc. This interest is readily explainable by the circumstances that a large proportion of the people who attend horse shows know something or imagine they know something from practical experience regarding carriage horses, even though that experience has been confined to the most prosaic of family "Dobblins."

In this division of the horse show realm the keenest competition is often encountered in the class for runabouts driven by ladies, but from the standpoint of the casual spectator the most fascinating features are those afforded in the case of such novelties as tandems. The four-in-hands of various classes always appear to advantage in a show ring, and nowadays

there are four-in-hand competitions of all sorts, even to four-in-hands restricted to ponies. And just here it may be added that the pony classes are invariably popular at every horse show. Originally such displays were supposed to be included solely for the edification of women and children, but this class of horseflesh has long since attained to the dignity of a place in all horse show catalogues on its merits, and the attention bestowed upon ponies in general has been increased by the fine polo ponies which have been here in recent years, and by the faddy governess carts and other luxurious pony equipages with which wealthy American families have been wont to indulge their juvenile members.

The modern horse show also includes among its displays a number of classes that may not appear of much importance to the layman, who judges the equine panorama in accordance with circus standards, yet which have considerable significance in the eyes of that considerable proportion of the community that is directly interested. As an example of these seemingly more prosaic additions to the horse show procession there may be mentioned the

classes for heavy draft horses. It often happens, however, that for all that such classes arouse no enthusiasm when scanned in the catalogue, the spectator, when actually seated at the show ring finds that, if he has a spark for his majesty the horse, he cannot help but admire the stately and magnificent Clydesdales and Percherons that move about with such ponderous tread. Similarly there are possibilities one might scarcely suspect in the classes of horses driven to light delivery wagons which are now included at almost every pretentious horse show.

Mention has already been made of the classes for officers' charges. At the big shows such classes are open to all nations and to all branches of the service. This is fostering an international rivalry of a healthy character—several international cups or trophies having been offered in recent years—and it also brings to the twentieth century horse show a welcome dash of life and color as afforded by the commingling of the officers of different nationalities in their multi-hued and distinctive uniforms.

This year has witnessed the provision for the first time of special classes for American militia or national guard officers in full dress uniform, equipped with sabre and regulation bridle and saddle. Yet another infusion of a military touch into the modern horse show is found in the practice now common at many shows of arranging daily exhibitions of rough-riding by crack troops of United States cavalry.

With the development of the modern horse show in the United States has come special prominence for a number of men and women who, by reason of their interest in the horse, are now conspicuous figures at almost every horse show of any importance. Among the men who, in the horse show realm are the counterparts of New York's theatrical "first nighters" are Judge Moore, who has been mentioned above, A. G. and Reginald Vanderbilt, Joseph W. Harriman and Colonel Edward T. Stotesbury, the Philadelphia banker. Almost all of these men and not a few other citizens of the republic have at one time or another in recent years taken their horses abroad and have captured some of the most coveted prizes in the shows on the other side of the Atlantic.

Among the horsewomen the foremost place, by virtue of achievement, probably belongs to Mrs. Allen Potts, of Virginia. Mrs. Potts who is the daughter of Colonel Rives, one time United States minister to France, and whose sister, Amelle Rives, has won fame as an authoress, is a literal genius in handling horses. She has her own stock farm and she personally rides her hunters at every horse show of any importance. Mrs. Potts has the unique distinction of being the only woman in the world duly invested with the title of M. P. H. (master—or perhaps in her case we should say mistress—of the fox hounds).

Next to Mrs. Potts the most accomplished horsewoman, and one who is, as regards the general public, the better known of the two is Miss Eleanor Sears of Boston and Newport

The daughter of one of the most exclusive families in the socially-elect Back Bay district of the Hub and the prospective heiress to millions, Miss Sears has become known as the greatest "tomboy" of all time. It seems to be her ambition to indulge in every known form of sport, without regard to whether or not any particular sport was designed for feminine indulgence. She has bested men in tennis, golf, swimming contests, walking contests and no end of other tests of endurance, but her especial penchant is for horses and she rides either side or cross seat, and drives at every horse show which she can find it possible to attend.

A worthy rival of Miss Sears, when she is in this country, is Miss Katherine Elkins, the beautiful daughter of the United States senator from West Virginia, whose love affair with the Duke d'Abuzzi recently set the tongues of two continents to wagging. Miss Elkins is likewise wont to "make the rounds" of the horse shows and her "den" at her home is filled with cups and other trophies which she has captured at horse shows where her thoroughbred, not less than her dashing riding, carried everything before them. Another wealthy society leader whose participation is aiding in making "horse showing" fashionable in America is Mrs. Peter Goetz Gerry, of New York, who was until a few months ago Miss Mathilde Townsend, heiress to millions made in the coal and oil regions of Pennsylvania. Yet another mistress of millions who has set the seal of approval upon horse shows by hearty participation is Mrs. Lars Anderson, who with her husband just made a trip to the Philippines in the party of the secretary of war.

In Alabama an insurgent republican faction has named a ticket headed by C. H. Scott for governor. But as the success of the democratic ticket is assured, the split in the republican ranks is regarded as of little significance so far as results are concerned.



Pastor Russell of the Brooklyn tabernacle, New York, preached in Royal Albert hall, London, to a vast audience of deeply interested hearers. The speaker chose his text from Revelation xx. 11: "I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heavens fled away, and there was found no place for them." He said: "Sin made moral cowardice of our race. From early infancy fear and apprehension, especially in respect to things future, have been impressed upon us. We realize our imperfection, and that our God is perfect, and that perfection is the only standard which he could approve, and that some kind of punishment for sin must be expected. The adversary, taking advantage of our forefathers, misrepresented the Almighty and has used our fears to alienate us from him and to wrest and distort his message to us in the Bible. St. Paul assures us that this is Satan's usual procedure; that he puts light for darkness and darkness for light. Thus it comes that our text, which is really one of the most beautiful and comforting in the Bible when rightly understood, has to many become a lash in the hands of their fears.

It is needless to say that our text is one of the symbolisms of a book filled with symbols. God's people, guided by his holy spirit, in due time will appreciate these symbols. For many of them the due time is already here. The throne is Messiah's. It represents his mediatorial dominion of earth for a thousand years. The white robes symbolize the purity, the justice of his kingdom of righteousness under the whole heavens. The heavens and earth which will flee away from the presence of the great Emmanuel will not be the heavens of God's throne, nor the earth which he has given to the children of men. The heavens and earth which will flee away, and for which no place will be found, are, of course, the symbolical ones. In Bible symbology the earth represents established civilization; the sea represents the restless, dissatisfied masses of humanity. The mountains symbolize human governments, kingdoms, which constitute the backbone of present spiritual influences—Ecclesiasticalism, Christianity. Thus interpreted, our text declares that when Messiah shall assume control of the

world, when he shall sit upon his throne, when he shall exercise rulership amongst men, the result will be that the social system of today, as well as the present day ecclesiasticalism, will flee away, will pass out of existence—no place will be found for them.

Some men may be inclined to ask, "Has not Christ been the great ruler of the world for these past 19 centuries?" And whatever may be said of the 4,000 years before the coming

of Christ may it not be claimed that he has been reigning ever since his ascension to the right hand of the Father? We answer that if this be true; if the Redeemer of men has been reigning as the king of earth for these 19 centuries, there should be something in the Bible to so teach. But we find nothing. On the contrary we hearken to the Master's own words telling us that Satan is the prince of this age (John xiv. 30). We hearken to him again telling us, "My kingdom is not of this world (age)" (John xiv. 3). Again he tells us that he went into a far country to receive the title to his kingdom, then to return to take possession of it (Matthew xxi, 33; xxv, 14), and that at his second coming he will be the great king of glory. He tells us the same thing in Matthew xxv, 31, "When the Son of Man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory."

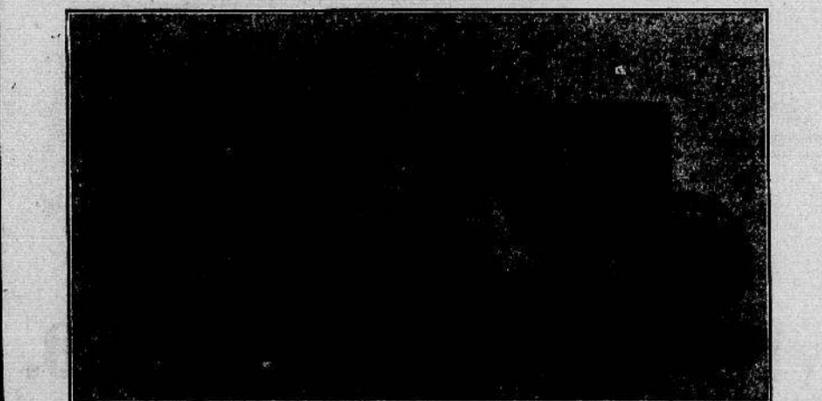
On the other hand, as we scan the pages of history during the past 19 centuries, we are convinced that Messiah has not been the king of the world. To think of Him as such, with

the omnipotent power which we accord to him, would be to charge Him with responsibility for bloody and atrocious persecutions and wars and famines and pestilences. Surely no right-minded person, after mature consideration, can rationally accept the theory that the glorious Messiah's reign of righteousness for the blessing of the whole earth, the uplifting of the whole race, the enlightenment of every creature, and the bringing of all possible into accord with God—none of us could think that that reign of the great mediator between God and men is in the past. We must agree with our text that it is in the future, and that, when established, its effect upon the institutions of the present—political, social, financial, religious—will be such that they will flee away; no place ever more will be found for them. Ah! from this standpoint there is hope; but from no other standpoint. We are living today at the very climax of civilization. Yet today we behold more clearly than ever before that the deeply-ingrained selfishness of humanity is a blight upon all the blessings and conveniences and advantages of our day.

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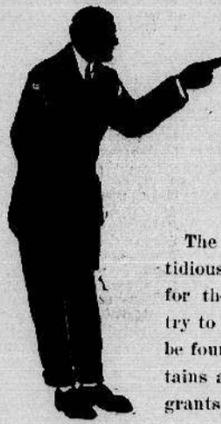
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