

# Model Horse Show Attracts Collectors

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — When the Saddle Cinches 4-H Horse Club held its first open-to-the-public show last year, it didn't expect to have to provide stabling for over two thousand horses. But that's what happened. Thankfully, though, club members had done their homework before the event and were able to cope with the unexpected crowd of animals. In fact, they were so well organized that they managed to fit all the equines into the basement of Lancaster's Farm and Home Center building.

All of this was possible because the event was the club's First Annual Model Horse Show, and the animals were plastic sculptures less than a foot high. Still, accommodating the estimated 2,000 horse models — and more than 50 of their owners — present at the March 1996 show wasn't easy. Entrants were able to stow their boxes of models on rows of assigned tables and prepare their prized equines for the show ring, but despite Saddle Cinches' best efforts, space was a little tight. This year, however, the show promises to be bigger and better in more ways than one.

The Second Annual Saddle Cinches 4-H Model Horse Show will be held on Saturday, April 26, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Farm and Home Center in Lancaster, just off PA's Route 72. Slated for the event: more space and a greater number of classes! Model horse collectors from all over the area and — if this year's crowd in anything like last year's — from as far away as Maryland, Delaware, and New Jersey, will have the opportunity to show their prized models to top placings and championships.

If you're new to the world of model horse competition, you may be wondering how plastic ponies can compete in anything! The answer is that model showing, a horse-loving hobbyists' pastime, replicates a real horse show on a small scale. The collectors' entries are lined up on a tabletop (the "show ring"); then their owners stand back and watch anxiously as the judge inspects the animals and decides who will receive the first through sixth place ribbons. Models are entered in breed classes, where they're evaluated against the other "animals" present and against, say, the appearance of the ideal Morgan of Clydesdale horse. Showmanship classes are judged upon the model's condition (quality of paint job, freedom from scratches or breaks), on the tack it wears (a scaled-down halter or bridle, like that needed to lead a real horse, is required), and on its position (as a showmanship class, in the real horse world, requires the handle to pose the animal properly before the judge). It is the performance classes, however, which showcase all of the creativity and realism which model show-

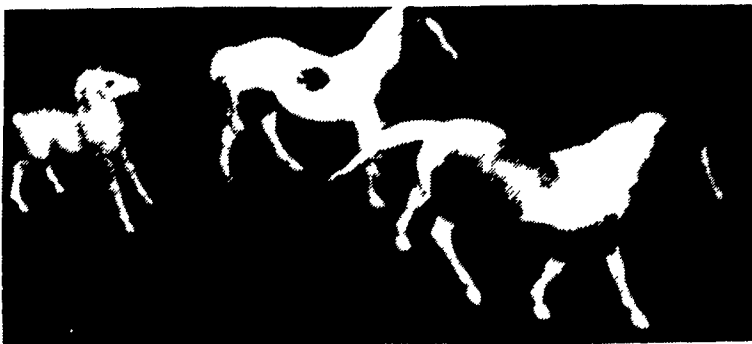
ing can offer.

"Performance" means, simply, that the horse must be doing something, and model performance classes are packed with examples of what a tiny equine can appear to be doing, be it racing down the track at Churchill Downs, separating a cow from the herd, or clearing a jump.

In order to compete, models are outfitted in miniature replicas of saddles, bridles, and other equipment, most of it made by hand. Readyng a model for performance competition requires the owner to know the rules and regulations of each event — from the type of saddle a horse ought to wear, to the colors in which to paint diminutive jumps. Costume classes, too, are one of the highlights of any model horse event. Here, you might see the tiny horses decked out in silver-draped parade saddles a la Roy Rogers, wearing the brightly colored tassels of Arab chieftans' mounts, or carrying miniature knights in armor into battle. The number of variations is limited only by the contestant's imagination.

Model horse showing, then, can be something of a spectator sport as well as a hobbyist's passion. Observers and competitors alike are welcome at the Saddle Cinches event: between classes, visitors will be able to purchase handmade tack and both new and vintage models from vendors, and enjoy homemade barbecue and baked goods courtesy of the 4-H food stand. The show's main attraction, however, will be the model horse signing. 1997 marks the 50th anniversary of the publication of author Marguerite Henry's Newbery Honor-winning pony tale, *Misty of Chincoteague*. The book is still in print; and Breyer, the leading name in the model horse business, has released a gift set of models in honor of *Misty*'s enduring popularity. *Misty II*, featured in the set, is the real-life granddaughter of the equine star of the book. She and her daughters, *Black Mist* and *Twister*, are owned by Kendy Allen of Manheim, who will be on hand to sign *Misty II* gift sets for a \$3 fee at the show. Models signed by the owner of the real animals are highly collectible, and visitors are welcome to either bring a *Misty* set to be signed or purchase one from Mrs. Allen at the show.

Junior and senior champions and reserve champions will receive rosettes and a Breyer model. Pre-entry fee of \$10 due by April 19, or \$12 on show day enters 27 classes. Make checks payable to Saddle Cinches 4-H Club. To receive more information, or to register for the show, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Kirsten Kauffman, 761 Hess Rd., Elizabethtown, PA 17022. Questions? Call (717) 367-5295 evenings.



In honor of the 50th anniversary of the publication of author Marguerite Henry's Newbery honor-winning pony tale, "*Misty of Chincoteague*," a gift set of Breyer models of *Misty II* and daughters *Black Mist* and *Twister* will be sold and signed by owner Kendy Allen of Manheim.



Kirsten Kauffman prepares for the upcoming Saddle Cinches 4-H Model Horse Show to be held April 26 at the Farm in Home Center in Lancaster. Model horses are judged the same as live horses according to their breed and type. In addition showmanship and performance competition will be held.

## Explore Ephrata Cloister History

EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) — In times when cellular phones and e-mail are rapidly expanding the world, the simplicity of paper and ink as a form of communication may seem a bit old-fashioned. Yet paper has served as the medium of exchanging ideas and recording our heritage for centuries. The historic Ephrata Cloister will offer the chance to discover more about paper and its role in history during the new interpretive program *Pages of History*, Saturday, April 12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Throughout the day, visitors will have the opportunity to try a little paperwork, 18th century style!

"By the early 1740s, the Ephrata Cloister had become a complete publishing center, with its own paper mill, printing press, and book bindery," notes museum educator Michael Showalter. In addition, the Cloister introduced the Pennsylvania German decorative writing called *Fraktur* to America. "*Pages of History* gives visitors a first-hand look and a chance to experience the crafts associated with paper," adds Showalter.

Richard Aldorasi of the Philadelphia Handmade Paper Company will demonstrate and explain the traditional techniques of turning linen rags into fine quality paper, just as the Brothers of Ephrata Cloister did two centuries ago. Craftsperson Claressa Resh, who specializes in the reproduction of

Ephrata *Fraktur* writing and drawing, will offer information on the art form. Printer Lee Haines will demonstrate the printing process used by the Cloister members to produce impressive books and pamphlets. Anthony Haverstick of the Water Street Bindery will discuss the methods of book binding which the Brothers employed. Not only will these talented people share their knowledge with visitors, but invite viewers to try the crafts for themselves. Decorative paper work will also be featured in the Museum Store with *Fraktur* artist Myrtle Shreiner and paper cutter Neil Haring offering insight to their crafts. The Museum Store also offers a wide range of items relating to paper, including products of the craftsmen demonstrating during the day.

All activities, including guided tours of the historic site, are included with admission to the Cloister. Admission is \$4 for children (age 6-12), \$5.50 for Senior Citizens (age 60 and above), and \$6 for adults (age 13-59). Ephrata Cloister Associates members receive reduced admission.

Founded in 1732 by Conrad Beissel, Ephrata Cloister is one of

America's earliest communal societies. Gathered in unique medieval style buildings, the community consisted of celibate Brothers and Sisters, and a married congregation of families. The life of the celibate members was characterized by severe discipline and self-denial of comfort. At the zenith of the community in the 1740s and 1750s, about 300 members worked and worshiped at the Cloister.

Following the death of the last celibate member in 1813 the married congregation formed the German Seventh Day Baptist Church. Members continued to live and worship at the Cloister until 1934. In 1941 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania acquired the historic site and began a program of restoration and interpretation. Today, nine original buildings are part of a 28-acre complex open for visitors.

Ephrata Cloister is located in Ephrata Borough, Lancaster County on Route 322 at the intersection with Route 272. The historic site is open Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. For more information, call (717) 733-6600.

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