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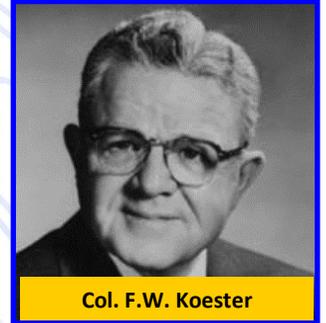
**HISTORY**  
**of the**  
**CSHA DRILL TEAM**  
**PROGRAM**

## PREFACE

Unfortunately, most of the detailed history of the CSHA drill team program was either never recorded or has been lost. In 2013 it was requested that Patti Souza research and record as much of the history that remained as possible. She was also asked, as one of the few remaining riders from the early period, to document her recollections of what it was like in the early years of the drill team program. CSHA has always been and remains the leading association for drill teams in California. Thank you, Patti, for collecting as much as you could.

## ORIGINS

The Beginning: On March 8, 1945 an Army man, **Col. F. W. Koester** became interested in CSHA and so began the Drill Team Program for the California State Horsemen's Assoc. So, who exactly was Koester? This San Francisco-born native Californian loved horses all his life. It was that love that encouraged him to make the United States Cavalry and Army Remount Service his career during the two world wars. The Army Quartermaster's Remount Service bred, trained and supplied horses to Army troops in the field. The Quartermaster Depot, the World War II-era name for what is now Cal Poly Pomona was on cereal magnate W.K. Kellogg's 800-acre Arabian horse ranch in Pomona CA. It was one of seven across the country where the U.S. military, to fight the Nazis, trained its secret weapon: horses! Col. F.W. Koester, who had led the Army's War Dog center in San Carlos, was made Pomona's commanding officer and he was responsible for the procurement and training of horses and mules for military use. In later years Koester served as General Manager of the California Thoroughbred Breeders Assoc. and Editor of *The Thoroughbred of California*. He also developed the lip tattoo as an effective means of identifying horses and bred Show Girl, a horse who won the silver medal in the Prix des Nations show jumping competition at the 1932 Olympics in Los Angeles. He died in 1988 at 93 years of age. I think he would be proud to see that our program today is not only still exist but is thriving.



Drill team maneuvers were used by the cavalry to position troops on the battlefield, so Col. F. W. Koester knew what he was doing when he suggested a Drill Team Program. Drill teams had become popular in the late 40's with not only children's and women's riding clubs but also with the male dominated Sheriff Posse units. There were many family oriented equestrian clubs and associations springing up across post war California and drill provided a fun group affair. Koester led the discussion for uniform Drill Team rules for the regions and then the State. Rules were accepted Aug 7, 1949 and the first California State Drill Team competition was held Oct. 13-16, 1949.

In 1957 the Junior and Senior State Champions were first invited to perform at the Cow Palace. In 1962 Earl Bradley, also an ex-cavalry officer, who resided in Turlock, Ca. was Chairman of the Program. At that time there were 250 riders participating in the Drill Team Program.

The first combination CSHA Convention and Horse Show was held in Santa Barbara Oct. 17-20, 1946, but drill teams did not compete at the annual show until 1949.

## CHRONOLOGY

Discussion for uniform Drill Team rules for regions and then the State were accepted Aug 7, 1949 and the first California State Drill Team competition was held Oct. 13-16, 1949. The competition continued at each Convention /Horse Show wherever it was located throughout the state.

## **EARLY HISTORY**

In 1956 the captains of the competing teams would choose the judges for the following year.

In 1957 Both Jr and Sr team were invited to perform at Cow Palace.

In 1962- Earl Bradley an ex-cavalry officer who resided in Turlock, Ca. was Chairman of the Program and sets of fours were added. At that time there were 250 riders participating in the Drill Team Program. This was also the year that it was first suggested that the Horse Show and Convention be held separately.

In 1964 there were seven Junior Teams and 2 Senior Teams competing. CSHA began participating in the Grand Entry at Cow Palace. Cow Palace had been inviting CSHA Drill Teams to perform at the shows for some time.

In 1966 the Drill Team Chairman appointed three people to tabulate scores and a CPA was required to audit the tabulations.

In 1968 the Drill Team rules were completely reviewed and rewritten.

The Chairman in 1969 was Paul Storer.

In 1974 a Drill Team Audit Committee was formed.

Chairman 1982-1983 was Mike Stiger. In 1983 the State Champions were: Sr. -Sacramento County Sheriff's Posse, Jr. – Visalia Rockettes, and Novice- Mokelumne Mounties.

The Drill Team Rules were again updated in 1984.

1995 CSHA Drill Team program suspended due to lack of volunteer to head program.

## **THE SECOND CHAPTER**

The Drill Team program went on hiatus in 1995 and remained so for 7 years until Robert Lorbeer, then the Captain of the Sacramento Sheriff's Posse, volunteered to start it up again in **2003**. He remained the Drill Team Chairman for eight years revitalizing the program and putting it on solid footing once again.

At the time there was not a single drill competition available in the state. Mr. Lorbeer gave up his role with the Sheriff's Posse to focus on the CSHA program. In 2003 the State Championship Competition was reinstated and held at the Stanislaus County Fair Grounds. Bringing a drill competition back to California. The Blue Shadows won the Junior Championship, The Sacramento Sheriff's Posse took the mixed division, and the Sierra Sundowners won the Senior Division. The Overall highpoint title went to the Sacramento Sheriff's Posse.



Robert Lorbeer presents the "Robert Lorbeer Spirit of Drill" award.

**2003 State Championships** - In **2003** the State Championship Competition was reinstated and held at the Stanislaus County Fair Grounds. The Blue Shadows won the Junior Championship, The Sacramento Sheriff's Posse took the mixed division, and the Sierra Sundowners won the Senior Division. The Overall highpoint title went to the Sacramento Sheriff's Posse. In **2004** the competition was again held at the Stanislaus Fairgrounds.

In **2005** the State Championships location was moved to the Diamond Bar Arena in Ceres, CA where it has remained.

**2009 State Championships** - In **2009** the Jim Real Memorial Trophy was introduced as the perpetual trophy awarded to the high point grand championship title winner. The trophy memorializes the supreme dedication and contributions of longtime CSHA member, drill team judge, and multiple term President of CSHA, Jim Real. Mr. Real held numerous positions in CSHA before he passed away in September of 2007 at the age of 68. One of Jim's daughters was on hand to present the new trophy to the newly crowned grand champion Blue Shadows.

### **THE THIRD CHAPTER**

At the completion of the **2010** season Lorbeer faced with a demanding schedule resigned his Chairmanship and nominated Jill Kraut for the position. At the time Jill was the Executive Officer of the Blue Shadows Mounted Drill Team but after 45 years with that organization felt she could have a greater impact on the growth of this sport through CSHA, so she accepted the position as State Chair and resigned from Blue Shadows who had many talented people to see to its welfare. At the State Championships in 2011 the Robert Lorbeer "Spirit of Drill" award was introduced. The award was aptly named for Robert Lorbeer to honor and acknowledge his importance to the program and the spirit of competition he instilled.



Jill Kraut – Drill Team State Chair

**2011 State Championships** - At the State Championships in **2011** the Robert Lorbeer "Spirit of Drill" award was introduced. The award was aptly named for Robert Lorbeer to honor and acknowledge his importance to the program and the spirit of competition he instilled. The award is voted on by the drill team committee and awarded to the deserving team or individual. The inaugural trophy was awarded posthumously to Billi Jo Dyer and the Mokelumne Mounties. A moving memorial tribute was also held prior to awards for Billi Jo, the drillmaster of the Mokelumne Mounties, with all the contestants participating as well as the Mokelumne team led by one of her daughters led Billi Jo's horse into the arena with her empty boots fixed backwards in the stirrups in military tribute tradition. The competition itself was halted early due to an unseasonable hard rainstorm that left the arena unsafe to complete the competition.

**2012 State Championships** - At the 2012 State Championships a Quad division was introduced for small teams of 4-7 riders. The new Quad division perpetual trophy donated by Melanie Coto was won by the Smokin Guns. The Mixed division was formalized with a perpetual trophy of their own, also donated by Melanie Coto, and it was won by the Smokin Guns as well appearing in their very first competition. 2012 also saw the Compulsory drill added to the open division lineup (Theme and Novice) at the championships.

**2012 Inaugural California Coto Cup** - In **2012** for the first time a second competition was added to the CSHA schedule. The California Coto Cup was introduced in 2012. In partnership with Melanie Coto of MonteVerde Trails Ranch, CSHA goal was to create the premiere drill team event in California. The

successful event was held mid-August at the Murieta Equestrian Center in Rancho Murieta. Featuring a Novice and an Elite division this competition pitted teams regardless of age against one another in head to head competition. CSHA Royalty was on hand to present the Inaugural Reserve Coto Cup to the California Cowgirls and the Championship Coto Cup to the Blue Shadows.

**2013** - In 2013 CSHA added a very successful “Drill Team Spring Raffle” to assist teams with fundraising to attend CSHA drill team events. CSHA provided teams with the tickets, prizes, and raffle administration. The State Championships was held once again at the Diamond Bar Arena with 13 teams in attendance making it the largest competition in the modern history of the program. The 2nd Annual California Coto Cup was moved to a cooler summer venue, The Horse Park at Woodside. The site proved to be a stunning backdrop to showcase the amazing teams. The C.C. Riders from Washington became the first out of state team to compete at the Coto Cup.

**2014** - Was the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the drill team program. A drill team manual intended as a step by step instruction manual for newly formed teams will be introduced in conjunction with CSHA goals to provide knowledgeable advice to the drill team community. On the 2014 event calendar is a drill clinic (TBA), a 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual “Spring Raffle” (Feb-April), the 2014 State Championships (May 3-4, Diamond Bar Arena) and the 2014 California Coto Cup (August 2&3, Horse Park at Woodside).

**2015** – Was the year of the “American Ride”. This composition ride was a team composed of 41 riders of various teams all carrying American Flags in a Grand Entry performance to open the 2015 California Coto Cup at the Horse Park at Woodside. A well-attended drill team symposium was introduced at the CSHA Convention at the Jackson Rancheria Casino Resort.

**2016** – Was the year the Coto Foundation Educational Scholarship Competition was added to the Coto Cup Drill Team Competition weekend. Open to all CSHA junior riders 14 and older, the scholarship seeks to award an all-around equestrian a scholarship to pursue higher education. The Scholarship is executed by the Drill Team Chair and Coto Foundation liaison, Jill Kraut, and administered by the CSHA Charitable Trust. The Scholarship was funded in 2016 for an initial five-year term.

**2017** – Marked the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CSHA. To mark the occasion the Parade Program and the Drill Team Program joined together to present 150 horses in the 2016 State Championship Parade & Drill Team Weekend in Ceres, CA. A 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Buckle Series was created to celebrate either the overall high point team or the most improved team between the State Championships and the Coto Cup three months later. The criteria for the winning team was selected at the awards ceremony at the Coto Cup and the team winning matching Gist Silversmith 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Drill Team buckles were the Spurs ‘n Lace of Stockton with the most improved score. The Bits ‘n Bows a first-year team captured the 2017 CA Coto Cup Championship.

**2018** – At the 2018 State Championships held again at the Diamond Bar Arena in Ceres the Blue Shadows captured their 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive Grand Champion title, now that is a dynasty! Who will be the team to end it? At the CA Coto Cup, Firestorm of Washington, took home the Grand Coto Cup and \$2000. In prize money. The Cavallo Cowgirls won the Season Buckle Series as Most Improved Team while the Buckshot Beauties were overall season highpoint winners. We also performed a unity ride, featuring 48 American Flag Riders representing all the competing teams in a ride we call “The American Ride 2018”.

**2019** – So here it is coming up on the 2019 season and we are celebrating 70 years of Drill in California thanks to the California State Horsemen’s Association. We are proud that others have followed in our

footsteps and currently there are five competitions held in California for teams to attend. CSHA continues to focus on ways to transform, renovate and innovate one of the few team equine sports available to equestrians. Let's celebrate today and plan!

### **THE WAY IT WAS (Early Drill Team Recollections of Patti Souza)**

From the fifties to the eighties the State Championship Drill Competition was conducted very differently than it is now. There was only a *Junior* and a *Senior* Division. There was only one drill performance and the time limit was 12 to 20 minutes. There was also a cleanliness and uniformity inspection that counted towards your score.

As you can imagine 20 minutes of drill time took a lot of imagination to fill and because you couldn't lope the whole time some maneuvers were done at the walk and jog. Believe it or not some of the walking maneuvers were most impressive.

The cleanliness and uniformity judging was very thorough with some of the judges wearing white gloves. The team would line up company abreast, and then every other horse would move a horse's length forward. Then the judges came. Every horse was inspected by each judge. The tack was checked for cleanliness, to the point that underneath the saddle skirts were brushed with the white gloves. The tack was also checked for correct fittings. Many times, loose chinchies, bits and chin straps, and even missing chin straps were found by the judges thus avoiding some bad accidents. Uniformity of tack and clothing were checked. Down to barrettes in the girl's hair and whether some had watches and some didn't. For some time even, the horses were fairly uniform.

One time in Palm Springs for the Championship Show the teams were lined up for inspection, my team happened to be last to be inspected. As we were waiting for our turn a dust storm came up and we didn't have time to clean up again. We got docked for dirty tack. The judges didn't consider the dust storm as a valid excuse and that was the breaks.

Back then they didn't have boom boxes or any other kind of portable music, so we had an **accordion player** who traveled with us. As I said we had maneuvers in all gaits from the walk to an all-out run, our musician would change songs when we changed gaits. "Rose of San Antone" for the walk, "American Patrol" for the jog and "Beer Barrel Polka" for the lope and gallop.

Traveling with horses in the 40's and 50's was very different. I rode with the **Turlock Cavalier and later the Turlock Cavalier Colts from 1948 to 1955**. We performed with 24 horse and rider combinations and had two combinations literally waiting at the gate in case of emergency. The horses were hauled mainly in wooden two horse trailers (there was no such thing as a stock trailer or four horse). My dad and one of the other rider's dad were in the livestock business so they had stock trucks. Wooden racks and not covered. My dad's truck could haul eight horses nose to tail and so hauled for those who did not have trailers. We traveled 100,000 miles in the five years that the Cavaliers performed, all over the state of California into Northern Nevada and Southern Oregon, and never had so much as a flat tire let alone a breakdown or accident.

Levi Strauss contacted us in 1951 and wanted to take us nationwide. They would pay all expenses, and we would travel eight months out of the year. They were even going to pay us each a small sum. We took a vote but decided not to take them up on their offer mainly because it would mean school on the road and the guys would miss the sports at Turlock High. That was another difference back then there were at least as many guys drilling as girls.

Another big difference in the 40's and early fifties was housing. The highway system didn't come into being until the mid-fifties so there were very few motels when CSHA Drill Program began. The riders and their families would camp out, staying in box stalls when available or sleeping in the trailers. Many times, we would unload the horses clean the truck floor, lay down straw and our sleeping bags.

## **COMPETITION HISTORY**

**Competition dates, locations and winners. (The records of champions for the early years has been lost. So, except for the Jr. Champion 1949-1954, The Turlock Cavaliers and 1955-1959 The Turlock Cavalier Colts. These Champions are unknown.)**

### **EARLY COMPETITION LOCATIONS**

1<sup>st</sup> competition: 1949- Sacramento, 1950-Palm Springs, 1951-Stockton, 1952-San Jose, 1953-Petaluma, 1954-Santa Barbara, 1955-Turlock, 1956-Long Beach, 1957-Antioch, 1958-Paso Robles, 1959-Turlock, 1960-Sacramento, 1961- , 1962-Santa Barbara, 1963-Fresno, 1964-? Santa Rosa

### **WINNERS HISTORY (1989 - current)**

#### **Junior Champions**

1989	Visalia Rockettes
1990-1992	California Rangers
1993	Visalia Rockettes
1994	California Rangers
1995-2002	no competition
2003	Blue Shadows
2004	Mokelumne Mounties
2005	Blue Shadows
2006-2007	Amigos de Anza
2008-2018	Blue Shadows

#### **Senior Champions**

1993-1994	California Rangers
1995-2002	no competition
2003	Sierra Sundowners
2004	California Cowgirls
2005	Petaluma Riding & Driving Club
2006	Sacramento Sheriff's Posse
2007-2010	California Cowgirls
2011	Blue Shadows Sr.

2012	West Coast Cowgirls
2013	California Cowgirls
2014	Sacramento Sheriff's 911
2015	California Cowgirls
2016-2017	Sacramento Sheriff's Posse
2018	Synergy

**Mixed Division Champions** (introduced in 2003 but officially declared an independent division in 2012)

2012-2016	Smokin' Guns
2017	Bits 'N Bows
2018	Buckshot Beauties

**Quad Champions** (introduced in 2012)

2012	Smokin' Guns
2013	Smokin' Guns
2014	Lucky Clover
2015-2018	Diamonds in the Rough

**CSHA State Grand Champions** - The Grand Champion Title, awarded to the over- all high point team, was first presented in 2003 and the winners were the Sacramento Sheriff's Posse. **The Jim Real Memorial Perpetual Trophy** was introduced in 2009 and is presented to the Grand Champions.

2003	Sacramento Sheriff's Posse
2004	California Cowgirls
2005	Blue Shadows
2006	Sacramento Sheriff's Posse
2007-2018	Blue Shadows

**CSHA California Coto Cup Champion** – In 2012 CSHA added another competition to the drill team program. Backed by a generous donor the competition was named the “California Coto Cup”.

2012	Blue Shadows (Inaugural Competition) - Location /Rancho Murieta
2013	Blue Shadows - Location/Horse Park at Woodside
2014	Latigo n' Lace (Washington) - Location/Horse Park at Woodside
2015	California Cowgirls - Location/Horse Park at Woodside
2016	Sacramento Sheriff's Posse – Location/Horse Park at Woodside
2017	Bits 'n Bows - Location/Horse Park at Woodside

**The Robert Lorbeer “Spirit of Drill” Award** is awarded every year at the California Championships to the individual or team which most reflects the sportsmanship and spirit of drill.

2011	Posthumously to Billi jo Ann Dyer and the Mokelumne Mounties
2012	Sacramento Rhinestone Cowgirls 4-H
2013	Redding Junior Rodeo Association

2014 Historic Durham Ferry  
2015 Linda Peixoto (Smokin' Guns)  
2016 Diamonds in the Rough  
2017 The Flying Fillies

**Coto Foundation Educational Scholarship**

2016 Katrina Myers  
2017 Mackenzie Basso

