

A PONY CLUB ODYSSEY

**ACADEMY OF
ACHIEVEMENT
INDUCTEES**

SALLY GARNER, New York

When she was a member, Sally Garner belonged first to Mendon Pony Club in Western New York, then, after moving to Southern California, she joined the Woodland Hills Pony Club and rode with Hilda Gurney. She graduated from UCLA with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1978. After school, she entered the world of television. Currently she is the producer of "CBS Evening News with Dan Rather" and frequently receives investigative assignments that require travel abroad. In the past few years she has focused on the genetically engineered food controversy.

Sally continues her interest in horses and riding, when time allows in New York. She competes as an amateur in Hunter and Jumper classes. When the 1984 Olympics were held in Los Angeles, Sally approached the network offering to do personal interviews with the equestrians, and actually "sold" her idea to CBS.

SALI GEAR, Virginia

Sali Gear came up through the Sunshine Region of Pony Club as a member of the St. Croix, (Virgin Islands). She graduated from the University of Florida in 1984 with a BA in Political Science, and received her Naval Commission through the NROTC program. At that time, the Navy was permitting women pilots to fly jets in non-combat roles but would not "carrier qualify" them, meaning they could not land planes on aircraft

carriers. The majority of women pilots stayed in the primary or prop tracks, which meant that they flew transport aircraft or helicopters.

Sali continues her active duty as a Commander in the U.S. Navy and is currently stationed in a staff position with a joint force command, conducting readiness assessments of combat units and logistical supply needs.

Sali is presently active in Pony Club, both in Virginia and St. Croix where her parents live. Her participation has resulted in the expansion of educational programs for both members and instructors in both regions.

**ROGER B. "TAD"
LEITHEAD, JR., Georgia**

Tad Leithead graduated from the Greenwich Pony Club in Connecticut. He competed in every National Rally from 1969 to 1976 except for one year when his horse was lame. Since graduation, he has been extremely active in Pony Club judging, teaching, examining, including serving as a member of the Horse Management Committee and, at various times, as DC. One might give credit to (or blame) his parents for his dedication and involvement in Pony Club; both parents have been, and still are, active in the Pony Club organization.

Tad attended Washington and Lee University where he received his BA degree in Philosophy. He is a successful businessman in Atlanta, and member of numerous organizations, both philanthropic and business related. An entertaining speaker, he is

frequently requested to speak at various civic functions.

**CATHERINE STOPPANI-
JOHNSON, California**

Catherine Stoppani-Johnson was born in Switzerland. Her mother was a Swiss, and her father an American in the U.S. Foreign Service. Consequently Catherine and her older sister Barbara traveled extensively as children and attended schools in many different countries, including Montreal (Canada), Naples (Italy), Tel Aviv (Israel), Venice and Rome (Italy).

She stayed for 2 years with a Pony Club family in Woodside, California, and joined the Los Altos Hunt Pony Club before returning to Rome for her senior high school year. As one can imagine, Cathy and Barbara are both multi-lingual. In addition to English, they speak French and German fluently, with touches of Italian here and there!

Cathy was assigned to the Cardiology department of Stanford Hospital. There she worked in CCU and in Research where state of the art advances were being made in heart transplantation, lung transplantation, and diabetes. She also worked directly with doctors on the development of the Fogerty cardiac catheter and the Simpson balloon angioplasty technique.

She returned to Woodside and worked in the hospital there until she was hired by Genentech in 1981 as a consultant to work on the Growth Hormone project requiring her to travel extensively in the US, meeting with and evaluating candidates for the

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hormone treatment. She continues to work for Genentech, doing research and medical auditions.

Cathy and her husband live in Rescue, located in the Sierra foothills above Sacramento. Greg is employed by the State Department of Fish and Game, while Cathy telecommutes. They live on several acres and have paddocks, small barn and a riding ring that accommodates nicely the three horses they have at home. Their daughter Natalie, 14, has a great seat and aspires to become a barrel racer!

JOHN STRASSBURGER, *Virginia*

John Strassburger is a graduate A of the Spring Valley Hounds Pony Club in New Jersey. He earned his BA degree in American Studies at Dickinson College, joining the editorial staff of *The Chronicle of the Horse* right after graduation. Two years later he became editor, inheriting the post from Alexander Mackey Smith.

The years since his Pony Club graduation have found John serving two 2-year terms as D.C. of the Middleburg-Orange County Pony Club, numerous years as Tetrathlon Committee Chairman, as a USPC Board of Governors member, and as a national and international Tetrathlon teams coach.

As editor of *The Chronicle*, John puts in long days and travels extensively. His main passion, outside of work, is serving as President of the Land Trust of Virginia where he is actively involved in the preservation of the Virginia landscape for future generations. John's has been a passionate advocate of the need to preserve land for equestrian use.

In the mid '90s, he was a successful amateur steeplechase trainer and rider. He now events to the extent his time allows and enjoys hunting regularly. With his wife Heather he acquires rescue horses, from time to time, some of which are actually rideable.

NATIONAL YOUTH CONGRESS ROSTER

The following Pony Club members were honored by their respective regions by receiving nominations to the National Youth Congress:

Lucy Angarola, B, Midsouth
 Kate Balzer, H-A, Tri-State
 Kristi Beall, A, Northern Lakes
 Lacey Benson, H-A, Sunshine
 Danielle Carr, B, Oregon
 Sarah Emig, H-A, Maryland
 Anna Echelbarger, C-3, Lakeshore
 Emily Fischer, H-A, Northwest
 Cynthia Franklin, H, Great Lakes
 Cara Fusco, C-3, SE New England
 Jessica Healy, H-A, Midwest
 Ursula Hummel, B, Intermountain
 Lisa Kachouee, C-3, Virginia
 Rusty Lochner, B, South
 Josh Mangas, C-3, Northern Lakes
 Chelsea Meats, C-3, Oregon
 Kirstin Mennella, H-A, White Mtn
 Molly Moran, C-3, Western New York
 Kate Moulding, H, Central New Eng
 Erika Nesler, B, Eastern Pennsylvania
 Ali Rawles, H-A, Delmarva
 Alicia Richie, C-3, Eastern PA
 Ginny Roberts, H-A, Deep South
 Tahra Roberts, H-A, Big Sky
 Jasmin Roberts, H-A, Great Lakes
 Cathy Ruoff, B, Rio Grande
 Kim Schisler, A, South
 Katherine Short, B, Central New Eng
 Juli Sillman, B, NY/Upper CT
 Ampara Visser, B, Hawaii
 Lindsay Welles, H-A, NY/Upper CT
 Felicity Wood, B, Northwest