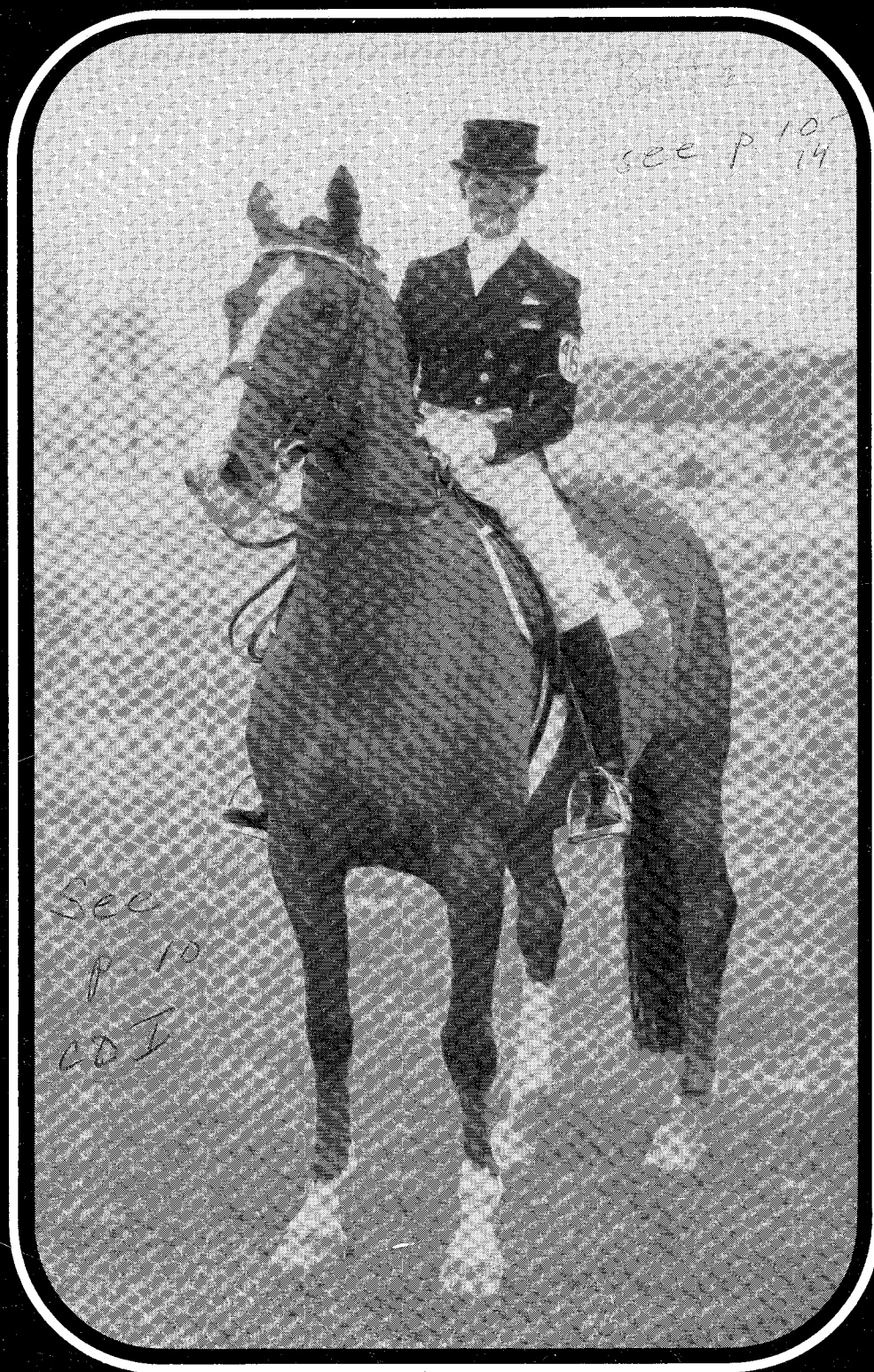


DRESSAGE

AND COMBINED TRAINING



OCTOBER 1976

\$1.50



The small horse with the big heart, Fox, and Tonny Jensen won the Intermediate 2.

As dressage has grown rapidly in the United States during the past few years, so has the necessity to compare the progress of our higher level riders and horses with their European counterparts. Most American judges have judged only in the United States and Canada where, despite the growth, higher level riders are scarce compared to in Europe. At the 1975 CHIO Aachen, for example, Class 21, Prix St. Georges, had eighty-eight entries. And, since this was an official event, all those competitors had the blessings of their FNs and hence were the best from their countries.

Only a few American judges have judged in Europe, and they are consequently in great demand by show organizers. As a result, the same few horses and riders compete before the same few judges time after time, and the experience gained is of doubtful value.

Several attempts to rectify this problem have been made in the past. Some of our top judges have been sent by the AHSA (FN) to attend FEI-sponsored judges' forums in Europe. This, however, did not expose them to large numbers of horses and riders, nor did it put them in a real situation where they could compare their scores against those of their European colleagues in test after test.

Another approach was to invite experienced European judges of international caliber to hold judges' forums in the United States. This, too, had its limitations, since in many areas no horse and rider teams who could serve as adequate demonstrators were available. But even under these circumstances, this approach contributed substantially towards greater and more uniform understanding of FEI definitions and standards, and thus improved judging quality.

But these forums were essentially classroom work, and only practice produces experience. Also, something had to be done for our horses and riders. To send a large group of them to compete in Europe, however desirable, would present insurmountable financial problems, transportation alone costing several thousands of dollars for each horse. The other alternative was to bring some European competitors to this country, and also some judges, killing two birds with one stone: give the riders a chance to compete against Europeans of quality and be judged by experienced European judges. As a bonus, the American dressage community would have an opportunity to watch experienced European horses and riders.

The simplest way to achieve this was to organize a Concours de Dressage International, a CDI.

Last year, after the first Dressage at Devon show, we discussed such an undertaking in connection with this show in the

CDI YORK 1976

not too distant future. At that time, we pointed out that 1976 would be quite favorable for the first United States CDI, since many European competitors would come to North America anyway for the Olympics, making it possible to convince some of them to either come earlier or to stay after Bromont. We mentioned the reserve horses and riders in particular as a possible source of participants, since in this way they would not come to North America without competing at all.

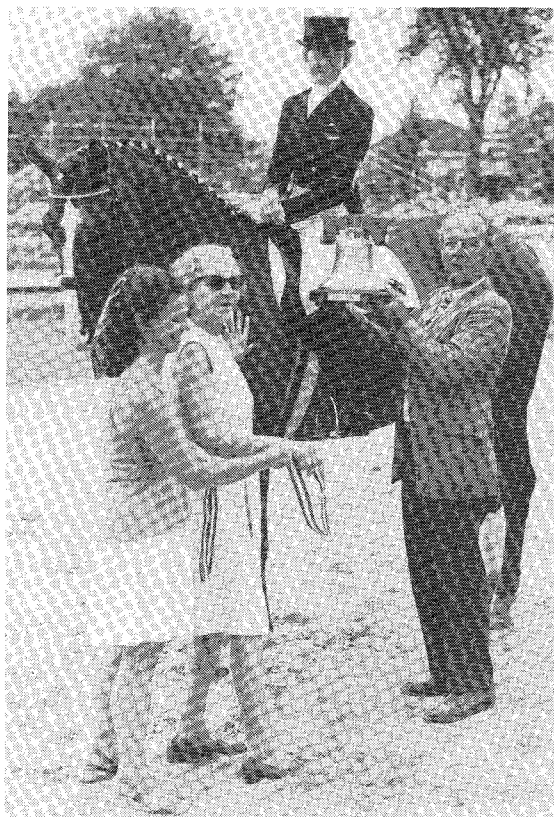
The Dressage at Devon show committee, after balancing their books from their first event, decided to wait a while before attempting a costly affair, which the CDI would certainly be, and decided to run a normal show, actually smaller than the 1975 one, in 1976. A while later, a new possibility for a CDI was announced by the North Carolina Dressage and Combined Training Association, the Beaux Arts Dressage Show, to be held in November of 1976 and thus not in conjunction with the Olympic Games. Since this was to be a benefit affair for the North Carolina School of the Arts, ample financial support, which could have enticed European riders to come and compete, was indicated.

In the meantime, another dressage organization got into act. The International

Equestrian Organization, one of the oldest dressage groups in the East, asked the AHSA to request a CDI recognition from the FEI for a show at York, Pennsylvania, two weeks after the closing of the Olympic Games. The FEI gave its blessings, and the IEO set out to work. And on August 13, 1976, the York 1976 CDI commenced with a Prix St. Georges class.

The facilities at the York Interstate Fairgrounds are superb. Much that was needed was already available, for example, excellent permanent stabling. A sand arena was built in the northeastern corner of the grass oval that is the center of the Fairgrounds. This is today the best sand arena in the United States, built to the same specifications as the arena in Bromont and costing over \$50,000. Temporary bleachers along the long sides of the arena and a tent with reserved sets just behind A accommodated the spectators, with a total seating capacity of about three thousand. The judging boxes were well designed, and behind the C box stood a stand for photographers. In sum, the physical facilities left nothing to be desired.

The IEO set out to secure a solid financial basis for their project, asking for help not only from the community but also from the People-to-People Sports Committee, Inc., which was supposed to raise a substantial amount from their usual sources. However, it failed to do this, and at the time of the event its total contribution was \$300. The community of York, however, gave the undertaking its wholehearted support, which is apparent when one leafs through the 70-page show program that is full of local advertising.



Karin Schluetter of Germany and Liostro - the winners of the Bicentennial Dressage Cup.



To attract European competitors, the IEO offered both a large purse — a total of \$22,000 in six classes, with the Grand Prix purse set at \$10,000 and the Grand Prix Kuer at \$5,000 — and to cover the participants' travel expenses from Bromont to York and then to the port to exit. It also secured the services of four foreign judges: Gen. a.D. Horst Niemack of Germany, who is the President of the German Judges' Association; Col. A. Sommer, member of the jury at Bromont and one of the judges at our pre-Olympic trials at Gladstone earlier this year; Mrs. Inez Propfe-Credo of Canada; and Mr. Julio Herrera of Mexico. The two American judges were Hermann Friedlaender of Soquel, California, and Col. Donald W. Thackeray of New Windsor, Maryland.

Thirty-two riders and thirty-nine horses participated in the competition. Four riders represented Denmark: Ulla Petersen, Tonny Jensen, Niels Haagensen, and Inger Hedegaard, members of the Danish Olympic dressage squad. Entering two horses, Karin Schluetter, the reserve rider from the FRG dressage squad, was the only German participant. Canada was represented by Lorraine Stubbs, while their reserve rider, Cynthia Neale, scratched. A symbolic representative of Switzerland, Regula Lorenz, who presently resides in this country, also scratched. A total of six foreign competitors from three nations and twenty-six Americans competed.

The event started Friday morning with the Prix St. Georges, probably the largest class at this level ever held in this country with twenty-one entries. Edith Master on Sergeant won the class with 61.8%. It was interesting to see some of our top competitors present their younger horses. Hilda Gurney placed eighth on Good Morning just behind John Winnett on Hamadan. It was a good class, and some of the participants had an opportunity to compete against each other for the first time.

Inger Hedegaard on Velten-Sohn didn't compete at Bromont, they were the Danish reserve team. In York they placed second in Intermediate 1.

The afternoon of the day was given to Intermediate II, which was the first international class, and with the six guests on seven horses and three members of our Bromont squad — Gurney, Master, and Winnett — we saw Anne Gribbons on Tappan Zee, Natalie Lamping on Allez-Allez, and Linda Zang on Fellow Traveller. The class was won by Tonny Jensen on Fox with 67.8%. The purse for this class was \$3,000, \$900 for first place and \$150 for eighth place.

Saturday morning, another beautiful day at York, saw the Intermediate I class. This was, with the exception of Inger Hedegaard of Denmark, another all-American class. Again, Edith Master on Sergeant took first place, scoring 65.38%. She was followed by Inger Hedegaard on Velten Sohn with 64.52%.

The premier class of the event, the Grand Prix de Dressage, was held that afternoon with a total of eleven entries, five foreign guests on six horses, our three team members, and Elizabeth Lewis on Ludmilla and Natalie Lamping on Allez-Allez. The class was won by Karin Schluetter on Liostro with 67.2%, and she received half of the \$10,000 purse for first place. A ride-by-ride critique of this class can be found below.

AHSA FOURTH LEVEL, TEST 1

RIDER/HORSE	E	H	C	M	B	TOTAL
1. G. Towle/Academy Formal	148	175	200	173	194	890
2. H. Gurney/Good Evening	153	184	183	160	188	877
3. K. Meredith/Silent Echo	156	187	187	180	166	876
4. N. Harris/Ventarron	151	170	184	172	180	857
5. K. Stives/Lago Maggiore	157	175	182	155	178	847
6. S. Payne/Simplicity	158	183	168	167	163	839
7. R. Dover/J. L. Seagull	147	142	185	174	179	827
8. E. Schwarz/Schwarzes Pferd	137	169	163	192	150	811
9. P. Stipech/Chadwick	140	167	179	151	165	802
10. A. Gribbons/Opferfeuer	139	162	172	158	161	792
11. P. Potter/Inca	131	169	161	142	172	775
12. M. Cabell/Ivan	138	163	161	148	160	770

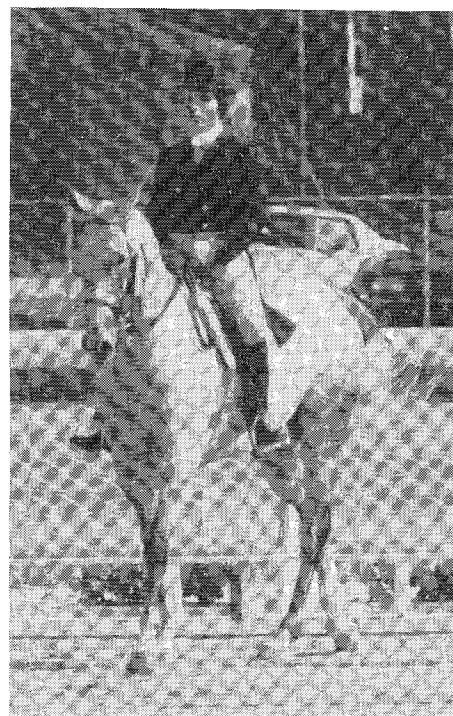
C: Propfe-Credo H: Sommer M: Friedlaender E: Herrera B: Thackeray

PRIX ST. GEORGES

RIDER/HORSE	E	H	C	M	B	TOTAL
1. E. Master/Sergeant	267	250	268	258	255	1298
2. K. Meredith/Blue Jay	262	206	261	241	247	1217
3. M. Poulin/Liberty Prince	253	220	236	245	254	1208
4. K. Mikolka/Academy Formal	240	210	237	242	250	1179
5. N. Lamping/Charisma	230	217	235	238	258	1178
6. L. Falvo/The System	254	209	240	231	239	1173
7. J. Winnett/Hamadan	238	220	234	236	238	1166
8. H. Gurney/Good Evening	266	182	220	228	245	1141
9. C. Mikolka/Thor	232	213	234	220	241	1140
10. L. Oliver/Trenzado	249	202	239	226	222	1138
11. B. Hangen/Peace Offering	226	209	231	219	240	1125
12. K. Stives/Lago Maggiore	238	215	231	208	199	1091
13. N. Harris/Ventarron	231	213	209	204	211	1068
14. M. Gafford/Rautzan	211	196	221	229	194	1051
15. P. Stipech/Chadwick	210	196	206	209	213	1034
16. M. Cabell/Ivan	221	190	208	204	205	1028
16. S. Payne/Simplicity	221	203	212	211	181	1028
18. P. Potter/Inca	216	193	227	194	193	1023
19. E. Schwarz/Schwarzes Pferd	224	191	206	202	192	1015
20. R. Dover/J. L. Seagull	205	171	205	191	207	979
21. V. Patterson/Dark Thistle	187	163	185	194	175	904

C: Thackeray H: Herrera M: Niemack E: Sommer B: Propfe-Credo

A familiar competitor, Kay Meredith on Blue Jay, placed second in Prix St. Georges.



INTERMEDIATE I

RIDER/HORSE	E	H	C	M	B	TOTAL
1. E. Master/ Sergeant	270	281	274	285	263	1373
2. I. Hedegaard/ Velten Sohn (DEN)	248	261	275	280	291	1355
3. K. Meredith/ Blue Jay	261	282	264	271	263	1341
4. L. Zang/ Fellow Traveller	251	264	257	263	245	1280
5. M. Poulin/ Liberty Prince	244	249	249	241	256	1239
6. C. Mikolka/ Thor	239	266	239	245	225	1214
7. L. Falvo/ The System	241	231	255	226	235	1188
8. L. Oliver/ Trenzado	224	228	236	224	269	1181
9. N. Lamping/ Charisma	228	234	240	205	263	1170
10. A. Gribbons/ Tappan Zee	225	234	235	223	216	1133
11. V. Patterson/ Dark Thistle	195	181	186	180	207	949

C: Niemack H: Propfe-Credo M: Sommer E: Thackeray B: Friedlaender



The lone Canadian participants were Lorraine Stubbs and True North. They placed fifth in the Grand Prix.

This was the best attended class by the public. Unfortunately, only about 40% of available seating was occupied, and, even more unfortunately, we saw few dressage fans from the east. Was it because they saw it all at Bromont, or did they just not care? In any case, they did not give their support to the event by attending it.

The largest class, the AHSA Fourth Level, Test 1, was held on Sunday morning. This class actually didn't belong in a CDI, since it is not an FEI test, but it was included to give those riders who were only at the Prix St. Georges level an opportunity to compete in two classes. The class was won by Greta Towle of Cohasset, Massachusetts, on Academy Formal. Greta is a pupil of Karl Mikolka, who rode the horse in Prix St. Georges on Friday morning.

As often seems the case, the weather started to turn sour early Sunday afternoon during the Grand Prix Kuer. Eleven entries, four of them Americans, competed. Hilda Gurney, who rode at the beginning of the class, fell victim to the weather. During

INTERMEDIATE II

RIDER/HORSE	NATION	E	H	C	M	B	TOTAL
1. T. Jensen/ Fox	DEN	269	271	278	296	276	1390
2. K. Schluetter/ Lioistro	FRG	243	286	292	271	289	1381
3. K. Schluetter/ Gassendi	FRG	273	262	254	267	274	1330
4. U. Petersen/ Chigwell	DEN	266	265	235	272	279	1317
5. L. Stubbs/ True North	CAN	250	258	240	282	275	1305
6. H. Gurney/ Keen	USA	224	247	262	274	277	1284
7. N. Haagensen/ Lowenstern	DEN	232	254	248	268	264	1266
8. E. Master/ La Paloma	USA	249	252	236	257	257	1251
9. J. Winnett/ Leopardi	USA	238	246	267	262	237	1250
10. I. Hedegaard/ Velten Sohn	DEN	261	247	232	237	253	1230
11. L. Zang/ Fellow Traveller	USA	209	222	206	250	220	1107
12. N. Lamping/ Allez-Allez	USA	214	215	196	221	227	1073
13. A. Gribbons/ Tappan Zee	USA	194.5	219.5	191.5	197.5	209.5	1012.5

C: Herrera H: Niemack M: Propfe-Credo E: Friedlaender B: Sommer

Eleven competitors from an original list of fifteen rode in the Grand Prix class: five Americans, one Canadian, three Danes, and one German riding two horses. Four of these entries rode in the Grand Prix Special at Bromont, Ulla Petersen with Chigwell, Tonny Jensen with Fox, Lorraine Stubbs with True North, and Hilda Gurney with Keen. Karin Schluetter was reserve rider for the German team and with her Lioistro and Gassendi was the only German rider to come to York.

The ring was a well designed sand arena, created especially for this competition. Set in the infield of the York Fairgrounds racetrack, it was surrounded by bleachers with tent seating along the short side at A.

Ulla Petersen of Denmark, riding her thirteen-year-old English Thoroughbred, Chigwell, entered the arena first. Chigwell is a good looking dark bay horse, well balanced, with pleasant, elastic gaits, a free, light mover with a pretty head. He made a poor entry, fidgeting around at the halt, even to the point of backing up. Then he settled down and showed some good extensions and nice, smooth transitions, both within each gait and from one gait to another. The tenth and eleventh movements in the Grand Prix test call for half pass from F to E and from E to

M, respectively. Not one single horse did these movements without losing impulsion or becoming unbalanced. It was obviously neither the horses' nor the riders' fault. The ring was just too deep for the horses to maintain their rhythm correctly. In places it was indeed very deep going. Occasionally, the horses would go through the top layer of sand and crunch into the gravel base underneath. Chigwell was no exception, and in the half passes he lost his balance behind.

His walk was not very good. The half pirouettes were well done, but the extended walk just wasn't there, and Chigwell showed a slight tendency towards an irregular gait, the pace. His passage was fair, the first piaffe died altogether, and the second was merely stepping in place, not springing from diagonal to diagonal. The counter-change at the canter was not very even, showing some resistance, and the two pirouettes at the canter lacked impulsion. The second series of passage and piaffe was considerably better than the first. Throughout the test, the extensions in trot and canter were beautifully ridden, with clear transitions into and out of the extended gait.

The first American rider in the ring was Elizabeth Lewis on Ludmilla. With her habitual big

smile, Elizabeth had her big Hanoverian mare really moving forward energetically. However, the test was disappointing. Ludmilla had difficulty with the deep sand and is beginning, sad to say, to show her age in some movements. She lacked elasticity in extensions, her pirouettes got somewhat stuck, her passage became uneven, the transitions into piaffe got lost, but her piaffe, once established, was better than most. In the flying changes, Ludmilla's quarters had a tendency to swing, although the changes themselves were dead accurate. In what is probably the mare's last season of competition, one should remember that she evented internationally up to the age of twelve. Only since that time has she continued her education up to the Grand Prix level.

Lorraine Stubbs of Canada with her fourteen-year-old Swedish Trakehner gelding, True North, was the only Canadian entry in the Grand Prix. True North, a big, strapping chestnut with a very high, exaggerated action of the forelegs, is capable of great impulsion. Most of his extended work was well executed, but he did not show a true piaffe, merely lifting his feet in place. Again, the walk was poor.

Both in Bromont and here at York, it was rare indeed to see horses performing a proper walk.

GRAND PRIX

RIDER/HORSE	NATION	E	H	C	M	B	TOTAL
1. K. Schluetter/ Liostro	FRG	338(2)	340(2)	307(3)	350(1)	345(1)	1680
2. U. Petersen/ Chigwell	DEN	345(1)	301(6)	306(4)	334(2)	338(2)	1624
3. T. Jensen/ Fox	DEN	334(4)	304(5)	319(1)	328(3)	332(3)	1617
4. H. Gurney/ Keen	USA	333(5)	313(4)	305(5)	299(10)	330(4)	1580
5. J. Winnett/ Leopardi	USA	315(6)	323(2)	291(8)	313(4)	308(6)	1550
6. L. Stubbs/ True North	CAN	335(3)	278(8)	305(5)	302(9)	319(5)	1539
7. K. Schluetter/ Gassendi	FRG	310(7)	315(3)	290(9)	307(7)	295(9)	1517
8. N. Haagensen/ Lowenstern	DEN	299(9)	285(7)	310(2)	311(5)	301(7)	1501
9. E. Master/ La Paloma	USA	306(8)	271(9)	289(10)	308(6)	301(7)	1475
10. E. Lewis/ Ludmilla	USA	298(10)	265(10)	298(7)	307(7)	295(9)	1463
11. N. Lamping/ Allez-Allez	USA	263(11)	238(11)	238(11)	263(11)	250(11)	1250

C: Thackeray H: Herrera M: Niemack E: Sommer B: Propfe-Credo

her ride the heavens really opened up, forcing her to stop. Allowed to perform for the second time as the final competitor, she scored low owing to the effects of the downpour. Karin Schluetter took both first and second on Liostro and Gassendi, respectively, followed by Ulla Petersen on Chigwell.

Although the show organizers tried to engage the best possible judges, the results from both the competitors' and spectators' points of view were not completely satisfactory. On one hand, two of the European judges were quite experienced, especially Gen. Niemack, but on



The winners of the Grand Prix - from left to right - K. Schluetter on Liostro (she also placed seventh on Gassendi,) U. Petersen on Chigwell, T. Jensen on Fox, H. Gurney on Keen, J. Winnett on Leopardi, L. Stubbs on True North, and N. Haagensen on Lowenstern.

Many were stilted, and there was a tendency towards pacing; some horses actually "bounced" in the walk, as if at any moment they would break into a trot.

Tonny Jensen's Fox is an eight-year-old Danish warm blood, very much a Thoroughbred type, with the Thoroughbred's long, elastic action. He showed by far the best extensions, looking for all the world as if he were floating across the ring instead of driving down into it. Fox was also the exception in the walk. He has a super walk, long, forward reaching, and completely regular. His passage is marginal as yet and the piaffe work not confirmed. This is Fox's first year in Grand Prix level competition, and at eight years of age, he has many years ahead of world class competition. Fox did his two-time changes well, but he blew his cool in the changes every stride, and they were lost. Although the test had several ragged spots, the horse was one of the more attractive, with good gaits and a great deal of elegance. Horse and rider obviously get along together: there was no constraint or force apparent in the execution of the test.

Karin Schluetter of Germany rode her big black Trakehner, Gassendi, for her first ride. Gassendi is gigantic, tall, and big bodied, almost overweight, a strong contrast to the

Thoroughbreds in the competition. He's an impressive sight, but his test was rather uneven. There were quite a few signs of resistance, a great deal of tail swishing, and some jerky transitions. Again, the walk was poor, bouncy and irregular. There was resistance in passage, and in piaffe Gassendi reared up. He looks as if he could really go forward with tremendous energy, but he was just having an unsettled day.

Natalie Lamping rode Allez-Allez, a horse originally trained by the late Brig. Hans Handler of the Spanish Riding School and imported to this country by Mrs. I. Swenson of Cleveland. Allez-Allez is notoriously difficult, exceptionally high strung, and hard to get along with. It is to Natalie's credit that she can show him at all, since he had a reputation for jumping out of the ring from sheer nerves.

The horse still shows his nervous temperament during the tests. He has extremely light movement with quick cadence that sometimes becomes jerky through lack of relaxation. This tension spoiled his walk work, and he often appeared to be anticipating passage. His passage was tense and somewhat uphill, but the piaffe was better than most, with definite spring and a lowering of the hindquarters. The counter-changes of hand at the canter and the pirouettes

were effortlessly executed, and the flying changes correctly ridden. The test was uneven in that the first half was very tense, but in the second half, when the horse had settled, there were some good movements.

Lowenstern, a big sixteen-year-old Hanoverian gelding, was ridden by the youngest competitor, twenty-one-year-old Niels Haagensen of Denmark. Lowenstern has a very extravagant, high action with lots of pizzazz. Another of the very big horses, he covers the ground with tremendous energy. However, his test was spoiled by unsteadiness. He frequently seemed to anticipate the movements and transitions. His passage and piaffe were only fair. In piaffe, Lowenstern gathers his legs underneath him instead of lifting the forehand and "sitting down" behind. His pirouettes did not flow around smoothly.

On the whole, as was the case with the walk, pirouettes were not very well done. Few horses managed to show regular rhythm; many labored around, almost in a half rear, and some simply went around the middle. Few kept the same canter. A good pirouette looks effortless, which is more than can be said of most at Bromont or York!

Only one of the American pairs who competed in the Olympics, Hilda Gurney with Keen, show-

GRAND PRIX KUER

RIDER/HORSE	NATION	H	C	M	TOTAL
1. K. Schluetter/ Liostro	FRG	14.79	15.21	17.50	47.50
2. K. Schluetter/ Gassendi	FRG	14.01	15.00	17.00	46.01
3. U. Petersen/ Chigwell	DEN	15.14	14.71	15.93	45.78
4. I. Hedegaard/ Velten Sohn	DEN	14.71	14.93	14.86	44.50
5. L. Stubbs/ True North	CAN	12.64	14.93	15.21	42.78
6. T. Jensen/ Fox	DEN	13.36	14.07	15.21	42.64
7. J. Winnett/ Leopardi	USA	13.50	13.50	15.43	42.43
8. H. Gurney/ Keen	USA	12.79	12.71	14.86	40.36
9. N. Haagensen/ Lowenstern	DEN	9.93	12.64	15.21	37.78
10. N. Lamping/ Allez-Allez	USA	11.29	11.93	13.57	36.79
10. E. Lewis/ Ludmilla	USA	10.43	13.36	13.00	36.79

C: Sommer H: Friedlaender M: Thackeray

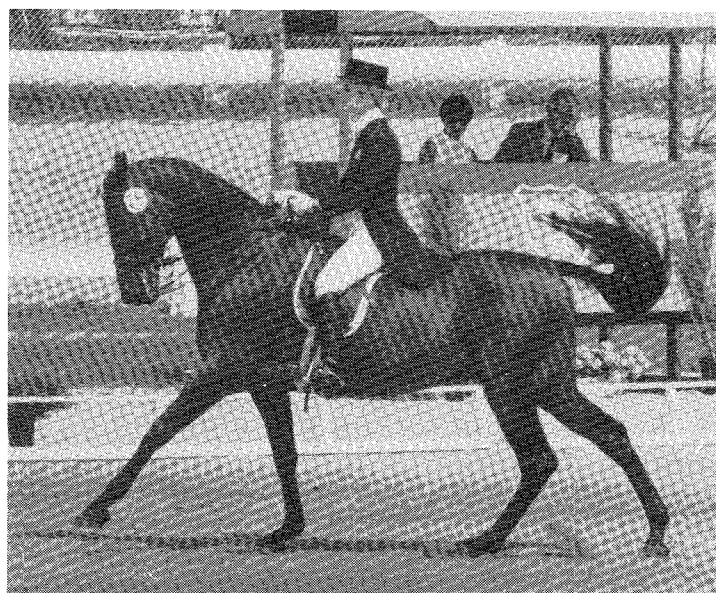
the other hand, Mr. Herrera's judging was severely criticized by some competitors as inconsistent. In the Grand Prix, only one judge placed the top four riders the way the results eventually read, Mrs. Propfe-Credo. Gen. Niemack gave a rather low score to Keen, placing him tenth, while the other judges placed Keen much higher. This is quite intriguing, since Gen. Niemack expressed to this author the opinion that Keen is an outstanding horse who is but at the beginning of his full potential.

All in all, the first CDI at York was a qualified success. The show itself ran quite smoothly. However, the organizers did not manage to interest too many foreign competitors, which would have enhanced the event considerably, mostly because they chose to go it alone. Also, they started to work on the project much too late, since plans for participation in international events are being made in Europe in the fall, most dates being known well before the FEI Annual Meeting where they are confirmed only. It is hoped that a lesson was learned and that in the future, the York CDI will attract many more foreign competitors.

—Ivan I. Bezugloff, Jr.

Academy Formal was shown in the AHSA Fourth Level class by his owner Gerda Towle, while their trainer, Karl Mikolka, presented him in Prix St. Georges.

One week before being retired by her rider and owner, Elizabeth Lewis, the old campaigner Ludmilla, placed tenth in both the Grand Prix and Kuer.



ed in the Grand Prix at York. Edith Master had entered Dahlwitz but scratched. Keen is a huge thoroughbred. He compares to the German horses in size. A striking chestnut, he attracts a good deal of attention from spectators. The only horse on the American team who is American bred and trained, Keen is certainly a favorite.

His test was very energetic, with good extensions. His walk was better than most, although in collection it became bouncy. His passage was not as good as at Bromont, perhaps the effect of the deep going, but his piaffe was fairly good. The pirouette to the left was much better than the one to the right, which got stuck. Despite a couple of mistakes in the flying changes, they were good and going nicely forward. It was not quite as good a test as the one in Bromont, but considering the problems with the heavy going, it was by far the best American ride of the day.

Edith Master rode her big black Hanoverian mare, eleven-year-old La Paloma. This big horse moves extremely lightly over the ground. The ride was disappointing, though, in that the mare did not show a good walk, with a tendency towards pacing in the collected work, and she resisted in passage and piaffe. The canter

strides were very short, but her pirouettes were better than most, balanced and regular, but the flying changes were mostly unsatisfactory. Basically, La Paloma lacked real engagement and impulsion.

John Winnett, reserve rider in Bromont, entered Leopardi, his ten-year-old Hanoverian gelding. Leopardi can be quite temperamental, it doesn't take much to upset him. Coming into the arena, he spooked at the crowd but then settled after entering the ring. His extensions at the trot were good, with nicely executed transitions. His walk was good, a regular gait showing nice distinction between collection and extension. The passage began well, but the transitions in and out of piaffe were awkward and the piaffe lacked height and ease. His first pirouette was very well done, but he lost his rhythm on the second one. Coming down the center line at the end, after the rein back at L, Leopardi reared momentarily, about to blow up. But John regained control and continued on in a well cadenced, high passage. Apart from that one very tense instant, Leo seemed much calmer and performed better than in other shows this year.

Karin Schluetter and her big chestnut Hanoverian gelding, Liostro, were the final competi-

tors. Liostro, while he is a big horse, is not as gigantic as some of the other German horses. Nevertheless, he has tremendous presence and bearing. His collection in all gaits was excellent, showing good engagement, liveliness, and elasticity. His balance was exemplary through the trot work, with two slight falters. The second and fifth movements in the test call for extended trot across the diagonals, and both times Liostro, in full extension, flowing across the arena, broke stride in front. It seemed as if he put his foot in a hole or perhaps a soft spot in the arena, breaking through to the gravel below. Both times he immediately recovered his balance, and the break did not affect the following strides. His walk was only fair, not as extended as one would like, but regular. His passage was the best of the day, but the piaffe got lost in the transitions. Most of the horses made heavy work of the piaffe, with the lighter horses having less trouble. Liostro's pirouettes were also the day's best, regular, rhythmical, and flowing round with ease. His flying changes were exact, but they could have been more forward and ground gaining; the canter shortened through the sequence. The experience of this horse and rider combination was quite evident. They had the winning ride by a good margin.

—Double Bridle