



LOS ALTOS TOWN CRIER

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... demonstrated by three Hungarian horses at Westwind Hungarian Horse Farm in Los Altos Hills as they duplicate their performances as the winning hunt team at the Los Altos Hunter Trials held this month at Stanford. Riders, from left, are Birch Jones; his wife, Linda Tellington Jones, farm manager, and Zanny Richards of Portola Valley, one of five advanced riders in training at the farm as future instructors.

Hungarians 'invade' Hills scene



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Linda Tellington Jones

Hungarians—28 of them—are establishing their home in Los Altos Hills.

The newcomers, a large, strong breed of horses originally bred in Europe, are settling in at their new home, Westwind Hungarian Horse Farms, on Altamont Road.

The Hungarian horses, which have had their own register in Europe for 150 years, are relative newcomers to the United States.

"They are essentially thoroughbreds, but instead of being bred for racing they are bred for hunting, jumping, cross country, pleasure and the cavalry," said Linda Tellington Jones, manager of Westwind Farm.

"Hungarians have the speed of a thoroughbred, but have been bred for good disposition and substance," she continued. "Since they're very cooperative type horses, it's fun to show them."

Mrs. Jones is a comparatively recent convert to the advantages of Hungarian horses. She didn't become acquainted with the breed until 1965, "but now I don't train anything else," she said in a recent interview.

She was introduced to the breed by its chief champion in the United States, Countess Margit Besseney, who bought Westwind Farm last Spring; opening it in June as a California branch of her Montana stud farm.

The countess, an American whose late husband was the Hungarian ambassador to the United States, breeds Hungarian horses on her stud farm at

Hamilton, Mont., where she has 140 of the breed. An enthusiastic horsewoman, she rides every day.

"The countess has been trying to increase the number of Hungarian horses in this country for the past 11 years," Mrs. Jones said. There are now about 300 of the breed in the country. Those not owned by the countess are mostly at two other farms—one in Virginia and one in Nebraska.

The meeting between Westwind's attractive manager and Countess Besseney came about through a series of articles Mrs. Jones had written while operating the Pacific Coast Equestrian Research Farm at Badger, southeast of Fresno.

Bringing along two Hungarian horses and a donkey, the countess arrived at the farm in 1965 to spend a few days and stayed two months, Mrs. Jones recalled. "She left behind the most fabulous horse—my first Hungarian—and later sent two stallions."

By then Mrs. Jones was completely sold on the breed.

The emphasis at Westwind Farm, as it was at the research farm at Badger, is in teaching adults rather than children.

In addition to adult students interested in improving their riding skills, the farm has advanced resident students who are learning to become instructors so they, in turn can teach more adults.

Westwind can accommodate five resident students at a time. They live at the farm while receiving their training for periods

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