

# EQUESTRIAN & Real Estate News



*Devon*  
Carter Camilleri

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## The History Of Spurs

Early spurs, believed to have been used by the Roman Legions of Julius Caesar, have been unearthed in England. Early Roman, Greek, and Byzantine sculpture did not, however, show horsemen wearing spurs. The Romans developed spurs in order to have a way to steer their horses with their legs, while leaving their hands free to fight.

The earliest cavalry initiated by Alexander the Great did not use spur, bit, nor stirrup. Originally, spurs had a single sharp protrusion. Etruscan tombs of the second century B.C. contained bronze spurs of this type. Many later variations of this type are found throughout Europe. The British Museum has iron examples, some with silver inlay, dating from the 11th to 13th centuries. The Mongol hordes of Genghis Khan wore similar prick spurs around the year 1200.

The revolving rowel used in modern western spurs probably originated in France. A roweled spur was shown upon the Seal of Henry III of England who lived from 1207 to 1272. This type became widely popular about the fourteenth century.

During the age of chivalry, spurs became an emblem of rank. Gold or gilded spurs were only worn by knights or royalty. Esquires' were silver and those of a page were tinned. One could tell the rank of the wearer by the spurs, even if the armor or clothing gave no clue.

The caste system was all-important at that time. Knights vied with each other to indicate their prestige with costly spurs. Many were jeweled and all were objects of art. Spurs were usually buried with their owner, accounting for the fact that few remain today.

The Guild of Spur-Makers of Paris during the 14th century only allowed only one apprentice to each master craftsman. Apprenticeship was for six years with little or no pay. At the end of this strict training, the apprentice became a master artisan.

When a valet became an esquire or an esquire was knighted, he was fitted with new spurs during a special ceremony. Thus came the expression "earned his spurs." In the rare case of disgrace, a knight's spurs were chopped off in a public ceremony with the cook's cleaver.

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Churchmen were not permitted to wear spurs. Knights who failed to remove his spurs before entering a church had to pay a fine to the choir boys in order to regain them.

In 1302 the "battle of the spurs" took place in West Flanders. 20,000 Flemish burghers on foot repulsed the attacks of 47,000 French knights on horseback. The burghers collected 700 pairs of gilded spurs as trophies of their victory.

Horse armor, called "bards" influenced spur design of the time. This armor was plate lined with leather. It was introduced a piece at a time until a full set consisting of seven sections became standard by the middle of the 15th century. The section that protected the horse's flanks was called the "flanchard." In order for a spur to reach the horse an extremely long shank was developed, up to a foot in length. Bards declined in popularity and by 1600, they became rare. Accordingly, spur lengths returned to normal.

In Spain, armorers developed large and ornately decorated spurs with rowels. Some of these designs came to the new world with the conquistadors. Their influence is still seen in Mexico and South America.

In the United States, spur styles have also changed. In colonial days, the English style was popular. Those spurs were light and conservative with a slight curve and small rowel. Straight shanked hunting spurs were also popular.

The regulation spur worn in the cavalry in 1882 was solid brass, slightly curved, with a small rowel, black straps, and brass buckle. The same type was popular during the Civil War. Later, the cavalry adopted a straight shank and eliminated the rowel. That remained standard until World War II when army horses were replaced by other war machines. Early cavalry officer's uniform required boots and spurs. They had a duty version, a dress version that was lighter, and an extremely light dance spur for social functions.

Early Native Americans apparently did not use spurs, preferring a quirt or riding whip.



Photo Courtesy Of : A Cut Above Buckles

## July Equestrian Events

- **July 7, Vista** - English and Western Open Horse Show, Vista Palomar Riders English, 973 Little Gopher Canyon Rd, Vista 92083, [www.vistapalomarriders.com](http://www.vistapalomarriders.com)
- **July 13, Flintridge** - Eventing Clinics with Wendy Wergeles, Flintridge Riding Club, sign-up or to make special requests call 805-714-7181 or email [wergeles@earthlink.net](mailto:wergeles@earthlink.net)
- **July 14, Simi Valley** - High Point National Show, Presented by Equestrian Trails, Inc., Corral 118 (Rain Date), Contact Terri Meadows (805) 582-1149 [shortstirrups@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shortstirrups@sbcglobal.net)
- **July 18-21, Redding** - Montana De Oro/Madrone Campground, Presented by Equestrian Trails, Inc., Corral 86, Contact Irving Blank (661) 268-0098 [irving@phwsinc.com](mailto:irving@phwsinc.com)
- **July 19-21, Sequoia National Forest** - Campout & Trail Ride at Freeman Creek, Presented by Equestrian Trails, Inc., Corral 9 Contact: Anita Martin (661) 944-4732
- **July 19-21, Tehachapi** - Bear Valley Springs Ride, Corral 22 Trail Boss: Terry Andersen Contact Sharon Richardson (661) 268-0754 [srichrd@canyonwave.com](mailto:srichrd@canyonwave.com)
- **July 21, Pasadena** - Equestrian Pilates Clinic, an off-the-horse class, Play House Pilates, call 626-371-0000 or email [playhousepilates@gmail.com](mailto:playhousepilates@gmail.com)
- **July 25-28, Burbank** - ETI National Convention, Presented by Equestrian Trails, Inc., Los Angeles Equestrian Center, ETI Office (818) 698-6200
- **July 27, C&C Arena's Spring Classic Barrel Race Series**. Info at [www.chadwaldhauser.com](http://www.chadwaldhauser.com)
- **July 27, Flintridge** - Eventing Clinics with Wendy Wergeles, Flintridge Riding Club, sign-up or to make special requests call 805-714-7181 or email [wergeles@earthlink.net](mailto:wergeles@earthlink.net)
- **July 27, Orange County** - Month End Ride, Presented by Equestrian Trails, Inc., Corral 357, O'Neill Park, Contact Terry (949) 620-4740



If you have an event that you would like me to include in an upcoming newsletter, email me the information at

**[Devon@RanchAndEstateHomes.com](mailto:Devon@RanchAndEstateHomes.com)**

## Horses Played their Part - in Independence Day -



From George Washington to Paul Revere, horses helped carry our nation to freedom.

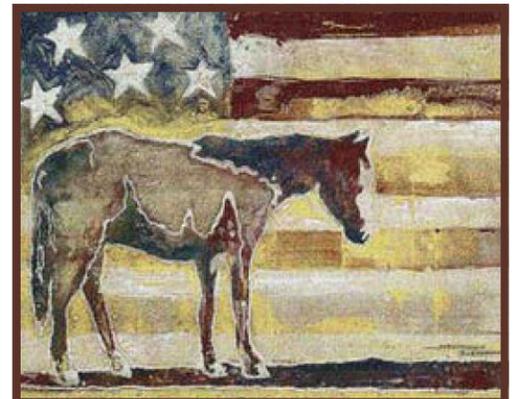


America's Fourth of July holiday is all about patriotism and fireworks. But horses played a vital role in America's independence and they shouldn't be left out of the celebration. Three horses that were prominent in history were the two horses ridden by General George Washington, and the horse that Paul Revere galloped through the streets of Boston proclaiming the arrival of British troops.

Although artistic images typically portray George Washington astride his silvery white horse Blueskin, he actually favored his other horse, Old Nelson, because the chestnut was much more reliable in the heat of battle. Old Nelson was a living example of being "bombproof" while Blueskin was more fractious. Unfortunately, the archetypal image of the good guy riding to victory aboard a white horse has pushed the plain-coated Old Nelson into the background. Fortunately, both horses survived the Revolutionary War and lived out a peaceful retirement at Washington's Mount Vernon estate.

Paul Revere didn't actually own the horse he rode on his famous ride. He worked as a courier, and began his journey in a rowboat that carried him across the Charles River. It would've been difficult to bring along his horse. Instead, he borrowed a horse from a local merchant who sympathized with the patriots. Later, historical documents would suggest that the horse's name was Brown Beauty, although Revere only referred to his mount as "a very good horse." That very good horse, however, was never returned to his owner. Revere and his two fellow couriers were captured and held for a short time by the British, and an officer confiscated the horse Revere was riding.

George Washington and Paul Revere were two heroes of the American Revolutionary War. But they couldn't have made it into our history books without a horse.





### Historical Adobe Home with Prime Equestrian Lot

Documented Historical Home on 3.07 acres plus 2.67 Acre adjacent lot. 3 Bed/3 Bath, 3,286 Sq. Ft. Home has been upgraded and has a new master suite. So many details make this home one of a kind...soaring wood beam ceilings, Saltillo tiles throughout, upgraded kitchen & baths, upstairs loft with 3/4 Bath, 3 Car Detached Garage and Potential Guest House, Pool/Spa. Horse Facilities: 4 stall Barn, feed storage, tack room, fly system, 600 ft. well, arena w/ Vinyl fencing, round pen, 4 corrals w/ shed covers & automatic waters, grain hopper, turn-out pasture w/ v-mesh.

**Offered at \$779,900 - \$100,000 Below Appraised Value!**

## Available Properties



**Equestrian Estate, Fallbrook** - 3.35 Fully Fenced Acres in the Rolling Hills area of Fallbrook, 3,261 Sq. Ft., 4 Bed /4.5 Baths, Maids Quarters with Kitchenette & Full Bath, 4 Stall Barn, Turn Outs, Tack Room, Feed Room, 2nd Barn with 2 stalls, 3 large Pastures, Auto Waterers, White PVC Fencing, Well, 1/5 mile trail around the entire property, main entry gate & separate service entrance.....**Reduced! Offered At \$1,145,000**



**Hacienda With Equestrian Business Allowed, Bonsall** - 5.82 Privately Gated Acres, 4,960 Sq. Ft. Home, 6 Bed /4.5 Baths, all MD barns match (total 14 shedrow stalls), 1 grass pasture, wash racks, 1,913 sq ft MD storage barn & 3,034 sq ft MD utility building with office, separate trainer/ranch hand quarters. Includes .23 ac lot for total of 6.05 acres. Room for arena & paddocks.....**Offered At \$789,500**



**\$100,000 Below Appraised Value!**

**Historical Adobe Home & Prime Equestrian Lot, Valley Center** - 3 Bed / 3 Bath, 3,286 Sq. Ft. on, 5.74 Fenced Acres, Upgraded Home, Detached structure Can Be Converted to Guest Quarters, Horse Facilities: 4 stall Barn, feed storage, tack room, fly system, 600 ft. well, arena w/ Vinyl fencing, round pen, 4 corrals w/ shed covers & automatic waters, grain hopper, turn-out pasture w/ v-mesh.....**Offered at \$779,900**



**Designated for Training or Vet Care, Fallbrook** - 3 Bed/3 Bath, 1,608 Sq. Ft. updated manufactured home, on, 4.9 Fenced Acres, Turn Key Horse Facilities: dressage arena, schooling arena, 9 stall Barn w/ room to add additional stalls, tack room, hay barn w/ shop & full bath, 1/4 mile jogging track, Grass turn outs, watering systems, Trailer parking , Extra living area for foreman, customized drainage, MORE!!.....**Offered at \$799,999**

## Lots & Land



**9.38 Acre Lot - Valley Center** - All Flat & Usable Land, Horses Allowed, L Designation, the Perfect Property for that Horse Ranch You've Always Wanted, Secluded but Close to All, Studded with California Coastal Oak Trees, Stream on Property Line, Permitted 2,620 Sq. Ft. High Steel Construction Tractor/Equipment Barn, Water Meter, Seller May Carry 1st Trust Deed.....**Reduced To Sell!! \$399,500**



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**Devon**  
 Carter Camilleri

[Devon@RanchAndEstateHomes.com](mailto:Devon@RanchAndEstateHomes.com)

[www.RanchAndEstateHomes.com](http://www.RanchAndEstateHomes.com)

Cell: (760) 522-8559

**DRE #01047285**



My business is built on your referrals! I focus 100% of my energy on my clients and in return I depend on you to refer your family and friends to me. If you are genuinely pleased with my services, the greatest compliment you can give me is a referral. Referrals are what determine my success...one home at a time, one friend at a time, one client at a time. I thank you for your trust and sincerely hope you will tell your friends, family, neighbors and co-workers about my services. If you know someone who is thinking of selling or buying a home, please have them call me at: **760.522.8559**

*Thank You For Your Referrals!*

*Most folks are like a barb-wire fence, they have their good points.*

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# The Real Estate Corner

## Home prices up 15% from a year ago.

Union Tribune - San Diego home prices have hit a nearly 5-year high, ushering in more evidence to "confirm the housing recovery's strength," the S&P/Case Shiller home price index reported on Tuesday.

Residential real estate prices rose nearly 15 percent from a year ago and almost 4 percent from the previous month, based on April figures from the national real estate indicator. Those gains bring back home values to June 2008 levels.

The index, which has two a month lag, calls the housing bounce-back "broad based."

When looking at all of the 20 major metro areas in the index, prices are up 12 percent year-over-year, the highest return in seven years.

Those same areas have all shown annual increases for at least four straight months. In San Diego, April's returns mark the 10th consecutive month of positive year-over-year returns.

Taken together, the 20 cities in the index posted a nearly 3 percent price increase, marking the biggest positive return in the history of that composite index, which goes back 13 years.

"The recovery is definitely broad based," said David M. Blitzer, chairman of the S&P's index committee. "Recent economic data on home sales and inventories confirm the housing recovery's strength."

Such news continues to be a positive sign for homeowners who have been waiting for their home values to bounce back from recession levels.

Limited inventory and pent-up demand have mainly contributed to soaring real estate prices, potentially pricing out potential buyers.

