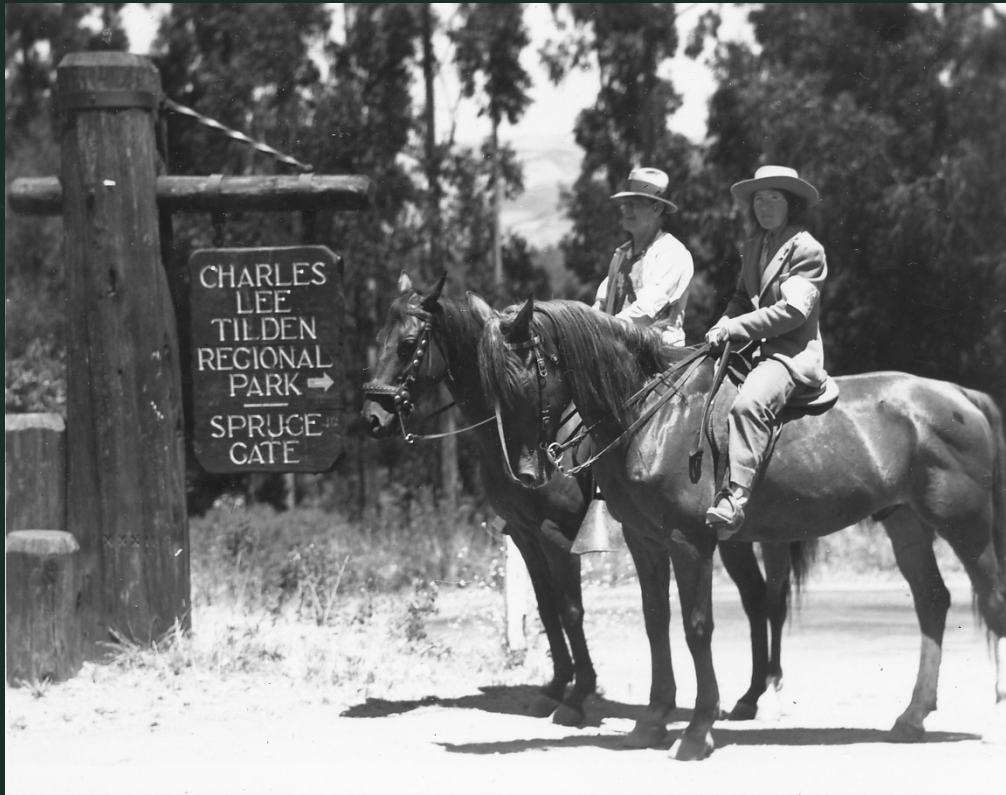


Horses and Equestrians in the History of the East Bay Regional Park District



Arthur C. Gore and Helen "Tiny" Capriola,
from Arlington Stables, Kensington; 1943

During the 1930s and 1940s, riders from local stables and cattle ranches cleared and built many of the trails that we enjoy today.



EBRPD Director
John MacDonald,
Redwood supervisor
Wes Adams,
Sidney Chown,
Lucille Chown, 1962

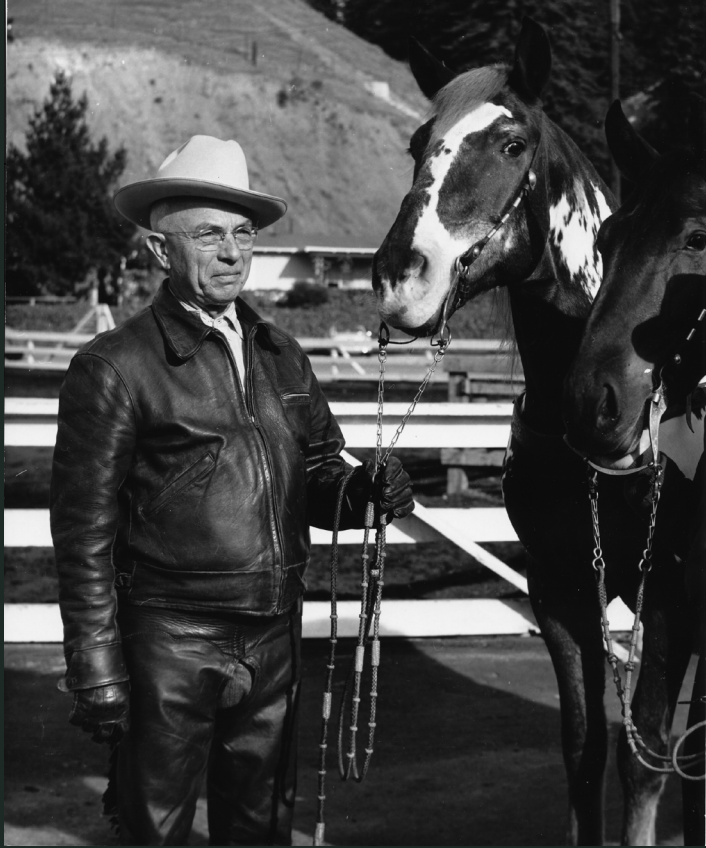
Oakland grocer Sid Chown hand-cleared trails in Redwood Regional Park while he was “between jobs” in the 1930s. He built Piedmont Stables on the site of a Portuguese dairy.

In 1952, Grass Valley Ranch opened as the sixth of the East Bay Regional parks.



Opening day festivities included a trail ride with hundreds of horses.

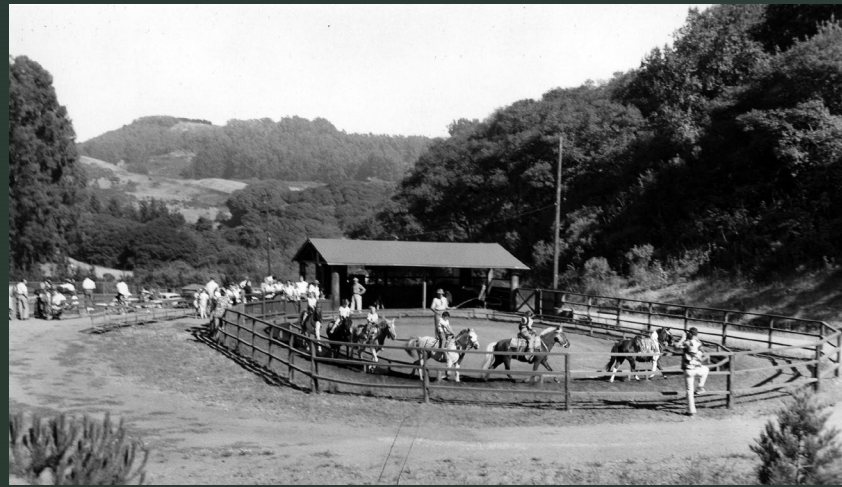
Grass Valley was renamed in 1965 to honor self-taught engineer Anthony Chabot, who first brought reliable water service to Oakland.



Claud Brandon (1890 – 1967) rode his horses, including Calico Pete, every day through the hill parks, often returning to Skyline Ranch after dark.

The Brandon Trail in Anthony Chabot Regional Park is named in his honor.

General Manager
Richard Walpole,
GM 1947-1962,
brought concessions
– the Tilden Park
merry-go-round,
golf course, and
pony rides in Tilden
and Roberts Parks.



The Tilden Park pony rides
were demolished around
2012. Revised rules
governing concessionaires
were so strict that no one
bid on the contract.



George Cardinet (1909- 2007) was known as the “father of the California trails system”.

Partnering with land acquisition chief Hulet Hornbeck, Cardinet advocated for trail networks; he pioneered the idea of public agencies seeking community comment to guide planning.

Dedication of the Skyline Trail followed the passage of the National Trails Act of 1968, for which Cardinet was a key advocate.

Riding from the Skyline Gate of Redwood Regional Park, heading along the West Ridge Trail, Cardinet is second from the right, in the flat-topped hat. Leading is EBRPD Director George Roeding.



During the first 25 years of the park district, law enforcement was provided by mounted volunteer rangers, including Sid Chown and Lloyd Graham.



Miss MHA 1953 and
Metropolitan
Horsemen's Association
trails chairman
Sidney Chown

Lloyd recalled
having been issued
a badge, a pair of
handcuffs, and
a pistol.

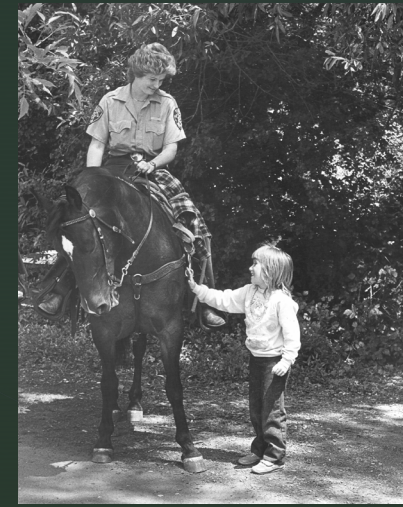


Lloyd Graham



Harry Brizzee was the first mounted police officer hired by the park district.

In 1962, General Manager William Penn Mott replaced the volunteer rangers with a professional police force.



Mounted volunteers returned to the park district in 1979 as part of the Volunteer Trail Safety Patrols. These auxiliary units report to the EBRPD police department.



Volunteer Mounted Patrol
member Duke Mouton



Sergeant Tom Walsh
(retired 2019)

Acknowledgements:

Thanks to EBRPD Archives supervisor and History Center founder **Brenda Montano** for providing access to these archival images.

Thanks to **Jerry Kent**, past assistant general manager for operations, for his recollections of George Cardinet and Hulet Hornbeck; and for his encyclopedic knowledge of park district history,

Thanks to **Heather Galanis**, granddaughter of Sidney Chown, for the donation of his badge and photographs to the EBRPD archives.

We fondly remember Lloyd Graham, longtime operator of Piedmont Stables and mentor to East Bay horse people,

Text by
Amelia S. Marshall,
archives and trail safety volunteer,
for the Trail Users Working Group,
April 22, 2021.

