

PRINCESS


MAGAZINE

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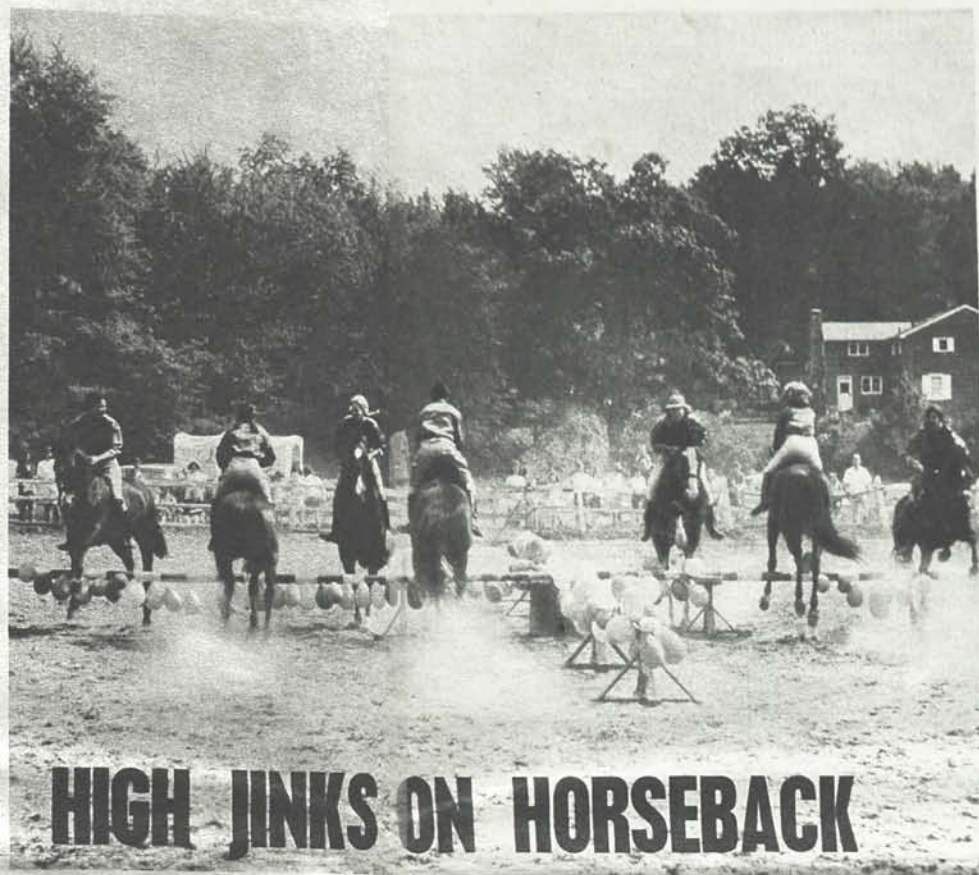
Week ending
Saturday,
DECEMBER 18

9^P



**THE
STORY
OF THE
NEW
CANAAN
MOUNTED
TROOP**

(see page 3)



HIGH JINKS ON HORSEBACK

DOESN'T it look great? All those girls on their ponies in the big picture above are having the time of their lives! And it's all due to a lady named Margaret Cabell Self, who formed their riding school.

She formed a non-profit-making group called the *New Canaan Mounted Troop*, which is named after the town of New Canaan, in the State of Connecticut, U.S.A., where the troop meets.

Both boys and girls belong to the school, but classes are taken separately, because they say girls learn more readily than boys!

Girls of all ages from 7 to 17 go to the school, and they learn all aspects of riding—saddling and bridling, unsaddling, keeping stalls clean, keeping everything in good condition—as well as studying the anatomy of the horse, first aid for horses, and how to fall!

Learning to fall is very necessary for this particular school, because the advanced students (those who are completely at home on their mounts) form the performing troop who do all sorts of tricks while riding their ponies. The troop is trained in trick riding so that they can do several fund-raising exhibitions every year. The biggest and most important is the annual circus on horseback, which is planned and performed entirely by the students. The circus is a very colourful event when all the girls wear specially designed and very colourful costumes, and there are masses of balloons—some of them included in the acts.

The younger students help behind the scenes and some of them take part in what they call *Monkey Drill*. *Monkey Drill* is acrobatics on horseback, which you can see on the right.

The proceeds of the circus go to support six foster children around the world—each of the six platoons of troopers supports one foster child, to whom they write and send Birthday and Christmas cards and presents.

When each student is fully qualified to ride and all subjects are satisfactorily learned, then she receives a graduation certificate which also

qualifies her as an instructor. A lot of the girls return to the school after they've become qualified, and teach the younger girls.

For the girls who are still at the school, there is a review of the entire troop every six weeks, when awards are given for sportsmanship, effort and movement, courtesy, appearance and troop spirit. Then each member of the winning troop wears the golden fourageres, a woven cord of honour, until the next review.

Pammy Skidmore, who is eleven years of age, wears her golden fourageres on our *PRINCESS* cover. Pammy earned her honours just before the picture was taken of her on her pony Tim Tan Timber, by our photographer Vivienne, who also took the wonderfully lively pictures on these pages.

The girls of the *New Canaan Mounted Troop* have sent warm greetings to all readers.



In the big picture on the far left the dust rises as the two teams race in opposite directions bareback over a jump of balloons. Directly above is our cover-girl Pammy Skidmore. On the left our cover girl again with her friend Cathy Byrne plays patty-cake on horseback. Left below, Cathy Byrne rides bareback while Beth Byrne stands. Directly below, the girls get last minute instructions from their teacher before putting on a show. Bottom far left is part of the show—the parade of the wooden soldiers—that's the girls doing their bit. Bottom right, the girls practise one of their bareback balancing tricks.

