


We welcome  new members!

THE CENTURION

An irregularly issued letter to and about the members of
THE DRESSAGE FOUNDATION CENTURY CLUB

Volunteer Editor: Carole Nuckton (OR)

The Dressage Foundation is pleased to announce that our new editor, is Carole Nuckton from Bend, Oregon. She is one part of team # 52 on the next page.

A History Lesson from Dressage Foundation files:

You'll find "Notes from Lazelle" on the back cover. These notes are a compilation of handwritten notes made in 1996 when Lazelle did the very first Centurion ride. Here's how this came about: When Lazelle had a serious physical interruption in her riding life, Max Gahwyler, a respected judge, dressage trainer, and competitor, communicated with Lazelle while she was recovering. In the process, together, they thought up the idea of giving an award for a dressage horse-rider team whose ages add up to 100.

The Dressage Foundation sponsors the Century Club, a unique group of horses and riders whose combined ages add up to 100. We welcome all senior riders with their senior horses to contact our office for an application. Riders may choose a test level that is right for them that includes the walk, trot, and canter; ride the test under a recognized judge; choose an appropriate show; and be willing to have Fun! While many of our teams enjoy membership in equestrian groups and do their Centurion ride at a recognized show, the essential criteria for the award are simply to ride under a recognized judge and have your and your mount's ages add up to 100. That is, you do not need to be a member of any special group, nor do you need to ride in a huge show. A schooling show is acceptable, and it's okay to have a reader call your test.

Team # 53, Annis Buell and Wally

My favorite Aunt Nancy, my father's sister, kindled my lifelong love of horses and riding. I remember riding a pony in my first show, and I have the ribbon to prove it. Success breeds passion, and my love affair with horses was off and running. I took a few lessons, but mainly had to figure riding out by myself. When I was 12, I moved to Colorado Springs with my mother and brother. A special pony at the Broadmoor Stables helped ease my transition to a new place, new school, and new friends. At 14, I moved to Texas when my mother remarried. Thankfully, we had enough property for me to have a young Tennessee Walker, Misty, whose main talent was unseating his novice rider. I might not have learned how to ride, but Misty taught me how to bounce, and eventually, how to stay aboard. There were many times when those skills proved invaluable.



Through young married life, two active children, and the vicissitudes of fortune, horses remained a constant. At the age 55, when children were raised, and life was settling down, I decided to begin riding in earnest. It struck me that taking lessons might be a good thing. I found a wonderful instructor, Verena Diaz, who introduced me to dressage. It was love at first ride, much to my poor quarter horse's chagrin. I moved with Verena when she took a job at North Texas Equestrian Center, and there I found my beloved Wally on whom I did my Centurion ride. Verena has since moved to Denver, but with the support of Kai, owner of NTEC, and all of my wonderful friends at North Texas, I ride on!