

Locals Hit the Trails with the Antonovich Traildusters Ride

by Deb Baumann
150 equestrians from all over LA County descended on La Cañada Flintridge's Hahamongna Watershed Park on June 13 to enjoy Supervisor Mike Antonovich's annual Trail Dusters Ride.

The event kicked off with a hearty pancake breakfast at 7 a.m. By 9:30, a long line of riders was heading for the hills. Their route wound through residential areas of La Cañada, up into the Angeles Forest, then came down the Arroyo through Hahamongna park. Eight rugged miles through beautiful scenery with breathtaking views gave everyone an excellent appetite for the old-fashioned cowboy BBQ waiting for them "back at the ranch."

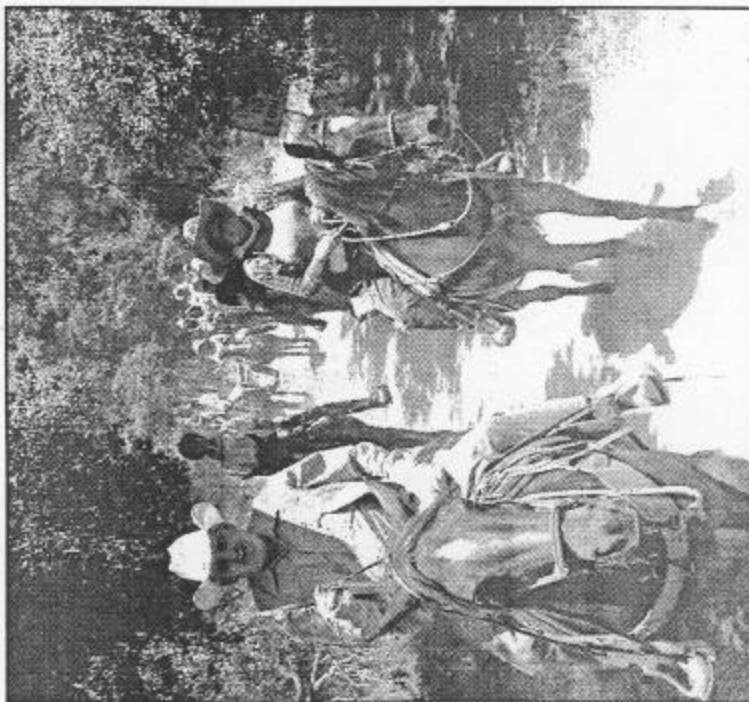
Good planning was key to the ride's success. Sheriff's

Posse member Tama Lockwood of Lake View Terrace helped "scout" the route the week before, identifying areas in need of repair. Trail Boss "Bud" Welch, riding alongside Supervisor Antonovich, set a good pace, but he took care to see that all the horses got enough rest along the way. A few mounts were not conditioned for steep climbing, but organizers were prepared for that, too. A horsetrailer waited at rendezvous points to shuttle tired animals back to camp.

Members of the La Cañada Flintridge Trails Council deserve much credit for the beautiful network of trails. According to committee chair Mary Barrie, they face the same challenges we face here in the Northeast Valley - pressure from developers and

land owners who don't want to honor trail easements, occasional protests from new residents who are shocked to discover that moving into a horse community means sometimes encountering manure, and some horse/bicycle interface issues. But so far, people have been working things out. "Horses are still a vital part of the charm of our community," says Barrie, "what realtors refer to as our semi-rural character."

Mary Benson of the Tujunga Watershed Council was impressed by excellent trail construction recently done by the LA Conservation Corps. The trail network in La Cañada Flintridge uses land adjacent to the County flood control channels as well as Southern California Edison easements, partnership models that the Tujunga Watershed Council has been advocating to create new trails throughout LA by using



Supervisor Mike Antonovich's annual Trail Dusters Ride brought together equestrians from across the Foothills for an 8 mile ride to Angeles Forest. Photo by Deb Baumann

the Los Angeles River and flood control channels. on beautiful, natural looking, well-designed trails," Benson said.

"There was a time you could ride from Hansen Dam to Pasadena to Griffith Park again. Perhaps that day will come