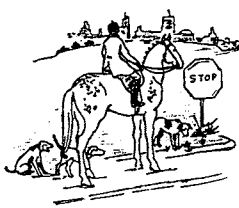


Try Back



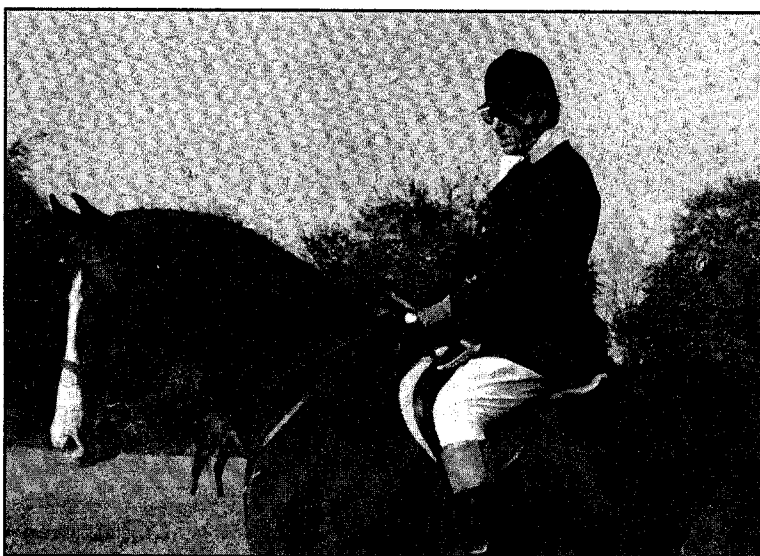
The favorable economy of the '80s brought extensive growth and development to the Barrington area, more than any previous decade. No longer was there a viable route for a bypass around Barrington, and the increasing volume of automobiles was swelled by through traffic from neighboring communities in all directions. Small towns became bedroom suburbs as the "Golden Corridor" of corporate expansion spread out along the Northwest Tollway, from O'Hare Airport to Hoffman Estates, South Barrington, and farther toward Elgin. The Barrington Area Council of Governments - representing the incorporated municipalities of Barrington, Barrington Hills, Deer Park, Inverness, Lake Barrington, North Barrington, South Barrington, and Tower Lakes - developed its own comprehensive plan in an effort to set guidelines with regard to the boundaries and issues affecting the area.

While there was a tendency in those years to overstate the case, implying that not a blade of grass would be left standing in Barrington, it was true that cornfields appeared to sprout houses overnight! However, those communities immediately surrounding the village of Barrington upheld a minimum of one-acre zoning, while Barrington Hills maintained its five-acre zoning and Lake County established its own zoning standards north of the village.

Therefore it was fortunate that the Fox River Valley Hunt was able to enter this decade with the lasting stability created in the previous two decades under Gina Reinhardt's leadership. The new Master was Clarence B. "Dick" Dickinson, an eight-year member of the Hunt and previous field master. His new Joint Master was Gina's daughter, Vicki Fitch. Both were assured continued counsel from ex-Masters Gina and Fred. Their new huntsman, Alexander "Sandy" Cassatt Jr., previously a whipper-in to the Mission Valley Hunt in Kansas City, was hired for the 1981 season.

Sandy freely encouraged any and all to join the Hunt. As a result of his weekly ladies riding class, several students were prompted to try hunting. They enjoyed it and continued as members through the years. Sandy was responsible for recruiting Marcia Haines, Dr. Nancy Sachs, and Faye Harned Sinnott. Their enthusiasm for what was a new sport to them was unparalleled and most refreshing.

In 1981, the Riding Center was re-opened as a community riding facility run by the Countryside Park District for the residents. Since 1972, it had been leased from the Park District by local resident Bruce Duchossois. Known as Fox Chase Farm, it was a hunter/jumper boarding stable. The heavy snow of 1979 resulted in the collapse of the roof of the indoor arena, and with it, the demise of Fox Chase Farm.



Clarence B. Dickinson

Because of this new and useful facility, huntsman Cassatt is credited with creating an event that would become a permanent fixture of the Fox River Valley Hunt. In the spring of 1981 the inaugural Illinois Hound Show was held. It gave members and staff of the Chicagoland fox hunts and Midwest basset hunts an opportunity to get together in the off-season. The show gave members a chance to train and exhibit hounds, especially to help teach the puppies to lead. Many happy hours of novice handling novice were spent in preparations for this show.

It also afforded local entertainment in the form of the tailgate luncheon contest for spectators and exhibitors, valiantly trying to best each other. Competition grew fierce over the years with elegant spreads of candelabra and silver tureens bursting with culinary delights. The costumed obedience class was another unique aspect of the show. Canine pets - any breed or mix possessed with even the slightest glimmer of talent - competed for awards. Surprisingly, the lion's share of participants in this class were adults. However, it was always the children who were so endearing.

ILLINOIS HOUND SHOW



SATURDAY, MAY 7, 1988

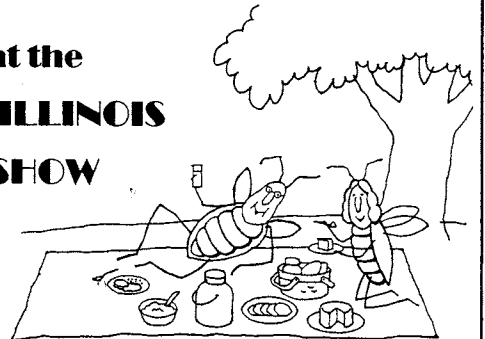
To be held at
Countryside Park District's
Riding Center
Bateman Road
Barrington, Illinois

Judge: Vincent Tartaglia, Huntsman
Rombout Hunt



Join us at the NORTHERN ILLINOIS HOUND SHOW

May 9, 1987 9 A.M.
at the Riding Center



Spend the day . . . marvel at foxhounds, bassets and terriers. Enter YOUR GROUP in the famous "Tailgate Luncheon Contest." Prizes and notoriety are yours. There will be awards for originality and palatability. Lunch will begin at approximately noon.

Bring your own dog, in costume, for the FIDO CLASS and see how he measures up to other local talent. This class will be judged after lunch at around 1:00 p.m.

All of this brought to you by



the FOX RIVER VALLEY HUNT

For further information, please call Sue Johnson - 526-3796



The Barrington Hills Carriage Society was an active supporter of the early hound shows. They would join in the luncheon competition then offer carriage rides to the spectators, lending local color to the day.

Another attempt at innovation in 1981 was less successful. Traditionally, the annual Landowner's Party had been held at Orsolini's Restaurant in Richmond, for many years a popular watering hole for hunt members. That year, Dick decided that the Hunt would present a horse show and picnic at Spring Dale Farm instead. Invitations were mailed out to all the Richmond landowners, but only one couple came, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Sherwin from Barnard Mill Road. Dick and Vicki were naturally disappointed. Graciously, Marge Sherwin offered to help plan the next party, returning it to Orsolini's Restaurant.

Irreconcilable differences gradually emerged between Masters and huntsman, and so in 1982, Aiden Regan returned to hunt the hounds. It was about this time that Dick privately admitted that as soon as he had become Master, he stopped enjoying hunting.

That season, members of the hunt were encouraged to attend the Chicagoland Hunter Trials being held at Brooks McCormick's St. James Farm in Warrenville. That same fall, the Riding Club Invitational Hunt was held on Halloween and the invitation included the option to come in costume. Throwing aside their formal attire, members appeared as spooks, goblins, and ghosts. Horses also lent themselves to decoration.

The following year, the hunter trials were hosted by the Oak Brook Hounds, with the event being held at a member's farm in Gilberts. Situated in a generally flat area, there was a large, rolling glacial hill in the middle of the course. One of the jumps on the long course was constructed of glacial boulders. During her practice round, Sue Johnson dubbed this obstacle "the dinosaur eggs." She never got to compete over the "eggs" because her reliable old hunt horse, Red, broke out of his trailer and ran off to the back acreage of the farm, refusing capture. Spending the remainder of the day in an alfalfa field was much more to Red's liking than exerting himself around a course of rocks and logs. Fate also befell the Fox River Valley membership in the first class: While she was on course, Marcia Haines' saddle slipped on her hunter, Keepsake; and George Sachs, who had overslept, missed all the morning classes. Barb Cunningham and Boo Fitch were the only ribbon winners that year.

Nineteen eighty-four found the hunt again faced with the potential loss of territory. A notice appeared in the newspapers that Northern Pump Farms in Richmond were to be divided into parcels and auctioned off in July. Dick and Vicki attended the auction and found that the neighboring farmers were equally as unhappy as the Hunt members over the demise of this landmark McHenry County farm. Under the management of Brad Scott, Northern Pump Farms had been a leader in agricultural areas and stockman's organizations throughout the Midwest. Farmers came from near and far to see their

old friend Brad one last time and to witness the end to a great farming tradition. While at the auction, Brad assured the two Masters that he would assist in any way he could to maintain the hunting permissions with the new owners. This came as some relief to the Masters. However, now they were faced with the task of developing a rapport with approximately 25 new owners, rather than one, as in the past. Many people who purchased property through the sale were absentee owners or speculators, making communication much more difficult for the Hunt.

Gina, who did not attend the sale, was anxious to hear the results, so early that afternoon her daughter telephoned with the news. Later that same day, Gina passed quietly away in her sleep. She had been watching her beloved Cubs on television and had simply slipped away. A quiet woman whose principles and standards were high and her reliability unsurpassed, she had spent her life pursuing activities that she loved, bringing joy and happiness to those around her.

As a sportswoman, Gina also had successfully bred and raised a small stable of thoroughbreds. Racing in the blue and red silks of West Wind Farm, these horses were under the watchful eye of Catherine "Toots" Murphy. Toots, who came from a large family of horsemen, also managed the hunter barn, spending many hours developing former race horses into trustworthy field hunters since joining the Reinhardt family in 1963.

That year, the Fox River Valley Hunt lost two good friends with the death of Gina and the retirement of Brad Scott. Virginia Cardwell Reinhardt had nurtured the Hunt to become an established part of the community, and Brad had generously provided hunt country at a time when the Barrington area had outgrown its rural way of life.

Planning to retire to Colorado, Brad paid a last official visit with members of the Hunt at the annual Landowner's Party in September 1984. Neighbors and friends honored him with toasts and tributes and the following poem:

*Roses are red, violets are blue
Boy, Brad, are we going to miss you.
For many years you've been Northern Pump
And here we come to build many a jump
With shorthorns and herefords, horses and hounds
We'd wake the community with our early morning sounds.*

*You bridged the gap for us in more ways than one,
And thru the years at Orsolini's we've sure had fun,
We hear you are going to the mountains for relaxation,
Out there they feed cattle thru automation.*

*The Christophers, the Christys, the Youngs and more
Will sure miss you at the old coffee store
The Rotary too will miss Brad a lot
But not like the Fox River Valley, who without him could'nt be out.*

*If you really must go
We all wish you well
We want you to know
We will miss you like hell.*

In 1985, a newly organized hunt committee was formed to represent the members and define matters of policy. In addition to the Joint Masters, the committee included: William McGinley, president; Susan Johnson, honorary secretary; Fritz Gohl, social chairman; and David Buckley, chairman of hunt country. Among their first duties were redefining the dues schedule, which included reinstatement of the social membership; defining individual, junior, and pony club memberships; as well as introducing the new concept of a trainer membership. The capping fees remained at \$25.

The committee produced a new enthusiasm which had been lacking over the past few seasons. As members worked together, a camaraderie was formed that inspired support of the hunt as well as the many activities being offered.

One example of the members support was attendance at the Wayne-DuPage Hunt's "A Day In The Country" horse show. This day benefited the Friends of Handicapped Riders

Association. It was at this show that Vicki, Sue and Dave became known as the "Fox River Valley Aerial Acrobatic Jumping Team." While schooling, Vicki's horse, Casey, cleared a three-foot fence by four feet. She was propelled through the air but managed to fall back in the saddle, prompting a local trainer to remark, "She was up so high, I thought we'd have to get a gun and shoot her down." While practicing for the hunt team class, Dave's horse almost landed on Sue after she had a fall on the far side of a fence. Her new horse, Frog had shied violently from an errant tennis ball bouncing from the nearby tennis courts.

Known as Fritz "Where's the Party" Gohl, Fritz had spent most of the summer encouraging other Chicagoland hunt members to attend the upcoming Fox River Valley Joint Meet in Richmond. "The hunt had built 40 fences for that special day," Fritz said. At the time, there were not even 40 fences in the entire Fox River Valley Hunt, let alone Richmond. To accommodate this boastful claim, Fritz painted the numbers 39 and 40 on two of the jumps and hoped that would suffice.



Harmony gets an extra blessing from the Rev. Richard D. Muir (Photo: courtesy of Pioneer Press Newspapers - Kathy Tray).



l. to r. David Buckley, Susan Johnson and Victoria Fitch.

As the 1986 hunting season approached, a number of changes were announced. Dick was planning a move to Virginia, and Vicki had begun to experience what he, Denny, and her mother before her had found to be so true - the responsibilities of managing a hunt organization were simply too much for one person to handle. Thus, Susan Johnson and David Buckley were appointed Joint Masters, bringing a fresh and energetic approach to the hunt. Their first priority was to secure a new huntsman for the ensuing season. They hired Shelley O'Higgins, former huntsman of Virginia's Bull Run Hunt.

To raise the level of sport, Sue and Shelley launched an ambitious, greatly expanded hound breeding program. Realizing the obvious need for new blood in the kennel, the Hunt drafted notable foxhounds from Canada, Ohio, Virginia, Maryland, Georgia, and Alabama.

Their first accomplishment came in 1988 while attending the prestigious Virginia Hound Show. Fox River Valley's Cruiser was the winner of the unentered English dog division. Ironically, the judge that year was Captain Ronnie Wallace, making this return to showing a reunion of sorts for the Fox River Valley members in attendance.

Throughout the ensuing years, the Fox River Valley pack continued to improve, resulting in a growing awareness of the rewards of careful attention to breeding and maintaining a pack of hounds. This particularly brought pleasure to the Masters, staff, and members of the field.

In an attempt to provide a safe hunting experience for the Fox River Valley Pony Club members, reinstatement of the fox hunting workshop was presented in 1989. Held over two days in July, the young riders were introduced to the concepts of fox hunting. This was followed by a discussion on etiquette and attire presented by member and longtime Fox River Valley Pony Club board member, Jan Nestrud. Whipper-in Faye Sinnott supplied an in-

depth explanation of the duties of the staff and field master. The day concluded with a horn blowing demonstration and a tour of the kennels. They put their new found knowledge into practice during a mock hunt the next morning when they were led on a merry chase by the carefully disguised "fox", Allison Springer. At this time Pony Club members were encouraged to ride with the Hunt free of charge during cubbing, and at a reduced rate during the formal season.

As the decade closed, fox hunters found they were being pushed farther and farther from Barrington and their familiar country. The final curtain rang down in 1987 on one of its favorite meets, Oak Knolls Farm and adjacent vistas from Kidder's Hill. Totally hemmed in by houses, the Hunt was forced to close forever its last piece of original country within Barrington Hills.

Now maps and plats of survey became regular reading material for the Masters as the search for new country became a year-round proposition. In 1988, Vicki joined Sue and Dave in active Mastership once again. Together, they developed new landowner relations in Huntley, a small community west of Barrington. They were aided by hunt members and new Huntley residents Gail (Hunckler) and Brian Johnson.

In retrospect, the decade of the '80s became a time for new people and new ideas. Perpetuating the long-held traditions and legacy of the Fox River Valley Hunt, it attempted to grow with the future while maintaining the deeply held traditions of the past. From hound shows to blessings, the staff was expected to be sportsmen and economists, as well as public relations experts in the ever-changing climate of the times.

1941



1988

HUNT FIXTURE

CUBBING 7:00 a.m.

Sat., Aug. 13	FRVH Picnic - Fritz Gohl
Sun., Aug. 14	Kennels - Opening Cub Hunt
Sat., Aug. 20	Richmond East
Wed., Aug. 24	Huntley
Sat., Aug. 27	Richmond East
Wed., Aug. 31	Richmond West - park at Wild Berry Farm off <u>Keystone Road</u>
Sat., Sept. 3	Huntley
Mon., Sept. 5	Kennels - breakfast following Hunt - Frank & Ginny Kenney
Wed., Sept. 7	Richmond East
Sat., Sept. 10	Richmond West (Keystone Road)
Wed., Sept. 14	Kennels
Sat., Sept. 17	St. James Farm - Steeplechase & Point-to-Point
Sun., Sept. 18	Richmond East
Wed., Sept. 21	Huntley
Sat., Sept. 24	Kennels - Landowners Dinner 6:30 p.m.
Wed., Sept. 28	Richmond West

Attire: Ratcatcher