

Gallant Horse Memorialized



Mrs. Ina Annett Ewing, '26fa, one of Norman's enthusiastic and capable riders, gives a farewell salute to a great horse that was known to thousands of alumni.

By GRACE E. RAY

TAPS have sounded for an equine soldier at the University of Oklahoma, whose memory was honored recently with the erection of a memorial plaque over his grave on the polo field at Norman.

Hundreds of alumni throughout the state will remember how shaky they felt when they prepared for their first high hurdle, and how safely they took the hurdle, mounted on the back of steady, brave Copenhagen. Copenhagen died January 22, 1941, at the age of 23, and a memorial plaque, bearing an appropriate verse, was erected in June. This is one of the few army horses in Oklahoma ever given such recognition. The verse is by a man who loves horses, but who prefers to remain anonymous.

Copenhagen was not only the stand-by of all the boys in the Reserve Officers Training Corps, but he was the favorite of every coed in the girls' riding classes, because he could be depended upon to go safely over a high jump—not through it or around it! And he never stopped suddenly in front of a jump, causing his rider to fly loose and take the hurdle all alone, as some temperamental horses do.

He regularly took 4-foot hurdles, he took 5-foot jumps with ease, and Mrs. Ina Ewing jumped him over a gate almost six feet high. Mrs. Helen Hetherington also took him over the high jumps. Both women are University alumnae living in Norman and now assist with girls' riding classes.

"He was a born jumper!" declared F. E. Giles, Norman, on whose ranch the horse was foaled at Blanchard in 1918. Giles broke the horse, and he jumped perfectly almost from his earliest trials. His brother, Carl Giles, named him in honor of a famous horse statue in Copenhagen, Denmark. Copenhagen was sold to the R. O. T. C. 16 years ago and has worn the government brand since then.

In reference to the horse's bravery, skill and endurance in jumping, Col. Paul V. Kane, commandant of the R. O. T. C., said upon the recent erection of the plaque:

"Copenhagen had one of the stoutest hearts and strongest physiques of any horse I have ever known."

Two years ago when Copenhagen was considered too old to jump in the annual campus horse show, he looked out over the corral fence and saw the other horses saddled for the events, with spectators assembled. Copenhagen jumped over his fence, about five feet high, and galloped over and joined the other horses there waiting for the show to begin. No doubt this great horse was thinking to himself:

"The show must go on, and I must be in it!"

In his younger days no corral fence was high enough to hold him. One summer he regularly jumped out every night, jumped into a neighboring farmer's field, ate his fill, and jumped back into his own corral the next morning.

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