

## Richard M. Delucchi

Dick Convery, a Past Captain of The Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County, in nominating Richard Delucchi for this year's award, said "At age 96, as the oldest living horseman in San Mateo County, Rich Delucchi is one of the original pioneers in establishing our County as one of the best areas in California for its extensive trail systems and riding organizations."

Delucchi, born and raised in the Bayview district of San Francisco, formed his own building contracting business at age fifteen. He married his girlfriend, Blanche Urrere, in 1934. They had three daughters, Doreen, Claudette, and Susan, who married and blessed them with seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren before Blanche passed away a year ago at age 88.

Delucchi's first love was boats, but soon changed to horses after being introduced to horseback riding in the Colma area in the early 1930's. He soon bought a horse of his own, the beginning of a lifelong passion for equitation and trail related activities. In 1941, he moved the family from San Francisco to Redwood City, where he could have property to live and keep his horse. In 1951, they moved to a larger property in Woodside, where he still resides today. As a widely respected land developer and contractor, Delucchi built commercial and residential properties on the Peninsula, still finding time to run a dairy ranch for eight years during the 1940s, along with his many other horse activities.

In 1947, Delucchi was instrumental in putting together the purchase of 23 acres in Woodside, which was to become the home of the Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County. As founding members, he and Ed Zwierlein constructed the first clubhouse building in their spare time on weekends, enduring as

the club's storeroom and office. He then built the original bleachers from 1948 to 1950, which have been rebuilt in recent years on the same foundation, overlooking the main ring. For 26 years, he served as Building and Grounds Chairman, using his own tractor for grading and clearing brush and trees to build the club shack, riding arenas, and grandstands. In 1963, he was elected Captain of the Mounted Patrol.

Delucchi hosted and led many rides from his Woodside property, having participated in 55 Fall Rides of the Mounted Patrol, a record unlikely to be broken. Other accomplishments included persuading Cap Grant, in charge of San Mateo County road building, to build horse trails along Canada Road from Woodside to what is now Highway 92. He also helped construct the extensive trail system along both Kings Mountain and Greer roads, all the way from the intersection with Woodside Road, on into Huddart Park. He has been involved with the Woodside Trail Club since its inception and actively participated in deliberations related to incorporation of the Town of Woodside. He was famous for his Italian dinners, together with Art Coladarci and Bud Gasivoda, preparing dinners for the memberships of the San Mateo County Horsemen's Association (SMCHA) and Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County (MPSMC).

He has had a long history with the San Mateo County Horsemen's Association. He helped start their horse shows, play days, and first three-day Fourth of July Rodeo event. In 1948, he became Parade Chairman and rode his horses and two mules, Susie and Black Jack, in the parades until recently. He was elected their seventh President in 1948, presiding over a membership of 850 at that time. To this day, he supports both the SMCHA and MPSMC by his contributions and attendance at their club functions. SMCHA awarded Rich their Distinguished Horseman of the Year Award in 1977 and again in 1990.

Delucchi is a generous contributor to charities, including Stanford University and the San Mateo County Sheriff's STAR Program for underprivileged children. He is a Past President of the Peninsula General Contractors' Association and a long time affiliate with the following equestrian groups:

Sonoma County Trailblazers - Founding Member, 1932;

Reno Sierra Riders - President, 1937;

California Rangers - Captain, 1937;

Rancheros Visitadores - Charter Member;

Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County- Founding Member, 1942-1946; Captain, 1963; and

San Mateo County Horsemen's Association - President, 1948.

Starting in 1937 with the purchase of Lonnie, a "gray mare" Delucchi owned for seven years, he has subsequently owned Scout, a Morab (half Arab and half Morgan) for twenty years; Rex, a Tennessee Walker for six years; a Quarter Horse for several more years; Black Jack, a Mule, for thirty years; and Susan, a Jennie, for twelve years, having retired from riding three years ago.

Delucchi, who still manages his business, was asked about the secret of his longevity. He replied, "Having a great wife and three supportive daughters".

When the award committee selected Delucchi as this year's award recipient, the vote was unanimous. Members commented that his extraordinary record of originating, supporting, and leading many of the County's most cherished equitation and trail activities, over an unprecedented span of more than six decades, has established Rich as one of the most prestigious Horseperson-Citizens of our time and certainly in San Mateo County.

## Award Recipients

- 1985 *Thomas McGinn Smith, Honorable Superior Court Judge*
- 1986 *Robert K. Jaedicke, Dean, Stanford Graduate School of Business*
- 1987 *L.W. "Bill" Lane, Ambassador to Australia, Sunset Magazine Owner/CEO*
- 1987 *Richard H. Chambers, Honorable Federal Court Judge*
- 1989 *John W. Dinkelspiel, Mayor of Atherton*
- 1990 *K.B. "Pete" Towne, owner of ranch, now Jack Brooks Horse Camp*
- 1991 *Harry Williams, Chair, Woodside Trails Committee*
- 1992 *Elmer Wheaton, aerospace pioneer, Portola Valley Trail builder*
- 1993 *Dale C. Ryman, President, Woodside Trails Club*
- 1994 *Howard D. Boone, Chair, Woodside Trails Committee*
- 1995 *Lowell Duggan, Commander, Sheriff's Air Squadron*
- 1996 *Raymond A. Baumbach, President, Bofors Incorporated*
- 1997 *Phoebe Hearst Cooke, philanthropist and Founder, National Center for Equine Facilitated Therapy*
- 1998 *Joe Putnam, automobile dealer, rancher, philanthropist, champion Reined Cowhorse competitor*
- 1999 *Jay Ward Smith, respected physician, County trails advocate*
- 2000 *Barbara Heine, Executive Director, National Center for Equine Facilitated Therapy*
- 2001 *William Wraith III, mining executive, educator, entrepreneur*
- 2002 *Michael H. Carr, internationally acclaimed space scientist and author*
- 2003 *Adda Quinn, tireless horse trails advocate nationwide*
- 2004 *Grant Bennion, retired publishing company chief executive*

## History of the Award

On January 28, 2006, at the Circus Club in Menlo Park, the Woodside based Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County is celebrating the installation of its 65<sup>th</sup> Captain and officers, elected to lead the organization during 2006. The Mounted Patrol has 151 members who, when called out by the County Sheriff, have participated on horseback in search and rescue missions in the Santa Cruz Mountains and other remote areas around the state. Its members have upgraded their 23-acre headquarters in Woodside with its own power, water and kitchen for immediate availability to County citizens as a fully equipped Red Cross-Certified Disaster Shelter in event of a major earthquake or other emergency.

In addition to installing new officers, the occasion celebrates the "Outstanding Horseperson-Citizen Award 2005", the 21st such presentation. This year's recipient is Richard M. Delucchi, distinguished developer and contractor, County horseman, pioneer trail developer, and 55-year resident of Woodside.

The award was initiated in 1985 by George Potorff, long-time member of the Mounted Patrol and well known public relations executive. He formed a selection committee that includes the first award recipient, Superior Court Judge Tom Smith. Award qualifications are: must be a horseperson (no exceptions); has made outstanding contributions to our community and County; is recognized as a world-class citizen – including, but not limited to local or nationally recognized leadership of professional, charitable, or community service nature; has made outstanding contributions to improving and maintaining horse trails, facilities, and County equitation in general. Recipient must qualify on least two categories, with deserving individuals of both genders considered in the selection process.

**MOUNTED PATROL  
OF SAN MATEO COUNTY**



## Outstanding Horseperson-Citizen Award 2005

PRESENTED TO  
**RICHARD M.  
DELUCCHI**  
*In Recognition of his  
Professional Achievements  
And Numerous Contributions  
To the County.*