

715 Lyonhurst Road,
Cherrydale, Virginia,
January 15, 1934.

My dear General Carter:—

Perhaps you will remember me, and again, perhaps not. I shall endeavor to make myself known. I met you one day at Walter Reed Hospital, where I had stopped to pay a short visit to Major Saunders. You were there when I arrived, and we talked "horses"; do you remember?

3) I am writing you
in order to obtain your
expert advice with regard
to a problem I have. I
ride a beautiful Thoroughbred
mare, who has a habit
that seems to defy breaking.
When I first rode her three
years ago she didn't have it,
but in the interim two
ladies rode her, off and on,
and now that I again ride
her, she returns to me
with this newly acquired
habit. Here is the habit: -
When put into the gallop

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3) she will leap forward with her head high in the air (or to one side, if ridden with a martingale), and refuse to respond to the "give and take" to bring her down. She wishes to increase her speed to a run. It is quite necessary to circle her, rather than to give steady pressure to the bit. I use a snaffle with double reins. She is a "Garrido" and very sensitive. This is her only fault, for her trot is collected and perfect. Her gallop is collected when going in circles; it is just on a straightaway she exhibits this habit. What shall I do? Most sincerely yours, Ruth M. Dean.

P.S.

I was so glad to learn from Major Saunders that you have left the hospital, and have returned to your quarters. I sincerely hope that your good health will remain with you always.

Sincerely,

Ruth McDear

Mrs H. Trendley Dean,
715 Lyonhurst Road,
Cherrydale, Virginia.

19 January, 1934.

Mrs. Ruth M. E. Dean,
715 Lyonhurst Road,
Cherrydale, Virginia.

Dear Mrs. Dean:

Yours of the 15th received. I have a very indistinct recollection of meeting you at the Walter Reed Hospital in Major Saunder's room, Ward 2. That was when I was under observation in May and before my operations. My first was on June 12, my second five weeks later and my third on September 6. I came out in October after these three terrible operations, in which the surgeons themselves gave me but a 50-50 chance but declared that by my endurance, will power and superb courage I "pulled myself through", and all -- from Colonel Keller down -- were very proud of a man who, in his 89th year, could survive those three operations, all of them known to urologists to be critically dangerous, especially to a patient advanced in age. I am now back to a normal condition except arthritis.

Now as to your horse problem. I am an old cavalry officer and at one time probably had the best mount in the ten cavalry regiments -- one a thorobred "Steeldust", a 1000 yard race horse, chestnut sorrel, and a three-quarters bred 16½ hands strawberry roan. Both, however, were thoroughly broken and had no tricks. So I do not claim to any experience in horse breaking or training.

I don't know whether you ride with side saddle or astride. Many thorobreds unless carefully broken and trained are apt to acquire tricks, some of which may be perfectly harmless, but, nevertheless, as hard to cure as certain habits among children. What kind of saddle do you use? My suggestion would be to ride astride so that you can use a leg pressure instead of too much rein and bit guidance. Use a single rein and change from a snaffle to a light curb. Take off the martingale. When she begins on the gallop to throw up her head and start to run so that you have to throw her on to a circle, then use the curb, but not too strong.

If she is on a right hand circle, press the flat of your left leg against her side just behind the cinch, using the curb gently and guiding from the right. If you circle her to the left, just reverse, using the flat of your right

leg, behind the cinch; also the curb gently, guiding from the left until she straightens out and comes back to the gallop. In the meantime see if there is anything about the martingale and bit that has been irritating her; also, the saddle. We used to train our men to use their legs.

How old is your mare? How long have you owned and ridden her? Was she properly broken, bridewise and bitted when you first rode her? Have you always used a snaffle bit when riding her? Do you know whether the party who has been recently riding her used a snaffle or a light curb. Has she a tender mouth.

Without ever having seen her "work out" and knowing no more about her than is indicated in your letter, it would be impossible for me to offer anything more than the foregoing suggestions for curing her "trick", which I have already expressed in answer to your questions.

Thanking you for your very kind message of congratulations upon my recovery and return to the Club, I am

Sincerely yours,

R. G. Carter,
Captain, U. S. Army.

715 Lyonhurst Road,
Cherrydale, Virginia,
January 23, 1934.

General R. G. Carter, U. S. A.,
The Army and Navy Club,
Washington, D. C.

My Dear General Carter:-

Your very pleasant and instructive letter came yesterday, for which I wish to thank you very much. I was not surprised that your recollection of me was vague, for I only talked with you for a few moments, inasmuch as you were leaving as I entered the door. Major Saunders introduced us; you asked me if I rode with long or short stirrups, and I said fairly long, and that was about all.

As you have no doubt divined by this time, I am a novice at this most difficult art of type-writing. Occasionally, when I feel inspired to "write", I visit it, in order to think faster. I trust that you will be able to decipher the contents of this epistle.

It is most remarkable that you have been able to withstand such dreadful ordeals. I congratulate you on having such extraordinary endurance. It is, perhaps the result of having lived a very normal life. It is hard to believe that you are 89! You certainly do not look it. I am sorry to hear that you are annoyed with arthritis. It must be very troublesome.

Now, about the horse problem again. Let me answer the questions that were in your letter first. I have been in the various equitation classes on various posts all over the United-States so I have been following what you suggested about legs behind the cinch, and all that, on the circles. The mare is about eleven years old. She is a Gannidor (and all that I know about Gannidors would fill a very small space indeed. Perhaps you can enlighten me about the beast. Wasn't he, or is it a she, a Gov't. race horse?). When I first rode her, she had not been ridden for a couple of years, and outside of being "high", was a delight to ride. Flexible and all. She belonged to a Cavalry officer, who also had a very beautiful and spirited polo pony. He didn't ride, not having the time for it, so I was the sole rider of the mare and the polo pony at that time. As it developed, I fell in love with the polo pony, and rode him almost exclusively; riding the mare only occasionally. Hence, as she was also stabled with other private mounts, she was turned out to various ladies to ride; the usual public equipment was used on her, with the exception of one side saddle. I ride astride, and have my Husband's equipment (he doesn't care to ride very much), which is a French Field saddle, and bridle. She goes well with it, but I do not think that the present bit that I am using is comfortable in her mouth. More about bits as soon as I finish the mare story. While the ladies took turns about on the mare, I devoted my time to the polo pony, until the

(I was so completely absorbed in what I was writing that I ran off the paper. I hope you will excuse it's appearance!)

Cavalry officer was transferred. He took the polo pony with him and gave the mare to me. There was no way for me to keep her for my Husband is an officer commissioned under another Department, and so he ^{the Cav. officer} was going to have her destroyed. You see, she got some bad hay a number of years ago when the War Dep't. Stables were in the District and since then has been troubled with heaves. (She didn't seem to have them when I first rode her though. I recall one incident though. Some woman rode her, and brought her back "Wringing wet". I visited the stables that afternoon and found her on the picket line not even groomed; the saddle marks were still roughly outlined on her back and sides. I was furious; reported it and all but no one knew anything about how it had occurred. That may have started the heaves again) I seem to go off on side trails, but to get back to the main issue again. She was not shot, but given to a very pleasant young Artillery officer, who is so wonderful as to permit me to ride her for him. He has other mounts, and has told me that he is glad to have me ride her. So you see, I am not only anxious to get her into her old way of going, as a balm to my horsemanship, but to please him at the same time. She has a 5ft. 4. jumping record, and I am quite sure he would like to be able to jump her without one of her really tempestuous approaches to the hurdle. One is a mere passenger upon her back. The Cavalry officer is said to have purchased her from a very irate civilian, who as the story goes, said, while in a reclining position upon the bridle-path, "I just paid \$2000. for her but (swear words) I'll give her to the first person that wants her for (I believe the sum was \$150. but I am not positive)." However that is about as much as anyone knows about her previous training, biting and riding. I have been told that I have light hands, so I at least hope that that is true. The mare knows me very well and is quite a pet in every way. She is even regarded in that light around the stables. She has no evil habits that I know of, such as cribbing, etc.

Now, I believe that I have eliminated every possibility excepting that of bits. What you have suggested sounds very logical, and I shall proceed at the earliest possible time to do it. The bit that I am at present using is not a French bit, but one purchased at Spauldings some years ago, and I believe, is American. It has a straight bar, connected to the side bars by flexible joints. It resembles, very strongly, a Pelham, but I don't think it is one. I may be wrong. One set of reins buckles into a rather large ring, one on either side of the mouth bar, on the vertical bars. The other set of reins (corresponding to the bit on a 'bitt and bridoon' bridle), fastens into a smaller ring at the lower end of the vertical bars. I don't always use a martingale, although I do like the appearance of one on a horse. In England, at Sandhurst, I understand, it is required to use one.

As soon as I try the light curb on a single rein, I shall report the result to you, if it is not bothering you too much to read all of my horse "bavardage".

Sometime I wish to have my Husband meet you. I know that he will like you very much. With best personal wishes for you, and a sincere thanks for aiding me with my horse problem, I am

*Most Sincerely Yours,
Ruth M. Dean*