

Yes, I did. I started out in the Canal Zone with the little pony, a fourteen-hand pony when I was twelve years old. But eventually, I outgrew that mare. She was a small, small pony, so we started riding in Panama. There was an equitation school that was run by a German American and he had a transport business but he also had this stable that he taught riding lessons. And we rode out there for years. Fred Rudesheim. We had a wonderful time riding his—they were all his horses, we rode his horses. We had shows. We had all sorts of rides and games and it was a good. It was wonderful. To start with, at the Pacific Saddle Club, people ended up riding bareback. And it was a wonderful, wonderful experience because they had—Panama had some beautiful rivers and we often would go up into the hills and take our horses into the rivers, and they would love the swimming holes. They would love swimming and we would just hold onto their manes and just, you know, ride through the water swimming. A lot of fun doing that. That was in the Canal Zone. And then, when we started riding in Panama, it was more formal. It was English, we all had English saddles, the horses were—they were real horses. What they'd do is they get race horses from the track and we'd—that's who we'd ride. And we jumped all over, I mean, everybody was jumping. So, since you're riding racehorses, were they really fast? You know, we didn't—well, we did race them. We weren't supposed to. We'd sneak out and race them. But, usually we didn't do that very often because we really were training more for jumping. We were trying to use them for training. They don't run away with you, they're pretty, you know, a lot of the horses are just really nice. When we raced them, then they'd be excited for a few days. The owner would know right away that we'd been racing. We'd get in trouble. But, he was pretty calm. He didn't get that upset. It was fun. When you were there involved in the equestrian community, did you go to the horse track? Did you go watch horse races? Well, imagine a group of kids sneaking off to go to the racetrack. And, we used to do that, but not on race days when they were just—we'd run over there and take the horses and run around the track, race around the track. And then one day, the owner said, how about me taking you out—let's start over to the racetrack. The owner suggested we all ride to the racetrack and we all pretended that we didn't know. Where is it? We haven't been. Of course, the minute we got there, they said, "Oh, you kids are back again, are you?" Well [laughs] That was another time we got in trouble. But, as far as going to the races, no. No, we were too busy riding the horses.