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SPRINGHAVEN HORSE SHOW HAS SUCCESSFUL INAUGURAL DAY – Delaware County Society Vies with the Noble King of the Carriage, the Saddle and the Turf in a Gathering of Fashion and Beauty at the County Club's First Exhibition

When the day was over the darkness had fallen and even the big bright stars seemed, if possible to looking brighter than usual, the managers of the Horse Show and members of the Springhaven Country Club were filled with proud consciousness that their maiden effort in the equine show line had met with unprecedented success. Beauty and the horses had held court jointly from the hour of opening until midnight – in the ring, about the enclosure at the club house, in fact, all over the attractive grounds they had divided the honors, while the horse was the confessed reason for attendance, many "beauties" had gone expressly to see and be seen, and they could have chosen no more charming setting for the exhibition of their horses, themselves, and their autumn finery. Sunshine and an ideal September day (as there is a vast difference between a September day and a day in September) were the chief attributes of a perfect and successful entirety.

IN AUTUMN GARB – The foliage about the club house has put on its autumn garb, as if in honor of the occasion, or was it a case of nature endeavoring to out rival nature's fairest production? – A beautiful woman. The trees and the women were an illustration of Jeannette Cooper's lines, "October":

Oh! Her gown, oh! Her gown
Was all of red brown,
And she'd gold dust in flecks
And in specks,
Here and there,
And her smile – oh! Her smile
Was a girl's smile, the while,
A crown lay half seen
In the sheen
Of her hair.

To many of the women, and not a few of the men, the most attractive and interesting thing about the day's exhibit was the brilliant display of autumn gowns and hats, yet summer frocks held their sway, as the female mind is keenly alive to the fact that summer frills and laces are vastly more becoming than heavier materials. Beauty was yesterday apparelled in all the hues known to the fashion makers, and not for years has such a riot of color been seen in autumn styles. Red and brilliant greens, blues and warm, rich golden browns, strove for dominance, yet the scarlets and burnt orange, from their insistent vividness, were the most noticeable on the grandstand and under the trees.

AND THE HORSE – But what of the horse, for whom all this fuss had been made? As a horse show is too great a novelty in the life of the new country club to have it simmer down to a beauty show.

Society had gathered in pretentious numbers to do honor to the first formal attempt at making "king horse" the special attraction, and the opening day of the Springhaven Country Club Horse Show of 1904 was one long to be remembered and will linger to the minds of many as the happiest and most thoroughly charming of any of the many successful functions which have already made this club famous.

There is no question in regard to the decision that to Edward Crozer belong the laurels or it might be more in keeping with the occasion to say, should be awarded the blue ribbon for the success of the venture, as he has worked with unceasing energy and unflagging interest to make the Horse Show what it should be and is. To his experience and skill in such matters Delaware County society owes a social debt which is well-nigh unpayable. He was ably assisted by the Directors and Executive Committee, who received a large share of congratulations

Society had gathered from all parts of this and adjacent counties and from the hour of opening until the last horse was judged, there was a constant throng of interested spectators, about the ring and in the stand, while congenial crowds were grouped about the club house, many friends of members availing themselves of the privileges extended to them by the invitation.

THE FIRST COMPETITOR – Promptly at 2 o'clock the bugle sounded a call, which was carried over the distant hills, and before the echo had died away a handsome road team belonging to Charles F. Flower was driven into the ring and the Springhaven Country Club Horse Show was formally opened. From then until 4:45 the different classes were judged, and there were no delays, the interest was never allowed to flag.

The classes in which ladies competed attracted the most attention. Mrs. Walter M. Roach was the first to enter, driving Brandy and Soda for Alfred L. Gillitt, against Friday and Saturday, driven by H.A. Little. The latter captured the blue ribbon, although Mrs. Roach was warmly congratulated on her driving. She was gowned in white linen with a small black toque.

Keith Lockhart Collection