

## Lunch

*By Suzy Hopkins*

My horse Zaboe was a sweet half-Arab, half-Welsh pony. However, he had only the *one brain cell*. This was a problem on a ride my ten-year-old son, Mac, and I took. We packed a lunch spending the morning riding along the smooth undulating beach and on the pine needle covered trails at Folsom Lake ending up in a shady spot. We always rode on trail rides with a halter, with lead line attached under the bridle, in case someone got injured and needed their horse led home. Mac tied Zaboe's lead line to a skinny tree and sat on one of hundreds of huge granite boulders to eat. I ate my lunch standing, holding the lead line, since my mount on that day was a powerful palomino quarter horse stallion. (They have a lot of their own ideas and you must always remain attentive.) Zaboe suddenly became afraid of the tied lead line. He ran backwards pulling the skinny tree out of the ground. Now he was terrified. Off he went with the tree in tow which made him more terrified as he went. I'm standing watching him through the trees as he careened through the five-foot-high blackberry bushes towards the beach. I hollered, "Zaboe." He screeched to a halt as if to say, "Oh, there you are." Trotting purposefully he followed my voice and came straight to me, again through the blackberry bushes which had pulled the skinny tree loose. Mac said, "He blazed a trail." Yes he did.

You would think after such an experience he would be less afraid of lead lines since he had survived the ordeal. Not so. Several months later he was tied to a six-foot section of a telephone pole, lying in a wooden brace, meant for horses to be tied. He had been tied there many times. Zaboe suddenly became afraid of the tied lead line. He pulled back and the six foot section of telephone pole landed on the ground. Still tied to the telephone pole Zaboe ran terrified all through the stable area with the pole between his legs, becoming increasingly frazzled until the pole lodged between two buildings. Remember, I told you about the *one brain cell*.