



## HISTORY OF VALLEY MOUNT RANCH

Valley Mount Ranch was first known as 66 Riding Stables.

66 Riding Stables was established in 1936 and was the idea of Ben & Frieda Kraus. Located just twelve miles west from St. Louis City and accessible to city folks by the famous Route 66 Highway. 66 Riding Stables offered a Good Western time for all ages, they provided hayrides for over 100 people each night, they offered guided trail rides through the foothills of the Ozarks, and had boarding for those who needed to keep their horses somewhere.

66 Riding Stables became Valley Mount Ranch in the late 30's early 40's; everything that was offered at 66 Riding Stables was still main attractions at Valley Mount Ranch. Ben & Frieda also started having Rodeos and shows at the place. The Rodeos attracted large crowds to the stadium-style grandstands. They also hosted Jumping Shows, Carnivals, Stock Car Racing and Chariot Racing, just to name a few.

Ben & Frieda Kraus also organized the Famous Fireman's Rodeos and Parades in downtown St. Louis, complete with floats, clowns, and as many as 200 horses. The Ranch provided horses, wagons, and personal to help promote various attractions in St. Louis area such as Movies, Fireman's Rodeo, Parades, The Police Circus, the list is endless. There were several Famous Celebrities that Ben & Frieda Kraus came into contact with promoting the Movies, TV Series, Rodeo's, Parades, and Circuses, such celebrities as James Arness (Matt Dillon from Gunsmoke), Joel McCrae, Debbie Reynolds, Chuck Connors & Johnny Crawford (The Rifleman).

Several of these Celebrities spent the day at the Ranch such as James Arness, Chuck Connors and Johnny Crawford. Ben liked Johnny so much that before he left to go home he gave him a black & white paint horse which Johnny called Two Bits and went onto to perform tricks and various Rodeos and Parades. Debbie Reynolds took a hayride at the ranch; Vince Coleman of the St. Louis Cardinals came for a Trail Ride. This is just to name of few.

Ben and Frieda had eight children: Shirley, Gene, Darwin, Gerry, Laverne, Norita, Dotty, and Sheila. All the children had daily responsibilities to keep the Ranch running smoothly.

Ben Kraus passed away on March 11, 1961.(top photo)  
Frieda Kraus passed away March 23, 2004.

Ben & Frieda's Children,  
Grand Children, Great  
Grandkids and Great-Great  
Grandkids are keeping their  
dream alive today.



## HORSE BOARDING

When you realize your dream of owning a horse, you wouldn't trust

just anyone and you want that special place where your horse will be treated as an individual. VMR is that special place....offering personalized, professional, quality care from horse people who have loved, shown & cared for horses for over 79 years. You can feel confident that they really "know" horses. Nutrition, health, and exercise requirements are important here, and a program is followed for worming, shoeing, & necessary shots. All you have to do is enjoy —miles & miles of trails through countryside where you can get away from it all . . . The company of other horse lovers, professional riding instructors to help you increase your skills, all this and more at a fair, affordable price. Other amenities that Valley Mount offers are: Tack Storage, Trailer Parking, Training, Lessons, Hauling, Horse Shoer, Veterinarian, Tack Store, Trail Rides, Shows, a Round Pen, 120 X 300 Lighted Outdoor Arena, 100 X 200 Lighted Covered Arena, Huge lighted field to ride in & access to over 3000 acres of Trails. Our Boarding Prices are as follows, all Boarding prices are per month.

### **Pasture Board \* \$310.00**

*Includes Grain Twice a Day, Fresh Hay Given Out Daily, Fresh Spring Creek Water to Drink*

### **Box Stall Board \* \$380.00**

*Includes Grain Twice a Day, Fresh Hay Given Out Daily, Fresh Spring Creek Water to Drink, **Daily Pasture**, Stalls Cleaned Daily.*

### **Box Stall Board \* \$420.00**

*Includes Grain Twice a Day, Fresh Hay Given Out Daily, Fresh Spring Creek Water to Drink, Daily Pasture, Stalls Cleaned Daily, **Horse kept in at night.***

### **Box Stall With Private Run \* \$450.00**

*Includes Grain Twice a Day, Fresh Hay Given Out Daily, Stalls Cleaned Daily, **Daily Turnout if wanted.***

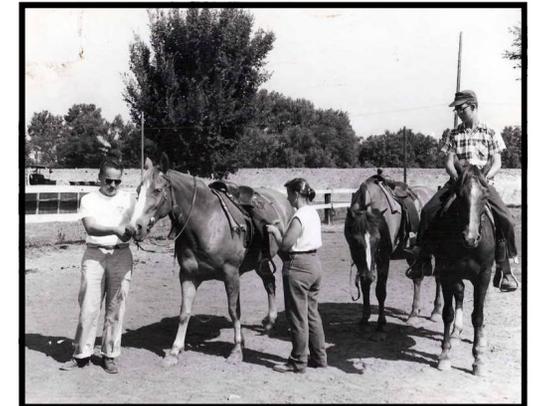
## *Excellent Care of Horses For Over 81*

*All Prices Subject to Change  
without notice!  
We Accept Credit Cards*



# VALLEY MOUNT RANCH

*OVER 81 YEARS OF  
EXPERIENCE*



*Interstate 44 & Jct. 141  
Meramec Station Road  
Valley Park, MO 63088  
Valley Park - Fenton Exit*

**636-225-5243**

VALLEYMOUNTRANCH.COM  
VALLEYMOUNTRANCH@AOL.COM  
Join our Face Book Page



## INSTRUCTIONAL TRAIL RIDES

We will be taking Scenic Trail Rides through the foothills of the beautiful Ozarks, while learning to be safe, in control of your horse, how to balance your body on trails and the correct way of riding horse trails with others.

### 1 Hour Instructional Trail Rides

3 or more Riders—\$35.00  
1 to 2 Riders—\$45.00

**All Prices are Per Person.**

**Call for Appointments!**



No Checks \* We accept Credit Cards

**WARNING: UNDER MISSOURI LAW, an equine professional is not liable for an injury to or death of a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities pursuant to the Revised Statutes of Missouri.**



## HORSE LEASING BY THE MONTH

So you're thinking about buying a horse, but you aren't 100% sure, why not try leasing a horse for a while to see if horses are your thing. Our leasing program consists of access to the horse 7 days a week, includes the board, shoes, & equipment necessary to ride. The cost for a monthly lease is \$300.00 (\$10 per day.)



## RIDING LESSONS

Our Riding Lessons include Arena, Trail & Field Riding. Lessons are scheduled one lesson at a time, **we do not require you to sign up for several lessons at once**, you set how many lessons you will be taking. You do not have to pay in advance for your lessons, you pay the day of your lesson. Our Riding Lesson prices are as follows:

**One Hour Lessons**—Includes Riding for one Full Hour.

Group Lesson (3 or more students) - \$40.00  
Private Lesson (1 to 2 students) - \$50.00

**Little Britches** (Ages 3 to 5 years)  
Half Hour - \$25.00

**Scout Lesson** \* Girl Scout & Boy Scout Lessons  
Hour Lesson—\$30.00 per person

**Barrel Racing Lessons**  
45 minutes to an hour—\$45.00

**Field Trips**—call for more information.



**\* All Prices Per Person Per Session \*  
Appointments Needed for All Lessons**

NO Checks \* We accept credit cards

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## HORSE SALES

We have horses for sale for the Beginner Rider to the Advanced Rider.  
Call for More Information  
636-225-5243



## SUMMER CAMP FUN WITH HORSES

Our Summer Camps consist of everyone experiencing what it is like to own a horse. They will learn the general care of horses such as feeding, grooming, bathing & cleaning up after them. They will also learn the correct way to halter & lead a horse, how to saddle a horse correctly, but most important they will learn how to be safe around horses. We ride everyday, we will be riding in an arena, in a big open field, & taking scenic trail rides. We will also have other fun horse activities. We have three camps to choose from.

**Advanced Summer Camp \* \$350.00**

**July 10th—July 13th**  
Monday—Thursday  
7:30 am—3:30 pm  
**12 years & over**



This camp is for the young riders who eventually want to either own a horse, lease a horse or volunteer at the ranch. They must have taken at least two years of Summer Camp or lessons.



**Summer Riding Camp \* \$300.00**  
Monday - Thursday \*  
8:30 am - 3:30 pm  
**6 years & over**

This camp is for riders from the beginner to the advanced.

\* June 12th-15th \*  
\* June 26th-29th \*  
\* July 17th-20th \*

**Little Britches Riding Camp \* \$200.00**

Monday - Thursday  
9 am—12 pm  
**5 & under**

**July 10th-July 13th**  
This camp is a great way to introduce your little



Cowboy or Cowgirl to horses.

**Limited space available  
reserve early!**