



"Now there's something you don't see everyday." is one of the comments that Lucian Spataro has heard frequently since he began his trip across the United States on horseback last May. He is riding to try and raise funds for the conservation of the rainforests. His horse, Sea Ruler, is one of two Arab geldings that have carried Lucian across the country. Photo by Veronica Bishop

## Lone rider tries to cross U.S. to raise money for rainforests

Warsaw had a visitor on horseback last Friday morning; a cowboy in spandex bicycle pants. Lucian Spataro and his mount, Sea Ruler, passed through so quickly that few people even knew that they had been here.

Spataro is a 32 year-old entrepreneur and equestrian trainer from Tucson, Arizona, who is crossing the country on a trek to raise money for a cause he dearly believes in: saving the world's rainforests and protecting the environment.

He is backed in his effort by some very high-profile people which include actor Ted Danson of "Cheers" fame, Mrs. Wm. Randolph Hearst, and Bazy Tankersley, owner of the Chicago Tribune and the Chicago Cubs.

Ms. Tankersley, who also owns Al-Marah Arabians located in Tucson has donated the two Arab geldings

that have carried Spataro across the United States. Sea Ruler and his counterpart, March Along, were chosen for this ominous task because they proved themselves capable of withstanding the rigors of the road which include long hours, inclement weather, curious people and some not-so-respectful motorists.

According to a press release issued by Spataro, the United States is the second largest consumer of tropical timber. Japan is first.

"Rainforests around the world help maintain the crucial oxygen/carbon dioxide balance of the earth's atmosphere. Destruction of these rainforests contributes to the global warming trend and the notorious greenhouse effect." Spataro said. "Sixty percent of America's birds winter in the rainforest. Many of these birds are vital to our agricultural

economy and their demise along with the rainforest would trigger cataclysm for the world food production."

Accompanying Lucian Spataro on his trip are Brad Braden, equine specialist, and his wife Joyce of Fort Worth, Texas.

To date, this group has traveled across nine states and is well on the way to achieving their goal of crossing the country on horseback and raising \$1 million dollars to benefit the Save the Rainforest campaign.

"We've come this far," said Braden, "and we won't stop until we're standing in East Coast salt water."