

JEANS MADE FOR THE SADDLE

By Margaret Pirtle

iding in a saddle for any length of time will let you know that your pants aren't

well. fitting Polyester -too hot, thin pants- too cold, or the jeans you have on are too tight, too tall, wrong waist, etc. Let's face it ladies, we have all been there and nothing is worst than bad fitting jeans in a saddle. We can blame the saddle and the horse all we want, but sometimes you have to face up to the truth, that your figure and the jeans are just not a good mix.

Désirée Smith, an accomplished three-day event competitor who has been teaching, riding and training horses for over 30

years knows this exact problem well.

Being an active rider and instructor still, at the age of 53, and one day, after working the horses, she sat down in her tack room to change back into her jeans from her riding breeches and thought: "Why? Why do I have to change pants in my barn twice a day?"

She began a

the result: "The most comfortable, practical pair of pants I've ever had.' But Désirée wants to be on a horse, not behind a sewing machine. She

wore and

search for practical riding pants - pants that were comfortable and functional in the saddle, but were also appropriate for mucking stalls, or running to the grocery store.

She was surprised to find nothing that fit the bill. Every "riding" iean she could find had an inseam that was hard on knees, saddle and crotch. She finally made her own, merging a store-bought sweat pants pattern with jodhpur pattern. She bought a machine and taught herself enough to sew her idea up in corduroy... and loved threadbare, completely out. Finally in desperation, she and her husband, Eric, decided they might have to begin their own riding pants company.

This seemed Désirée and Eric one of

those moments that life puts a great big "GO THAT WAY" arrow in front of you. They found a old company that was closing and bought the Smooth Stride in February of 2013. Now open for business, they are handling the riding jean to bring comfortable, practical, and great looks to women who ride horses. The Smooth Stride product line currently includes all-denim "Just Jeans", "Full Seat Jeans" featuring micro suede seat, and "Knee Patch Jeans" with micro suede patches on the inside of the legs from above the knee to the hem. All three feature Smooth Stride's contoured waist, cut, and stretch denim and are designed to make the woman's body look GREAT in her jeans, and feel great in the saddle. Check them out at www.smoothstride.com

