

# HISTORY & HERITAGE PROJECT 2000

“CANADIAN TIMES OF THE TWH”

## HOW I GOT STARTED WITH WALKERS - & WHAT I DO WITH THEM

by Ed Hamel, Lacombe, AB

*There are two sections of the Walking Horse News (actually more than that!) that I look forward to reading each time the magazine comes to the door.*

*One is 'What do you do with your Walkers?' and the other is 'How did I become involved with the Tennessee Walking Horse?'*

*This is my story.*



Many years back, when I owned the most beautiful grulla Quarter Horse in the whole Southern Alberta area, I was invited to participate in a trail ride in Waterton National Park with the Smiths from Taber, the Kobzas from Pincher Creek and some other TWH owners. As we progressed down the spectacular trails of Waterton Park I found myself riding from a trot to an extended trot on my grulla - while everyone else seemed to be *floating* along on their mounts.

At the halfway mark of the trail as we stopped for lunch, Ted Smith asked me if I had ever ridden a Tennessee Walker. Of course I had not. He explained the danger of riding one, in that if I rode one I would be hooked, and probably want to give up my Quarter Horse. Well, I assured him that would not happen, and he let me ride his stallion, Prides Dominator, back home. I could not believe the ride! We went faster and faster and no bounce was experienced. It was very similar to riding my motorcycle, faster & faster, the feeling of power between your legs... the rush was fantastic.

Only a few weeks later Christine and John Kobza invited me over to ride their great mare, Charo. Of course they took me to a piece of property that was a little uphill and Charo put on a great show. She did everything the way a true Walker is supposed to do - and in a very short time I was the proud owner of two Tennessee Walking Horses. Ever since then I have owned TWH, and my most recent is Threat's Rainman CDN 834. He is my riding horse and my sleigh horse, and a truly fine gentleman in every way.

As to what I do with my Walker - as the pictures show, I hook him up to go to the mailbox to get the mail in all kinds of conditions. I pull kids on toboggans and saucers behind the sleigh, and I take neighbors and friends for nostalgic rides in the open cutter especially around the Christmas season!

Keep up the good work with your magazine. I look forward to every edition.

