

DECEMBER 2021  
VOLUME XLV, No. 6



# *Walking Horse News*

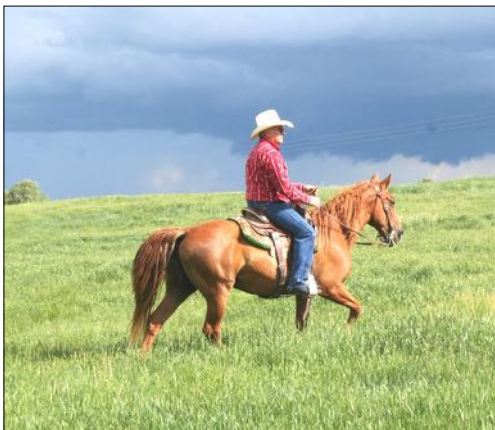


DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN-SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE SINCE 1977

*WALKING HORSE NEWS*, BOX 7326, EDSON, ALBERTA T7E 1V5

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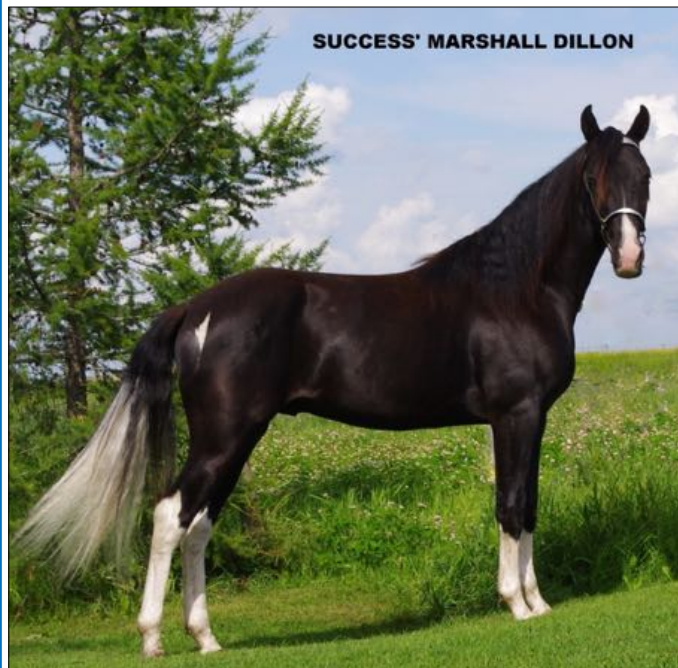
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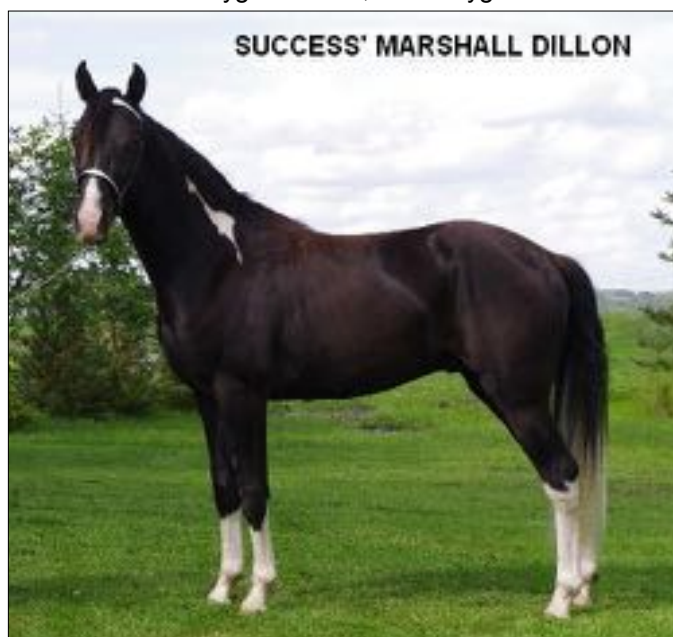
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# Walking Horse News

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## **Walking Horse News**

is published six times a year.

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## **On Our Cover**

Uphill  
Penny By Chance  
and Bill Roy  
make a circuit  
of the round pen near  
Grindrod, BC in 2010.  
Bill was training Penny  
at the time for owner,  
Dianne Little. Below, see  
her carrying Bill's  
grandson Matt  
up the hill  
from the creek

Photo courtesy  
Bill Roy,  
Falkland, BC.

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**NEXT  
DEADLINE  
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**2021-12  
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**WALKING HORSE NEWS  
Box 7326,  
Edson, AB T7E 1V5**

**Volume XLV, #6 November/December, 2021**

Dear Subscribers,

We've had a lovely long open fall, but it came to a sudden end last weekend. It's a 'winter wonderland' now and my adult horses are all out on their winter pasture, pawing for a living. I am hoping they will do well out there until Christmas at least. I think I have enough hay but the longer they can forage for themselves, the better! Hope everyone out there has enough feed for the winter.

I am going to go ahead with having the magazine printed in colour. I think it makes a real difference, and so do those who wrote that they liked the idea of colour. No one said they *didn't* want it! However, colour will cost more so I will be increasing the yearly subscription rate to \$30 in 2022. I hope you are all okay with that.

I'd like to ask you to help the magazine grow and get the word out about our "Horse For All Reasons". Please send me names & addresses of new Walker owners who don't know about *WHN*. During this coming year I'll send them a complimentary magazine or e-magazine and an invitation to subscribe. It's like a "Welcome to the TWH community". And I am most appreciative to those Walker owners who gift a year's subscription to buyers of their horses. Thank you!

We have interesting stories and articles, the last contest in the lead-up to 'The Canadian' 40th Anniversary year, plus plans for lots of exciting initiatives ahead for CRTWH. Enjoy the full colour *WHN* and let's hear from *you* for next time!

Best wishes to all for Christmas and the New Year,

*Marjorie*



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December, 2021

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To the U.S.A it's \$32 by post or \$10 for the email version in US funds by cheque or cash.



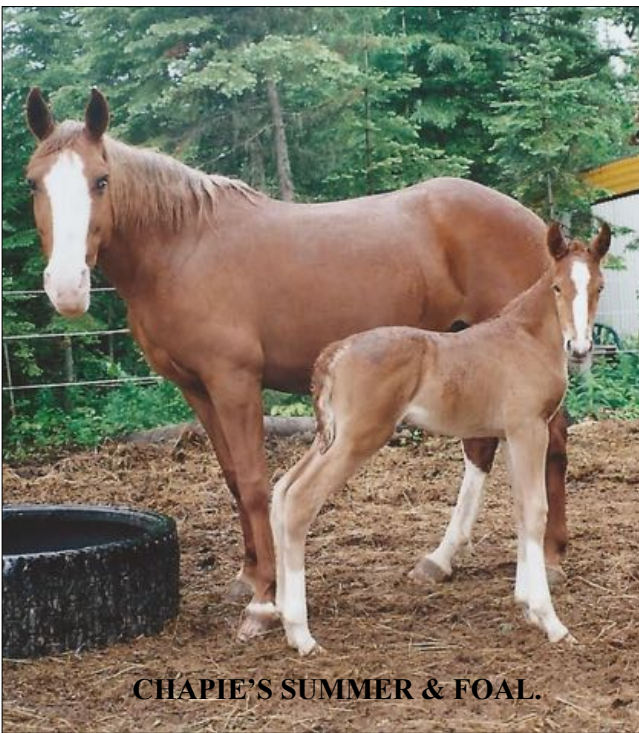


# I NEED HELP! by Dianne Little

My goal is 1500 pictures – Please help me achieve that goal

2022 is a significant year for the Canadian Registry of the Tennessee Walking Horse. My first horse was a TWH, purchased just prior to the birth of the Registry. For the past 40 years I have been involved with TWH and remain grateful to the vision and values of the Registry founders.

My personal project to commemorate 'The Canadian' 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is to collect pictures of horses registered with CRTWH. My project is not intended as a collection of horse show pictures, but a tribute to the great variety of horses within the Canadian Registry. The horses may be living or deceased, may be owned by you or admired by you. The pictures may be of mares and foals, stallions, activity pictures, funny pictures, sport pictures, herd pictures, trail riding pictures, or pictures that evoke the love between horse and human. For each picture submitted, \$1 will be donated to CRTWH activities during 'The Canadian' 40<sup>th</sup>. Below are some pictures collected so far. [ddlittle@telus.net](mailto:ddlittle@telus.net)



**CHAPIE'S SUMMER & FOAL.**



*Above* JO KINGSLAND WITH CANDY'S BAYLADY  
& LADY BELINDI-GO by Honey Boy's Rebel.

A HORSE FAMILY AT KERIKS' CHRYSTAL STAR







**THIS N' THAT**  
from the  
**ALBERTA WALKING  
HORSE ASSOCIATION**

Our AWhA AGM is set for **February 26, 2022 at 1:00 pm** by Zoom. Please let our secretary, Karen Sollid, know if you would like an invitation at **secretary@awha.ca**.

Four positions are up for election for two year terms: President, Treasurer, Events Director and Communications Director. If you know of anyone or yourself, who would be a good fit for one of these positions, please confirm it with them, and you can submit their name or yours to **president@awha.ca**.

The vote will be held at the AGM on February 26, 2022. A reminder that you must own a CRTWH registered horse to be a member of the AWhA Board.

As this is my last year as AWhA President, I would like to say *'thank you'* to everyone for all the fun times and great rides!

*Alynn Ward*

**MARGARET GURNETT**



We are so sad to hear of Margaret's passing in October. Jack and Margaret were lifelong partners of 71 years. She will be deeply missed.

The Gurnetts' Walking Horse friends will also miss Margaret - her lovely smile and always warm welcome to their Northfork Farm (not to mention her special lemon meringue pies at the CRTWH Annual Meetings!).

Our sincere condolences, Jack and family, on your loss.



# NEWS - NEWS - NEWS

WINDI SCOTT, MAYERTHORPE, AB, writes, "It was a busy summer at the Sawhorse Ranch this year. I started out with a ride at the Ya Ha Tinda in May. Then we took the ol' motorhome to Bellis in June for the AWAH ride. Love that place!"

"In July we hosted the CRTWH/AWAH Gathering and as usual it was great. Then we had our annual Acoustic Jam Music Weekend in August. During the in-between times I managed to get in some riding at Fort Assiniboine, The Blueridge Sandhills, the Paddle Natural Area and the AWAH windup weekend at Drayton Valley."

"In September I made a long overdue trip up to visit the McDonalds at Pouce Coupe, BC with Alynn Ward. We picked up Bella, a beautiful little palomino mare by Uphill Heir Trigger while there."

"I've thoroughly enjoyed riding Celeste, an exceptional mare by Fran Kerik's stallion Rascal. A real pleasure to work with. We trailered down to Donalda for the Willie Bronze Poker Ride and I rode her there."

**Windi & Fergie**



"Also, I now have Northfork Red Duchess (Fergie) back, a treasured horse that I used to own, thanks to the generosity of Marjorie Lacy and Brenda and Steve Woodall, Brenda has done a lot of work with her and I will be continuing with her Horsemanship Levels training."

"I'm also excited to be working with my two and a half year old colt by Northfork Patch of Gold. I hope to be using him for Liberty training. I'll be babysitting a weanling and a yearling this winter so I'll have lots of baby time."

"And I'm already *really* looking forward to next year with all the events associated with 'The Canadian' 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!"

KIM PIELAK, writes, "Hi there. I would like to congratulate Ron Bannister, Mirror, AB on the purchase of Chance's Cream Threat, aka Peaches, a cremello mare. She is in foal to Generated By Pushin Gold for the 2022 foaling season. Ron came to our place and brought his friends, and Shelby Gibbons, also of Mirror, purchased Hillbilly Lady Jane, our sorrel yearling filly."

**Hillbilly Lady Jane**



"We had the best time talking everything from Walkers to trails and the great adventures we have all had. The mares will be staying at the same pasture and will have each other for company. Going to love to hear the updates on both mares: Jane growing up to be an amazing trail companion and Peaches with her up-coming foal."

"Please send each of them a one year subscription to the *WHN* for them to enjoy and see how we enjoy our Walkers. Of course Ron is very knowledgeable with Walkers, while Lady Jane is Shelby's first Walker. And we all know a person can't just have one..."

"Now that I have sold these horses, I've decided to keep the black gelding, Decker, at this time."

From CHRISTINE KOBZA, GLENWOOD, AB, "I forgot to mention last time that we are beginning to ride Mys'y's first foal, 'Myster Big Deal'. Our friend in Hill Spring, who has started the last couple of young horses for us, had him for the month of July. The colt is very smart and very athletic. I will see if I can snap a couple of pictures of him under saddle."



## TED SMITH & PRIDE'S DOMINATOR



From RON SMITH, MAGRATH, AB, “Just a note to let our Walking Horse family know that my brother Ted passed on, as my native friends say, to the Happy Hunting Ground on July 26 of this year. Ted was the consummate horseman, riding with friends in the mountain foothills, importing fine breeding stock, and raising an incomparable stable of show horses. His pride and joy Pride's Dominator brought home the prize elk and the Championship trophy from the local shows as well as competed in Shelbyville in the lite shod Western pleasure class.”

“Besides being an avid elk hunter, he was an accomplished golfer, having won over one hundred tournaments in Alberta, BC and Montana. He was twice on the Alberta seniors team that competed for the Canadian championship.”

“Heaven just won't be heaven if he can't reunite with his favorite mount and his good dog Clay.”

From PAIGE SARGEANT, RIMBEY, AB, “Pepper (Northfork Big Sky Spirit) carried my pregnant self with the utmost of care as we chased some cows a couple weeks ago. This is the only photo I got - *after* the cows were in and the horses tied up!”

“Also Spring is no longer available.”

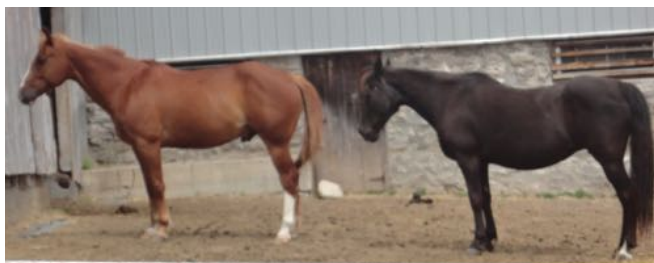


TAEGAN BRADSHAW, BEAVERLODGE, AB writes, “Juno and I did our first endurance race, & she did amazing! Here we are, *above*, with my son James.”



From KATHY MINOR, KARS, ON,  
 “Regarding my subscription to the *Walking Horse News* and other items. First just to say that I am keeping up my subscription although sadly I will never be able to have another Walking Horse in my life. I have never forgotten my Flicka (Rock’s Flicka #703 CDN). I had my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday this past June and am still the owner of the little QH in the attached picture. He is 21 years old, in good health, a nice quiet boy, and we will probably be able to carry on for quite a few more years together when both of us will be finished with riding one way or another.”

“When Flicka’s health became problematic a few years ago I couldn’t ride her, so in looking for another horse all I could come up with was this little QH. Walking Horses are not very thick on the ground here in South Eastern Ontario. I kept Flicka as well, and she was ridden and loved by a 10 year old daughter of a friend. Flicka was quite comfortable being ridden by a light weight child. I kept the two horses, and Grace and I rode together, right up until Flicka died at the age of 27.” Below Bucky and Flicka - her last summer. They were inseparable friends.



“I recently received a surprise cheque; very nice but not needed by me and I want to pass it on to where it can be useful. I will be sending half to you to use for the benefit of our Canadian Walking Horse organization. Please take it and use it for something that will be of benefit to our Canadian Walkers. Best of wishes to you and all the committee persons and everyone who works so hard to keep the Walking Horse breed alive and thriving in Canada.”



**Grace & Flicka**

**Kathy & Bucky**

From 'FRED LLOYD SMITH, VANESSA, ON, “I am afraid I have no real news for you. I have done virtually no riding but keep sane by spending time with the horses, even if it is just hanging out with them, scratching them, sitting on them while they graze, etc. Very therapeutic!”

“My main field trial horse, Hallelujah's Doll, is coming up to 30 - which is amazing. She is looking better now she is getting more beet pulp and alfalfa cubes. Seems that hay is a bit hard for her to process. She’s still as sensitive as ever but loves her scratches. Bob has retired from this activity and I just seem to have no time, even though semi-retired from medicine. Amazing how that happens.”

“Thanks again for all you do re *Walking Horse News*. Cheers and best wishes.”

IAN GREEN, BOWMANVILLE, ON, writes,  
 “Greetings! Time to renew my subscription again. I am now 93 years old and still enjoy getting the magazine as much as ever. As usual I want to thank you for your continued efforts to keep us informed and entertained.”

“I am no longer able to ride of course, but I still love the sweet little red mare, Jazz. She lives at my daughter’s place and has the best home and care, as my girl is a veterinarian.”

“My health is really pretty good but of course things have to slow down. I can get around well and putter about in the back yard. My wife is somewhat younger than me and loves driving so we still get around as much as we wish and have no trouble keeping the house and garden in good shape.”

“I really feel blessed about this as over 70 years ago I spent three years in hospital recovering from tuberculosis. No chemo in those days! I would never have dreamed I could have managed almost 50 years of horseback riding.”

“I hope you can read this alright as it is getting to be a little difficult to write - plus the fact that my fist was always little more than a scribble!”

Editor’s Note: A big ‘Thank you!’ to Ian who made a contribution to *Walking Horse News* which will help in paying for the new colour editions. I greatly appreciate your support and interest over the years, Ian!

Thanks also to TRACY & ED WAKEFIELD, BAILIBORO, ON and NATALIE SPECK-MAIER, VANCOUVER, BC who sent the \$30 subscription fee for new colour editions well before the fee changed! A great vote of confidence. Tracy writes, “Congratulations on your recent *WHN* Anniversary of 45 years! We all appreciate your dedication & commitment to this wonderful breed. We have all benefited from the interesting articles on history & training, and the stories. *The Walking Horse News* is our favorite thing to find in our mailbox! Thank you.”

WHAT DO YOU DO  
WITH YOUR WALKERS  
WHEN IT GETS *COLD*?  
PULL ON YOUR WINTER  
WOOLLIES AND GO OUT AND  
PLAY WITH THEM!





## LET ME SING A SONG OF PRAISE...

Every couple of months when the bi-monthly issue of the *Walking Horse News* arrives, my friend Victor Burton and I go through it page by page passing comments on each horse pictured. We lament on the fact that as a general observation the substance has been bred out of today's Tennessee Walking Horse. We moan about the straight shoulders and lack of withers. And worst of all, we decry all the horses not showing a square gait. The same is true of most gaited horses shown on YouTube and any website where Walking Horses are listed for sale.



But no! Then arrives the October 2021 issue with the perfect panorama on the front cover. Every detail of the presentation excites me.

First let's talk about the landscape. A walking horse was bred to get out and dangle at about six and a half miles per hour. It appears that Mark could travel all day on that open prairie without having to break gait for trees or logs or streams or steep inclines meant for mountain goats. The big sky is spectacular.

Next let me sing praises of the strawberry roan with the strange name, SCW Jubals Dept of Trans. Now *there* is a horse with substance. It is perfectly balanced with equal mass up front and behind. It has a level bottom line and a deep hip. Look at the slope and length of the shoulder. The mare's neck is not too long or too short and is muscled on top instead of the bottom. Look at the natural head carriage, out at 45 degrees. Observe the loose rein and what looks like a double cheek snaffle. No need to tuck the head to vertical to get this pony to square up! Can you tell I am ecstatic!

Now let's talk gait. The stride is very close to half the horse length, coming well up under without stretching too far. Have you ridden a horse that stretch-

es so far that you about rock out of the saddle? This is because when the back legs are at full stride, the rump dips down. At the same time, one front leg is vertical meaning the wither is at the highest point in the up and down cycle. The rider sits right in the middle of this teeter totter and proceeds along smoothly. If the horse is trotty or pacy, the front and back rise and fall at the same time as the middle and you get the bounce. Square is smooth. How can I tell if the horse is going square from the picture? When left hind touches the ground and both hinds are on the ground, the left front is just passing a vertical right front. Just look at the pictures. Perfect!

Now for the bonus. Anyone who has ridden enough walking horses, particularly the young, know that they are famous for gliding the hoof close to the ground. This causes knuckling over or stumbling on uneven ground. But look at the knee action of Dept of Trans! Her passing hoof is right up to the coronet band of the opposite foot. This should be a wonderfully smooth, safe horse.

Now for the rider. Our balance is in our ears. Note how the back of Mark's leg and heel are directly under his ear. He has a slight bend in the knee and is ready to stand up for action. Note how his forearm follows the line of the rein to the snaffle giving him direct contact with the snaffle.

The icing on the cake is that Dept of Trans is a strawberry roan. Roan Allen-F38, most likely on the extended pedigree of your walking horse was one too. The dam of the great show horse Dominator's Star was Dominator's Tenneka, a strawberry roan. And finally the wonderful show mare and foundation mare of the Kobza Stables was another strawberry roan, Sun's Blue Eyed Mystery (*below*).  
by Ron Smith

(Okay, they are now called sorrel sabinos...)



## **'THE CANADIAN' 40th CONTEST**

***CONGRATULATIONS TO THE OCTOBER/NOVEMBER WINNERS!***

***FRAN KERIK, TWO HILLS, AB***

who correctly answered that CRTWH became Canada's official TWH Registry in 1982.

**&**

***MARJORIE LACY, EDSON, AB***

whose mare, **A&B TREASURE'S GOLD 3485**

is the winner of the Ancestry Contest.

The lowest number on her registration certificate is #37 - Prince Radar.



## **THE FINAL CONTEST - NO ENTRY REQUIRED!**

If you entered any or all of the previous contests, there is no need to enter the last contest. Every horse and person who entered previous Ancestry or History contests will be entered in the Random Picker. (If a horse or a person was previously entered more than once, the horse or person will be entered into the Random Picker as many times as that horse or person was entered.)

Six people or horses will be randomly picked to receive a prize. The draw will be on January 1, 2022 – the beginning of 'The Canadian' 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

*Thank you to everyone who entered the CRTWH Ancestry and the CRTWH History Contest over the past 2 years.*

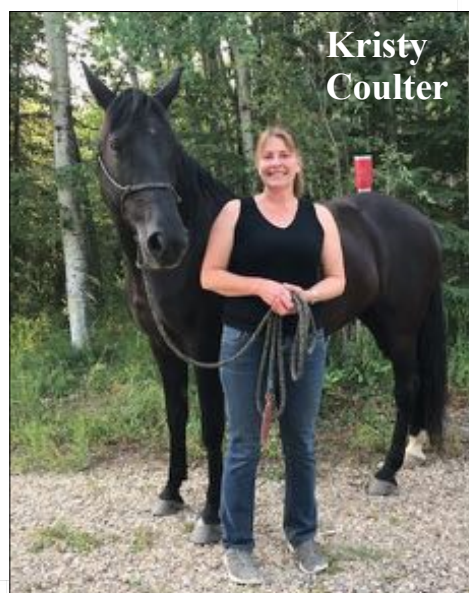
**&**

*Congratulations to all the lucky winners of past contests:*



**Fran  
Kerik**

Fran Kerik, Marjorie Lacy,  
Kristy Coulter, Amy Lauzon,  
Karla Hansen, Lesa Luchak,  
Merinda Reid, Gar Beacom,  
Paige Sargeant, Kara Sallows,  
Fran Thomas,  
Brenda Woodall,  
Blair Dyberg, Melissa  
Deveau, Tanya Johnston,  
Terry and Anna Langlois,  
Diane McCannell,  
Allanna Jackson,  
Rachelle Pacovsky.



**Kristy  
Coulter**





# The Canadian Walker

Volume 20, Issue 6

[www.crtwh.ca](http://www.crtwh.ca)

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December, 2021

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## THE CANADIAN REGISTRY OF THE TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE WILL CELEBRATE ITS 40th ANNIVERSARY IN 2022

### WITH A GREAT LINE-UP OF EVENTS, PROGRAMS AND GOALS!



We are so excited to announce that there will be a fun **EVENT** at Thorsby, Alberta this coming summer on August 5, 6 and 7, 2022. This event will feature a full lineup of 'classes' designed for participants to enjoy in an atmosphere of fun and learning with IJA Judge Diane Sept officiating. There will be demonstrations, craft and product tables, a stallion auction, entertainment and a Saturday Night Social. There will also be opportunities for 'virtual' participation for those living too far away to attend. Keep posted on this one!

CRTWH will be unveiling their new **YOUTH PROGRAM** in conjunction with the 40<sup>th</sup>. A new registration application that includes up-to-date and wider colour choices is coming soon. Members of the Registry Board are working on exciting projects including a new video on gaits, a new online photo-reference resource for past and present Canadian registered horses, and an updated Directors' Manual.

**Come join the party! See <https://crtwh.ca>**

*Remember the past, enjoy the present, and plan for the future.*

## CRTWH DIRECTORSHIPS

To be eligible to hold a position as a Director on the CRTWH Board of Directors, the individual nominated or appointed **must be a current full member** of the CRTWH.

The Director will represent his/her Provincial members, and will work with other Board members in the management of business and affairs of the Association (CRTWH) and on any other matters which may arise.

Elections for directors are held annually. The three-year terms of those positions are to be staggered so that one third (1/3) of the positions become vacant each year.

Nomination of a Director must be made by a current CRTWH member (other than the nominee) holding a full membership from the same province in writing to the Secretary of the CRTWH. The nomination must be accepted by the nominee's signed statement that he or she is willing to stand for the directorship.

Nominations for BC & AB are open until Nov 30, 2021.

## CRTWH FALL AUCTION

The CRTWH's annual auction was another incredible success! Diamond earrings, a custom painting, limited edition prints and so much more were donated and eagerly snapped up. More than \$1400.00 was raised to help fund the CRTWH Programs & Events.

*Thank you to everyone who donated items or purchased items. Without all of you, this wouldn't be possible!*

*Bobbie Buck*

*Best wishes to all our  
CRTWH Members & Friends  
from the Board of Directors*



**WINNER - History Contest - FRAN KERIK, Chrystal Star Ranch, Two Hills, AB**

**Top O'the Mornin' 1991-[CAN] 1016-**



Hi, my name is Fran Kerik and I was delighted to win the History question last contest.

A bit about myself - I got my first Walking Horse in 1997, TOP O'THE MORNIN' from Jean Rempel. I was so excited to purchase my first Tennessee Walking Horse! She was registered with the Canadian Registry of the Tennessee Walking Horse, opening up a whole new world to me.

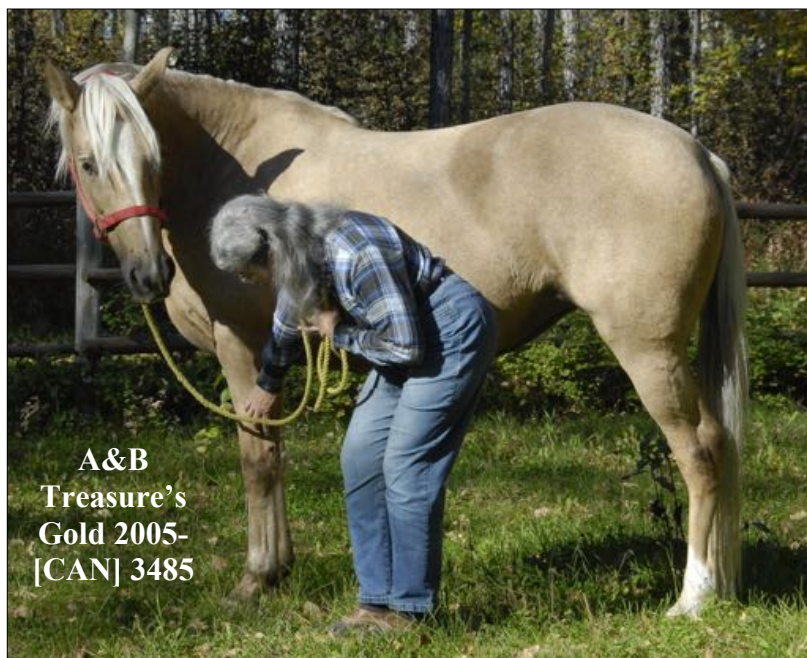
I discovered the people associated with the registry were just as special as my horse. For me, there was never any question about my desire to be part of the Canadian Registry.

At first, it was by registering my horses through the CLRC. Then as my kids got older and needed me less to chauffeur them around, I joined the CRTWH Board of Directors, eventually becoming President from 2012 to 2014. I have served on the Board for over 10 years now, watching our registry grow and progress.

Now we are about to celebrate 40 years!

**WINNER - Ancestry Contest - MARJORIE LACY, Uphill Farm, Edson, AB**

Hello Everyone, It's kind of embarrassing that the Random Picker fell on my name since I've been publicizing the winners of these contests. But I couldn't resist entering since most of my horses have Prince Radar #37 in their pedigrees, a very early number in the CRTWH. He was bred to one of my first TWH mares, Lady's Merry Mist, and their first foal was Uphill Golden Laddy. Laddy sired a palomino mare from a Shadow's Brantley/Sage King mare, Revery's Frosty and their foal was Tennessee Treasure 1983-[1224]. And TN Treasure was the dam of A&B Treasure's Gold 2005-[CAN] 3485 (aka Veronica), the mare pictured. She came to our farm as a yearling with her mother, and has lived here ever since.



**A&B  
Treasure's  
Gold 2005-  
[CAN] 3485**

She's a lovely mare, very nice to handle. Here she is tolerating with great patience, as she always did, a check on a sarcoid that required nearly a year of treatment before it finally healed.



## OAKWOOD ACRES by Franne Brandon

Newcomers to the Tennessee Walking Horse breed quickly come to love today's slender, up-headed horses that bear a striking similarity to the American Saddlebred Horse of the forties and fifties. Unless these newcomers delve into breed history, they will not discover that walking horses in the early twentieth century and right after the organization of a breeders' association developed a following in the American Southeast and into other areas of the United States, that was not based on incredible beauty and high stepping gaits, but on traits that appealed to the times. Their popularity sprang from horses that were intelligent, responsive, built with strong bones to carry weight, and handsome without the refinement of the modern show walkers. These horses also possessed a four-beat, evenly cadenced gait that required riding to develop to its best, but no complicated training.

This running walk gait was inherited and was easily developed with wet saddle blankets or pads. However, there were training barns in Middle Tennessee from the days when the horse was shown as a plantation horse. After the term Tennessee Walking Horse became more common, especially after the breeders' association issued registration certificates, the show barns became more common. They also appeared in other areas of the Southeast and the Midwest, both smaller barns and gracious showplaces designed to rival the show horse training facilities of many other breeds. One of these show barns that sought out the most promising horses to grace its stalls was Oakwood Acres in Fayetteville, Tennessee.

Oakwood Acres was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rambo. At its heyday in the early 1940's, its location was four miles south of Fayetteville, Tennessee, a small town with a historic district of antebellum houses as well as more modern developments. During the period when the horses from Oakwood Acres were the best in the country, the farm contained 3200 acres of rolling land. Its crowning jewel was a two hundred foot rock barn, complete with windows and a shingled roof. (Most barns in Tennessee at the time were made of rough sawn oak with only tin roofs.) The quality of the horses residing in that barn helped to boost its status to one of the top Tennessee Walking Horse show barns in the United States.

The horses trained at Oakwood Acres read like a Who's Who of early walking horse show champions. The bloodline favored by the Rambo's was that of Wilson's Allen 350075. Within the farm's rock barn were several of the most highly regarded Wilson's Allen show horses in the United States.



The oldest of these was Pride of Memphis 360058. Pride was foaled in 1932, out of Westbrook's Bird Long, 380156, a mare by an unregistered son of Roan Allen F-38 and from a mare of no known parentage. Bird Long was accepted for registration on production. In Pride of Memphis, her ability to produce was quite evident. Pride of Memphis, shown throughout the Southeast, won a number of grand championships in the era before the first Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration claimed the World Grand Championship Walking Horse title that other shows had already been using.

Another top show horse that Oakwood Acres acquired at the same time as the purchase of Pride of Memphis, was The G-Man 410415. The reported price for both was the then-record amount of \$7,000. The G-Man was foaled August 21, 1936, by Wilson's Allen and out of Lady Kidd. Lady Kidd 991977 was by Ramsey's Frank Allen 390607, a grandson of Roan Allen F-38. Her dam was Daisy Kidd 994407, with lines unknown. The unknown lines did not keep The G-Man from being a highly competitive gelding. He placed third in the Celebration's World Grand Championship in 1940, fifth in the World Grand Championship in 1941, and won the Aged Geldings class at the Celebration in 1942 before going on to place third in the Grand Championship Stake.

The sweetheart of the Oakwood Acres show string in the early forties was Melody Maid 390812. Another chestnut, also by Wilson's Allen, her dam was Topsy Kidd 400307, by Ramsey's Frank Allen, out of Daisy Kidd, making her and The G-Man, while not full siblings, very closely related. Described as "this great, fine, young mare" (American Horseman, Nov. 1940, p. 34) Melody Maid won the two year old filly class at the first Celebration in 1939, as well as placing reserve world champion Two Year Old. In 1940, she won the three year old mare sweepstake at the Tennessee State Fair in Nashville, then placed second in the championship stake to the Celebration's first World's Grand Champion, Strolling Jim. She placed third in the World's Grand Championship in Shelbyville in 1941, then came back the following year with Floyd Carothers in the irons to win the Grand Championship Stake.

**Melody Maid 390812.**



Melody Maid did not compete beyond her triumph in the 1942 show season. Instead, the Rambos crossed her with the farm's stallion Wilson's Allen, Jr. 390811. Her first foal, a colt registered as Melody's Heir 442678, saw competition in the show ring, winning the Junior Championship Walking Horse Stake, for horses three and under, in 1947. Her second foal, aptly named Melody's Second Son 451434, also by Wilson's Allen, Jr., also competed a little. Her third foal and first filly, Melody's Heiress 471643, a full sister to the two colts, won the Celebration's Mare and Foal class in 1947 with her dam. Melody Maid had only one more foal, a bay filly named Daughter of

Champions 500689, sired by Midnight Sun 410751. Both fillies out-produced their brothers, as Heiress had six foals and Daughter of Champions had eight. Melody's Heir only sired three foals and Melody's Second Son had no registered offspring.

Another horse owned by the Rambo family in the early forties was Oakwood's Knox Phagan 390825, the flax sorrel with the mane on the wrong side seen in the old TWHBEA video [A Look into the Past](#). Another Wilson's Allen son, out of Gipson's Mary 991309, by Mabery Allen F-76, he was a three-quarter brother to Strolling Jim and an outstanding competitor during the 1940 show season. In addition to the four Wilson's Allen offspring that were proven in competition, Oakwood Acres had young stock by Wilson's Allen, Bud Allen 350049, Carter's Allen 380166, Flash Allen 360132, Last Chance 350034, Merry Boy 350189, Neal's Allen 370067, and No Limit Allen 360220.

Oakwood Acres remained a showplace through the last years of the 1940's. Today, sadly, nothing remains of the magnificent rock barn or the carefully groomed pastures. The 3200 acres has been partly absorbed into the growing town of Fayetteville. The breed went into a downturn. The natural moving show horses that had catapulted it into fame became creatures of the past, missed by some but not by the new show horse crowds screaming for horses that broke higher, moved faster, and performed a gait impossible to duplicate for horses trained and shod in the old style .

The G-Man - World Champion at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, one of the major shows that had been using the World Champion title before the TWHNC came into existence. In 1940 (year of this pic) he was reserve champion gelding at the Tennessee State Fair and at the 1940 Celebration.







## Back Yard Walkin'

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### NOT A BIG DOG

When trail riding, I often meet hikers with dogs. They generally get off the trail as they should, probably because horses are big enough to intimidate people who aren't familiar with them. Some people tell their dog(s) or even their small children, "It's just a really big dog". I don't think anybody is fooled by this piece of fiction though it does seem to be useful for safely sharing the trail with strangers. However, thinking of horses as super-sized dogs does not work for *training* horses.

My quick internet search for "dog training" hit articles about basic training focused on the importance of curbing and re-directing the innate aggressiveness of canines. Dogs are predators so their instinct is to bark, charge, chase, jump, and bite. A similar internet search for "horse training" yielded only ads for the local professional horse trainers.

Dogs and horses are both social species who are willing to get along with other species. Both respond better to positive training than negative training. However, the social order of a dog pack is not necessarily the same as a horse herd.

Horses willingly follow a trustworthy leader to find food, water, shelter and keep them safe and comfortable. Horses that overreact to harmless things lose credibility with the other horses and wind up at the bottom of the herd. Aggressive horses are ostracized by the herd until they learn gentler ways to interact. The leader in a horse herd is the calm, steady, trustworthy horse, not the toughest, scariest, bully.

Horses are prey animals with high situational awareness. They are wary of anything that might be dangerous. When a horse feels threatened its instinct is to run away. Curiosity might bring the horse back to re-assess the situation later. When a horse resorts to aggression it is either defending itself from an attack, or reacting to memories of a traumatic experience.

We may not like to admit it, but we're predators

so we tend to think more like dogs than horses. We need to learn how horses think. Yes, horses do think. Horses are capable of simple reasoning and making some generalizations. Horses learn very quickly. A frightening or painful experience is indelibly imprinted in the horse's memory and may never be fully overcome. Pleasant experiences build the trust and confidence we need to be able to safely handle and use horses. It takes multiple positive experiences to overcome a horse's innate wariness and build its confidence. One negative experience can set the horse's training back several steps. We can't always prevent negative experiences, such as a gust of wind blowing a plastic bag under the horse's chin. But we can minimize negative experiences with good planning and positive methods which will make the training safer for everyone.

Horses easily learn patterns and may develop associations that we are not aware of until the situation changes. We may not realize we usually stop near the trailer parked outside the schooling area until somebody moves the trailer and the horse suddenly won't stop. The horse didn't really forget its training. The environmental cue it was relying on went missing. To avoid this, we need to be as situationally aware as the horse is and intentional about what we're teaching the horse.

Horses need to practice new skills to learn them and need multiple positive experiences to solidify their training, but we do not need to drill them with dozens or hundreds of repetitions. Too much repetition becomes a negative experience for the horse as it gets bored, or confused, or tired, or sore.

Most people want spook-proof horses. We should be averse to being run-over, dragged, jumped on, bitten, kicked, run away with, or bucked off a half-ton of hysteria. Horses don't intend to harm us when they are scared, but that doesn't make their flight behaviors any less dangerous. However, we cannot eliminate the instinctive prey behavior of horses just as we cannot eliminate the instinctive predator behavior of dogs. For both species we manage their instincts by re-directing the behavior into safer expressions.

One fear management tool is desensitizing the horse to harmless stimuli. There are gentle ways of desensitizing horses and traumatic ways of desensitizing horses. Forty years ago the standard advice was to truss the horse up so it couldn't get away and then flood it with the frightening stimuli until it stopped struggling. We now know this is both dangerous and abusive. We're learning to use gentler and safer de-sensitizing methods that produce better long-term results.

We can't desensitize horses to everything in the environment that might frighten them, and attempting to do so may have unintended consequences. A few years ago I listened to a man who boasted his horse was "dead broke" and "bomb proof" after he'd used the method taught by an internationally famous clinician. But then he admitted he couldn't ride the horse because it wouldn't move with a rider! The horse moved fine at liberty in the pasture. I referred him to a local professional horse trainer that I trust. A horse that has reached the degree of learned helplessness the man described is likely to explode during the re-sensitizing required to make it rideable. I never heard anything more about that horse so I don't know if the "bomb-proofing" had ruined it or not. I did wonder if the owner realized his immobile horse was doing exactly what he'd taught it to do. Had he made mistakes in following the method he'd chosen? Or was the method itself wrong?

A better way to deal with a horse's environmental anxieties is to become the leader the horse trusts and obeys in scary situations. A trust relationship transfers to any location and situation. Trust is built with kind, calm, consistent, horse-logical, step-by-step training that respects the intelligence, sensitivity, and willingness of the horse. Building a trust-based relationship with the horse takes time but it is the safest way for both horses and humans to interact.



*Sheryl Gregston riding April Velvet.  
The dog is Dapper Dan, Sheryl's AKC reg. purebred  
Dalmatian. Sheryl's had Dalmatians as long as I've  
known her and they have all been very well  
behaved. She has also trained horses professionally  
so the evidence says Sheryl understands  
both species and how to teach them  
to interact with each other safely.  
I took this photo from Cinnamon's back. Allanna*

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## MORE NEWS

KELLY HART of SALMON ARM, BC is the new owner of the black TWH, Rascal's Midnight Queen (Midnight Rascal x Willow's Flaxen Queen) and her daughter. Transport to BC was finally arranged and they went from Marlene Fairbrother's place to BC in late summer.

I had a phone call from SHEILA HOLTZ, now living in CAMROSE, AB. Sheila raised quite a few Walkers at her farm near Stettler, with the prefix 'Shelen'. She was interested in catching up with old friends from those days and re-subscribing to the *Walking Horse News*.

"Congratulations to Ross MacInnes of Higher Trails Equine in Millarville, AB, the new owner of Beau (Classys Diablo Sky 2007-[CAN]3859), my black tobiano gelding. Please send Ross a gift subscription to *Walking Horse News* with my compliments."

There have been quite a few people inquiring about Walkers for sale recently, looking for everything from broodmares to youngsters to saddle horses. But there don't seem to be many available.

Please advertise your TWH in *WHN* so I can send buyers your way!



## MOUNTAINS, HORSES, and GRANDKIDS by Merinda Reid, Rimbey, AB

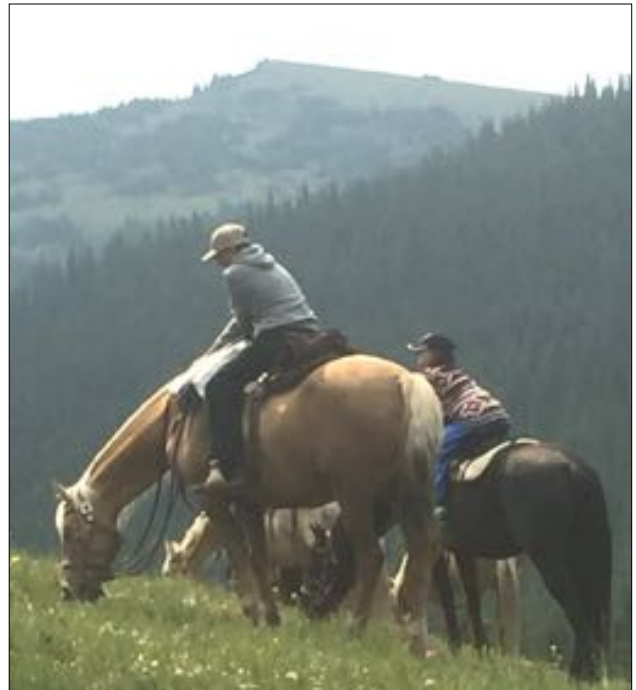
Our first wagon trip taking the Grandkids to the mountains was pure magic: the weather was perfect, we had a bear scare, we got to see what the grandkids are made of *and* we experienced a miracle.

Both the day before and the day we left, Lincoln had cautioned us that he wasn't ready to ride one handed or to lead another horse. Fair enough. We only had two horses that needed to be led: Sunny (for Dave to ride) and the horse we had in training. Acadia could lead Sunny and I would lead the trainee. We met up with Dave's cousin Wayne at the Humming Bird and loaded up our wagons.

Even though Skippy has gotten over her hatred of other horses coming up behind her she still had no intention of *leading* one. On her fifth or sixth circle Dave managed to grab Sunny's halter shank and hand it to Lincoln. Neither of them said a word. Dave climbed into the wagon, Lincoln, with the reins in one hand and leading Sunny with the other, pulled in behind. We crossed the creek, went past Killer Rock (most horses spook so it *must be* waiting to kill them) and Honeymoon Camp to Wapiti Camp. As soon as we got to camp the Grandkids jumped right in helping to set up camp and tend to the horses.



Our first day on the trail we rode back toward the staging area to the shoots. We don't have enough Walkers to go around, so I was riding a slightly past middle age, retired Icelandic brood mare that was given to me. Geifa had some trouble keeping up but between her really trying her hardest and everyone else being patient we made it. When we got to the shoots Acadia and Lincoln thought they had arrived in Paradise. We had our lunch, the Grandkids played in the water and on the banks, then we headed back early enough to let Geifa take her time on the return trip.



Our second trail day took us to the back side of Monument, *above*. It was the perfect distance and degree of difficulty. The best part was the willows, so tall and thick we couldn't see where we were going. We had to hold onto the reins with one hand, our hats with the other, close our eyes and trust our horses to get us through. They did, the Grandkids loved it and it was a perfect demonstration of "Even if you can't see a thing your horse knows where it's going." That night a couple that Dave and I had met on our previous wagon trip came to join us for the rest of our time there.

Day three we all rode up the Canary and had our lunch beside a beautiful mountain meadow. When we were finished I should have asked how far and difficult the rest of the trail was, but I didn't. Across the meadow we went, when turning back would have been a better option. Geifa had done really well up until lunch but afterward she needed to go down instead of up - up the back side of the burn. We hadn't gone very far and I knew Geifa was playing out. Instead of turning back, Dave said, "You ride Sunny and I'll lead her."

We told the others to go ahead as we were going to let Geifa set our pace. Two hours later we had reached the top and it was time for a drink. Poor Dave had drunk all his water so I gave him mine and the Grandkids insisted he have theirs. We hadn't brought much water as it was supposed to be an easy day. My little dog who rides on Jethro ran all over looking for water but there was none to be found. Acadia saw him and said, "There's a little bit left in my bottle, Piper can have it" so my little dog drank the last of her water out of my hand. After a rest we were ready to leave. Lincoln handed Papa Jethro's reins and took Geifa's. Mr. Tough Guy tried to refuse but Lincoln insisted. It was a slow journey back to camp but we made it. Only a Grandparent can possibly know how I felt riding into camp with my Grandson leading my tired horse.

Our fourth day out we were going to go the long way to the shoots. We were only gone a couple of hours when I knew Geifa was going to have trouble again so the four of us turned around and headed back to camp. The Grandkids really wanted to go back to those waterfalls so that's where the four of us went the next day. We left Geifa in camp and since the Percherons were 'sort of' broke to ride, I rode one. My little dog usually rides in a bag on Jethro's saddle horn but that day I decided to take him on mine. Stumbling and Gee Hawing down the trail, I brought up the rear. Close to the shoots we came to a steep narrow spot where I would have to ride between two trees. Either Piper or my knee opposite to him were going to take a beating so I steered my mount further up and around both trees. It was very steep coming down and to get even he alternated jarring all 1700 pounds from one front foot to the other. Piper was bouncing so hard I was afraid he would bounce out of his bag and just as I about to grab him he disappeared. We had just turned back onto the trail. I got my horse stopped as quickly as I could and looked back to see a little black and white dog running behind me. I got off and went back to where his bag was lying. One side was up against the bank, there were rocks on the other three sides with just enough room for a small dog to land in the middle. The bouncing had torn the handle off and we had all just witnessed a miracle. Luckily there were two handles on the bag and Lincoln was quite happy to have Piper back on his saddle horn.

It's funny how kids will first just get their shoes wet, second step is up to their knees and the third step is over their ears. They had so much fun playing in that water, they even made a Nana proof bridge, (that's a bridge that's sturdy enough even Nana won't fall off it) and Skippy gave them turns getting dunked (*below*). When it was time to leave they climbed on their horses, soaking wet and happy as clams. We had a wonderful ride back but our adventures weren't quite over yet.

One of the other riders had stayed in camp and was sitting on a lawn chair in the middle to the trail on the edge of camp. He was at the bottom of a little hill so Sunny didn't see him until he was nearly on top of him. Sunny doesn't spook often but when he does it's an event. He shot straight over the side of the bank, came to a stop and then climbed back like nothing had happened. Lincoln said, "That wasn't so bad - Sunny didn't fall down, Papa didn't fall off so that really wasn't so bad." It was so perfect! I am positive Lincoln became more comfortable with heights right then and there.

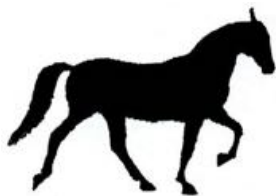


The day before we had sensed a bear on the trail. I think that was why Reese was sitting where he was sitting; he was expecting that it might be coming our way. About an hour later it did. Reese started ringing one of the horse bells, yelled "bear in camp", and had three shots fired off before anyone else noticed. He had help - he has mules and he saw them looking across the creek. Acadia cleared the bear fence by a good foot and a half, hollering "turn that fencer on." Mr. Grizz watched us for a while longer and then ambled off, not nearly scared enough for my liking.

All Good Things come to an end and so did our wagon trip. The next morning Geifa was rested up enough to be ridden out and Lincoln just reached out for Sunny's halter shank. Each Grandkid was carrying an empty shell casing as a souvenir of their trip, and two Grandparents are already reliving the memories.



# AD Gallery



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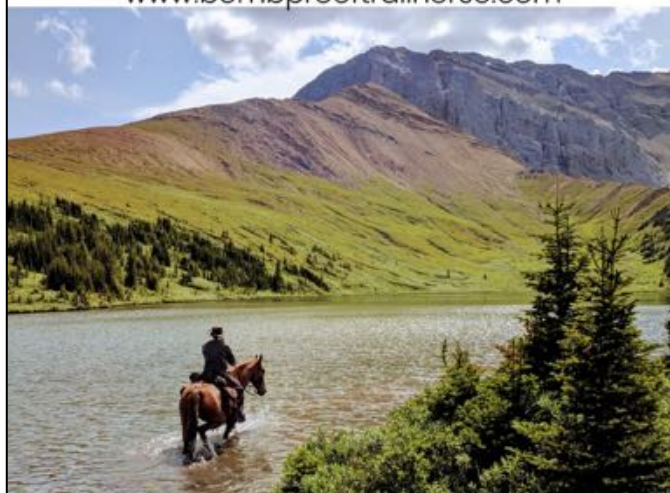
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