

DECEMBER 2016  
VOLUME XXXX, No. 6



# *Walking Horse*

## *News*



Dedicated to the Plain-Shod Tennessee Walking Horse since 1977



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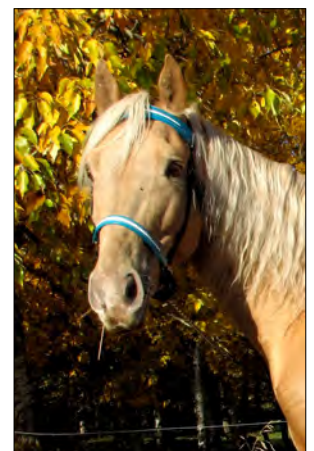


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# Walking Horse News

DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN-SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE SINCE 1977

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## On Our Cover

The young mare,  
R Diamond Smoky  
AutumnGold  
looks out  
across a  
frosty pasture.

What's ahead  
for you  
and *your* TWH  
in the New Year?

*Thank you to  
Brandon Dodds,  
100 Mile House, BC.  
for the photo.*

## Deadline Dates

### for Jan/Feb issue JANUARY 7

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for May/June issue  
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Volume XXXX, # 6      November/December, 2016

Dear Subscribers,

What do YOU do with your Walkers? We've asked that question over the years and the answers are always interesting and sometimes surprising. In this issue we have an amazing range of activities represented. Blair and Lori Dyberg of Wetaskiwin, AB followed their interest in Obstacle Challenges, and ended up placing first and second in their division of the Canadian Cowboy Challenge with their Walkers. See pages 8 and 9.

Others went trail riding near home or in the mountains, some rode to raise money for charities, went on pack trips or ventured into the badlands. There's an introductory interview with Susan Garlinghouse whose Walker, John Henry, now holds the record for the most Tevis Cup endurance ride completions for an easy gaited horse. (p.14)

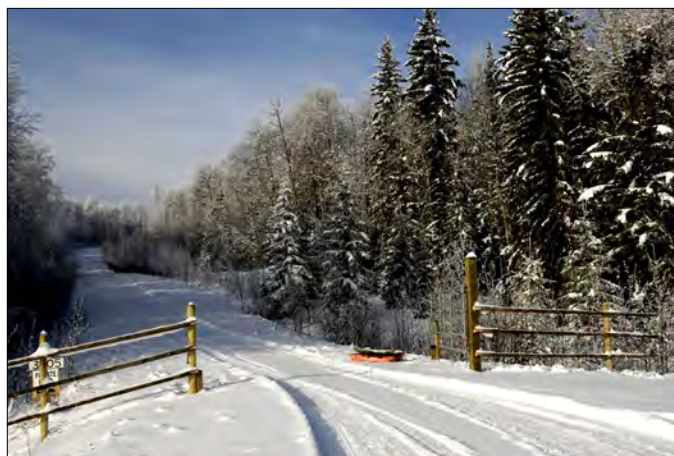
Allanna Jackson has even discovered that her two TWH have a penchant for herding cattle! So Walkers can do nearly anything their riders can dream of doing. Keep telling us about your adventures together.

This is the last issue of *Walking Horse News* for 2016 so we are looking for advertisers for the colour cover ads. We still have two pages available for 2017. You won't find better advertising for your farm and horses anywhere. Please check the details on page 24. All you need is a good photo and I can set up an appealing ad for you. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

This is what the gate to my place looked like today, November 21. Is there snow at your place too?

Until next time,

*Marjorie*





WHN makes a great gift!

December, 2016

# Walking Horse News

“DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN-SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE SINCE 1977”

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**WALKING HORSE NEWS!**





CANADIAN TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE  
**HISTORY & HERITAGE PROJECT**



**THE TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE**

*(from the first brochure put out by the Canadian Walking Horse Association, circa early 80's.*

As a pleasure mount the Tennessee Walking Horse is unsurpassed. Through natural heritage, horses within this breed are intelligent, kindly disposed and not easily excited. The timid and inexperienced horse fancier finds no problem in handling this "gentleman" among horses.

The Tennessee Walking Horse excels in trail and cross country riding. He is easily handled, and the comfort of his gaits permits many pleasurable hours in the saddle, which may be English or Western in type. These horses are also shown in either type of equipment.

Dr. Robert M. Miller, D.V.M. stated in Western Horseman magazine, "The Walking Horse is the greatest achievement in all of man's centuries of selective breeding of horses. The natural gaits of this horse, especially his running walk and canter, have to be the greatest riding experience I have personally ever encountered. The breed is a triumph of selective breeding."

The basic ingredients of the Tennessee Walking Horse are American Saddlebred, Canadian Pacer, Morgan, Narragansett Pacer, Standardbred and Thoroughbred. The mixture of these breeds with very selective breeding has produced the Walking Horse.

## **GAITS**

**THE FLAT WALK:** The flat walk is a bold, four-cornered movement. A 1-2-3-4 beat with each of the horse's feet hitting the ground separately at regular intervals. The left fore, the right hind, then right fore, then left hind. The hind foot will follow through, close to the ground, pass over the track left by the fore foot of the same side. This action of hind foot gliding over the front track is known as overstride. The Walking Horse will nod his head in rhythm with the cadence of his feet. The head nod should come from the shoulders, not the poll.

**THE RUNNING WALK:** The running walk should be the same general motion as the flat

walk, but with additional speed executed with loose ease of movement; pushing and driving from the rear, reaching and pulling with the fore legs through a rolling shoulder motion. A good running walk never allows proper form to be sacrificed for excessive speed. The head must nod while performing the running walk.

**THE CANTER:** The canter is a ground covering, smooth and free, rolling THREE beat movement.

The true walking gait is easily confused with the stepping pace, fox trot, and rack. We must remember that the Tennessee Walking Horse is unique in that he is capable of learning ALL the gaits executed by ALL the varied horses in the country. Therefore, if we want our Walker to do the running walk, we must deliberately strive toward that.

The running walk is a delicately balanced gait. **Balance**, that is: encouraging the horse's weight to be carried evenly between the front and the hind leg. In the gaits of any horse this will smooth out the ride, be it a Trot or Walking Horse. A balanced running walk will be one of the most exhilarating pleasures a rider with horse has ever experienced.

However, demanding too much speed, too quickly, from the horse can push him out of the running walk form into the rack, pace, stepping pace or trot. These are related gaits to the running walk but not the true middle gait.

**Rack:** A fast, animated four-beat gait in which each foot meets the ground separately at equal intervals. There will be little or no overstride. The head will not nod from the shoulder.

**Pace:** A two-beat gait in which the feet on the same side meet the ground simultaneously.

**Stepping Pace:** A modified pace in which the

feet on the same side leave the ground almost at the same time, but the hind foot meets the ground slightly before the front foot on the same side.

**Trot:** A two-beat gait in which the feet on diagonal corners meet the ground simultaneously.

**Fox Trot:** A gait where the horse appears to walk with his front end and trot with his hind.

To achieve the Walker's ideal gaits, you will want to:

- a) Always have a warm up period, as with any athlete.
- b) Assess your horse's ability according to size, conformation and level of training.
- c) Ask the horse to perform tasks within its level of conditioning and training. Demanding more of this athlete before he is in condition will teach him to perform the other gaits mentioned.

If you are riding trail or bridle path and the speed of the other horses is forcing your horse out of form, the canter of the Walking Horse should be substituted instead of the gaits mentioned previously: rack, stepping pace, slow gait, fox trot, pace or trot.

To keep the balance and form of the horse, a rider must be aware of the speed that the individual horse can maintain comfortably according to its size and conformation.

Slow, patient development of these abilities will enable the rider and horse to move in harmony together. This is the most rewarding experience, not to mention the bonus of having the most pleasurable riding horse which man has bred.

Note: This brochure was written in the early eighties. It has a more "flowery" tone than more recent writings, but there is still good information here. Today, we may not use such inclusive terms when describing characteristics. Although the TWH breed in general has these characteristics, they may vary in intensity in each individual horse. We would probably say that while not every TWH is multi gaited, there are many that are. And today we'd say that instead of the head nod 'coming from the shoulder', we know it actually flows through the whole body starting from the hind end.



### A SAD SITUATION

The horse pictured above recently appeared on an internet list of horses to be given away. He was said to be a Tennessee Walking Horse stallion in his twenties, very gentle and easy going. The person offering him had no papers for him, and no idea of his breeding or background, and had never used him for breeding.

This nice old boy may have had very rare old bloodlines. He could possibly have sired wonderful offspring. He might have been a very valuable horse to a breeder. And to the breed. But as an unknown, without his papers, he is just an old unwanted grade stallion. Isn't that a shame? What future has he?

None of us can predict the future. Don't let your horses end up in a sad situation like the stallion above. Treat your registered horse with respect, and make sure its registration papers are in order and stay with the horse throughout its life. Keep them in a safe place that your family or a friend knows about. That registration certificate may be life insurance for the horse in the future.

A good way to organize your horses' registration papers is to keep them all together in a 3 ring binder, conspicuously labeled on front and spine.

(Sticking one of the CRTWH decals on the front of a black binder gives it a professional touch.)

Then put each registration certificate in a plastic sleeve with holes to fit the binder. You can still read both sides of the certificate and you won't have to unfold it and handle it every time you look at it. I often put a photo of the horse with it as well.

Safe, organized, easily read and consulted - your horses' registration certificates will be in good shape when you or anyone else needs to find their papers.

# NEWS - NEWS - NEWS

FROM SHELLIE PACOVSKY, SLUSH CREEK WALKERS, BAINVILLE, MONTANA, "Hi from Northeast Montana. We had a busy summer and are now enjoying a really beautiful fall."

"For horse news...The foals are all weaned and doing well with their lessons. We had five foals in 2016. We lost a beautiful big black colt to a pasture accident. Three of the remaining four have found new homes. Only a classy black filly remains of this year's foals. She is by SCW He's A Midnight Legend and out of Kodiak's Gemini C.F. We currently have twenty-four horses and two of those will be leaving soon. Hope to have them on their way before the snow flies."



**Echo's Daniel Allen**

"We did purchase a young stallion prospect with exceptional gait. He is a two year old and his name is Echo's Daniel Allen. He is Paige's Echo breeding both top and bottom. We will be able to use him as a complete outcross on our Slush Creeks Jubal S mares. We will give him a try on a couple of mares in 2017. We are pretty excited about him!"

"We have eight mares bred for 2017 foals. Kodiak's Gemini C.F., Kodiak's Bella C.F., Kodiak's Miss Reflect C.F., SCW Ready for Midnight, and Go Boy's Della are all in foal to SCW Counting Cadence. Shining Time, Slush Creeks Lollipop and Slush Creeks Kiss This are all in foal to SCW He's A Midnight Legend."

Our family is all doing well. We had Canadian Thanksgiving at our house on October 9th.

Some of our grandkids live in Canada and came home over the break from school. They didn't want to miss out on Thanksgiving dinner so I cooked. The kids had fun telling their friends and teachers they were going to Montana in the States for Canadian Thanksgiving. We had five generations here that day so took some five generation pictures. I am so very fortunate to still have both my mother and grandmother living! Grandma celebrated her 97th birthday on the 12th of October. She still lives on her own and is very independent."

"I hope all of you are well and the coming winter is not hard for you. I will check back in the spring with a foal report. If you get a chance we would love to hear from you. Our email is pacovsky@nemont.net and our web site is www.slushcreekwalkers.com. We are always changing, adding and updating the web site."

"Happy American Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to you all."

DON and JO-ANNE, MCDONALD FARMS, POUCE COUPE, BC would like to congratulate Anna and Terry Langlois of Valleyview, AB on the purchase of three more promising youngsters from our farm. They had previously purchased Medicine Hat Silver. Now they are the new owners of the geldings Shake My Hand and Premier Silver Moon, plus more recently, Splash of Silver, the nice young mare advertised in the October *WHN*. All these youngsters are making wonderful progress already. All the best to both of you with your new TWH.



**Premier Silver Moon**





MAUREEN GERMSCHEID, EVENSBURG, AB, “Just thought I’d send you a couple of pictures of our fall surprise. Spirit didn’t foal this spring and we thought she had lost her foal. Then we noticed her getting fat this fall and put her in the ”fat pen” and kept an eye on her, just in case. Sure enough, after checking her daily and very little sign of bagging up, she surprised us with this lovely little filly last week.. We call her Virginia.”

ALLANNA JACKSON, LAKESIDE, ARIZONA, writes, “We’re having a very warm fall with gorgeous leaves so I’ve been getting lots of trail riding in. The other day Cinnamon and I saw a bull elk lying down under a juniper. Or rather I saw it, but Cinnamon didn’t until he decided I was paying too much attention to him, jumped up and ran away, which startled Cinnamon into spinning the opposite direction.”

“The other day when I was riding Velvet she spotted a whole flock of wild turkeys scuttling through the Forest.”

“Just in the last couple of weeks Velvet has taken an interest in herding cows! The evening of Oct 12 Velvet’s usual ride around Scott Reservoir area was a little different on the way home. We found a cow with ear tag 31 that had been in the Forest most of the summer in one of the horse corrals at the riding stable helping herself to the remains of the horse’s alfalfa hay. Velvet wanted to go look at the cow but the cow took one look at her, left that corral and went into the corral next to it. Velvet then looked at the cow through that fence so cow 31 left and trotted off to try to visit the roping steers. We followed her and when

cow 31 got herself into a corner we turned her back and tried to move her back toward the Forest.”

“Cow 31 took a detour through a vacant lot instead so Velvet and I circled a house to head the cow off and this time got her headed back toward the Forest. Cow 31 detoured into another yard so Velvet and I went around that house to move the cow toward the Forest again. The resident dog, who was penned up, barked and scared the cow into going back the wrong way so I put Velvet in a running walk and we turned the cow back toward the Forest. Cow 31 didn’t like the sound of the running walk and trotted toward the Forest gate until she got to the horse corrals where this game started.”

“Cow put herself back into a corral. Velvet looked at her so cow 31 moved to the next corral, Velvet looked at her again, and cow left that corral. We failed at herding the cow back into the Forest, but it was a great learning experience for Velvet who had never done anything like that before. The cow seemed to be making a game of it.”

“The next day Cinnamon and I found cow 31 trying to hide in a juniper bush near the gate to the riding stable. A couple of days later Cinnamon got a little spooked when two cows and a bull that were supposed to be in the Forest were tussling with each other over a pile of spilled hay in front of the house that the riding stable owner lives in. A few days later Velvet and I found cow 31 and a couple of calves hanging around near the gate between the riding stable and the Forest so we herded all of them toward the creek.”

Now Velvet and Cinnamon are both looking for excuses to make the cows, calves, and even the bulls move every time they see some! I never, never imagined Velvet would be herding cattle!”

“Most good Western trainers have given up the idea that a horse must be “broken” by roping, choking down, and bucking out. It has finally occurred to many that a horse who has not bucked with a rider in the early stages of training does not resort to it when put in a tight place out on the trail sometime later.”

**BASIC HORSEMANSHIP,  
ENGLISH AND WESTERN**

by Prince and Collier, 1972

From the Preface by Richard A. Beck, Editor,  
*The Arabian Horse News*, Fort Collins, Colorado



## MORE NEWS

BILL ROY, FALKLAND, BC is reading a new book for the second time and recommends it highly. It is FEAR-FREE HORSE TRAINING Every Step of the Way, An Equine Expose' by Neil Davies. You can check it out on-line and see some of Neil's videos as well. If it's as good as Bill and all the reviews on line say, it would make an excellent present for a horsey friend!

MARLENE FAIRBROTHER, MYRNAM, AB sent me a note recently. She is working at the Long Term Care facility in Vermillion She says she still has Treasure & two mares. Marlene will be going on her annual cruise on Nov 19-Dec, this time Florida to California via the Panama Canal. Have fun!

MAUREEN GERMSCHIED, EVENSBURG, AB sent several pictures on November 15 and says, "Just checking our Tennessee Walking Horses out on pasture. (See below.) What a treat not to have to worry about snow or water at this time of year!"

(Editor: Of course, then we woke up to snow the very next morning!)



Best wishes for a speedy recovery to ULLU VELEZ , RIDING MOUNTAIN, MANITOBA. Ullu had surgery on her arm in October. Hope it heals quickly and you can get back to working with your horses soon, Ullu.

Congratulations to GALE DODD HAYDAY OF FORT VERMILLION, AB on her purchase of two black mares from Ron Lukasiewicz of Hinton. Enjoy these two nice mares who have a wealth of mountain and trail experience under their 'girths' plus the added bonus of their smooth gaits!



## North America's Premiere Equine Conference has moved to Sherwood Park, Alberta!

Please note our NEW location for 2017!\*  
Strathcona County Community Centre  
401 Festival Lane, Sherwood Park, AB T8A 5T8

The Alberta Horse Conference (formerly the Horse Breeders and Owners Conference) is held each January in Alberta, and features internationally recognized speakers on a wide range of topics of interest to horse owners, breeders and professionals.

### CONFIRMED SPEAKERS AND SESSIONS:

Jim Anderson - Liberty Presentation  
Dr. Heidi Banse - When and Which NSAID's to Use?  
Dr. Rebecca Gimenez - Being Prepared for Equine Disasters  
Gary Millar - Using Equines For Assisted Learning  
Dr. Ela Misuno - Effective and Updated Deworming Protocols  
Dr. Stephen O'Grady - Proper Physiological Horseshoeing – it begins with the trim . And - Form and function of the equine foot as it relates to farriery  
Dr. Merle Olson - Veterinary Product Development for the Equine industry  
Jed Pugsley - Tradition, Progression & Education in the Equine Industry  
Karen Rohlf - Finding the Sweet Spot of Healthy Biomechanics  
Dr. Mike Scott - Mind vs. Machine: The Challenge of Lameness Diagnosis  
Dr. Carolyn Stull - Making "End of Life" Decisions for Your Horse  
Scott Trees - Because of horses - Lessons Learned, Lessons Lived

### SCHEDULE

The conference begins with a FREE Reception in the Agora Hall at 7:00 on Friday evening. The first session starts at 8:40 am Saturday morning. Saturday will feature technical sessions, as well as live demonstrations in the afternoon at Ash Bren Farms (included with your registration fee). Saturday evening's "Cowboy Dinner" (\*extra \$45/person) at Festival Place includes a technical presentation. Registration opens at 6:00 pm Friday, Saturday at 7:30 am and Sunday at 8:00 am

## WHAT DO YOU DO WITH YOUR WALKERS?

by Lori Dyberg

I guess the answer to that would be that my husband, Blair, and I are crazy about the sport of Obstacle Challenges! Lots and lots of challenges - all over Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Our 2016 season started off in Lakedell, Alberta on a very foggy, cold February day. It was at this Canadian Cowboy Challenge that Blair, (in his words) "finally beat the wife"... and the rivalry began. We were on the challenge circuit "chasing buckles". Yeah, I know what you are thinking. Blair and Lori are that old couple, a little too old to be on the road all year, running around every weekend to competitions. (21 competitions actually.) WRONG! We *are* that old couple, but being on the road was some serious fun!



To say we are proud of our Walkers, Rome and Tazz, would be correct! We competed against all breeds and disciplines of horses - Quarter Horses, Morgans, Thoroughbreds, draft horses, mules, warmbloods, and more. They came from reining, dressage, jumping, penning, cutting, heading/heeling, pleasure classes, and many other diverse backgrounds.

To compete in the Canadian Cowboy Challenge you need a VERY versatile horse that can perform on indoor or outdoor courses, on grass, mud, sand or dirt. The day can be warm and sunny, wet or windy, we ride in it all. There are 13 new obstacles at every new venue, set on a hilly outdoor course or in an arena setting. Rome and Tazz quickly became known



as 'the horses that do not have refusals'! They did it all and they did it anywhere and anytime we asked them.

After a very long and exhausting season (I must be honest here) Blair and I both qualified for the finals in Didsbury, Alberta. We made it. The end was in sight. We were almost done for the season. But the best was yet to come. What an "end to the season" we had!

Rome (Rag's Fantasy Romance) won the Buckle in the Older than Dirt (over 55) division AND the buckle in Non-Pro. Tazz (Rag's Razamatazz) won second in Older Than Dirt and 2nd in The Non-Pro divisions. Rome also won the "HORSE OF THE FINALS" - an award voted on and chosen by my peers! I felt so honored to be chosen for this award.

Without the confidence that the Candian Registry's Training Challenges gave me, I don't think I would have entered in all-breed competitions, matching myself and Rome against the more commonly seen breeds of horses known to have success in the athletic events such as Obstacle Challenges. Now I know better. Walkers CAN do it and do it WELL!





# *What Do You Do With Your Walkers?*

*Some of the obstacles Lori and Blair took on in the 2016 CANADIAN COWBOY CHALLENGE*







Canadian registered Walkers have been showing up all over. Quite a few owners headed up to YaHa Tinda near Banff National Park on the eastern slopes of the Alberta Rockies. The great horse camping there had riders staying for the weekend - or a week or longer! Lots of trails of all levels of difficulty kept everybody challenged. Some riders would go out for an hour or two, some for the day and one couple packed in for a night.

Above: Riders at the Well Site trail in the YaHa Tinda. and below, Brenda Woodall and her mare, Grace.

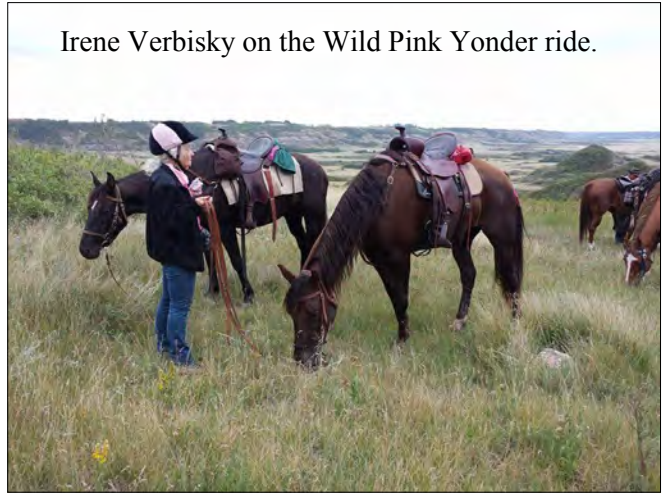


Another group headed for the challenges of Cadomin, an high mountain area just east of Jasper National Park. Again great trails, great people, and great horses made for a fabulous time.

We also had riders at various stages of the Wild Pink Yonder Ride, a 21 day trail ride raising money for breast cancer research. Riders raised funds by collecting pledges for each day they rode.

Some rode for one or two days, and some for a week or more. The ride started in southern Alberta and worked its way up to the north eastern part of the province, allowing many riders to experience parts of the province we don't often get to see.

Irene Verbisky on the Wild Pink Yonder ride.

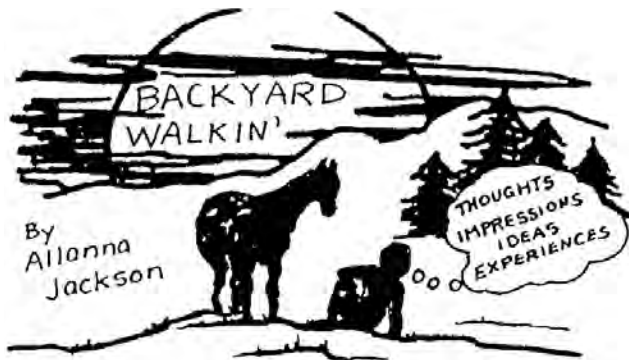


Thirteen Walkers and their owners headed to Donalda, AB in September for a poker ride in the badlands. They were honored that one of our Century Partners, John Reimer, aged 84, joined them. He'd retired Eddie, his old Walker partner, last year at the age of 25 so he rode his daughter's great mare on a four hour long ride. Two of our members even won a poker hand! (Photo below at Donalda where we gathered.)

The Canadian Registry of the Tennessee Walking Horse has many great programs for breeders and riders. One of most popular is the Ride, Drive, Alternate program. Registered members keep track of their hours riding, driving and/or doing liberty work with their Walkers.. Awards are handed out at the annual AGM to acknowledge the pleasure hours we spend with our Walking Horses. With the number of organized trail rides attended and all the anecdotal stories of riding done this year, we are sure to see some great hour totals for 2016.

Poker ride participants gather at Donalda.





## Back Yard Walkin'

by Allanna Jackson © Nov 3, 2016

### RESPECTING THE NATURE OF THE HORSE

#### *What does the word 'natural' mean?*

From time to time my Facebook news feed delivers video clips of TWH in motion. These videos have included movie footage from the 1940's; movie footage of big-lick World Grand Champions from the 1950's to the present; and digital videos of living horses. Some of these videos show modern horses that are barefoot and ridden with a snaffle bit doing an affectation of the running walk that is presented as a "natural" gait. These exaggerated, mechanical gaits are not the result of "evolution" or "progress" in breeding "better" horses. They are man-made perversions of the horses' gaits. The term 'natural' is being applied to TWH in ways that do not comply with the standard English language dictionary definition of the word.

So what *does* 'natural' mean?

The 1992 edition of *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language* gives these meanings that apply to horses. Natural: 1. Present in or produced by nature: 4a. Not acquired, inherent, b. Having a particular character by nature, c. *biology* Not produced or changed artificially; not conditioned. 5. Characterized by spontaneity and freedom from artificiality, affectation, or inhibition, 6. Not altered, treated, or disguised.

Very simply, a natural gait is the movement the horse inherits.

It has been asserted that it is not natural for horses to be ridden. It is true that horses are not born with saddles, bridles, bits and shoes and are not born trained for human use, which is why

horses need to be trained. It is also true that riding the horse changes the horse's balance, gaits, movement, and the way the horse uses its body. Some people reason that since horses are not born broke we should never ride them. Yet people have been riding and driving horses for thousands of years because horses are more suitable for this, and more adaptable to a diversity of environments, than most other animals that could be used for these purposes. Classical horsemanship has taken the more pragmatic approach of describing good horsemanship as managing, caring for, training, and using horses in ways that benefit the horse, or at least do not harm the horse, based on respect for the nature of the horse.

In the TWH world, the blatant abuses of the big-lick are symptoms of a deeper problem that is so pervasive it affects the performance expectations and training methods endorsed by some sound horse enthusiasts. This underlying problem is a lack of respect for the nature of the horse. Too many TWH owners are dissatisfied with the natural TWH gaits and feel compelled to "correct", "enhance", exaggerate, modify, or "improve" the horse's movement in some way. The belief that the movement a TWH is born with is merely "potential" to do something more or different is contempt for the inherited movement of the horse. The horse cannot be wrong for moving in the ways that are encoded in the DNA of every cell of its body! When people are dissatisfied with the horse's innate movement it is the people who are wrong, not the horse. The flat walk and running walk are natural, inherited gaits. The flat walk and running walk are not man-made alterations or extensions of the amble, saddle rack, stepping pace, flying pace, rack, or singlefoot.

Respecting the nature of the horse does not mean that trainers and riders should never seek to influence the horse's movement. Riding or driving a horse does change and upset the horse's natural balance and movement so the rider/trainer has an obligation to help the horse recover the balance and movement it has without a rider or driver when it is being ridden or driven. We also want horses to maintain the same gait and speed for longer distances than horses do

naturally. The walk is the only gait horses naturally use for extended periods of time but they aren't consistent about speed or direction because they wander and graze while walking. Asking the horse to be more consistent in its movement is harmless to the horse when we are reasonable in our expectations about how long and how fast we ask the horse to work relative to the animal's age, fitness level, physical capabilities, and the environmental conditions. Developing consistency, along with restoring the horse's balance and maneuverability with a rider can be considered an improvement in the horse's movement when the results comply with the limits of the horse's inherited movement.

Respecting the nature of the horse means that the trainer/rider pays attention to the individual horse's movement, speed range, style, stride length, head position, and gait preferences to determine realistic performance expectations for the training and use of the horse. It is unreasonable, unfair, and inhumane to expect a horse that singlefoots at 7 miles per hour to running walk 8 miles per hour because this is physically impossible. A 6-8 mph flat walk and 10-20 mph running walk are physically impossible for any horse.

Maximum overstride occurs at the pace, not the walk. The natural pace has very little head motion. Some trainers compel TWH to add head slinging to a broken pace to create a false "running walk" that is being promoted as a "natural" gait. This movement is actually a disconnected, out of balance, man-made mixture of gaits that is physically and mentally damaging to the horse and is useless for any practical purpose. The fact that some horses do such man-made gaits barefoot with a snaffle bit does not make this artificial movement "natural". It doesn't matter how "humane" the training methods allegedly are, altering the movement built into the horses' DNA is wrong because it trespasses against the nature of the horse.

Respecting the nature of the horse means appreciating the gaits, speed range, style, stride length, animation, and head motion each individual horse inherits, and using the horse's own natural movement to set the performance standards for each horse.

## A HORSE TO REMEMBER

*Horses change lives.*

*Horses start us on a journey.*

*And horses provide a deep connection to nature.*

The horse / human bond can be magical and have great power. All horses are special and deserving of our understanding. Each one deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. Yet in every horse person's life there remain one or two special horses that stay forever in our hearts and minds.

Was it a patient school horse that you never owned but now realize had a profound influence on the direction of your life? Was it that first horse with whom you shared a bond? Was it that first pony ride, the horse you saw in a movie or on TV, a horse in a novel or a model horse? Maybe it was that first Walking Horse that surprised you with the glide ride, so much so that no other breed would ever again take the place of a Walking Horse in your life? Is it your current horse, with whom you've shared many adventures and challenges, and who now deserves your recognition?

A Horse To Remember provides a place on the CRTWH website where you can pay tribute to these special horses. It may be your current partner, running in the pasture or one long gone on to greener pastures. If possible, have your story relate how your special horse led you to the Canadian Registered Tennessee Walking Horse. You may tell that story in photos or words or any combination thereof!

**"Honour your special horse by sharing your story  
- the horse that lives in your heart  
deserves your tribute.**

Parameters: For a donation of \$50.00 or more to the CRTWH Education Fund your tribute will be published on the CRTWH webpage.

All tributes to be in line with our Mission and Values statement.

**Go to [www.crtwh.ca](http://www.crtwh.ca)**

to see the first story already up and published, and then think about how you want to honour your special horse. Story? Photos? Poem?

Contact CRTWH Treasurer, c/o Dianne Little,  
619 Lake Linnet Cres SE, Calgary, AB T2J 2J3

See more on the page below and Gifts page.





# The Canadian Walker

Volume 15, Issue 6

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

[www.facebook.com/crtwh](https://www.facebook.com/crtwh)

December, 2016

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## “A HORSE TO REMEMBER”



“A HORSE TO REMEMBER”, our exciting new tribute page, is now up on the Canadian Registry of the Tennessee Walking Horse website!

The tribute page honours your special horse and celebrates the horse/human bond. For a contribution of \$50.00 or more to the CRTWH Education Fund, the story and pictures of your horse will be permanently displayed on the CRTWH website. You may honour your current equine partner, a special horse from your past, or a horse belonging to a person dear to you. And what a unique gift this would be for the horse person in your life - your wife, husband, mother or father!

The very first story is already published. Go to [www.crtwh.ca](http://www.crtwh.ca) and click on A Horse To Remember to read and view all about Tiffany (aka Northfork Redwing).



## DNA IDENTIFICATION

In my note last time on identifying a horse thought to be a registered TWH by its DNA, I forgot to mention one important fact. The horse's DNA must be on file with a Registry.

CRTWH required breeding stallions to be DNA'd in 2000. The same rule came into effect for mares in 2001. By 2002, all foals had to be DNA profiled and parentage verified to be registered.

So all Canadian registered TWH 14 years of age or younger WILL have DNA on file. Older TWH that were breeding stock will be on record as well.

But there are still many older TWH that will not have DNA on record with the Registry or will be blood typed only.

## CALLING ALL BROODMARES

Do you know of an outstanding broodmare, current or past, whose progeny have made a real contribution to the breed? If so, we'd like to hear from you with a description, thumbnail sketch of why you feel she is deserving of the recognition, and a really good photo of her. Send to me at *WHN*, Box 7326, Edson, AB T7E 1V5, or by email to [whn@telus.net](mailto:whn@telus.net).

I look forward to hearing from you!

## HAS YOUR RURAL ADDRESS CHANGED RECENTLY?

If so, please be sure to notify CLRC (and *WHN*) so the post office can still deliver your **MAIL!**

## **Endurance Rider Susan Garlinghouse, DVM, and John Henry**

by *Sue Gamble*

### **Part 1**

*Copyright November 2016*

*John Henry is the Tennessee Walker who has completed the famous California 100 Mile Tevis Cup endurance ride five times. He now holds the record for the most Tevis Ride Completions by an easy gaited horse.*

*The interview took place via Face Time on Nov 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016. This introduction to Susan's and John Henry's shared journey will be followed by more extensive coverage in future issues of the Walking Horse News.*

**Sue Gamble:** *When and how did you first make acquaintance with John Henry?*

**Susan Garlinghouse:** One of my very good friends is a chiropractor, Bruce Weary, in Prescott, Arizona, and he had originally owned John Henry. He had bought him from a broker that would bring trail horses out from Kentucky - Tennessee area and would bring them out to New Mexico as easy riding trail horses. And if he saw a likely prospect that he thought Bruce might like he would haul him out and say 'come take a look at this'.

Bruce happened to be down there looking at another horse and saw John Henry. His original name was Cody. Bruce said 'how about that guy over there?' And he (Bruce) thought he would be kind of fun as a project and he took him home. And it turns out that John was a pretty good distance horse. And he (Bruce) put his first 1200 endurance miles on (John Henry) including his first Tevis. And it was funny because Bruce had already attempted Tevis at that time, seven or eight times, mostly on Arabians and had never finished once and so far his only completion has been on John Henry.

So in 2010, I was starting to have some problems with my knees, and I knew that Bruce rode gaited horses. I had always had Arabians or Anglo-Arabs, and Bruce said 'hey listen, why don't you fly to Arizona', and he said 'I will meet you', he and his wife Dana, who is also a very good friend. (Bruce said) 'We have a two day ride here...why don't you come and ride John Henry, to see what it is like to ride a gaited horse.' So I did.

We had a fantastic weekend. Had a great time riding with Bruce. He is just a party and a half to ride with. We had so much stinkin' fun. We ended up going about seven miles off trail because we were so

busy talking and swapping stories and we really didn't much care, we were having so much fun. But I completely fell in love with John Henry, wanted to basically take him home... and it wasn't until almost two years later that Bruce called me up and said 'um... I'm kind of thinking about putting John Henry up for sale; would you be interested?' And it was a total setup because he knew that I was practically begging him and he knew that I was trying to pull every single favour I could to try to get him to sell him to me.

And so when he called up and said 'might you be interested in John?' I said I'll tell you what, I'm gonna cancel my appointments for the rest of the day, go home, get the truck and trailer. I could be at your place by midnight. Let's load John Henry in the back of my trailer, put a padlock on it, and then I will hand you a blank check and you can tell me why you took until now to sell him.

Bruce has always said that he likes to start horses, he likes to bring them along, but he is limited to the number of horses he can have on his property, and he kind of felt, maybe John and I were a better match for each other than him. I don't know if he was just being generous, or if he just got tired of me begging and whining, but either way I got John Henry.

*Sue G: So that is quite a story. So it was about 2012 when you got him?*

*See the next issue of Walking Horse News for more of the interview with Susan Garlinghouse DVM.*



## NO RESPECT FOR THE RUNNING WALK! by Franne Brandon

I looked up the term “running walk” in my old World Book Dictionary, copyright 1981, intended for upper elementary and middle school students. There was no definition, although a little persistence by looking up “walk” did at least connect with the term “walking horse” and a “see” reference to Tennessee Walking horse, where there was a breed, if not a gait, definition. My next resort, since I have no modern collegiate dictionary here, was to consult the internet. Merriam-Webster’s free online dictionary stated “Definition of a RUNNING WALK” as “a slow, easy, 4-beat gait of a horse in which one hind leg touches the ground just before the opposite foreleg.” Somewhat vague and incomplete. Then, in the manner that all researchers were trained to follow prior to the internet, I went from general to specialized, checking the “What Judges Look for” chapter of my classic edition of Biography of the Tennessee Walking Horse by Ben A Green. The first running walk description I found by a quick skim was the total opposite of what the online dictionary had stated!

It appears that gentleman farmers in Tennessee had developed a type of horse using a mix of native stock with Thoroughbred, Morgan, and Standardbreds that produced a gait which they had observed, ridden, and desired, but for which they had very little written description. They knew what their goals were, what the gait felt like, and how to train for it when it was present in the young horse. Perhaps *because* there were no written standards, no parameters set for how this gait should be executed in the show ring, the gait and the breed itself has suffered over time due to no respect for the running walk.

The lack of respect actually began in the show ring. Tennessee farmers were competitive. They liked to compare their horses to see who had bragging rights as owning “the best of the best.” Since the old plantation horse was not bred for racing under saddle or in harness on the track, his gait repertoire was observed and rated on the tanbark. The old Tennessee State Fair was the pinnacle of plantation horse competition for decades, but other states held other venues which also presented prestigious awards to the old plantation horse. This horse shared the show billings with harness horses, roadster to bike competitors, and the flashy American Saddle Horse. The brilliance of the Saddle

Horse, especially the 5-gaited competitor, caused the walking horse with its smooth, efficient, but less showy gait to be looked down upon by some in the show ring audiences of that day.

Just a few years after the formation of a breeders’ association for Tennessee’s native saddle horse with its unique running walk gait, a horse show was organized in Shelbyville, Tennessee to crown World’s Grand Champions for the state’s newly organized breed. Even so, this show had classes for the American Saddle Horses as well. Some said it was the popularity of the young stallion Merry Go Boy, who had the crowds on their feet cheering, rather than exiting to the concession booths. Was that what initiated the trend to change the walking horse from an animal with an efficient and effortless gait that could last through a day’s work into a faster, flashier competitor suited for show ring crowds but not a day’s full labor? Others state that it was The Talk of the Town, a plain bay gelding sired by Go Boy’s nemesis Midnight Sun, who started judges looking for horses that set up in the bridle, broke high in the front end, and moved with speed and flash if not the cadence of a true, evenly timed, nodding, four beat gait in the show ring.

As the show ring judges lost respect for the true gaited walking horse and begin to tie the top ribbons to the artificially moving animal, trends changed in the pleasure fields as well. People involved with the breed in the thirties and forties have told me how the market surged for the wonderful, natural walking pleasure horse of that era. The demand exceeded the supply of well trained horses available for those seeking the ultimate personal mount. Unfortunately, in the fifties, this market dried up. When people began training pleasure horses again, they sought the example of the show ring for their model. By this point, ALL horses under saddle in the ring, from two year olds to amateur horses, were shod with pads, competed in white bell boots, and performed a gait impossible to reproduce in a sound, flat shod trail horse. With no respect and no knowledge of what a natural running walk could be, pleasure riders used show ring bits and training regimens that resulted in horses that “looked through the bridle”, traveling in a heads -up style that resulted in hollow posture and four beat gaits that were everything *but* the running walk the breed was originally developed to perform.

*To be continued next issue.*



## IN MY OPINION

### WHY Would You NOT Want Registration Papers?

by Marjorie Lacy

Question: I sold a Walker to a person who wanted a trail horse. When I asked how he wanted his name to appear on the papers, he said he didn't want the papers! "It's just going to be a trail horse and I plan to keep it anyway," he said.

Now I know it is my responsibility as seller to transfer the horse's registration to the new owner. So what should I do about this?

Answer: In Canada the law states that the seller of a registered horse (or one represented as purebred) must provide a duly transferred registration certificate to the seller within six months of the date of sale. That means that the seller must send the horse's registration certificate to CLRC along with the fee for recording the transfer. Just handing the signed papers over to the buyer is not 'transferring' them. Sending the papers to the new owner, even with the transfer fee included, is not 'transferring' them. No, it is the legal responsibility of the horse's owner to send that registration certificate to CLRC with the fee required, and have CLRC record it. They will then mail the papers to the new owner if requested, or back to the seller who must mail or hand them to the horse's new owner.

So what do you do with a short sighted person like this who says he does not want the animal's papers?

You can tell him that this is your legal obligation and will be done at your cost (\$20 if you are a CRTWH member).

You can mention that plans do not always work out and perhaps some years from now he may be forced to sell the horse. Those papers could be very important to a possible future buyer and could even make the difference between a sale or no sale. Without its papers it is just another grade horse. The properly transferred registration papers are proof that it *is* a Tennessee Walking Horse, that it *does* belong to him, and he has the right to sell it. Having the registration papers can also make a big difference to the future of the horse itself.

And if the buyer still isn't convinced?

In my opinion, you just have to tell the buyer that it's non-negotiable - you *are* going to transfer the papers. He has chosen a registered horse. It is the law

that you transfer the papers to him. They are, in effect, the horse's birth certificate and must go with it. He should be proud of the horse, and having its papers is proof of its ancestry, age and background. If not, why did he bother looking at a registered horse in the first place?

Once the papers are in his name and possession, you have fulfilled your responsibility. The new owner can do what he likes with them. Only a knucklehead would throw them away.

As a breeder, I would not even want to sell a horse to a person who cares nothing for the horse's heritage, and the care and thought that went into breeding it.



Here's a true story that happened to a friend of mine. He sold a nice little mare to a person who was looking for a trail horse. The buyer was adamant that he didn't want her papers, He also thought he should get her for less money if he bought her without them. My friend was in a situation where he needed to sell, so reluctantly agreed.

Several years later, the buyer contacted him again. He'd decided to breed the mare and wanted her papers! When my friend reminded him that he had bought the mare without papers for a lesser price, the buyer turned quite nasty.

"It's the law that you have to supply papers for a horse you sell as purebred. I'll sue unless you find them and give them to me!" he said.

Luckily my friend was able to find the mare's papers and give them to this person, even though he did not deserve to get them.

As my friend said, it was a hard lesson to learn about selling purebred horses. He 'll never sell a horse without its papers at a discount ever again.

I have heard people haggle over a horse's cost - they want it for less than the stated price because, after all, *they don't want the papers*. And I wonder why do they think that should be *cheaper*?

To be registered the horse has already had quite a bit of money spent on it. Does the would-be buyer think that the breeder can get a refund?

The breeder has filled out all the paperwork on the animal, sent it in with a cheque for registration (\$40 if animal is less than a year old) and pulled hair for a DNA test (\$75) to verify its parentage if he's a member. He has the papers. The only fee left to pay at the point of selling it is the \$20 fee for CLRC to transfer it to the new owner.

Do it - It's the right thing to do.



# What Do You Do With Your Walkers?

MARIAN TAYLOR,  
VICTORIA, BC writes,  
“I want to congratulate  
Jo-Anne McDonald and Snip  
on becoming the latest  
Century Partners! I own Snip's daughter,  
Image, and hope one day  
we can be  
Century Partners too.”  
*Snip's Delightful Image  
and Marion, top right.*

“Image and I had a great summer!  
I'm a trail rider and am  
lucky enough to have parkland  
with trails right at my back yard.  
So we got out most days,  
sometimes with friends,  
sometimes just the two of us.”

“I am also lucky that I have Jester  
as well, so I have a "spare " horse,  
and I have several friends who  
come out regularly to ride him  
and keep me company.”

*Successful Jester and a friend,  
above left.*

“One friend in my neighbourhood has a TWH,  
also from McDonald's, as well as a Peruvian  
horse, so I still have a Peruvian to ride after  
owning my own for 30 years. My friend and I  
take turns riding each other's horses, and ex-  
ploring each other's trails.”

*Valerie Armstrong and  
Success Mark the Dot, right.*

“Hope all your readers have had such a  
lovely summer. Here are some photos for  
you. I look forward to reading my  
*Walking Horse News*  
and seeing the Registry's Facebook page.”



*Happy  
Trails!*





## PULSATILLA PASS PACK TRIP by Merinda Reid

There is no other way to say it, it has been a difficult summer. Even the good things, and there certainly were some of those, came with more struggle and effort than normal. We did a fabulous pack trip over Pulsatilla Pass and it was no exception to the 'extra effort required' rule for 2016. We had four riders and eight horses, and while only two of the horses were Tennessee Walkers this story is well worth reading just the same.

The one thing that did go in our favor was the weather. Somehow Dave managed to choose the only two good weeks of weather in the whole summer for our trip. There our luck ended. A week before we were to leave Dave took an untested pack horse for a test run. He is very quiet and made no objection to the packs. They set out and all was good for two hours, but apparently two hours was said pack horse's limit and he just quit. Even after a rest nothing could convince him to budge. Luckily cousin Tom was along so they had a second pack horse who was learning not to jump across mud and water. They put the packs on him, Dave took a dally, and Jethro towed Mr. Reluctant back to the trailer. Our farrier offered us a replacement pack horse so we thought we were in great shape. We left from The Ya Ha Tinda on Aug. 10th.

Half way to Scotch Camp one of the packs had to be reset on an overweight pack horse; this one borrowed also. The pack was nearly reset when wouldn't you know it - here came a four mule hitch complete with jingles. I won't go into details... but the entire pack and saddle had to come off and the men had to start again from scratch. By the time we were ready, Dave's Walker, Jethro, had found some really good grass and was chowing down, not sure he was ready to go. Dave gave him a couple of jerks to let him know who was making the decisions and just as he was mounting up a huge black cloud came over with a blast of wind from the west bringing snow and ice crystals with it. As soon as Dave was on, Jethro gave a straight legged strike; it had to have been at the weather as that was the only thing in front of him, gave two crow hops, just to get even, and with his face into the wind moved out as if to say, "Alright then, follow me" and we did, for nine more days. The squall was soon over and we got showered on a total of six times that first day, but it was the only bad weather we had. Dave and Jethro are a perfect match: both are tall, strong and just a wee bit hard in the brain box.

We spent one night at Scotch Camp and two at Drummond. Drummond Camp is very cold as it

is situated in a curve of the Red Deer River. It was dark when we got into camp and I was shaking so much from the cold I don't know if I was much help setting up camp. Dave made me a nice kitchen out of tarps so we were very comfortable once camp was set up. After a day's rest we headed out to make a fairly early arrival at a camp not too far from the pass. Our only excitement entering into Hiker Territory was that Jethro does *not* trust people in spandex carrying long sticks. He went by them head up, high stepping and always trying to keep his eyes on them. They thought he was beautiful.



Merinda & Roy

The next morning we got as early a start as we could, and it's a good thing we did. My nice quiet borrowed pack horse was about to go sour. He had caused no problems until we started to climb and then he set back. He pulled the shank out of my hands half a dozen times without much more than just the inconvenience of getting off and back on. He waited until the trail was at its narrowest to yank free, turn around and head back down. There was no room for him to pass the other horses behind and I was not strong enough to turn him around. It took some doing but everyone managed to get turned around and when all were on level ground Dave and I traded pack horses. He couldn't pull the rope out of Dave's hand - but Dave couldn't make him move either. Taking a dally on a mountain trail is not something packers like to do, but sometimes you have to do what you have to do. Dave took a dally. He would go ahead to a spot that was level and call down to us. We would come up and wait there until he found another safe spot. When we reached the summit our trouble maker was no worse for wear than anyone else. As for Jethro, he wasn't winded; he didn't break a sweat; it was nothing to him.





**Dave & Jethro**

That pass is magnificent. It was more than worth the effort. We took our time crossing and took some pictures. I had trouble getting Roy to look at the camera, he kept looking up, so I told Dave I'll just look where he's looking and that will be good enough. Roy was trying to show us the herd, I think it should be flock, of bighorn sheep. Four people and seven horses missed them but not my Roy. The pass is about a mile wide and so spectacular I find it hard to describe.

Evening had already arrived as we started our descent, with no further incidents and all horses willing to follow. The camp that used to be a horse camp is now a Hikers Camp. You should have seen the looks as we rode in. Dave stated our situation in his calm and quiet way, saying "I know the last thing you expected was to be sharing your camp with us and eight head of horses but it's almost dark, we have no choice, we're staying." They did not object and once they found out we weren't Rangers were very friendly. Our next day was another layover and in appreciation of their being so nice we didn't bell the horses until we were sure they were all awake.

We left the second morning thinking we had another camp to go to but much to our surprise there was not. There had been a horse camp years ago but all traces of it have disappeared. We rode up to another hikers' camp but there was no grass, and when we asked a hiker if he had seen another camp he told us "Yes, about two km up this trail." He was the first person to lie to us; I guess he wasn't fond of horses. We rode until it was pitch dark and the only place that was open enough to camp and that had a little bit of grass was in front of a Rangers cabin. One of our riders said "We will probably be on camera." I was facing setting up camp in the dark and no supper for the second time this trip so I said

"If they complain send them to me I'll complain right back." We have had no complaints.

The next day brought us into Flint's Camp and a lovely camp it is. We had another layover day and headed out for what we thought would be a short day's ride. A mile from camp one of our pack horses was not doing so well, and when Dave checked his foot, sure enough, a punctured sole. We put his pack on my TWH, Roy. I was willing to walk but Dave's cousin Stan who is into physical fitness gave me his horse to ride and he led the pack horse with the sore foot.

We continued on and came to a river crossing, where four or five guys were on a bridge. Dave asked if this was the right trail to where we were going and one of them gave a nod and a thumbs up. He was the second person to lie to us. Finally after what we all knew was more than twelve miles Dave said "This is the wrong road; we're headed to Lake Minnawonka." We did a brief evaluation of our circumstances and decided that with one lame horse and two starting to get saddle sores we would just continue on and end our trip early.

We found our horse camp, Dave and I set up camp and tended the horses while his cousins headed to the highway on foot. For Stan the six miles to the pavement on top of what he had already walked would add up somewhere between 26 and 30 miles. Twenty-four hours later, just as I was about to start supper, into camp they came, saying "Quick, pack up! There's going to be a road race tomorrow and the highway will be closed." We packed up in record time, Roy still the faithful pack horse and Stan still leading our horse with the sore foot. Dave never even asked how they managed to get two trucks and two trailers to the highway from the Ya Ha Tinda and they never volunteered the information.

We made it home at 2 am. Were those horses ever glad to be home! I finally asked a couple of weeks later how they had managed to get those trucks to us. When they got to the highway they tried to hitch a ride but no one would even slow down. I wonder why? They phoned for a taxi and spent the night in Banff. Dave's cousin Tom called in some favors to get drivers and the rest is easy enough to figure out.

A few days after we got home Dave asked, "Did you notice on the pack trip that the two best horses by far were both palominos?"

My answer to that was, "Yes, and they share another common denominator. Uh huh, yeah - they're both TENNESSEE WALKERS."



# CHRISTMAS GIFT

## SUGGESTIONS for *YOUR* TWH LOVER

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#### HISTORY:

**THE ECHO OF HOOFBEATS** –Dr. Bob Womack published by Dabora Inc, Shelbyville, TN. Traces the history & development of the TWH breed.

#### **BIOGRAPHY OF THE TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE**

by Ben Green. The history & background of the TWH. Available from Four Craftsmen Publishing, P.O. Box 177, Lakeside AZ 85929-0177 1 (928) 367-2076

Visa or Mastercard payments accepted through the Four Craftsmen Publishing website: [www.fourcraftsmen.com](http://www.fourcraftsmen.com)

#### GAIT & TRAINING

**EASY GAITED HORSES** by Lee Ziegler, Storey Publishing. 247 pages, Paperback. [www.storey.com](http://www.storey.com).

#### **BACK YARD WALKIN' Training Tips**

By Allanna Jackson. Available from Four Craftsmen Publishing, P.O. Box 177, Lakeside AZ 85929-0177 1(928) 367-2076

**FOSH'S COLLECTION OF TWH TRAINING ARTICLES** - 23 articles on training Tennessee Walkers using common sense, good horsemanship, and empathy with the horse. [www.fosh.info](http://www.fosh.info)

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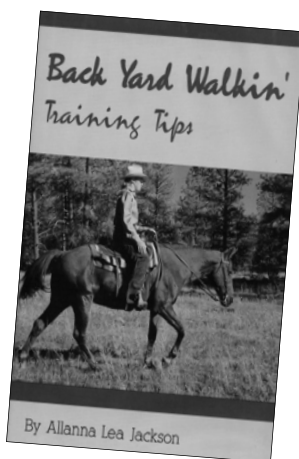
by Rhonda Hart Poe. No one who trail rides on a Walker or other easy gaited horse should be without it! Storey Books 2005, available in bookstores and on-line.



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(left) Eldon Eadie's original tape, is still one of the best for showing the different gaits, and explaining gaits in general.

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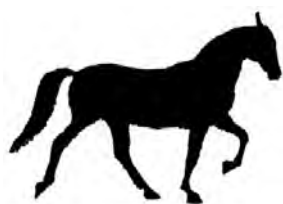
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