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Walking Horse





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Walking Horse News

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On Our Cover

Century Partners Jack Gurnett, 91, of Bluffton, AB and his stallion, Northfork Top Traveller, 18, check out the herd. Jack and Traveller aren't just

'honorary' partners, they are still active participants. Congratulations!

> Photo courtesy Paige Stern

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Volume XLII, # 6 November/December 2018

Dear Subscribers,

I hope you have all been able to secure enough feed for your hungry horses this winter. Hay is scarce (and expensive!) in south and central Alberta, I know, and maybe other places as well due to drought and wild fires. I am making my bunch 'paw for a living' on an unharvested hayfield for November. But the alternate snow, cold, rain, and thawing, is making even that difficult. Good luck, Everyone!

Walking Horse News really needs your advertising. Please check the second Gallery page and see where you could use an ad. If you don't tell folks about your horses or services, how will they know?

Another year has rolled around and here we are at the last issue of 2018. I hope you've enjoyed the articles, news and opinions. Thank you to all who have written in. How about hearing from the rest of you next year!

Merry Christmas to you all, and a Happy and Healthy New Year ahead. Hug your horses,

Marjorie



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In the spring of '98, due to my work commitments out of town and a new marital situation, Topaz was moved to Bev Skowronski's Shady Lane Acres at Ardrossan, AB. At Bev's he sired a fine colt, Topaz Vintage Stardust (Vinny), very much his likeness, and Mystical Kokomo, both champagnes, now owned, along with Cee Dee Kit's Handsome, a gold champagne, by Len Torgerson & family at Stony Plain, AB. Diane McCannel of Wizard Lake, purchased, a son, 'Topaz Sundance', a palomino colt from Bev. 'Dusty' (Topaz Sundown') was out of the mare 'Sundown's

Shadow' owned by Diane. Fran Kerik also brought a mare to produce 'Heza' Glowin' Rock', & Bev's good mare', TC Pride (Pride of Midnight line) produced 'Topaz Ebony Isle' for Chris Bayens and 'Topaz Chantilly Lace' for Sawsha Caines.

While standing at Bev's, Topaz got into some kind of 'mischief' and I found a suitable surcingle and 'laid him down'. This is an old horseman's method started by desert Bedouins with their Arabians. I believe it instills the same attitude in a horse's mind as the modern method of 'join-up'.

In 1999, a university in California successfully isolated the color gene which produced the unique colour that Topaz displayed. They named it 'champagne'. It was determined that it could produce, in some cases, 100% champagne foals. The following year, 2000, a new Registry was created in California for horses of champagne color. With the emergence of the Champagne Registry and the new and different characteristics of these foals, I was intrigued and wanted to learn more. Topaz was the first Canadian TWH Champagne to be registered in that year. The champagne foals were all born with pale blue eyes, and pink skin pigment. Suddenly, all those "palominos", "whites", "crèmes" and light off-sorrels with pink skin finally had a category of colour that fit their characteristics.

Unlike 'cremello', where the eyes remain blue all the animal's life, the champagne foal's blue eyes at birth change color at about one year and in most cases remain a lighter color than normal throughout their lives.

The Champagne Registry requirements in those early years were that pink skin must show on the nose, rectum and genital areas of a Champagne, and they must have been born with pale blue eyes. Topaz proved 'true' to his colors and was designated an 'Ivory Champagne'.

Bev at Shady Lane Acres was producing some very fine offspring from her 'T C Pride' mare by Topaz, as well as many quality 'outside' breedings, and really did not want Topaz to leave. However, I wondered - could I produce 'horses of a different color' that people might be interested to buy? I no longer had my beloved 'Walking Horse Junction' home at Ardrossan, so what to do? Upon checking in with Winston and Donna Curtis at Winfield, AB I learned they had 16 papered TWH mares at their PMU farm. They too were curious about this new colour of horse. Topaz was moved there in January of 2001.

At the start of breeding season in 2001, Topaz was put into 80 acres of pasture with 16 TWH mares and four grade saddle horse mares. I called down to see how he was adjusting. "He's been herding those mares for two days now and they don't get out of the corners to eat or drink on their own without his say-so!" Winston told me. Topaz 'caught' 19 of those mares and nine of the foals were champagnes.

Topaz stayed at the Curtis Ranch for about five years. They held yearly production sales of all their foals and in one sale I found myself bidding against Kim Pringle, from Arden, Ontario. The colt we both wanted was Cee Dee Sadie's Hobo (Later renamed '*The Iceman*'.) I lost out on him, but came away from the sale with Cee Dee Kit's Handsome # 2767, a beautiful gold champagne colt. (About this time, a well-known horse trainer & outfitter was heard to comment at one of these sales, that there was *no such thing* as 'Champagne'. Years later after acquiring three champagne sons of Topaz, he was successful in selling all three at an auction for a total of \$18,000! He may have changed his mind.)

Topaz had a beautiful disposition. Yet his amber eyes were always a little 'disconcerting'. Lighter than normal, they did not appear friendly. I recall his being at our 'once upon a time' demo booth for our various Tennessee Walker horse clubs at Northlands Indoor Rodeo in Edmonton, and hearing the many comments about his eyes being 'different'.

Once while he was at Curtis's, I was summoned to come catch him and see if he was okay. He had been kicked into a corner of barb-wire fence by two brothers of Belgian breeding. Two horsewomen dining at the restaurant across from the quarter section pasture he was in with about 10 or 12 other stallions after spring breeding season was past, saw the ruckus and went looking for Winston and Donna. I drove around that whole quarter and finally found him standing alone, hiding in the trees near a salt lick. He was covered in blood from head to toe. I got the truck out, returned with halter and lead shanks and after disengaging a couple of trailing barb wires from mane and tail, I walked him home across the highway. There I was first introduced to the medicinal value of just cool running water. Winston and I checked him over and could not find any real deep open cuts. I was very concerned of course but Winston assured me that just washing him well with plain soap and water (& Creolin, I believe) and a real good rinsing would probably do the trick and he'd be fine. And he was!

Years later when boarding two of Topaz's sons at Bill Jess's Glory J Ranch near Stony Plain, I got to see firsthand the results of running water on one of his injured weanlings. Also in 2016, while house-sitting in Panama, I was happy to demonstrate to Kevin, my new Panamanian friend (who spoke no English), how just cleaning the wound simply and continuously daily for 15 to 20 minutes of running cool water would reduce swelling and promote healing. He too was amazed that his young stallion's foot wound was healed up within a couple of weeks.

In those years at Curtis's Topaz was taken away two or three times for training with Christa, with the intention of showing him. He seemed to welcome it. He was rarely difficult to catch or handle. In a trail class with Christa, he was hard to beat. They made me proud! I recall being in the holding pen prior to a class at Olds. I had him backed into a crowded corner, when I believe it was Dawn Sigurdsson who asked, "Bill, is that Topaz you're riding?" "Yes," I quietly replied, praying that none of the others would panic in those close quarters. That may have been the show where I foolishly



entered a 'pole bending' class. Since I had never tried this before, with any horse, we did the pole -bending reasonably well, but at the other end when I gave him both spurs and tried to run for the finish line, he refused. Instead he let a fart, then crow-hopped perfectly, not one or two but three times before leaving the arena. After the second crow-hop some friends in the stands started to



clap and I was actually starting to enjoy my- self while Topaz executed the third near-perfect buck. The U.S. judge laughed me out of the arena, but I did receive a ribbon for the best 'performance'. I hope it's true because it's how I remember it!

Another break for Topaz away from 'his' mares was a May long weekend at Kootenay Plains, west of Nordegg, AB. He was, of course, very interested in any and all the new 'girls' he met on that about 12 mile ride. Topaz and I and Jack, my German Shepherd dog, had crossed the North Saskatchewan upriver of the swinging bridge, while the rest of the group led their horses across the bridge, a practise I just could not condone. By the time we came to the river crossing just below camp that 12 miles later, he was very hot and sweaty. I foolishly put a horse halter and rope on Jack to lead him across so he wouldn't be swept downstream.

About a third of the way across, Topaz seemed in distress and for whatever reason, reared up in water that was about the depth of my belly-button. The weight of the wet dog helped pull us over backwards, and there we three were, in the strong current of the freezing North Saskatchewan River. Problem was, Topaz would not get up (and I cannot really swim!). While I slowly worked him close to the river's edge (as he was mostly floating), friends came back across to see if they could help. One guy, Bill, and his wife, from St. Paul area, came back twice, and Bill went into the river on his knees, checking my horse over to see if he might have broken a leg or something serious enough to prevent him from standing. We removed the saddle and saddle pad but after about 15 minutes submerged in that cold river, I believed we were in big trouble. Kelly Teague was there on his stallion, and good friend Luigi Valentini, riding his Shadow stud, came back more than once to encourage me to keep working on his ears. Topaz's eyes turned red; I sat on my haunches, with his head in my lap, in water about 18" deep and believed he might be dying.

Suddenly he gave his head a hard shake, then was able to stand. Now mostly frozen, my attempts at putting that now 80 pound soaking wet pad and saddle back on were finally accomplished with Kelly's help. Many campfire discussions later, our final conclusion and agreement was that in his over-heated condition, the sudden exposure to the cold water had combined to cause him to go into a state of shock, which caused his muscles to cramp (or visa-versa). Then, with water in his ears, he had lost his sense of which way was up.

Much later we bred Bill's Standardbred mare to Topaz and she produced a champagne filly – 'A Life for a Life' campfire deal!

The Curtis years were good for Topaz (& me). Winston and Donna were very promotion oriented, as they specialized in more than one breed of heavy horses, which they showed throughout western Canada. The majority of their horses were, of course, mares, and the total herd was somewhere around 160 head. They made a very deliberate attempt to purchase a wide range of all the better bloodlines of registered Tennessee Walkers that were readily available in western Canada. Winston was an excellent judge of 'horse- flesh' and a very good horseman. He drove his teams daily in winter to feed the horses that were spread over several quarters of land. I believe Donna was the promotions and advertising part of a very well organised team. Their yearly production sales at Lakedell, further east on Hwy #13, brought horsemen and women from all over Canada, and judging from the ownership of some of Topaz' offspring, even some from the States.

However, around 2005, PMU farms were starting to be phased out. Topaz was moved from Curtis's in April of 2006.



This is an excerpt from Bill's "A Horse to Remember" tribute to his stallion, Topaz Merry Go. He and Bill had many adventures over the years. Topaz was one of the earliest horses in Canada to be recognized as a 'Champagne' and he sired many foals that also carried this fairly recently discovered dilution gene.

See the rest of his story with colour photos on the CRTWH website, A Horse to Remember.

Also see the Feb 2013 and April 2016 issues of WHN for more.

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NEWS - NEWS - NEWS

From RON SMITH, WELLING, AB, "Ken and Ruth Hudson are our neighbors. They moved out here to Welling a few years ago. Ruth is 95 and Ken about the same. They are not in great health but they still have horses on the acreage. I asked Ruth if they had any information on those early years for an article I am thinking of preparing about Tennessee Walking horses that he and my dad had in the 1960s. Anyway they have a photo album with a treasure of photos and lists of their favorite horses, including their stallion, Queens Lil Joe (*pictured below*).



"They also have letters addressed to you, dated Sept. 10 and November 11, 1989. Those letters mention photos they sent and a copy of a letter they had written but not sent to "*The Walker*," Lewisburg, Tennessee about the beginnings of Walking Horses in Southern Alberta."

"I am wondering if you received a copy of those letters or photos and printed it in the *News*. I do not want to repeat stuff you have already published. The letters ask that you return photos and letters so maybe these are things you have previously published."

"It is fun to go to the Registry records and see all the horses that are descendants of the original stock that Ken and my dad brought up here from Montana, and who owns them,."

(Ed. Note: I do not remember receiving the letter and photos that you mention. Please do send an article and photos of those early horses!)



LORI DYBERG, WETASKIWIN, AB writes, "We are So proud of our horses! They did awesome at the CANADIAN COWBOY CHALLENGE FINALS yesterday!"

"Blair & Dodge (Northfork Cheerful Chipper) won Bucking Crazies (*below*)



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LOUISE ANDERSON, SOUTHBANK BC

writes, "I am sending my renewal for another year. And again..., Thank you for all your efforts to keep all of us Walking Horse people connected."

"Annie (aka Koko's Princess) and I didn't get much riding in this summer due to all the wild fires around us. All our horses and ponies were evacuated for over a month. They were boarded at a place in Smithers where they were treated like royalty so they didn't mind. But I sure missed them, and due to evacuation orders I couldn't leave home or I would not be allowed back. It was a crazy time; thankfully the fires did not reach our farm."

"Anyway, we have been going like crazy trying to put things back in order and get ready for winter. Maybe I'll get some winter sleigh riding in (if we don't get the 6 - 7 feet of snow we got last winter.) All round, this year has been a struggle for people, but the animals have just had to stand around and eat!"

From KARLA HANSEN, PONOKA, AB, "Hope everyone had a great summer. It went much too fast for me. I have been enjoying my 2018 palomino filly from Karla's Enticing Dawn by Smokey (Uphill Heir Trigger,). I am so thrilled with her willingness."

"I found a great trail this summer, close to home too, but only got out on it twice, pictured with Pal here. The fall colors were splendid. I hope we get some more nice fall riding in."



"I was at the Canadian Event held at Almonds Arena, just a short distance from my place. It was spectacular! Well received and well attended."



LESLIE HUNCHUK, MILLARVILLE, AB writes, "Above are Glo, Phoebe and Sparkle. Glo (Gloryious Emblem - center) was 28 this year. She loves the little ones, a great nanny. Sparkle (right) is Fran's filly, here on loan for the winter. I had Phoebe and half brother Shane DNA color tested. Phoebe is a Gold Cream Champagne with a grey modifying gene. Shane is Gold Cham -pagne with the grey gene as well. Sparkle is a Classic Champagne. Genetics is a world of its own!"



BRENDA BAKER, FOOTHILLS, AB writes, "Above is Amy Lauzon's filly, "Harriette". She was meeting me for the first time so her momma, Kit's Wicked War, made sure I was behaving myself. This very sweet filly is by Northfork Patch of Gold."

From ARLENE BOLES, THREE HILLS, AB, "Enclosed is \$24.00 for another year of *Walking Horse News*. Keep up the good work; it's a wonderful magazine. I enjoy all the stories."

MORE NEWS

From BILL HOWES, LAKE CHAPALA, MEXICO, "Not much has been happening in relation to horses. Our efforts last spring resulted in saving some of the worst of the worst in our local area. An 8 year-old trained stud, was found in horrible condition, with an owner too poor (& uneducated) to care. A 'gringa' girl bought him, had him vetted several times and eventually got him out of the city onto some grass. At one point, he was literally dying until we got some sugar -water poured into him. Someone had brought a huge pile of dry grass- clippings and he gorged himself on them."

"Several of the horses nicker to me now as I approach where they're tied to their weedpatches. They remember me carrying a bucket each morning last spring, with two or three feedings of grain for the most-needy of the bunch. I'm astounded to find that seemingly caring people, both Canadian & American, indicate willingness to help and then feed the damnedest things - like whole apples, cucumbers, tomatoes and stuff out of their fridges. But a pail of water and some real grass? Who knew? One middle-aged guy admitted to taking candies from the restaurant to his favorite foal. But a pail of water? Rainy season's ending soon and the weed patches will die".

"We're going to try a new approach to helping. If we can get willing donors to support creating a fund thru our charitable society, that can be made available to vets, it may help. Vets often find themselves unable, sometimes unwilling to help horses due to the owner's inability to pay or in cases where the owners can not be found when accidents occur and the vet must act. We think that if the vet knows he can apply to our society and be reasonably sure that he may be reimbursed for the worst of his expenses, (i.e. medicines etc.), he will be willing to help."

"For those horses lacking iproper & sufficient food, there is not much we can do when owners shun our 'gringo' help. If we could get agreement to provide de-wormers twice a year, at least the horses have a chance to survive. I never knew, until my time here, that horses could be this thin continually and still survive. Thankfully, most Mexicans take pride in caring for their horses and there are a lot of them. They ride in every festival!"



Above is a photo of FERMINA, owned by Diane Sczepanski of Northern Foundations Farm, Whitehall WI. She was announced in the August issue. This chestnut filly is by Walkien Jesse Skywalker out of Wilson's Ruby Roan, and looks like she is taking after her dad for colour and markings.

From DONNA CURTIS, CAMPBELL RIVER, BC, "Just got word from my son that my old Tennessee Walker gelding, Grandpa's Rocky Ride, passed away. So sad when they get old. That horse and I made many miles and he also gave my grandkids lots of happy trails."

"I don't have any horses in B.C. now, but the memories are sure super. Now I plant flowers and just remember the active days."

GRACE LARSON, KALISPEL, MT writes, "Hello to all my TWH friends. Not much news here now that I don't have horses. The couple that bought my Aunt Fay's place raise Simmental cattle and Josh trains horses. His wife, Sarah, is an expert AI gal and AI's the cattle they are breeding to purebred, top of the line Simmental. They have ranch roping at least once a month in the arena my aunt had built years ago. She is now almost 93 and enjoys going out and watching the ranch work. Josh and Sarah have a 5 year old son and 2 year old daughter and both ride horses. 5 year old Tel helps round up and sort cattle already. The only drawback is they have QH but I'm a TWH person."

No snow yet but it sounds like it will be here this coming week. I don't mind now I am retired with no chores except bird and squirrel feed-

READERS WRITE

BRENDA BAKER, FOOTHILLS, AB writes, "When I saw the pictures of the Canadian Event in the last *WHN*, I thought of Jo Kingsland. She was such an enthusiastic photographer for the CRTWH Futurities long ago. Dennis Little also helped out with his camera for at least one Futurity that I participated in. Quite a responsibility for them. I appreciate their efforts and have happy memories when I look at my Futurity pictures, remembering the excitement, intense concentration and the exhaustion of showing off my unpredictable youngsters."

"The volunteers during the Futurities became a very well organized group for many years, forming lasting friendships too. I'm sure they miss the Futurities as much as I do although I was just a competitor for the two days a year." "Thank you, Windi Scott, for your summary of the Event in the last *WHN*. I hope the volunteers gave themselves a pat on the back for getting the Event to work for many happy people. I've heard nothing but good things about it."

Ed. Note: If you'd like to walk down 'Memory Lane' at the Futurity there is an amazing slide show on the CRTWH website. There are photos of many of the people and horses that made it so special. Go to the Home page, click on History and Heritage at the very top, and then select 'Futurity Photo Gallery' from the drop-down menu. See how many horses (and people) you recognize!

BILL HOWES, MEXICO wrote, "As always, I thoroughly enjoyed the *Walking Horse News*, cover to cover (e-version). Though I have to say Ron Smith kind of left me in the dust, wondering; 'Now was that horse noddin'? "If He ain't noddin'; He ain't walkin'!" Over-stride? The distance that my TWH's hind foot print, stepped past the print of his same side front foot, was the only over-stride that I looked for. The more over-stride, the more head nod. If he can't do it, he can't walk! That's all I know and I'm sticking to it!"

"It gives me a lot of pleasure to see the A.W.H.A., participating throughout Alberta and now even north of Edmonton. I'm sure Helen Williamson would be especially proud. Great to see old friend Jack Gurnett out there doin' what he loves best! Keep on noddin', Jack !"



From JO-ANNE McDONALD, POUCE COUPE, BC, "Noticed the picture of Pride's Generator in the last *WHN*, from the cover of <u>Between Friends</u> by Peter Jenkins. I came across this photo that Don took of Pride's Generator in 1982 when he and Kirk Coburn were in Tennessee. As you can see he is decked out."

FOAL CALL

SORREL SABINO COLT - SCW Sam Hill (SCW Counting Cadence x Red Bud's Bullet Serenade.) 10-8-2018.(*Below*) Mark & Shellie Pacovsky, Slush Creek Walkers, Bainville, MT.



FAMILY TREES AND LIVING OFF-SHOOTS: HUNTER'S ALLEN F-10 by Franne Brandon

The state of Tennessee has always had blooded horses, Thoroughbreds and Standardbreds, highly successful on the track, and in the late 19th century, American Saddle Horses that were the peacocks of the tanbark. The gentlemen farmers in the country, however, needed a different type of horse, so they wove together various strains of stock that had proven capable of doing the jobs the farmers wanted their animals to perform. These strains of horses, some pedigreed and others not, were isolated in specific areas of Middle Tennessee until the early 20th century. However, their owners required certain traits in common. Roads were bad and terrains were hilly. The farmers needed strong, rugged horses with stamina. Because they liked comfort in the saddle, they wanted easy gaited horses, their preference being for a horse with the even, four beat gait that became known as the running walk. Because the farmers' horses interacted with their families, they needed smart, willing horses that would be safe for all members of the family to handle, ride or drive.

Into the Middle Tennessee easy-gaited horse scene came a registered black Standardbred pacer. Allan was the son of an outstanding trotter, Allandorf, and a mare of Morgan breeding named Maggie Marshall, but he preferred to pace. He was shuffled around from town to town until he finally acquired an owner named James Brantley. Brantley bred the black Standardbred to his best mares, as well as those of his neighbors, and the resulting foals attracted widespread attention.

One of those foals was out of a former doctor's mare known as Allis. Allis was the property of John Black, and he bred the big mare to James Brantley's Standardbred, Black Allan, to get a red foal in the spring of 1906. The foal matured to become a rich golden sorrel, with a naturally wavy mane and tail. As he grew up, he was sold by his breeder to J.W. Davis of Coffee County, Tennessee, who used him as a wagon horse. Davis sold him to John G. Walker.

In 1917 following his 4th victory in the Stallion Class at the Tennessee State Fair the mature show stallion was sold to Bright Hunter and his son, Burt, of Farmington, Tennessee, near Lewisburg. The Hunters offered him at stud at Hunter's Livery Stable in Lewisburg, but continued to campaign him as a show horse.

As a show stallion now known as Hunter's Allen, he won the Stallion Class at the Tennessee

State Fair, the ultimate prize for plantation stallions in the early 20th century, in 1912, 1913, 1916, 1917, and 1924. He also won the championship stake in 1916. He was known for his stamina and often won his class the day after traveling distances that would challenge a modern endurance horse. In his older years, the State Fair stake honors went to his sons and daughters in 1920, 1921, 1922, 1924, 1925, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1932, and 1933. The years that his offspring did not win, horses out of his daughters took top honors.

Hunter's Allen died in 1932 at the age of 26. His most prominent sons in the stud were Brown Allen, Last Chance, and Walker's Allen. Of these three, only Last Chance, out of Merry Legs F-4, can still be found on the top lines of the pedigrees of living walking horses.

Today's living walking horses that trace to Hunter's Allen F-10 on the top lines of their pedigrees do so through Last Chance and a grandson, Barker's Moonbeam, sired by Golden Sunshine F-44. Barker's Moonbeam was the sire of Allen's Gold Zephyr, who after standing at stud at Fisher's Palomino Farm in Soudertown, Pennsylvania, was sold to Roy Rogers and became known as <u>Trigger Jr</u>. Although the number of living horses that go back to Allen's Gold Zephyr on the top line is shrinking, a large number of living walkers, many of them still in lovely shades of gold, trace through mare lines back to Allen's Gold Zephyr and from him to Hunter's Allen F-10.



Last Chance stood for a lifetime at the Dement Farm in Normandy, Tennessee. When Albert Dement died, his son Arthur continued to raise the mostly chestnut or chestnut splash white horses for decades. The Dement Horse stallions and mares are now rare in the breed, but the bloodlines of Last Chance continue on through the many descendants of the 1963 World Grand Champion Sun's Delight D either at stud or in broodmares ranks around the world.

A colorful parade of stallion lines back to Last Chance trace to his son John A's Chance, a palomino show horse in the early fifties that founded a line of cream dilute walking horses. Due to the popularity of palominos and buckskins in the late nineties and early 21st century, grandsons, greatgrandsons, and great-great grandsons of John A's Chance are still seeing service in the stud in both the United States and in Canada. Offspring of these horses trace on their top lines back to Hunter's Allen F-10.

Hunter's Allen was known for his outstanding daughters as both show mares and brood matrons. Two lines in Canada tracing to Hunter's Allen through the distaff side are those of He'za Walker and Red Bud Allen.

He'za Walker (*above right*) was a chestnut stallion with three socks and a blaze. He did not sire a large pool of offspring, but those with his get have kept them in production instead of letting the lines die out. He'za Walker was a son of Rapid Joe, a grandson of Roan Allen F-38 on top but actually linebred to Hunter's Allen F-10 through his sire's dam and his own dam. He'za's son Northfork Sky Walker was used as a riding horse for most of his life. Grandson Walkien Jesse Skywalker by Northfork Sky Walker, passed certification to be registered with IHWHA, where his dam's lines back to Mack K's Handshaker and Sun's Delight D. put even more Hunter's Allen







blood into his offspring. .

Back in Middle Tennessee, in addition to Last Chance descendants, a line of pleasure walking horses traces to Hunter's Allen through a stallion named Red Bud Allen, whose dam was a daughter of F-10. Red Bud Allen was shown a little in the early forties, ridden consistently, and was very popular in the stud until the breed's popularity declined in his later years. Through his son, Red Bud's Rascal, there are more descendants of Hunter's Allen alive and thriving in Tennessee and across the American Southeast, and also in the Midwest, in western Canada, and in Europe and Israel.

Many of today's walking horse owners pride themselves on their horses' modern World Grand Champion bloodlines, but the grand old stallion from

the early twentieth century, Hunter's Allen F-10, continues to influence the pleasure segments of the breed through descendants that are both colorful and blessed with the natural walk for which the old show horse and sire was known and appreciated.

Sources - <u>Echo of Hoofbeats</u>, Third Edition, by Dr. Bob Womack. pages 143-148.

TWHBEA Studbooks, vol. 1, page 28

<u>4 Beat Magazine</u>, winter 1994. pages 5-12. "The Life and Times of Hunter's Allen F-10" by Ray Corum.

Two living descendants of Hunter's Allen are shown on next page; Uphill Star through both Allen's Gold Zepher & He'za Walker, & Uphill Heiress through Allen's Gold Zepher. Northfork Top Traveller, on the cover, is a grandson of He'za Walker, who has three lines back to Hunter's Allen. See the pedigree left.



What Do YOU

I (Marjorie Lacy) sent two of Betty's (Uphill Sand'N Sable) daughters off to boarding schools for the summer.

Lori and Blair Dyberg gave Northfork Cotton Trim aka Dusty (right) and Northfork Cheerful Chipper aka Dodge (left) some R & R. leave with their grandson. Looks as if both he and the horses are enjoying the grooming. The horses were campaigned extensively this past summer in the Cowboy Challenge circuit.







Right : Leslie Hunchuk is doing what we'll all be doing with our Walkers this winter... Feeding them! Nanny mare Glo oversees weanlings Sparkle and Phoebe at the hay bar. Sparkle is a classic champagne, Phoebe a gold crème champagne with a greying gene.

Left is Uphill Heiress (BiBi) with Paige Stern, and above is Uphill Star (Sugarlump) with Windi Scott. As you can see, both of them have learned a lot!



Walking Horse News December, 2018





The Canadian Walker

Volume 17, Issue 6

www.crtwh.ca

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DIRECTOR & FOUNDING MEMBER HILTON HACK

The Board of the Canadian Registry of the Tennessee Walking Horse regrets to announce that Hilton Hack of Calgary, AB has decided to retire from the Board after more than 35 consecutive years of service to the breed

Hilton was part of the beginning of the Canadian Walking Horse Association when a group of people with a love and respect for the Tennessee Walking Horse decided that it was time the breed was represented with its own association in Canada. As a founding father of the CRTWH, Hilton and that small group had a vision and the tenacity

to carry out that vision in the midst of opposition. Hilton was firmly convinced that we must identify and retain the strong, correct conformation and the true four-beat walking gaits for which the TWH was named, and he never faltered in his dedication to ensuring that the Registry upheld Canadian ideals and standards.

We will miss you, Hilton, but we know we can always ask for your advice when needed. You have certainly done more than your share toward establishing the TWH breed in Canada, and we are grateful for all that you've done for the Registry.

We know you won't be retiring from the horses; you'll still be as busy as ever with your Walkers at Calta Stables.

(Above, Hilton on the noted Alberta stallion he bred and raised, Calta Midnite Victry.)



Here are some D suggestions from

CRTWH for the 'horsey ones' on your gift list.

Give a spot on the web tribute site 'A HORSE TO REMEMBER'

to someone who has or used to have a very special horse. For a minimum donation of \$50 their horse can be memorialized forever on the CRTWH website. Send cheque or money order made out to CRTWH to Dianne Little, 619 Lake Linnet Crescent S.E., Calgary, AB T2J 2J3

THE RUNNING WALK OF THE **TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE**

VIDEO - Eldon Eadie's original tape is still one of the best for showing the different gaits, and explaining gaits in general. Now available for \$25 in DVD format, also from Dianne.

CRTWH DECALS

Clear decals with the Canadian logo and "Proudly Canadian Registered Tennessee Walking Horse" on them make great stocking stuffers. They can be used on the inside or the outside of your vehicle's window. Mailed for \$8 each, 2 for \$15 or 3 for \$20 from Dianne Little as well.

<u>COGITATIONS ON GAIT, GENETICS AND BIOMECHANICS</u> Part 4 by Ron Smith

Overstride in and of itself is not the most important issue in gaited horses. What is important is *smoothness* of gait. A trotting horse has its front and back end at mid stride at the same time, which raises and drops the whole horse with the resulting jarring. The same is true in the pacing horse. The pace adds an additional side to side motion to the uncomfortable rise and fall. If there is suspension in the trot or pace, the up and down motion is exaggerated and there is the added concussion when the horse hits the ground at the end of the suspension phase.

In the evenly timed gaited horse the front of the horse (withers) is at the top of the cycle as the limb passes through mid-stride but the back of the horse is at the bottom of the cycle leaving the middle of the horse, where the rider is positioned, always on the level.

Gait Chart-I	Flat W	alk						
croup		/				/		/
midback		~	< >			2		-
withers								
head nod		/						/
Left Hind								-
Right Hind							22	
Left front						f = 1		
Right Front								
tO	t1	t2	t3	t4	t5	t6	t7	t8

I have produced a few charts for different gaits to illustrate.

Time along the bottom is evenly spaced intervals corresponding to footfalls of the horse. A given foot is on the ground where it is black and in the air where it is white. At any given time, you can see where a given foot should be for an even four beat gait by following the chart vertically. For example, at t3 the right front is in

middle of its air phase and the left front is in the middle of its ground phase while the hind pair are both fully extended one forward and the other back both still on the ground. Note also how withers and croup undulation cancel each other out giving the glide ride. Long pasterns also help to dampen out the effects of the rise and fall due to rotation of the limb about the hip or shoulder.

SQUARE FLAT WALK

(Marcha do Centro) -Right front just passing, left front still on the ground. Here is a perfect example from the February, 2018 *WHN*.



Now let us check out the foot fall pattern of what most call the stepping pace. It is not really a pace as what is happening is that the lateral pairs are not quite in sync., the rear foot hitting just before the front on the same side. This is the same gait as the Brazilians call Marcha Picada but without so much knee action.

croup								
midback				-	-			~
withers					\frown		\frown	\checkmark
head nod								
Left Hind								
Right Hind								
Left front								
Right Front			1	123			-	
tO	t1	t2	t3	t4	t5	t6	t7	t8

Note for example at t3 when the back feet are extended, the left stretched back at the end of the ground phase and the right extended forward just starting the ground phase. The front pair are slightly out of phase with the back. The right front is still in the air just about ready to touch down, and the left front already past mid-point of the ground phase. In this example the rise and fall of the front and rear of the horse do not cancel out and the sum gives a slight up and down motion of the mid back.

Lastly, we will look at the trot.

At the trot front and rear pairs pass each at mid stride one foot on the ground, the other moving forward in the air. The following gait chart illustrates placement of each foot at any stage of the trot by following a vertical time line indicated at the bottom of the chart.



Note that the whole horse rises and falls with the footfall cycle, thus giving the bumpy ride of the trotting horse.

In Summary

A gaited horse is one that through a gene mutation is not 'hard wired' to trot. This anomaly results in a smooth gait due to the center of the horse where we ride moving along on the level - this due to the rise and fall of withers and croup cancelling each other out on middle gaits.

The closer the footfalls are to exactly opposite in phase, the smoother the horse. This is the case in all horses at the walk but comes into play at increased speeds on the gaited horses.

Application

Look for a horse that goes square at middle gaits. Tennessee Walking Horses being bred for the big lick shows may not be perfectly square. They are almost exactly pacing. Fox trotters have that little bump indicative of being on the trotty side. Brazilian Mangalarga Marchador horses are either trotty or pacey and so not perfectly smooth.

So, what to do?

My advice is to search the country for a naturally square horse. Be patient. Pacey horses square up somewhat as they age so look for a horse at least four or five years old. See if you can try one out for three months or so. During that three months ride the horse six days a week. As a pacey horse gets in better condition, it may square up, if they don't move on.

We do not always have the luxury of scouring the country for that perfect horse. We may even have raised a pacey horse ourselves and don't want to get rid of a cherished pet. So...

There are things we can do to alter the timing of the front and rear pairs and square up the horse.

Strengthen the bottom line by riding over trotting poles.

Do lots of hills and lots of trails.

- Don't let the horse pace, jog or trot while riding. These wonderful animals are happy to please. Most will do all sorts of combinations of gaits, so let them know which one you are happy with. They may eventually get the idea and go right into a nice square gait.
- Get them cantering properly in a small round pen (10 or 12 metres is ideal.) This will help ingrain a sense of the diagonal.

Collect them up a bit.

I was at a show once in Olds, AB where a young gal was distraught and weeping because her horse would just pace around the arena. She asked if I would see what I could do with the mare. (*Now here is where those long spurs I asked about in Brazil come in.) I hopped on the mare and wrapped my long legs under her, stimulating the rectus abdominus muscle, pulling the pelvis a bit forward, and Bingo! We had the glide ride. She went on to win the class and champion of champions. Perhaps those long shanked spurs help short riders touch that important muscle group.

Well folks, winter is coming, so I can only dream about next year's spring training... or if I should get some harness and learn to drive... or go competitive trail riding... or show... or start a breeding program...

Remember - a day without riding is no day at all!

* The spur hanging on the wall of the Brazilian haras that Ron visited It had an eight-inch shank and a four-inch diameter rowel. What in the world would anyone want with a spur like that? Ron's theory above!



SKIPPY GOES TO THE MOUNTAINS by Merinda Reid

In April, I purchased a dainty six year old black mare (Skippity Do Dah) for my grand-daughter to ride.

The first day of summer holidays, Skippy was introduced to her young rider. Acadia was very taken with her and Skippy seemed aware that she had a child on her back. While Acadia is still taking lessons in the round corral, it's up to Nana to give Skippy some mountain experience.

July 7th her mountain experience started with her first pack trip adventure. We packed in behind two wagons. The original plan was for me to ride Skippy and lead my horse Sunny (Sundance Kid) as my pack horse. Dave had given him a trial run a couple of weeks before we left and he was excellent.

Skippy being so quiet, we left it at that. When we started out on the trail, Skippy was having no part of leading a pack horse. I wish I could have had a video of those side passes. A girl who had all her essentials in one of the wagons offered to lead Sunny. Whew !!

After we got underway, another issue came up. She seemed to think that going down the trail meant walking with her chin on the tail of the horse in front of her. Not a great idea at the best of times but a really bad idea when pack horses are involved.

I tried the circling manoever whenever she did that but it didn't help much, as she walks so fast she was right back on that tail in minutes. So down the trail we go circling first one way and then the other. At this point, I need to mention that I had put my slicker and Skippy's halter in the cantle bag behind my saddle. After a few miles Skippy is turning some fairly tight circles, tight enough that the cantle bag flops to the outside, pulling the saddle over and me with it.

Witnesses say that I stuck with it until it was right under her belly.

To her credit, she did nothing but keep turning until I landed on my back underneath her. She gave a jump to make sure she was clear of me and then let into rodeo-worthy bucking. She bucked until she broke the breast collar, the latigo buckle came undone and she was free of that saddle.

While I'm dusting myself off, Dave caught and re-saddled her. I threw that cantle bag in one of the wagons, climbed aboard and we resumed circling down the trail. When we got to 40 Mile Cabin, we met a rider coming from the other direction who warned us the river was too high for wagons to cross. After a brief consultation we decided to go no further and make camp where we were. was to check out that river crossing. The water didn't come much higher than the horses knees with the exception of a pool on the down stream side of the crossing.

Trust me, l wasn't asleep but, Skippy is small and quick. Tired of waiting for Jethro to cross, she jumped onto the grassy bank and dove into that pool landing in chest high water. I got both boots full but Skippy didn't miss a stride and waded out like a water expert.

Several miles later, we were coming off the trail into a meadow, there was a huge fallen spruce parallel to the trail at the mouth of the clearing. I think her reasoning was "I can get under that" and she did clearing the saddle horn by at least a couple of inches. Guess what happened to me? Flat on my back again. While I am pulling a wet boot onto a wet sock with the help of a plastic bag, one of the girls said "Merinda, I am so glad we brought you along, you are great entertainment. First, you scare us all half to death, and when we realize you are alright, we all get a good laugh."

The next river crossing was fairly deep, Skippy waded right in and about half way across, stretched out her neck and put out her chin. By her movements it felt like she was trying to swim, but realized she didn't have enough water so just continued on.

The third day was a short riding day because it looked like rain and we didn't want to get too far from camp.

The fourth day, we rode to Lost Guide Lake, a lake discovered by Dewey Browning (Kurt's dad) and Skippy took her first real climb. She did amazingly well, not at all daunted by the steepness nor the height of the climb.

At the top, she got to eat some real grass while I fished for cutthroat trout. We got back to camp about suppertime. What a perfect day!

The fifth day saw us at 7,000 feet on 40 Mile Ridge. Skippy took to climbing like she took to water. She was so willing and energetic. The day was picture perfect - no wind and no bugs. While I took pictures and checked out the alpine flowers, my little horse had lunch and a nap.

Even though she kept up with the others on the way down she was subdued enough that I knew she was tired.

But for Skippy, pure adrenaline flows out of those mountains. Dave and I stopped for awhile and let the others go ahead. Making our way back, we were unsure where they had crossed the river.

The next morning, the obvious thing to do

I, like Skip, can be a bit short on patience, so while Dave and Jethro were trying to decide where to cross, I saw a likely spot and Skippy didn't hesitate. Three steps in she was up to her chest; on the fourth she was swimming. She swam a couple of horse lengths and then her front feet found the shelf and she pulled us out of that hole like a pro.



The last trail day was on level ground so Dave rode my horse Sunny and let Jethro stay in camp. We checked out all the hunting camps and then decided to continue on to Suicide Bridge, not an auspicous name in my opinion. Suicide Bridge turned out to be a small corduroy bridge across a shallow gully. The first horse crossed without incident, the second cracked a log. I was third and chose to lead Skippy across. She stepped daintily over and all was good.

Sunny was fourth. When he stepped on the log in front of the cracked one, it rolled and both front feet went through the cracked one. He sank to his chest, calmly put himself into rear wheel drive and lifted all 235 lbs of Dave, saddle and etc. gracefully out without leaving a mark on himself. Dave and the rest of the riders rode further on to find a safer crossing. A hundred yards up there was a good solid place to cross, so why the Suicide Bridge ? Once everyone was across, it was time to turn around. My little Skippy with only 6 days trail experience was confident enough to step out front and lead everyone back to camp.

Next day, we had to head back to the staging area. It was a fabulous week and I went home with wonderful memories, new friends and the knowledge that a certain little black mare had proven her worth.

Postscript: Opposite are photos of Acadia's first ride outside of the round corral. Note the perfect distance Skippy is following Jethro. All those circles paid off.





Walking Horse News December, 2018



REHABILITATING CINNAMON'S BACK MUSCLES

by Allanna Lea Jackson © October, 2018

It's been a year and a half since Cinnamon was diagnosed with atrophy of the left lumbar epaxial muscle caused by saddles that did not fit. The problem developed over a period of several years so recovery is slow.

Cinnamon's initial therapy consisted of 10 days of rest and Banamine followed by a gradual return to work in-hand and then riding. I rode her bareback for six months in the summer and fall of 2017 while obtaining a custom-fitted saddle. When the new saddle arrived Cinnamon fussed about being cinched up just as she had with the other saddles. That made it hard to determine whether this was just habit and memory or if she was telling me the new saddle didn't fit. I tried several girthing configurations before finding the one that we both liked. Cinnamon's cinchy-ness has gradually subsided though she still fusses a little.

Riding with the new saddle told a different story as Cinnamon strode out more energetically and finally began developing some consistency in her middle gaits. This did re-engage the atrophied back muscles, as evidenced by the quick onset of muscle fatigue that made Cinnamon suddenly want to drop to a walk and sometimes left her slightly gimpy after we practiced gaiting. The ongoing challenge has been trying to correctly guess how much of what type of exercise will stress the muscles enough to strengthen and straighten Cinnamon without causing additional injury. Sometimes I guess wrong. Occasional doses of Bute and lighter work or a little rest have gotten us past those mistakes.

After six months of trail riding with the new saddle I took a lesson from professional horse trainer and certified riding instructor Trish Beres-Zaable. Trish recommended in-hand work that consisted of asking Cinnamon to walk with more impulsion, and practicing lots of transitions between walk and stop. She also suggested walking Cinnamon over cavaletti. Cinnamon grudgingly tolerated this work but made it plain she prefers trail riding. Cinnamon has always detested lunging and expresses this by walking as slowly as possible, then bolting, kicking, and cutting in when asked to do faster gaits. I have to reprimand her for the dangerous behavior and insist that she lunge correctly. I reward her when she lunges nicely. I don't like fighting with my horses so we don't lunge very often. The circling and bending involved in lunging seems to aggravate Cinnamon's minor aches and pains which is probably why she objects to lunging.

Several weeks later I took another lesson from Trish and explained the attitude problem about ground work. Trish watched me ride, then rode Cinnamon briefly herself and quickly identified Cinnamon's crookedness and imbalance. She advised practicing side pass and leg yield while riding, emphasizing doing them slowly, straight, and in balance since Cinnamon and I were both tending to rush and be crooked. I added a few steps of both movements interspersed in our trail rides. Cinnamon is much more willing to do schooling exercises on the trail than she is in a ring. This was resuming something we'd done when Cinnamon was younger.

Cinnamon's leg yield slowly improved. When I thought Cinnamon was doing well enough to progress to the next step I consulted Trish again. This time we got together for a trail ride on the Land of Pioneers Trail, which Trish had never ridden before. Trish brought her pinto Foxtrotter mare, Billy, and we had so much fun we forgot to talk about shoulder-in. This gave us an excuse to schedule another trail ride, this time on the Ice Cave Trail. This ride included an unplanned schooling session while Trish persuaded Billy to cross Porter Creek. We found a place on the trail where Trish and Billy could demonstrate shoulderin and Cinnamon and I could try it. On the way home Cinnamon tried to kick Billy. I punished Cinnamon for that outburst of unacceptable behavior and after a couple of protests Cinnamon subsided to behaving herself.

On August 14 Cinnamon suffered an acute allergic reaction that caused her such difficulty breathing she required veterinary treatment. We never did figure out what triggered the problem. The vet indicated Cinnamon seems to have developed heaves which creates another obstacle to our quest for Horsemanship 3.

I added steps of shoulder-in to the side passing and leg yielding that Cinnamon and I were doing out on the trail. Occasional lunging sessions confirmed what I was feeling under saddle: she was still crooked and was still guarding her back muscles instead of working them. The Training Levels Challenge Horsemanship Test 3 indirectly offered an answer to this problem. Attempting to back in a cloverleaf pattern proved to be so difficult for Cinnamon she resisted by balking, bending the wrong way, and rushing. I simplified the exercise into backing only a quarter turn in each direction around only one stump, bush, or tree.

Much to Cinnamon's disgust, I've been asking her to turn while backing at least once each direction on every trail ride. One day Cinnamon got so upset she rushed backward over the top of the stump I was asking her to back around and scraped some hair off her hind legs. After that she decided to pay attention and not make the exercise harder than what I was actually asking her for.

The combination of leg yield, shoulder-in, side passing across logs, backing in straight lines, backing up slight inclines, and backing around stumps and trees on the trail is finally achieving the straightening and strengthening Cinnamon needs. On October 13, 2018, Cinnamon was able to give me a correct left lead gallop on the first try when I asked for it. She then also took the right lead easily and correctly. Oddly enough, the very short gallops seemed to help Cinnamon breathe easier than she had been just flat walking before we did the faster work.



When fitting a saddle we hear most about correct fit at the withers. We seldom hear about correct fit at the back and loins. However, the loin area is where Cinnamon's saddle-fit injury was! Another critical dimension is the length of the saddle tree, which should sit behind the shoulder blade at the front, and extend no further than the horse's last rib at the back. Cinnamon is so short from scapula to last rib that it was impossible to make a western saddle tree short enough to fit her!

We're really liking the balanced seat position of this endurance saddle, but sometimes I miss having a saddle horn to hang my camera on.

"MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR from the AWHA"



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Stay tuned, plans are in the works for an exciting 2019.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Tentative date Feb 02, 2019 Location to be announced

AWHA MEMBERSHIP:

Contact: Joanne McKenzie 780-951-6551 / jmankow@gmail.com (AWHA events require AWHA and AEF Membership)

AWHA Jackets: available for purchase. Call/text Bobbie 780-706-1706 for information.

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Walking Horse News December, 2018

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GIFTS FOR THE TWH FANCIER

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, PO Box U, Lakeside, AZ 85929 -0585. 1-928-367-2076. Payments accepted by check or money order.

EASY GAITED HORSES by Lee Ziegler, Storey Publishing. 247 pages, Paperback. www.storey.com.

BACK YARD WALKIN' Training Tips by Allanna Jackson. Available from Four Craftsmen Publishing, P.O. Box U, Lakeside AZ 85929-0585 1(928) 367-2076. Payments accepted by check or money order.

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

TRAIL RIDING, Train, Prepare, Pack Up and Hit the Trail 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.

VIDEO - THE RUNNING WALK OF THE TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE. Eldon Eadie's original tape is still one of the best for showing the different gaits, and explaining gaits in general. Now available for \$25 in DVD format. CRTWH, D. Little, 619 Lake Linnet Cres. S.E., Calgary, AB T2J 2J3.

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THE CRTWH PROGRAM FOR EXCELLENCE & TRAINING LEVELS videos are due NOVEMBER 30. Submit them for the 2018 TLC or PFE Programs. For more information please go to the website crtwh.ca or contact Dianne Little at 403-271-7391 or mail to 619 Lake Linnet Cres. S.E., CALGARY, AB T2J 2J3.

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