

FEBRUARY 2017  
VOLUME XLI, No. 1



# Walking Horse News



DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN-SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE SINCE 1977



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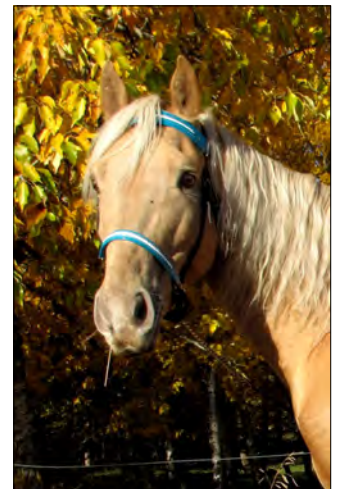


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## On Our Cover

JEFF & DARCI DEJAX,  
SUNDRE, AB  
raised these two  
black geldings  
from yearlings,  
and are now  
beginning to  
enjoy them  
under saddle.  
Here they are with  
"Dragonstone" &  
"Dynas Derringer"  
after a magical  
ride through  
a summer storm.  
See their news note  
on page 5.

Photo courtesy of  
Darci Dejax

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for Jan/Feb issue  
JANUARY 7

**for Mar/Apr issue  
MARCH 7**

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for July/Aug issue  
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Volume LVI, # 1 January/February, 2017

Dear Subscribers,

Happy New Year once again! There are quite a few TWH activities already announced for 2017. And I'm sure there are more that I haven't heard about. Be sure to send in news of any you are planning or know about. Check page 24 for Coming Events.

This year marks the 35th anniversary of the Canadian Registry of the Tennessee Walking Horse. When I got my first Walkers in 1974 the only registry was the U.S. one and there were very few purebred animals available in Canada. The only option for registering in our own country was the General Stud and Herd Book of Canadian National Live Stock Records. Once the Canadian Walking Horse Association formed in 1982, Walkers became eligible to have their own studbook. Now our pedigree records are available on-line at clrc.ca and we have nearly 4000 CRTWH registered Walking Horses.

I'm looking for more History and Heritage stories from you, readers! I'm sure the stories are out there - they just need to be written. Let's hear from you.

Meanwhile, the days are getting longer and the sun stays up a bit later every day. Winter has a ways to go yet, but on warm days the chickadees are saying "Spring's coming".

I hope you all have lots of feed for your horses for the rest of the winter, however long or short it turns out to be.

Until next time,

*Marjorie*



Here's what I do with my horses in winter - besides feed them!

WHN makes a  
great gift!

February, 2017

# Walking Horse News

"DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN-SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE SINCE 1977"

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*Thank you for advertising in*

***WALKING HORSE NEWS!***



# NEWS - NEWS - NEWS



DARCI DEJAX, SUNDRE, AB, writes, “Jeff and I would like to renew our subscription to *Walking Horse News* for another year. Thanks for your magazine. It's nice to feel connected to the Walker world!”

“We also wanted to say a hearty “Thank You” to Brenda and Dave Baker, Triangle B Walkers! We bought two yearling geldings from them two years ago and we couldn't be happier with them. Thank you for the great start that you gave them. They have a superb foundation of trust. They are both under saddle now and they just take everything in stride. Above and on the cover are pictures of our boys, "Dragonstone" and "Dynas Derringer" or Kody for short. (And no, they are not for sale!) We plan to enjoy them for a very long time.”

From JOYCE PATTERSON, CAWSTON, BC, “I just have two ponies left: Blue-Bell's daughter (she's in her twenties) and DD, Blue's half-sister. She's well into her twenties now too – but come to think of it, I'm pushing 91 myself! I go out and talk to the girls but I didn't get any riding in this summer. I have to take both out if I go, and I can't get my daughter to go out with me... There's always an excuse.”

“Our winter has been wonderful so far, lots of sun and not much rain. We could stand a good night's rain. The fall was dandy too, and our two fruit trees had nice sweet fruit. Our garden was nice too until those darn deer came and cleaned up two rows of carrots, two of beets, and we were only able to save a box of spuds! “

“Bye for now, and hope everyone had a Merry Christmas!”

From NATALIE SPECKMAIER, VANCOUVER, BC, “I'm always impressed with the pictures of winter riders in *WHN*. You GO, you hardy, fearless, dedicated riders!!”

“Oh, wait - I have pictures on my rotating Trigger screen saver (*bad* Grandma! Only Trigger on there) taken in winter. Debbie Smith and I rode if it was at least 5 degrees, bundled to the ears with cold weather gear. (Four layers, fleece lined jeans, thermal underwear and socks, fleece helmet cover with built in neck.) Gives the term "cool hand" a whole new meaning. Those were the days.”

“Happy trails to all, *in* the snow, or *not*.”



We know there are CRTWH in several European countries - such as Switzerland, Germany, Italy - but now there's a Canadian registered Tennessee Walking in Sweden! CAROLINE VON HORN purchased WHM Pegasus the Second #3845 last summer. By Jus' Touch One Star out of Cherokee's Chestnut Charm, he was bred by Ernie and Mavis Wall at their Walking Horse Meadows farm near Saskatoon, SK. This nice yearling colt is a chestnut with star and stripe and four white fetlocks.

Congratulations, Caroline. We wish you all the best with him.



BRENDA BAKER, CALGARY, writes, "I have sold Kodiak's Dyna C.F. to a lovely young woman from Vulcan to be her first horse. Now, since I've sold my main riding horse, I'll have to start riding some of the youngsters that have been wanting a job!"

"We've also sold Holy Smokes, Dave's horse. She went to the Milk River area to be a lawn mower and family horse. She now lives on a 10+ acre yard with two normal sized horses, a miniature horse, 2 alpacas and a Great Pyrenees dog. Please send a complimentary copy of the *WHN* to these new TWH owners." *Below is Dave with Holy Smokes.*



I had a phone call in December from DONNA HENRY. She has moved back from B.C. after 30 years and is now living up at BLUE SKY, AB. Those who have owned TWH in Alberta for a while will remember Donna exhibiting her stallion, Shadow's Redman, at Lloydminster in 1981. He was a tall 1969 sorrel stallion by Shadow's Brantley out of Kiltie. One of Redman's offspring was Jo Kingsland's mare, Candy's Bay Lady 2. Donna has recently purchased a yearling colt and is looking for a partner for him.

I had a short note from IAN GREEN, BOWMANVILLE, ON. Ian says he has finally agreed with his family not to ride any more, now that he has reached 88 years of age.

Ian writes, "I see that Charis Cooper of Turner Valley, AB still rides. Good for her!"

"As usual, my thanks for your continued work on the magazine."

You've still done better than most, Ian, riding well into your eighties!

## HUGH ASHWELL

1938 - 2016



Hugh Ashwell of Edson, AB, passed away gently at the age of 78 on November 23, 2016. Hugh was a *WHN* subscriber for many years. He proudly rode his big Walking Horse on the trails, many of them ones that he'd spent much time clearing and maintaining.

A few years ago, when in his seventies, he became interested in the Wild Pink Yonder Rides to raise funds for cancer research. Hugh and his TWH took part in several of these, & raised a lot of money.

As an expression of sympathy and in loving memory of Hugh, memorial contributions may be made to: Wild Pink Yonder Charitable Society, Box 97, Lamont, Alberta T0B 2R0 or to Friends of The Eastern Slopes Association, Box 6093, Innisfail, Alberta T4G 1E3.

We'll miss you, Hugh.

KARLA HANSEN, PONOKA, AB writes, "Hello, fellow frost bitten Walking Horse Lovers. I hope this finds you all healthy and happy and warm after the festive season. It's pretty hard to find nice days for a ride... but we have managed to get out a couple of times this winter. See the photo of my Alanza and me on our way back from visiting a couple of neighbors on the 'What Do You Do with Your TWH in Winter' page. She is such a pleasure to ride, and easy going - like so many of our Walkers! She hasn't been to the mountains yet, but this year she will get the experience! I see the Breeders and Owners Conference is in Sherwood Park this year. I don't know if I will be able to make it this year, but I *will* look forward to and be at the CRTWH AGM! And the MANE Event."

## READERS WRITE



MADELEINE CHAPMAN, STETTLER, AB writes, "I was going through old pictures and found this one (*above*) of Jack before the war. I think his niece gave it to us fairly recently. His mother's house burnt down about 1950 so lots of pictures were lost forever. His older sister must have had this one."

"Anyway, on the back it says "Spade, Kentucky Whip Stallion". These were the gaited horses that got Jack interested in Walking Horses. Before the war Jack took care of a ranch in the hills south of Erskine, which is just seven miles west of Stettler. The fellow was a butcher in Erskine and had a herd of "Kentucky Whips".

"We could never find any information about that breed but in conversation with Eldon Eadie three years ago he told me that it was not a breed, but in earlier times the offspring of certain stallions would be named after their ancestor, ie. "Kentucky Whip". Just thought you and the *WHN* readers would enjoy seeing the photo as much as I have."

From ALLANNA JACKSON, LAKESIDE, AZ, "Your re-print of the first Canadian Walking Horse Association brochure in the last issue of *WHN* was interesting. I like the Canadian Registry's honesty about the multi-gaitedness of the breed, because it is an inherited characteristic of most TWH. (It's especially so since they are now all descended from Roan Allen F-38 who was trained to do seven gaits on command)."

"I also like that the original brochure emphasized the canter being a 3-beat gait."

BILL GRAHAM, MOOSE JAW, SK, wrote, "I read with interest your articles in the October issue regarding puncture wounds. I had a similar incident a few years ago while riding in the Cypress Hills. I was riding my mare across a low, boggy area that had some piles of branches and willow sticks. Upon reaching the other side I noticed she had a branch about four feet long and about one inch around stuck between her udder and her thigh."

"I was able to remove it – it had penetrated about two inches. I saw the branch was caught between the rear cinch and her belly. (I was in the habit of leaving the rear cinch loose, hanging down two to four inches.) Luckily I was able to treat her with medication and she recovered fully."

"So after that I would recommend that riders who use a rear cinch tighten it securely to avoid accidents that may cause injury to either the horse or the rider."

From NATALIE SPECKMAIER, VANCOUVER, BC, "Thanks for letting us know about the new 'A Horse to Remember' feature on the CRTWH website. What a lovely story submitted by Dianne Little about her journey towards a partnership with Tiffany. An inspiration to all, and in particular, to me, struggling to regain any horsemanship I had (or at least hoped I had) after two plus years out of the saddle. Luckily I have a good, forgiving horse (bless you, Trigger) who only rolls her eyes when my leg has trouble clearing her rump while mounting and dismounting. We're just two arthritic old gals doing the best we can."

"I very much enjoy all the good horse stuff out there that stokes my inner cowboy i.e. *WHN*, Canadian Walker, Heritage Highlights, and Jonathan Field's Inspired by Horses monthly videos. All of these help to keep ME inspired by horses and excited about getting out on the trails whenever the opportunity presents itself."

"Thanks again for keeping "the word" out there, Marjorie. Much appreciated."

FRANNE BRANDON, PETERSBURG, TN writes, "I love *WHN* in the online color version. The photos just jump out and tie everything together so beautifully."

Ed. Note: I've been creating an e-mail version of *Walking Horse News* to send to subscribers too far away to make mailing an actual magazine practical. If you are a subscriber who'd like the e-mail version of *WHN* in colour, let me know and I'll put you on the e-mailing list as well. Let me know if you want both the real and the virtual versions.





From **KIM PIELAK, NITON JUNCTION, AB,**  
 “I had the great pleasure in August to join the Wild Pink Yonder Ride (to raise funds for cancer research) again for the second year. This year I had the great honor of having my mother join me. We rode with the WPY for five days. Joined up in Olds and rode through to Donald. What a great experience! We both loved it. This year I rode a new mount, Casper (Treasures Snowy Cloud). He proved to be a great minded mount that is

excited to see new adventures. Everything we did was his very first experience, every parade, train, crowd, barn, herd of cattle. He did me very proud for sure. My mother, Myra Abstreiter, rode my faithful mount and her favorite ride, Gunner (Hillbilly Mountain Man). True to form Gunner was great with all the experiences and handled the crowds with grace as the experienced mount he is. *Top picture is of us in Big Valley beside the Train after it rolled into town and we greeted all its passengers.”*

“I dressed Casper up as a unicorn, *photo above*. What a hit with the little girls! Many got their pictures taken with Casper. He seemed to know how important it was to them and stood so calm and patiently.”

“Bill and I got our yearly get-away into the Wilmore Wilderness this past summer, one of our all-time favorite places to get away to. On one of our day rides, while taking our dogs on the trail with us, our old time trail partner, Fritter, tuckered out and needed a rest. *Bill is riding Major By Chance in this picture and holding the dog*. Fritter even looks like he is very much enjoying the smooth ride of the Major.”

“And Major didn't mind, just sidled up to the bank to let Fritter off.”





## DNA TESTING FOR HORSES

### PARENTAGE VERIFICATION

If you have raised a TWH foal in Canada over the past 14 years, you will be familiar with DNA testing of horses for parentage verification. To be CRTWH registered, Walking Horse foals (and their parents) must be DNA'd, then checked that they match the parents listed, to be sure the registration papers are accurate.

It's not an onerous task for owners – just a matter of pulling 25 to 35 hairs from the mane or tail, making sure they have the little hair bulbs or follicles attached, and then carefully taping them onto a sheet and mailing to the lab. CRTWH contracts all registrations with Canadian Livestock Records Corporation who use the Maxxam lab in Guelph, ON. But now there are a myriad of DNA tests for horses other than parentage verification.

### DMRT3 GAIT PERFORMANCE

Horse gaits are the various ways in which a horse can move.

Horses generally have four naturally occurring gaits. In increasing order of speed the four are: a walk, a trot, a canter, and a gallop. Even though the canter is distinguished by having three beats and the gallop has four beats, some people consider the canter to be just a variation of the gallop.

Scientists in Sweden discovered that DNA mutations in a single gene (DMRT3) influence a horse's ability to trot or pace. This mutation also affects the tendency of some horses to break their gait and go into a gallop. The genetic test identifies the presence of this mutation in certain breeds.

Tennessee Walkers are one of these breeds. If you'd like to find out more about the gait genes *your* horse carries, the test is now available in North America through Animal Genetics Inc., Tallahassee, Florida. Cost of the test is \$125.00 U.S.

### TESTS FOR COLOUR

There are also many tests now available for colour, dilution and pattern through this same company.

#### BASE COLOR

Every horse has a base color, which can be black, bay, or red. This is controlled by the Extension (Red/Black Factor) and Agouti genes. The Extension gene controls the production of black or red pigment throughout the coat. The allele for black color (E) is dominant over the red allele (e), so a horse only

needs one copy of the black allele to appear black-based.

The Agouti gene can then modify black pigment by pushing it to the points of the horse, creating a bay. The Agouti gene is dominant, so a black pigmented horse only needs one copy of the Agouti gene (A) to appear bay. Agouti does not have any effect on red pigment.

There may be some variation in the intensity of the base colors, for example, dark bays compared to light bays or liver chestnuts to sorrels. This could be caused by a variation in the expression of the genes or interaction of other genetic factors.

### DILUTIONS

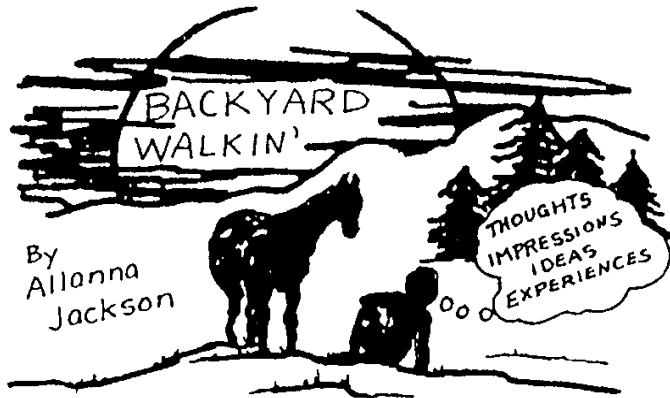
The rest of the color genes act as modifiers on the base coat of the horse. There are several genes that dilute the color of the horse, including Cream, Pearl, Champagne, Silver, and Dun. While these genes all function to dilute pigment, they are not all expressed in the same manner. The Dun and Champagne genes are dominant, as is Silver, although Silver does not affect red pigment. The Cream gene is incompletely dominant, meaning you will see different effects with the number of Cream genes present, and the Pearl Gene is recessive. The Cream and Pearl genes do have additive effects, so color testing can be an important tool to determine the correct color of a horse and what it may be able to pass on. The Grey gene causes a horse to 'grey out' over time, and is dominant, although homozygous horses tend to grey out faster.

It is thought that there are other color modifiers, such as Flaxen or Sooty, but the genetic basis to these colors have not yet been determined.

### PATTERNS AND DEPIGMENTATION

The pattern genes also modify the color of the horse by deleting color. These genes include Frame Overo, Splashed White Overo, Sabino1, Tobiano, Dominant White, and Leopard Print or Appaloosa. The term 'overo' is a general term used to describe a patterned horse. Thus, a horse that is termed a "Tovero" is a combination of a Tobiano and another overo gene, whereas an 'overo' horse could mean any of the patterned genes, such as Frame or Sabino.

Animal Genetics Inc. has a "Coat Color Calculator" on their website where you can enter the colours of your prospective horse mates to see what colours the foal might possibly be. It is a very interesting exercise. Check 'Coat Color Calculator' on your computer to see colour possibilities for your match.



## MY HORSE TO REMEMBER:

### SACIA'S PRIDE:

#### Better Than My Dreams

By Allanna Lea Jackson © Nov. 2005 and Jan. 2017

Sacia's Pride, a.k.a. "Sassy" was my first horse, purchased in mid-October, 1981, when I was just 18. I was a novice who knew almost nothing about horses. Sassy was a timid, green-broke, half blind, barefoot, pregnant, 7½-year-old, Tennessee Walking Horse mare. It should not have worked yet it did because it was a partnership created by God.

Sacia's Pride 745076 TWHBEA (Gold Rush Rocky 664916 x Katrina's Dolly 692114) was bred by Ethna M. "Blondy" Friesen of Polson, Montana. John Sacia purchased Katrina's Dolly in the fall of 1973 hoping to entice his wife, Jane, to share his interest in riding.

On April 8, 1974, Dolly produced a chestnut filly with no markings who grew up into a smaller, more feminine version of her sire.

Dolly's filly suffered a severe wire cut on her right hind hoof when she was only one month old. She received more shots in the rump than most horses ever get. John Sacia recalled, "She was always real easy to handle, considering." She recovered completely and was registered as Sacia's Pride, the property of Mrs. Jane A. Sacia, Missoula, Montana.

In the fall of 1975 John Sacia started Sacia's Pride by driving her from the ground with a saddle, then leading her around the pasture with his 11-year-old son Kent on her back. John rode her briefly a few times. A dozen years later Sacia's Pride remembered John's training well enough to teach me the basics of ground driving.

The Sacias sold Sacia's Pride to Robert R. Ott, Paradise, Montana, in 1976. Bob Ott bought her as a broodmare for his stallion, Shadow of Roan Allen 732190 (Merry Mickey T. 685122 x Copperbottom Patty 610065). Bob dubbed Sacia's Pride "Sassy." He moved to Arizona that winter bringing Sassy and Shadow of Roan Allen with him.

Sassy was not yet three years old when a tumbleweed thorn caught in her left eye and festered.

Extensive treatment saved her eye, but not her vision, so she was 80% blind in her left eye. The damaged eye had intermittent problems for the rest of her life, and ultimately killed her.

Sassy produced three healthy foals in four years, all sired by Shadow of Roan Allen. Ott's Sugar Allen 783402, a 1978 chestnut gelding, became a kid's horse. The 1979 chestnut colt Merry Allen's Shadow 790411 was sold as a stallion prospect but injured his neck in transit to his new home and was donated to Colorado State University's veterinary college and research program. The 1980 sorrel mare Otts Sunny Sue Allen 800265 found a home locally as a pleasure horse. All three lacked the extensive white markings Bob Ott wanted so he sold Sassy to me. Bob did not tell me Sassy might be pregnant until after I'd bought her. She produced her fourth and last live foal on Sept. 3, 1982. The dark chestnut filly Lea's Autumn Pride 822939 was reportedly also sired by Shadow of Roan Allen. None of the progeny of Sacia's Pride produced any registered TWH foals, though Lea's Autumn Pride did produce a half-Arabian filly around 1986, a couple of years after I'd sold her.

Sassy and I taught each other by trial and error using Johnny Berguson's "World's Most Complete Course in Horse Training", a few books, and numerous magazine articles. In 1984 I took half a dozen riding lessons from a graduate of Meredith Manor on her Appaloosa gelding. She taught me how to train Sassy to canter. In 1985 and 1986 I took a horse science and horsemanship classes from the local Junior College, riding the instructor's appendix Quarter Horse gelding or another student's Saddlebred mare. Mostly it was Jesus, Sassy and me figuring out how to train Sassy. All of the other horses I have owned have benefitted from what Sassy taught me. There were no TWH trainers or instructors within 200 miles. It didn't matter because I could not have paid for their assistance any way.

This go-it-alone approach proved to be a blessing in disguise. The methods professional TWH trainers recommended in books and magazine articles messed up Sassy's inherited running walk and taught her to pace. We both became so confused that in 1984 I began my own research to find the truth about natural gaits and Walking Horses. The training information I gleaned from non-gaited sources produced more desirable results than what the TWH "experts" taught.

Around that same time, 1984, my farrier, Rick Harvey, began teaching me the truth about anatomically correct hoof trimming and the humane uses of shoeing for protection, traction, or therapy only. Sassy was shod with plain steel shoes that weighed only 8 ounces each because she needed the protection. I rode her so much and the terrain here is so rocky that leaving her barefoot was not an option. Research and development of hoof boots was just beginning and had not yet produced a satisfactory alternative to steel shoes for trail riding in the mountains.



Beginning in 1987, Lee Ziegler taught me about posture and gait through our private letters and a video she made of her own Foxtrotters. I rode Sassy at a 4 mph natural flat-foot walk most of the time and she had developed on excellent lope on both leads. Sassy had flat walked over a thousand miles on the trails by the time I learned how to let her do her inherited walk with the style and speed God gave her. When Sassy realized I wanted her inherited running walk she was so happy and relieved it took only three weeks to correct the gait problems caused by six years of riding her wrong!

Despite my ignorance, incompetence, blundering ineptness, and moments of unwitting cruelty Sassy became a trail and versatility horse. She carried me over ten thousand miles on mountain trails. We rode alone most of the time. We had no accidents and only lost one shoe.

We enjoyed a few group trail rides and a couple of overnight campouts with the White Mountain Horseman's Association. This included two trips up and over 10,000+ foot Mount Baldy, the highest peak in the White Mountains of Arizona. WMHA was an all-breed organization so Sassy learned to plod walk with trotting horses. Sassy got dangerously overheated during our one and only attempt at a NATRC competitive trail ride when the temperature hit 100 degrees in the desert in the spring of 1988, but she recovered with no permanent damage.

Sassy safely completed 22 parades between 1984 and 2003 dressed in western, side-saddle, and saddle seat attire. She carried a flag 13 times. She ponied Back Yard Cinnamon in two parades.

Sassy had perfect front leg conformation. She was always shod flat and light but six years of altering her hoof angles the way TWH professionals advised, combined with too many miles in the rocks, caused ringbone on both front pasterns when she was just 16. The ringbone ended our progress toward developing flying lead changes and forced Sassy into early retirement at age 18.

Sacia's Pride did not fit any of the TWH performance standards promoted during her lifetime. So I was delighted to discover she matched the descriptions of the ideal Walking Saddle Horse of the 1920's! I have never cared about fads or being in style. I liked having a horse that was 60 years out of date because Sassy was the perfect horse for me.

We used her formal name, Sacia's Pride, when showing. We competed in 21 local All-Breed shows in the same classes with Quarter Horses, Arabians, Thoroughbreds, Paints, Appaloosas, and other breeds under their rules and judges. I showed her in formal TWH competition only twice. She was too natural to be competitive in TWH shows. In 1986 a DQP in Scottsdale, Arizona, loved her plain shoes but the judge placed her fifth of five in the Plantation class. All-breed, Peruvian Paso, and Canadian Walking Horse judges liked Sacia's Pride.

Sacia's Pride's first show ring appearance was June 30, 1984, in Show Low, Arizona, where she won the

Open Gaited (3-gait) class because the other entries weren't gaited. She went on to win 15 first place awards among a lifetime total of 92 awards in a variety of events: Bareback, Bareback Equitation, Barrel Walking, Costume, Egg and Spoon, English Pleasure (TWH, Open, 3-gait, and 2-gait), English Equitation, Halter, Jackpot Barrels (running 26.4 seconds on a 3 barrel cloverleaf pattern), Keyhole Race, Lead-Line (with a friend's daughter), Lite-Shod 3-Gait TWH, Miniature Jumper (jumps two feet or less), Novice Rider walk/jog (shown by a friend), Pole Bending, Reining, Sit-A-Buck, Trail (open and novice), Western Pleasure (TWH 3-gait, Open 3-gait, Ladies 3-gait, Youth 3-gait, 2-gait), and Western Horsemanship/Equitation.

In the late 1980's Sacia's Pride became known on the Navajo County and Apache County, Arizona, All-Breed show circuits as, "That blind Walker that does everything." It was appropriate that her final show ring appearance, at a 4-H and Open Horse show in Taylor, Arizona, on June 28, 2003, was a \$25 Working Ranch and Trail Horse Class. Sassy placed third of eight wearing borrowed tack, having had no schooling in 10 years.

One of the highlights of our lives was the trip to Alberta, Canada, in May and June of 1992, courtesy of Jo Kingsland. My mother and I trailered Sassy from Arizona to Alberta, camping on our way. We slept in a tent and picketed Sassy to the trailer every night. Mom flew home. Sassy and I also toured around central Alberta, visiting and riding with several Canadian Walking Horse owners. We bred Sassy to Marjorie Lacy's stallion Honey Boy's Rebel. Sassy and I competed in one schooling show in Balzac, AB, judged by Dianne Little, where Sassy won a trail class and an English pleasure class and I placed second of two in an English equitation class.

In early July of 1992 Sassy and I trailered and camped our way home again, meeting up with the rest of my family at the southern entrance of Grand Teton National Park, in Wyoming. Sassy and I enjoyed the most gorgeous trail ride of our lives climbing up to Mirror Lake in the Spanish Peak Wilderness of southern Montana. That ride is unforgettable, not only for the spectacular wildflowers, but because of the wonderful unity of thought Sassy and I shared on the trail resulting from the delightful rapport we'd developed through the years.

Sassy was an excellent mother. She produced a total of six foals, four colts and two fillies. Tragically, the two colts I bred died at or before birth through no fault of Sassy's. Her gray colt Corban, by Mischievous Secret 684413, was stillborn six weeks premature in 1989. This was just six weeks after Mischievous Secret was stolen and never found. Back Yard Second Edition, Sassy's black colt sired in Canada by Honey Boy's Rebel, died at birth in 1993. Sassy has no living descendants worthy of her.

Sassy introduced other people's young horses to trail riding and parades. In her retirement Sassy mentored foals out of other mares. She introduced Back Yard Cinnamon (Luckys Koko Prince x Sam's Blue Blaze) to

to trails, trailering, parades, and camping.

Sassy gave several children and one young man from Japan their first experiences with horses. In 2003 she assisted me with the Blue Ridge 4-H Horse Club activities. All of these accomplishments only hint at what made Sassy special - and that was her inner character, heart and personality.

The name "Sassy" gives a totally wrong impression of her temperament. I'd owned Sassy for a dozen years before I heard of "joining up," "heeding" or whatever you want to call it. Sassy gave me her full attention and trust from the first and never disconnected. I did not realize how extraordinary Sassy was until I'd acquired more ordinary horses who were not so perfectly and lovingly attuned to me all the time.

The best advice I ever got from Bob Ott was, "Talk to her." My first thought was, "What do you say to a horse?" The day Sassy arrived she explained to my mother, who is not a horse person, that my mother needed to fill Sassy's empty water bucket. Sassy was such a genius at communicating with people that conversing with her was easy and perfectly normal for everyone who knew her. This wasn't anthropomorphic fantasy or psychic mumbo jumbo. Sassy never talked about the past or predicted the future. Sassy communicated in the moment using gestures, facial expressions, emitting emotions, and vocalization. My mother was amused by the mutual admiration Sassy and I shared until she also experienced Sassy oozing affection while just standing there seemingly doing nothing.

Sassy was my one and only horse for 11 years. She was perfectly content to have it that way. Sassy knew she was a horse, but seemed to consider people two-legged horses. She preferred human company. Other equines were just too crude, rude, and uncouth for the quiet, genteel lady, Sassy.

Sassy was the easiest horse in the world to doctor. She quietly submitted to everything from shots to rectal exams with no sedatives and just her stable halter for restraint. I didn't use a chain on her; it scared her and wasn't necessary. I never used a twitch on her. I don't own one. I did not even have to put a halter on Sassy to deworm her or care for her damaged eye.

I took to calling Sassy "Pretty Girl" after she became distressed by someone's disparaging remarks about her. She had learned to answer to the name "Sassy" before I bought her so that remained her barn name for the rest of her life. Sassy *wasn't* sassy. She was so eager to please she sometimes tried too hard. Her manners were perfect. She was supremely gentle, very patient, honest, quiet, loyal, consistent, reliable, obedient, forgiving, tolerant, trusting and trustworthy. Externally she was just a small, very plain, chestnut mare but Sassy's heart and character were valuable beyond price.

I owned Sacia's Pride for 24 years. Along the way she co-authored 20 years worth of Back Yard Walkin'

articles that were published in four different magazines, including *Walking Horse News*. Sassy was co-author and model for the book *Back Yard Walkin' Training Tips*, which was commissioned by *Walking Horse News*, and published by Four Craftsmen Publishing in 1993. *Back Yard Walkin' Training Tips* was the first TWH training book to be written specifically for natural pleasure and trail Walking Horses. The columns and book have been read and appreciated internationally.

On October 19-20, 2005, Sassy demonstrated her total trust of me on a 400 mile round trip to see the animal eye specialist Dr. Jennifer Urbanz in Scottsdale, Arizona. Though she had become totally blind, Sassy loaded into her familiar trailer and rode as well as if she could see the mountain road down to the desert. She peaceably stayed overnight in a place she'd never been before. Sassy safely navigated the vet clinic by following my voice out the alley, across the driveway, up the hill, and into the exam room. She quietly accepted the exam by Dr. Urbanz and her interns with no sedation, just as she had all the other veterinary exams in her 31½ years. After the exam the vet clinic staff watched in awed amazement as Sassy followed my voice across the breezeway into a stall, back out of the stall, down the hill and into my trailer for the trip home. Sassy enjoyed a final grazing session in her familiar yard upon our return home.

The evening of Oct. 24, 2005, Sacia's Pride was euthanized to spare her from the worst effects of what was either an incurable infection or a brain tumor. Sacia's Pride, Sassy, Pretty Girl, My Special Pet and best friend is my horse to remember because Jesus used her to make me just a little more like Him and change my heart for eternity.



*This is the photo of Allanna and Sassy that appears on the cover of Back Yard Walkin' Training Tips, by Allanna and published by Four Craftsmen Publishing in 1993.*



# *What Do YOU Do With Your Walkers In Winter?*

## **RIDE THEM**



*Above: Karla Hansen and Karla's Alanza Jewel east of Ponoka, AB.*



## **FEED THEM**

*Left: Marjorie Lacy with Uphill Sand'N Sable west of Edson, AB.*

*Right: Uphill Dusty Gold (aka Trigger) with Father Christmas near Vancouver, BC.*

## **TAKE THEM TO MEET FATHER CHRISTMAS**



*Left: A&B's Treasure's Gold with two Whitetail Deer near Edson, AB.*

## **TEACH THEM TO SHARE**





## CANADIAN REGISTRY OF THE TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE CURRENT SCHEDULE OF FEES

1. MEMBERSHIP	Fees	
a. Full Membership (Individual, Family, Corporation, Partnership - Canadian residents.) Voting, member fees apply	\$25.00/yr	
b. Individual Life Membership (Individual). Voting, member fee schedule applies	\$200.00	
c. Youth Membership (Individual, under 18 years of age). Non-voting, member fee schedule applies	\$10.00/yr.	
d. Associate Membership (Individuals, organization, groups - Canadian Residents). Non-voting, non-member fees	\$15.00/yr.	
e. Non-Canadian Resident Membership. Non-voting, member fee schedule applies	\$35.00/yr.	
f. Non-Canadian Resident Lifetime Membership. Non-voting, member fee schedule applies	\$250.00	
2. REGISTRATION OF FOALS or HORSES NOT ALREADY REGISTERED	Member Fees	Non-Member Fees
a. Within 12 months of foaling ( <b>PLUS</b> add DNA fee - see 6a below)	\$40.00	\$80.00
b. After 12 but less than 18 months of foaling ( <b>PLUS</b> add DNA fee - see 6a below)	\$60.00	\$120.00
c. After 18 but less than 24 months of foaling ( <b>PLUS</b> add DNA fee - see 6a below)	\$125.00	\$250.00
d. After 24 months of foaling: ( <b>PLUS</b> add DNA fee - see 6a below) <i>Non-refundable fee of \$125.00 if application is rejected.</i>	\$300.00	\$500.00
If the sire and/or dam of the unregistered foal (or horse) is not registered with CRTWH, submit a photocopy of both sides of the parent's U.S. registration certificate along with the foal's registration application.		
3. REGISTRATION OF HORSES ALREADY REGISTERED in U.S.	Member Fees	Non-Member Fees
<i>Applications must be accompanied by a photocopy of both sides of the U.S. certificate</i>	\$45.00	\$90.00
4. TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP	Member Fees	Non-Member Fees
a. Within 1 month of date of sale	\$20.00	\$40.00
b. After 1, but before 3 months of date of sale	\$30.00	\$60.00
c. After 3 months of date of sale	\$50.00	\$100.00
5. ALTERATION OF CERTIFICATES ISSUED	Member Fees	Non-Member Fees
a. Change of colour	\$20.00	\$40.00
b. Change of gender (gelded)	\$15.00	\$15.00
c. Death of a registered horse ( <i>certificate will be returned</i> )	\$5.00 credit	No charge
d. Change of Name: <i>Provided animal is no more than five (5) years of age and has no registered offspring. Subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. Submitted fees are non refundable if application is rejected.</i>	\$50.00	\$100.00
6. OTHER SERVICES	Member Fees	Non-Member Fees
a. DNA Hair Analysis Profiling for an unregistered foal. DNA kits are available from CLRC. Pay CLRC for DNA kit when registration application is submitted.	\$75.00	\$100.00
b. DNA Hair Analysis Profiling for a Registered animal: CLRC Request form for DNA kit is required. Pay CLRC when application for DNA kit is submitted to CLRC.	\$75.00	\$100.00
c. DNA Profiling for a Registered animal from blood stored at Maxxam Analytics. Submit fee with a letter of request stating the name & number of the animal to be DNA profiled, & the Blood Case # (where known).	\$57.00	\$57.00
d. Blood-typing/DNA updated certificate for mature horse.	\$10.00	\$25.00
e. Registration of Breeder's Prefix	\$45.00	\$90.00
f. Registration of Lease	\$20.00	\$40.00
g. List of Progeny of Individual Breeding Stock	\$20.00	\$40.00
h. Surcharge on incomplete or incorrect applications	\$20.00	\$40.00
i. Duplicate Certificate: <i>Shall be issued upon application by the registered owner accompanied by satisfactory proof of loss accompanied by a Statutory Declaration.</i>	\$40.00	\$80.00
j. Rush Fee	\$15.00	\$30.00

*Fees are in Canadian currency, based upon postmark of the application and membership status of the applicant.*

**ALL REMITTANCES ARE PAYABLE TO CANADIAN LIVESTOCK RECORDS CORPORATION. (Visa & Master Card accepted.)**

*Please submit to:*

CLRC, 2417 Holly Lane, Ottawa, ON K1V 0M7 Fax 613-731-0704, Telephone **613-731-7110** Toll free **1-877-833-7110**.

The CRTWH accepts either Blood Typing or DNA Hair Analysis Profiling for parentage verification.  
Both parents must have blood, or both must have DNA records on file for the foal to be parentage verified.

CLRC [www.clrc.ca](http://www.clrc.ca) CRTWH Home Page: <http://www.crtwh.ca> e-mail: [secretary@crtwh.ca](mailto:secretary@crtwh.ca)





# The Canadian Walker

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February, 2017

## CRTWH EXECUTIVE

### President:

**Sue Gamble, ON**

705-642-3746

[president@crtwh.ca](mailto:president@crtwh.ca)

### Vice-President:

**Marjorie Lacy, AB**

780-723-2547

[vice-president@crtwh.ca](mailto:vice-president@crtwh.ca)

### Secretary:

**Leslie Hunchuk AB**

403-931-2105

[secretary@crtwh.ca](mailto:secretary@crtwh.ca)

### Treasurer:

**Dianne Little, AB**

403-271-7391

[treasurer@crtwh.ca](mailto:treasurer@crtwh.ca)

## BOARD MEMBERS

**AB Hilton Hack**

1-403-826-0308

**AB Karla Hansen**

1-403-597-7991

**AB Fran Kerik**

1-780-603-3391

**AB Brenda Woodall**

[thewoodalls3@gmail.com](mailto:thewoodalls3@gmail.com)

**BC Jo-Anne McDonald**

1-250-782-7962



## CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!



### MANE EVENT 2017

will be held Friday April 21<sup>st</sup> to Sunday April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

CRTWH will have a booth at this Red Deer venue once again, and you are all invited to stop by and visit, look at the displays, and have your questions about TWH answered.

Karla Hansen is co-ordinating Mane Event again. She is asking for your help both for hosting at the booth during the event and for putting it up on Thursday and taking it down on Sunday afternoon.

Karla also needs short video clips of you and your horses that can be used at the booth to show folks what you do with your Walkers. You can contact Karla at 403-597-7991 or by email at [rideeasyranch@gmail.com](mailto:rideeasyranch@gmail.com).

Help us promote these great horses!

*Karla with former CRTWH President  
Ron Bannister at our 2016  
Mane Event booth.*



## 2017 MEMBERSHIPS DUE

If you are annual member of CRTWH your membership fee of \$25 was due on January 1, 2017. Send cheque or money order to CLRC at the address on page 12, or you may phone & renew by credit card.

## 2017 AGM & CLINIC AHEAD!

We have booked Klondike Victory Farm near Sylvan Lake once again for the Annual General Meeting and the AGM clinic. Dates are Sat, May 6 & Sunday, May 7.

2017 is the CRTWH's 35th anniversary year. And we hope to make this a weekend to remember.

Mark these dates on your calendar and plan to attend! Watch for more information.

## BROODMARE & FOAL PIX

The CRTWH Board chose Broodmares as the theme of our *WHN* ad for 2017. We invite you to submit sharp, clear photos that will reproduce well in print for use in our ad. The only other restriction is that they must be of a CRTWH registered mare and foal.

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!

***Don't forget to notify  
CLRC (and WHN)  
IF YOUR RURAL ADDRESS  
HAS CHANGED!***

*An Interview with*

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

*by Sue Gamble*

**Part 2 Interview with Susan Garlinghouse, continued from WHN, Dec 2016.**

*Copyright November 2016*

***Sue Gamble: So it was about 2012 when you bought him?***

Susan Garlinghouse: I think it was about 2012. Maybe 2011. (That Susan Garlinghouse bought John Henry. See *WHN* Dec, 2016.)

***How and why did you find the name 'John Henry'?***

I didn't. Bruce named him. He thought that the name 'Cody' didn't quite fit him. He wanted to name him something else, so he named him after the Thoroughbred race horse John Henry. That John Henry was...a pretty opinionated horse. I've heard that the race horse John Henry was pretty cranky and John is not. You can put kids on John Henry and he will baby sit them. I think John would be perfectly happy if I let him live in the living room all the time.



***Sue G: I understand that he is not registered, so how do you know that he is a Tennessee Walking Horse?***

Susan G: We don't. He was presented to Bruce as a Tennessee Walker. The broker had bought him from his breeder. He came from the back hills of Kentucky, and he said that he was an unregistered Tennessee Walker. Actually, because I was getting more and more curious about exactly what he was, we've sent in some mane hairs to Texas A&M for

DNA studies. Just for fun. And this is complete conjecture by myself and a friend who is much, much, much more familiar with Tennessee Walking Horse lines than I am - she sent me a photo of a stallion that was the World Champion in I believe either 1980 or 1981, and his name was something or other's Mountain Man. He was very distinctive; he doesn't look like a lot of the typical Tennessee Walkers. Let me look it up on my iPad. The name of that stallion was Ebony's Mountain Man. He was the 1980 World Grand Champion Walking Horse.

***Sue G: Did you get any proof from your DNA that he is related to Ebony's Mountain Man?***

Susan G: I don't know yet, we haven't gotten the results back. It's possible only because if you look at their photos side by side, the body shape is similar, and the big blocky chest with a big wide blaze.

***Sue G: When did you and John Henry decide to go into endurance riding? Did you decide it was a mission for you and your horse or did you seek out a TWH for endurance purposes? Did you acquire John Henry for the purpose of endurance riding?***

Susan G: I did buy him specifically for endurance riding. I got John because I wanted to keep on riding endurance. I had been riding endurance since about 1989 on either Arabs or Arab crosses, but I was starting to have some problems with my knees. I got to the point where I could do one day fifties, but I had never done a multi day, and I had not done a 100. I had started Tevis once, but got pulled at 36 miles. That was on an Arab cross that I had back in the early 90's. Bruce and I both thought that there was a chance that John and I might be able to do Tevis together. So I got him with that goal in mind, hopefully, and turns out that we *were* able to do multi-days. We've done five-day multi-days, winning overall best condition, top tenning multi-days, and winning some of the one-day best conditioned, and things like that, which is a pretty good trick going up against Arabians every day. A multi-day is where you're riding fifty miles a day, consecutive days, up to five days. We did 250 miles in five days. We've done that once in Bryce (canyon), and we've done that several times now.



**Sue G: And you did that before you tried the 100 mile?**

Susan G: Yes, and in 2011, because in 2012 ... we were planning on going into Tevis but in March I got diagnosed with breast cancer. I had to undergo a lot of surgery and reconstruction, and I did okay with that. From the time of having a double mastectomy to riding a fifty mile ride, let me see... I had surgery March 31<sup>st</sup> and let's see, the ride that I went to was June, so...I guess it was ... like ten weeks. Yeah and it wasn't a bad showing, I finished like, I don't know, the middle of the pack so it was halfway decent. Some friends had been keeping John Henry in shape for me, and we were still thinking of maybe going to Tevis but after I did that fifty, there was just no way that I was going to be in good enough shape to try Tevis that year so we didn't. We decided not to. I did some more multi-days, and I did Tevis the following year (2013). And it was interesting because that was twenty years to the day since my first attempt at Tevis and we finished it. And that year turned out to be the hottest Tevis on record. In the middle of the day, you are going through the canyons and there is not a breath of wind down there. It was about 112 F, in the afternoon.



Above is a photo of Susan and John Henry taken at the famous "Cougar Rock" landmark on the Tevis trail, with thanks to Bill Gore Photography.

**Sue G: Does that (temperature) record still stand?**

Susan: Absolutely. It gets really, really hot. Yeah that one (2013) was just way over the top.

**Sue G: It is amazing you can keep the horses in shape to tolerate that?**

Susan G: The good news is, I had been and I still do heat training with John and with myself, so both of us are used to it. And it worked out really well for us because we actually finished in 29<sup>th</sup> place, which is pretty good... I think that year, there were about 160 started, 75 finished and we were 29<sup>th</sup>. You work yourself within your own limits (on heat training) ... so you are pushing yourself but you are not making yourself sick. But it paid off because we didn't know that that year's Tevis was going to be the hottest on record. And because we were ready for it, we romped through it. I was joking with friends that I had not gotten the true Tevis experience because I was not wishing for damp in the canyons in the afternoons. I mean, we were **hot**. We did just fine. So that was our first Tevis and we actually ended up doing three Tevis completions back to back so I started Tevis three times with John and I finished three times with him. This year, I decided that I was not in sufficient fitness myself to ride John the way he deserved to be ridden, so I offered him to my friend Lisa Schneider and she rode him. That was her seventh completion and John's fourth consecutive and fifth overall. So John now has the record for Gaited Horse Tevis Completions. There is only one other (easy gaited) horse that has done four and that record stood for forty years. The last horse was a horse called Three Socks, and that horse did four Tevises and his last Tevis was, I believe, in '76. So that record stood for forty years and John Henry broke it this year. Actually the fun part was that the daughter of the owner of Three Socks is on the Tevis Board of Governors, and she knew about the record, and she was going 'you know I really don't want you to break this record but in a way I kind of hope you do', so she was incredibly gracious, very, very nice, and said 'it was really fun'. Any way he (John Henry) broke the record but he has done it carrying three different riders now

**Sue G: So why did you choose Tennessee Walking Horse for an Endurance Horse?**

**End Part 2**

*Sue Gamble's interview with Susan Garlinghouse continues in the next issue of Walking Horse News.*

**NO RESPECT FOR THE RUNNING WALK** Part II by Franne Brandon

Beginning in the second half of the nineteenth century, Middle Tennessee horse breeders developed a distinctive type of utility horse by blending native mares with stallions of Morgan, Standardbred, and American Saddle Horse origins. The animals that they produced by repeated experimentation of crosses were sturdy, hardy, sensible, and smooth gaited with a movement very different from that of the “Peacock of the Show Ring.” The distinguishing feature that linked all these animals of varying bloodlines was the ability to perform the running walk gait. Even animals of unknown antecedents were given registration numbers in the early years of the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders Association based upon affidavits that they could perform the signature gait of the breed.

As the first decades of the new breed association passed, the popularity of the horse it promoted increased tremendously. Films were produced that recorded the early greats of the show ring, as well as other good horses. These films also serve as documentation of the changes that occurred in the late forties as show ring trends shifted to fast and flashy rather than steady and consistent. By this point, the Studbooks had closed, and all horses were registered based on both parents having a recorded ancestry. The only exception to this was the half walker gelding, which continued to be registered upon inspection and affidavits to assure that the geldings in question did perform the signature running walk gait.

Then, in the early fifties, the horse market in Tennessee crashed. Many, many good breeding horses were sold for pennies on the pound because their owners had no hay during the bad drought years or because they no longer had need for them as farm stock. The Ride-a-thons of an earlier era were no more. Some people who had more land and pastures not needed for cattle continued to keep their horses, but registration numbers plummeted. At the height of the breed's popularity, in 1947, there were just over 5,500 horses registered. Only a few years later, in 1952, just under 1,300 foals and horses of older ages were registered.

Over time, the market improved and the number of foals registered increased. In 1965, the breeders' association passed a new rule that foals must be registered in the year foaled, or as yearlings for a much higher fee, but could not be registered at an older age. A grandfathering period that same year

saw the Tennessee Walking Horse ranks skyrocket as older mares and stallions who had not been registered up to that point finally had their paperwork completed and recorded. The market for all these horses, in the Southeast at least, remained mostly that of the show ring, or mares and stallions bred to produce offspring intended for the show ring.

During this time, Leon Oliver was growing up on a farm in southern Marshall County, Tennessee. His father, Herman Oliver, was standing a black tobiano gaited pony named Billy Boy to purebred but often unregistered walking mares. He also kept a walking horse stallion on the farm for those mare owners who actually wanted to raise a registered walking foal. It was not until Leon was a grown man that the trends for the breed changed. In the early seventies, people renewed their interest in trail riding, many of them on spotted stock bred up from the ponies of the fifties. Leon remembers when trail ride venues like Buffalo River Trail Ride, Big Sandy Trail Ride, Birdsong Trail Ride, and Bucksnot Trail Ride began hosting several annual rides. The Columbia Mule Days, which had discontinued in 1950, was reinstated in 1974. Leon and neighbors participated in the Mule Days parade, beginning in the late seventies, with wagons pulled by jack stock and also horses, and continued to turn out for each parade through 1996, almost twenty years.

The growing popularity of organized rides, as well as local rides, plus big parades and small county affairs, increased the market for broke riding stock. Most trail riders in Tennessee preferred to NOT trot, so there was demand for both walking horses and the newly registered Spotted Saddle Horses. But *smooth* was the byword of those days, and most riders or buyers were not particular about what version of smooth they bought. These new trail riders had never seen the running walk horses of the Ride-A-Thon era.

Unless they planned to use their new pleasure walking horses for double duty on the trails and in pleasure classes in the show ring, most owners did not care if the horse did a running walk, a saddle lick (called a saddle rack in other areas of the USA) or a rack. Riders that attended walking horse shows as spectators only expected their pleasure horses to be high headed and fast, which are not the hallmarks of the true gaited, evenly timed, true natural walking horse.

Concluded on following page ...



## NO RESPECT FOR THE RUNNING WALK

by FRAN BRANDON *concluded*

Over the years, my husband and I have bought a few mares or geldings in addition to the foals that we have raised and had started for our own use. These mares and geldings were chosen because they COULD perform a nodding, even timed, four beat walking gait, barefoot or on keg shoes. A couple of the mares we selected could only walk in hand. Under saddle, they would blow up like steam engines and barrel along at a heads-up, fast, smooth, but somewhat intimidating gait. One was chosen for our daughter, still an inexperienced youth rider, and showed that lovely walk in hand while heavy in foal. Our daughter watched her brother ride that mare one time, after the foal was weaned, and never rode her again beyond a few rides in the relative security of the round pen. Meanwhile, the filly out of this old mare went to a home with an appreciation for good foundation training and the running walk gait that was once the breed's hallmark. Good training and lots of wet saddle blankets have produced in her a young mare that shows all the traits which grew the breed in the early days of the 30's & 40's.

No one can force a horse owner to ride in the gait for which a breed has been developed. The modern Tennessee Walking Horse, generally a multi-gaited animal, will move out in whatever gear the rider's riding style dictates. But it seems such a shame that an unique gait like the running walk is ignored by so many people who favor speed and flash to the horse that provided the original foundation of the breed.

## OATS ARE TO BE EARNED?

by Merinda Reid

My belief is that oats are something that need to be earned - but I have had to alter that view this winter.

We bought a pair of draft-cross horses, untouched, never been fooled with, for packing. If you are not sure what my definition means, read *wild*. My taming program started with putting some rolled oats on the ground and standing 10 feet away while they worked up the courage to come up close enough to eat them. Our Walkers, Roy and Jethro, came to watch this procedure from their side of the corral, so to be fair they should get oats too. (This takes only one day to become a habit.)

About two weeks into my program, I went out one day to find my Wildies waiting by the fence for their oats but no Roy or Jethro. I can now hold a bucket for our soon-to-be pack horses to eat out of, so

I was thinking it's not a bad thing if the other two miss a day. I was later than usual so just figured they got tired of waiting. However, a little bit later, while sitting on an upturned pail so my lap can be used as a hay feeder, it hits me: if Jethro doesn't show up for oats something is *seriously* wrong.

I headed back out to the pasture and when I got to the hayfield I could see Roy but no Jethro. With my stomach full of dread I called him, then tried (I really don't do well in deep snow) to run to the trees north of me. I was getting very close to frantic by then, but just before I got too desperate, Roy stepped in front of me, faced east, raised his head and gave a soft nicker as if to say, "Look."

I look... and there's Jethro. I can tell by the way he is pacing that he's on the wrong side of the fence. With Roy leading the way I waded through the snow to find that Jethro had jumped the cattle guard. He cleared it with a good two feet on either side but then apparently did not want to jump back. There was a 'man gate', but this woman didn't have a hope of opening it, so I walked back to get a halter to tie Jethro up as he was sweating and it was getting late. Roy escorted me as far as the hayfield.

When Dave got home we drove out to rescue Jethro. Dave opened the gate, took his halter off and he headed out with that long stride of his, head up and nodding. I mistakenly thought 'Roy's company is more important to you than yours is to him.' Dave closed the gate and I showed him the tracks. As we were driving past the hayfield I didn't see Jethro or Roy for that matter, and when I brought it to Dave's attention, his remark was, "I bet he's worried about those oats he didn't get this morning."

Sure enough, Jethro was turning into the corral with Roy not far behind him before we even made it into the yard. He'd covered the half mile faster walking than we did driving.

They got their oats - and there's a new sign up on the gate to their field!



# UNEXPECTED LESSONS

by Rachel Hill

I think it was about this time last year that I shared the bumper year of 2015 that left me with some big holes in my barn and house with the loss of my horses (Ransom and Ebony) and dogs (Jasper and Max). I couldn't wait for that year to be over and behind me. Little did I know 2016 was to be an even more challenging year.

On June 4th I got the news from my doctor that I had stage 3a breast cancer. On June 27th I had a mastectomy and 4 weeks later I started eight treatments of chemotherapy. My last treatment was November 8th. I will start 25 sessions of radiation in early January. So needless to say, it has been a very unusual and unexpected year for me.

Cancer has taught me many things and the biggest one has been learning just how fortunate I am. My husband, friends, neighbours, colleagues and family have provided an outpouring of support that has been truly amazing. It is due to this remarkable community of people in my life that I attribute being able to rock the treatments and tackle this disease head on. I can now call myself a cancer *survivor* and no longer a cancer *patient*. My motto: "get out of the way, cancer; there's too much life to be had!"

Cancer treatments are not easy and I had a hard chemo. I did have days that were tough, but I fought through them, and on the good days I packed in as much as I could. I actually did quite a bit of riding. I rode Beamer mostly, and got a lot of ground work done with Fabian (the young Arabian). The horse missing out was poor Traveler. Last year was his first year under saddle, and 2016 was going to be the year I would step up his game. But he got very little saddle time.

One lovely fall day, my friend Myrna called me to go riding. She said, "I'll pick you up and do all the work and we can go anywhere you want." (An example of that community support I mentioned). So I decided I wanted to ride the trails on our new property that I'd named Hundred Aker Wood. And I decided it was Traveler's turn to get out.

It was a bit of risk, my not being 100% and a greenish horse that had had little saddle time. But he was a perfect gentleman. Myrna caught this picture of us, which I hold dear to my heart. I was low on energy and had to sit down while she packed everything up. It was like Trav could feel that I was not right. He just hung with me as I sat on the box. He truly has been my heart horse through all of this. *(Photo above right.)*

Losing two horses last year left me with three. I came to the conclusion that three is a very awkward number, especially when you have young horses. I don't like to leave a young horse alone, even for a few



hours. They are herd animals and the scariest thing in the world for a baby is to be alone. I disagree with the theory they will get used to their herd returning. They never do and just get more and more worked up. For a while, I could leave one behind with the goats, but that wore thin, with Fabian especially. I could see leaving him behind was creating some behaviour issues.



*Sunbeam & Fabian, a day after my last chemo treatment*



Earlier in the year, Joan Hendricks had offered me her horse Eek (Equinox Ed). I was happy and honoured she would trust this horse, one she'd raised from a baby, to me. I quickly said yes. But after my diagnosis I had to reconsider adding more work to my daily chores.

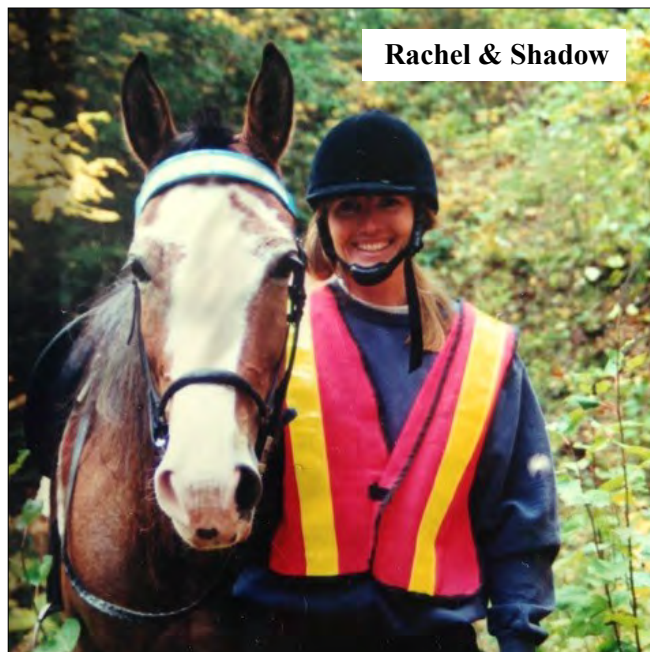
Then in October Diane Szczepanski contacted me with the exciting news that she was leasing the gorgeous stallion Jesse (Walkien Jesse Skywalker) from Marjorie Lacy in Alberta, and she and Anne Gerrity would be picking him up in Fort Frances. "I will be coming with an empty trailer, you know, and could bring Eek" she said. (Community support of good friends again.) The date was only a few days after my last treatment and I could not be sure how I would be feeling. As well, I would be away for five weeks in Thunder Bay for my radiation treatments and I thought it would be a bit much to ask of my husband to clean a fourth stall. So I declined again. Then my friend Lynn Hazen stepped up and said, "Give me a list of people you trust to do chores and I will schedule them for when you are in Thunder Bay". That amazing community support kicking in again. How could I say no?

So, with the help of Joan's friends Anne and Gayle who got Eek to Diane's the night before, on November 10th I welcomed Eek to my herd. Equinox Ed is an 11 year old Tenuvian and I am excited to see how he will do at endurance. Joan has provided all details about him, as well as Anne who has known him a long time. It's like I got an owner's manual with this horse. How cool is that?

Once I got Eek here, I posted some pictures on my Facebook page. A number of my friends immediately commented on how much he looked like the mare Shadow, a horse I lost 13 years ago. I pulled up a picture of her, and yes, Eek was like the male version of her! Then I started to think of all the coincidences of this. My mare Shadow was also gifted to me. She was gifted to me from a friend who was dying of cancer. The mare meant a lot to me so for a number of years I was on a mission to find a horse that looked just like her. It was Diane's ad in the *Walking Horse News* featuring Mayflower, a lit up sabino filly marching at her dam's side that caught my eye and I just had to contact her. And it was this contact that led to a great, long lasting friendship with Diane and learning all about the Heritage Walking Horse. And...through Diane, I met Joan and finally got a horse that looks like Shadow.

It's amazing how things connect us.

I'm Really looking forward to what 2017 will bring!



Rachel & Shadow



Equinox

## TWHBEA FEE CHANGE

As of January 3, 2017 a number of fees for membership, registration and transfers have changed. Check out the new fees on. [http://](http://www.twhbea.com/17PDFs/17UpdatedFeesSchedule%20Sheet12_14_16.pdf)

[www.twhbea.com/17PDFs/17UpdatedFeesSchedule%20Sheet12\\_14\\_16.pdf](http://www.twhbea.com/17PDFs/17UpdatedFeesSchedule%20Sheet12_14_16.pdf)



# IHWHA REGISTRATION RULES CHANGE TO WIDEN ELIGIBILITY

by Diane Sczepanski and Franne Brandon

The TWH Heritage Society formed in October of 2003 as a breeders group devoted to the preservation of older walking horse bloodlines and the direct promotion of the ones that our group had preserved over the previous six decades. Initial advertising by the Society brought a wave of interest from people interested in joining the Society and having their horses accepted as Heritage Horses. Since some of these interested parties did NOT have old and rare bloodlines, but those being promoted in the show ring, the Heritage Society later defined what a Heritage Horse was in terms of bloodlines, gait, and color. The Society also had open certification periods for horses whose owners wanted them to be included in Heritage TWH rosters.

In the twelve years following the initial Heritage Society meeting, many people suggested the formation of a registry or association to further recognize the Heritage Horse as a distinct and different variation of registered Tennessee Walking Horse. This idea found fruition in April of 2015 with the organization of the International Heritage Walking Horse Association. Initially, standards of bloodlines, gait, and color remained the same as those of the TWH Heritage Society.

At the board meeting in October of 2016, however, a proposal by board member Greg McGinnis that horses which are seven-eighths Heritage breeding be accepted as having full Heritage status was put in motion. After much discussion, this concept was approved with a few modifications at a later date.

Essentially, the 100% Heritage Horse will remain with that distinction and such will be indicated on the registration certificate. Horses with 87.5% will be registered as Heritage Breeding Stock, but their foals when bred to Heritage Horses will have full Heritage status.

Horses that are currently at production age and are 93% Heritage bloodlines will not be lost to the IHWHA gene pool. The goal of the Heritage Society was always to promote and preserve old and rare bloodlines that color traced and represented the original walking gaits of the breed.

Accepting breeding stock with these very old and rare lines that have been crossed only one time with a modern show line that is back at the fourth generation on the pedigree will keep these lines viable rather than letting them die because modern show breeders have no interest in older bloodlines.

**IHWHA has three registration categories for horses. They are as follows:**

## **1. 100% HERITAGE WALKING HORSE**

- The 100% Heritage Horses (or The pure Heritage Horse) must have all older bloodlines, with a minimum of five stallions and/or mares with pre-1950 registration numbers still showing on the papers. Foals born of two Heritage parents will be eligible to be registered in this category regardless of how many numbers are still showing on the papers.
- No modern show horses that were shown padded/stacked after 1976 in the pedigree ;
- Various colors and patterns are exhibited within the Heritage Horse ranks. All colors, patterns, and modifiers must trace, generation to generation, to horses of those colors, patterns & modifiers registered in the original TWHBAA Studbooks.
- Gait certified with a video following the video guidelines on the IHWHA website.

## **2. HERITAGE BREEDING STOCK**

- Heritage Breeding Stock will be comprised of two different groups of horses with old bloodlines.
- **The first category** is for horses that have no performance show walkers exhibited after 1976 but do not have the five old registration numbers prior to 1950 to fall into the full Heritage category but are otherwise foundation bred.
- These horses lacking the five old numbers are still required to be one of the various colors and patterns are exhibited within the Heritage Horse ranks. These colors, patterns, and modifiers trace, generation to generation, to horses of those colors, patterns, and modifiers registered in the original TWHBAA Studbooks;
- IF a Heritage Breeding Stock horse is bred to a 100% Heritage Walking Horse, the resulting foal will be considered 100% Heritage.
- **The second category** consists of horses that are a minimum of 87.5% Heritage breeding, with only ONE padded horse after 1976 in the pedigree. These will also be considered Heritage Breeding Stock. They must meet the color trace and gait certification in order to be registered. These horses will be evaluated on a case by case basis before registration certificates are issued to them.

-IF a horse meets this criterion and is bred to a 100% Heritage Horse, the foal will be registered as Full Heritage with the percentage of Heritage blood noted on the registration certificate.

- Gait certification with a video following the video guidelines is required for horses from both categories.

### **3. HERITAGE ACCREDITED**

- This category is for those horses that have a majority of old bloodlines but have no more than two performance horses exhibited after 1976 on their papers.

- Various colors and patterns are exhibited within the Heritage Horse ranks. All colors, patterns, and modifiers must trace, generation to generation, to horses of those colors, patterns, and modifiers registered in the original TWHBAA Studbooks

- These horses will not be considered full Heritage, nor will their offspring

- Gait certified with a video following the video guidelines from the IHWHA website is required.

### **IHWHA VIDEO GUIDELINES FOR CERTIFICATION (IN HAND AND/OR UNDER SADDLE)**

Videos must be submitted by email or uploaded to YouTube. (Email us the link to find the video.)

Videos must be a minimum of 5-10 minutes in length but no longer than 15 minutes per horse.

#### **CERTIFICATION VIDEO - HORSES IN HAND (ANY AGE)**

- Show the horse at four angles standing (a) front view; (b) right side; (c) rear view; (d) and left side.

Be sure to record a FULL-BODY view of each side. Show all markings if any are present.

- Pick up the horse's foot and show it close-up, and show, if shod, the kind of shoe it has on.

Only barefoot or keg shod horses will be taken into consideration.

- Take the horse in hand or on the lunge line. It is also required to show your horse gaiting in flat walk and running walk in the round pen.

When showing the horse in hand, it is allowed to show a flat walk and running walk on a straight line.

Don't show the horse in grass too high to see the feet. If need be, get in the center of a round pen or riding arena and film the horse from that angle. The gait must be evenly timed up, head nodding flat walk and running walk. This video should all be filmed non-stop from start to finish – no starting and stopping or splicing the video.

#### **CERTIFICATION VIDEO HORSES UNDER SADDLE**

##### **Important – we will only accept horses for evaluation under saddle at 3 years of age or older.**

- Show the horse at four angles standing (a) front view; (b) right side; (c) rear view; (d) and left side. Be sure to record a FULL-BODY view of each side. Show all markings if any are present.

- Pick up the horse's foot and show close-up, and show if shod, the kind of shoe it has on. Only barefoot or keg shod horses will be taken into consideration.

- Saddle up the horse, mount (record horse and rider as the horse is being mounted) and ride for a minimum of two minutes in each direction in the proper four beat walking gait, showing the flat walk and running walk, with no regular walking, no stepping pace and no hard pace. At times, the video must be reviewed in slow motion to evaluate the gait, so the feet must be seen.

- The flat walk and running walk will be filmed from the side view as well as straight head on and straight from the rear, showing both gaits from four different angles.

We want the video to be clear, zoomed in well enough so we can see what your horse is doing. Rider manipulation of the horse such as bumping the mouth with the bit to influence the gait of the horse will not be accepted. Don't ride the horse in grass too high to see the feet. If need be, get in the center of a round pen or riding arena and film the horse from that angle. The gait must be evenly timed up, head nodding flat walk and running walk - no foxtrot, rack, stepping pace, or pace. Dismount from the horse.

This video should all be filmed non-stop from start of mounting to dismounting – no starting and stopping or splicing the video. Video cannot exceed 15 minutes of filming. Videos that do not meet this standard will be rejected and you will be asked to make another video. Videos of horses that do not pass certification have 90 days to send another video for certification free of charge.

*Please keep in mind a review can take up to 60 days.*





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Rare Combination of Old Time Bloodlines. Pedigree at CLRC.ca 16 hh and growing. This is a substantial horse.



Lovely Disposition - Truly a Pleasure to Work With. Don't miss your chance to add this young stallion's quality TWH genetics to your herd!

*We also have closely related young mares for sale*

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*OFFERS AT STUD this gorgeous Trigger Jr. line Stallion*



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BEAUTY?  
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