

JUNE, 2022
VOLUME XLVI, No. 3



Walking Horse

News



DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN - SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE SINCE 1977

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Walking Horse News

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On Our Cover

Walkien Grand Finale (Northfork Sky Walker x CoHo Thistle's Gold Dust) with her first foal by Uphill Heir Trigger, born in 2021.

Mare & foal are owned by Arna Erhart, Ardrossan, AB.

See the filly's photo as a yearling, bottom right.

Photo courtesy of Arna Ehhart

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Dear Subscribers,

We are well into spring by now but I've had only two 'new foal' reports and photos! Where are all the Walkers of the future? Please include *WHN* when you send out your foal announcements. We'd love to feature your babies in Foal Call.

I'd also like to ask everyone with a Walker for sale to think about advertising in *WHN*. For only ten dollars for a 50 word classified, you will reach a committed TWH readership plus have your ad up on the *WHN* website that is available to everyone who goes on-line. I've had a number of people call searching for Walkers this spring - and I can't pass on your info if you don't let me know!

There's lots of news about 'The Canadian' Triple Challenge PFE & TLC Awards, a special insert for your convenience in learning all about the 'The Canadian' 40th Event, and readers' tips on saving hay, plus much more. Thank you to all contributors. I hope you enjoy the issue.

Happy Trails with your Walker, *Marjorie*



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June, 2022

Walking Horse News -

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

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THE CANADIAN REGISTRY of the TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE History & Heritage



DRESSAGE FOR GAITED HORSES? *OF COURSE!*



This was the first dressage Competition for Gaited horses in North America with tests developed for Gaited horses.

Helen Williamson, Diane Sept and Jo Kingsland were instrumental in developing the tests. The photo left was taken in 1986 or 1987 in Red Deer, AB, and shows Diane riding Helen's stallion, Shaker's Royal Heir, photo by Jo Kingsland.

'Dressage' simply means 'training'. And there is much to be appreciated when gaited horses are ridden in the discipline of dressage. Over the last number of years, enthusiasts have come to realize what a great tool dressage is for both beginner and advanced alike, and how it benefits the horse and rider.

er unit. It's all about *finesse* and the demonstration of a high level of mastery and communication between horse and rider. From its most basic principles (even in ground work) to the most advanced, dressage is the act of breaking down each element and working towards the ultimate in partnership and movement. It is a journey that always benefits at each stage.

In recent years, it has become possible for participants to video their levels and submit them to gaited organizations that are developing programs in this area. This is exciting news because most owners are not able to travel to many events and have to be content to work with their horses and coaches in their home area.

But this August those interested in dressage have a treat in store! The Canadian Registry of the Tennessee Walking Horse is pleased to announce that certified IJA judge, Diane J. Sept of Valley, Washington will be presenting a clinic and test opportunity in Gaited Dressage at 'The Canadian' 40th Anniversary Event in Thorsby, Alberta on August 5, 2022. For more information check www.crtwh.ca.

Windi Scott



LORI DYBERG, WETASKIWIN, AB & Dusty (Northfork Cotton Trim) *left* have been working on dressage for several years now. They have progressed through Gaited Dressage, Western Dressage, and are now tackling Working Dressage at the trot. She writes, "If all goes well this summer Dusty & I plan to attend & compete at the Working Equitation Cross Nations Camp & Cup in Missoula, Montana in July. I have put a trot on Dusty so she is now 5 gaited. I am competing in Working Dressage at the trot. I will then write an article about pushing yourself 'WAY out of your comfort zone!'"

NEWS - NEWS - NEWS



Welcome to new subscriber, LAYLAH SADEGUR, who lives in KAMLOOPS. Here she's shown all dressed up on Future's Precious Brick, at Windi Scott's Sawhorse Ranch, Mayerthorpe, AB.

NATALIE SPECKMAIER, VANCOUVER, BC writes, "It was Trigger's 30th birthday in March and on March 31 she had her spring medical. As before, she was declared "healthy as a horse". Other than having only one last wobbly upper tooth on the right side of her jaw, no issues were found. Her arthritis is a given and I hope that the Legend shots help. Her plump girlish cheeks have diminished due to not doing any vigorous chewing but she has no problem making short work of the soaked alfalfa cubes and the treats of microwaved carrots and soaked Stud Muffins with which I spoil her."

"Whenever it stops raining long enough, she's out to pasture with her friends and manages the short new grass quite well. There have been many sunny days and she enjoys running naked and free. Being the fashionista that she is, she chooses from a colourful array of rain sheets when the rains come."

"That's the latest on my Golden Girl and may she enjoy many more birthdays."

From GRACE LARSON, MT, "Hi to my Walking Horse Friends! We had about 3 inches of snow yesterday and last night here in KALISPELL; Glacier Park probably got a foot. With the drought it is all welcome. NW Montana is okay but SE and Eastern Montana have not had the snow they need..."

SHARI STASHKO, WHITECOURT, AB, writes, "We attended the 2022 Mothers' Day Poker Run over the weekend in Donalda, AB. We had a fantastic time! Ran into old friends, met new friends and we all had a blast. I was with my Tennessee Walker, "Sir Clops A Lot" (Copper) and he was on his bestest behaviour all weekend! Loved every minute of the ride." (See Shari's photos from the ride in the AWA News and What Do You Do photo page.)

From FRED LLOYD-SMITH, VANESSA, ON, "Doll's 30th birthday was April 9, 2022. She shows no sign of lameness and is definitely still capable of cantering, rolling, etc. Thanks to Wendy Webb's advice on feeding the senior horse (in her case Arabians), Doll has put on weight at a time when I was concerned she might not make it through the winter. I am looking forward to seeing how her ribs, etc look when her winter coat sheds out."

"She was my Field Trial horse and was excellent at it though a little nervy about it all. I could do anything with her and for a full hard day at a time, travelling cross country and so on. She was the fastest (presumably racking) horse, going so fast other horses cantered to keep up. Those legs were just motoring beneath me and I felt this incredible smooth energy as we covered the ground so quickly with a bit of side to side movement and zero bounce. Amazing and unforgettable."



"Here she is - Hallelujah's Doll by Royal Hallelujah x Curry's Doll. I particularly wanted to document her extraordinarily hairy legs! I haven't seen another horse who grows such hairy legs for the winter and I find it endearing."

READERS WRITE: TIPS FOR SAVING HAY

From **BRENDA BAKER, FOOTHILLS, AB:**

I have some tips for less hay wastage. We do not waste a scrap of hay. Hard to believe? Well, we started out with only a few horses and a small amount of hay (in the old days). Being from a farm that has been in the family for 98 years this spring, I've seen a few different ways to feed horses in winter.

- 1) The horses love being out like wild ones, pawing for a living in an old hayfield or on stubble fields until about January when they start getting a grain supplement every day. Grain does not keep them warm but it sure gives them energy to paw!
- 2) Have decent wooden feeders built onto/ attached to the outside of corrals, made so horses cannot get their feet in the hay, and deep enough that the hay doesn't get tossed out of the feeder. Let the horses scratch in the fields for extras.
- 3) Fork hay over the fence into the above mentioned feeders as you unroll the hay from the round bale. Tie the bale up after each feeding and use a leaf rake to gather the little bits. Lots of work.
- 4) Get rid of the cattle hay feeder (!!!). Go get at least one Hi Hog tombstone feeder with 2 extra straight panels which will make a 2 bale feeder BUT only put 1 round bale in it. Put the bale in so it is lying on its side with the strings facing the ends. Keep the middle third of the strings on until the bale gets eaten down a bit. You must monitor this well so you don't have strings pulled out all over the barnyard. Scrape up any hay that's been pulled out, using the leaf rake. Do this daily. Yes, they will pick up some worms this way but you deworm at least twice a year anyway.
- 5) Nets are great for round bales and last a long time if you use the tombstone feeder as well. Start the horses out with a "first time" net that has 1 1/2" or 2" holes. AND one round bale that is not netted in the same 2 bale feeder. This is only for the first time that they see a net. They won't get mad and they will tinker with the netted haybale when they are not hungry. I had lots of horses so I didn't mind buying 3 nets, one of each size. The horses figure it out soon and once you see how well they do with the 1 1/2 inch nets you can use a 1 inch net for the time of year when they should be more restricted in their intake.
- 6) You **MUST** check the net every day for holes and repair each hole immediately. I just use bale twine, doesn't matter what size or color. It doesn't look great but it discourages horses to rip into the net. There is no reward for tearing at the net and the horses will give up

if you are consistent. The neat thing about nets is that it keeps the horses busy and there is less chewing on rails and horse shelters when the hay has a net on it.

7) Nets are hard to put on the first time every winter. It is a two person job using a tractor with a spike. After the net is secured properly on the bale, we plop it into the feeder. You can use a 2 bale feeder with 2 netted bales if you need to.

8) Store nets indoors. Hang them to dry if they get wet and if they get dirty, don't use soap but do rinse them with water. I've used a water trough to clean them in. Don't soak over night. They will be stiff from being in storage over the summer months so I hang them up over a stall wall for a couple of days before I need to start using them again so they are easier to handle.

There are likely many more tips for using every bit of hay wisely. I'll be interested in reading how other people do it.

'FRED LLOYD-SMITH, VANESSA, ON writes

One means of easily reducing hay wastage is the Hay Optimizer shown below. See facebook. Used with square bales, slow feed net on top, made of playground caliber plastic/polymer. Very useful. Easy to use. Now coming in different heights for ponies, etc.

Below is a photo of one along with a hay hut for round bales, wrapped in slow feed net but also penned off to restrict access for the sake of the Easy Keepers.

Contact Sue Wilson (also a gaited horse owner tho' not TWH) who created this item. Its distribution is widening. Tell her 'Fred put you in touch!



SUE GAMBLE, SWASTIKA, ON writes:

I am sending you these two ideas on hay feeders to save hay. I used a HyQual round feeder. I believe it is the safest feeder on the market for protecting the life and limb of horses.

I personally witnessed my mare rearing and landing her front end in the feeder on one occasion and then subsequently rearing to get herself out without any damage.

On another occasion she bucked and landed her back end in the feeder, then fell over which caused the feeder to stand up on its side, but she managed to free herself without any damage before I could run to her and tell her to hold still while I resolved the situation. I hate to think of how she could have been impaled on any other type of feeder resulting in a tragic ending. My steady gelding had never ended up in the feeder that I know of.

Unfortunately, horses learn to flip the hay out of the HyQual to get the "fines" at the bottom so if you are planning to save hay it's best to plan to feed your horses their rations a couple of times a day so they will clean up the hay they flipped out.

The HyQual prevents horses from eating the "fines" off the ground and ingesting sand which is why I bought it in the first place. A custom made hay net might help save hay. I eventually bought each horse their own HyQual feeder. I probably would not want to feed a "gang" around one feeder, depending on the herd of course.



Below is another idea for a custom made hay feeder that should work to save hay. In this case the horse is kept alone. This is Anna's feeder for her Arabian mare.



From **RON SMITH, MAGRATH, AB:**

This is at Two Fox Acres where I currently board. It works pretty well. The coarse net just drops down as they eat. The net is attached to a hinged frame so they just open it up when it is time to put a new bale in. Of course you need a loader.





The AWhA is very excited to be a part of 'The Canadian' 40th Event on August 5, 6 & 7. We are looking forward to a great weekend!

In July a number of members will be heading up to Wildrose Walkers (Terry and Anna Langlois) near Valleyview for a camp-out and trail riding.

Our year-end wind-up will be held in September at Drayton Valley.

We are also asking for nominations for the BLAIR DYBERG GOOD FELLOW AWARD. Nominees should be team players who have promoted Canadian TWH in a variety of activities and have actively encouraged others to do the same. Please send your nominations to Shari Stashco at promotion@awha.ca.

Anyone interested in hosting an event, please email events@awha.ca

Check out our website at awha.ca & our AWhA facebook page for all the info.

Windi Scott

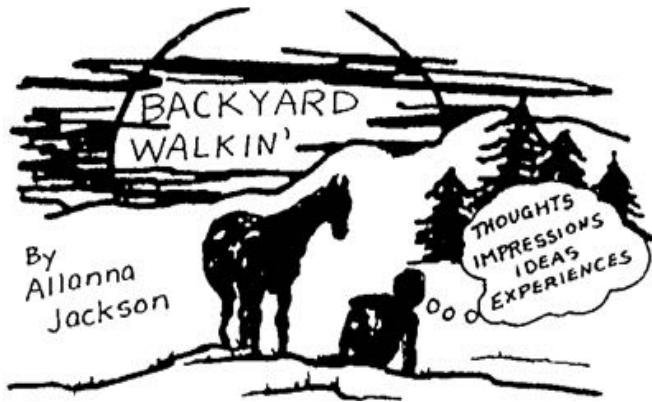
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Below: Shari Stashko, AWhA Promotions, sent this photo of the Mother's Day Ride near Donaldda, AB.





Back Yard Walkin'

ETHICS OF SHOERING FOR GAIT

By Allanna Lea Jackson © May 2022

Now that we're thinking about the ethics of gait modification, it gives us a different perspective on shoeing TWH. Notice that I'm not questioning whether a horse's gait CAN be changed. The US TWH show industry has demonstrated beyond doubt that equine gaits can be drastically altered.

One of the traditional pieces of advice that I was given when riding Sassy too fast ruined her running walk was to change her hoof angle. The theory is that changing the hoof angle changes the hoof flight path which changes the timing of the gait and thus changes which gait the horse does. The corollary to that theory is that changing the hoof angle will somehow set the horse in gait.

Sassy did only flat walk, running walk, 4-beat trot and gallop at liberty even after the use of weight forced her into stepping pace under saddle. Changing her hoof angle did not change her gait behavior at all, but it did contribute to her developing ringbone on both front pasterns at age 17. Why do I blame the hoof angle change? Because every vet and farrier who saw Sassy looked at her perfect front leg conformation and said, "This horse should not have ringbone!" Sassy did begin step pacing at liberty after she went lame.

As a suckling foal Velvet and Mister Star La Marr played along opposite sides of the fence. Velvet would flying pace or gallop one direction, turn around and rack back, dropping into running walk, stepping pace, or foxtrot as she slowed down. Mister always trotted or loped. When Mister kicked up at Velvet she'd rear and leap into the air then land with her tail curled over her back, head straight up in the air, blowing loudly and prancing around in a high stepping trot. Obviously, there were no hoof angle changes happening while she was doing all this!

Hoof angle is determined by the alignment of the coffin bone and short pastern bone inside the hoof capsule. These bones should be at the same angle, which is the same as the slope of the long pastern bone. The pastern angle is usually parallel to the shoulder angle. Deviations from this anatomically correct bone alignment occur as a result of conformation defects and in horses suffering from injuries and laminitis, as well as from faulty hoof trimming and shoeing. Deviations from the correct anatomic alignment increases stress on the tendons and ligaments of the lower leg and the navicular bone inside the hoof. Is it ethical to change hoof angle and increase the risk of injuring the horse in a futile attempt to change or set its gait?

Are there ever legitimate reasons for changing the hoof angle? Therapeutic shoeing is one of the valid reasons for shoeing a horse. That word therapeutic is important. Therapeutic shoeing is the treatment of abnormalities and injuries to the hoof and lower leg for the purpose of restoring the horse to soundness, or at least as close to healthy hoof function as possible. Therapeutic shoeing does sometimes involve changing the hoof angle, though in many cases the change actually involves putting the horse back at its anatomically correct angle to treat damage caused by years of misaligned angles. Therapeutic shoeing may include the use of hoof pads and specialized shoes. Therapeutic shoeing needs to be done by an expert farrier in consultation with a veterinarian working with the owner to provide the best care for the horse. Is it ethical to use techniques that are meant to treat lameness on a sound, healthy horse?

High-speed movie films revealed that hoof flight is not the smooth arc we think it is. The films also reveal that hoof speed is variable in the air and changes within the stride and between strides to keep the horse's movement as consistent as possible. Every horse inherits a neurologic program that controls movement at all gaits and in all activities, including the fine tuning needed to compensate for all possible environmental variations. This autonomic control of movement is self-correcting and so deeply hardwired into the horse some nerve signals go only as far as the spinal cord and never reach the brain at all. When the hoof angle is changed the horse's autonomic nervous system compensates for the change to bring the horse back into conformity with its genetically programmed movement pattern.

Adding speed, weight, and hoof length can change a horse's gait by warring against the self-correction of the horse's autonomic nervous system –

when enough force is applied. Is it ethical to use force to do battle against the horse's autonomic nervous system? Is gait modification trespassing against the nature of the horse?

Protecting hooves from excess wear is one of the valid reasons for shoeing a horse. For most of Sassy's life a plain 8-ounce steel shoe nailed to the hoof was the most functional form of hoof protection we had. Today hoof boots have become functional alternatives to shoes. We also have plastic shoes and glue on shoes in addition to traditional metal shoes.

Hoof boots allow the horse to remain barefoot except when hoof protection is needed, but check the weight. Hoof boots can be as heavy as the heaviest shoes. Cinnamon likes hoof boots that weigh only 12 ounces each.

Nailing shoes on has always had disadvantages, which is why alternatives have been invented. Gluing boots or shoes onto the hoof avoids the nailing problems, but glue-on shoes have their own problems. A man who used glue-on shoes for endurance riding told me the glue damaged the hoof wall on his horses and it took a full year for their hooves to recover.

Plastic shoes advertise the benefits of their flexibility. I have not tried them so I don't know how well nails or glue hold a flexible shoe.

Consult a qualified farrier for advice about hoof protection and hoof therapy, but please, don't expect a farrier to make your horse's gait!



Cinnamon's 20th birthday portrait!

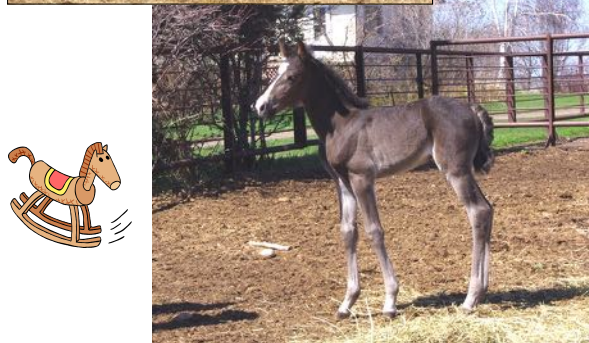
FOAL CALL



Here are some pics of our new **BLACK FILLY** born May 14th. She is sired by Shaker's Silver Smoke and out of Royal Class Canadian Kelte.



Jo-Anne
& Don
McDonald,
Pouce Coupe,
B.C



Below is Karlas Acadienne Gypsy's first foal, a **PALOMINO FILLY** sired by Northfork Patch of Gold. Born May 2.

Karla Hansen, Ponoka, AB





The Canadian Walker

Volume 21, Issue 3

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June, 2022

CRTWH EXECUTIVE

President:

Bobbie Buck, AB

president@crtwh.ca

Vice President: Eastern

Sue Gamble, ON

705-642-3746

vice-president@crtwh.ca

Vice-President: Western

Marjorie Lacy, AB

780-723-2547

vice-president@crtwh.ca

Secretary:

Leslie Hunchuk AB

403-931-2105

secretary@crtwh.ca

Treasurer:

Kristy Coulter, AB

treasurer@crtwh.ca

BOARD MEMBERS

AB Karla Hansen

1-403-597-7991

AB Fran Kerik

1-780-603-3391

AB Dianne Little

ddlittle@telus.net

AB Windi Scott

1-780-786-2115

BC Jo-Anne McDonald

1-250-782-7962

THE 40th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of THE CANADIAN REGISTRY

of the TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE

was held on Tuesday, May 10 at 7:00 pm M.D.T. Via Zoom.

A good representation of members from B.C., Alberta and Ontario attended. Officers' reports were presented, current and upcoming projects were announced, and 'The Canadian' TRIPLE CHALLENGE AWARDS were presented. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30. Thank you to all who attended.

CLRC DELAYS

The Board has heard from some members regarding serious delays with various transactions with CLRC.

Like so many businesses, CLRC had been operating under Covid restrictions and now staff shortages.

Due to a serious illness, the General Manager has been on leave. Fortunately former manager Ron Black has recently stepped in to help in the interim.

If you have a problem or long delay in a transaction with CLRC, please try to be patient. You can always contact a Board member who will try to help.

'THE CANADIAN' TRIPLE CHALLENGE AWARDS

Awards in the Program For Excellence, Training Levels Challenge, and Ride/Drive Programs were announced at the AGM. Their Certificates had been mailed out a week before the meeting.

Congratulations to everyone who took part in the Programs. This past year one stallion reached Platinum Plus status as a result of having nine offspring achieve their PFE Gold. *WHN* is featuring him in this issue.

The PFE Awards and the TLC Awards will both be featured on photo pages in the August *WHN*. Please send your favorite photo of your TLC or PFE horse to whn@telus.net by July 7.

We are also looking forward to photos of the 'Long Riders' (1000 hours) in the Ride/Drive Program!

DON'T FORGET!

**'The Canadian' 40th ANNIVERSARY AMNESTY
is in effect from April 1 to December 31, 2022.**

These offers end December 31, 2022. See the April WHN or go to www.crtwh.ca.



**THE CANADIAN REGISTRY
OF THE
TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE**



CONGRATULATES

The 2021 'PROGRAM FOR EXCELLENCE' ACHIEVERS:

BRONZE AWARD

CSR RASCAL'S LAST SPARKLE- Fran Kerik
SERENDIPITY - Leslie Hunchuk
PS SILKY'S GOLDEN SAPPHIRE - Leslie Hunchuk
PS LUNA'S SPRING SHIVER - Leslie Hunchuk

BRONZE & SILVER

HOT RUM TODDY - Les Zaharichuk

SILVER & GOLD AWARD

CSR MONEY'S GOLD PENNY - Cindy Laschowski

GOLD AWARD

ALLEN'S MIDNIGHT RASCAL - Fran Kerik
DUPLICATE DIAMOND - Bobbie Buck

BRONZE, SILVER & GOLD AWARD

WILD ROSE JOVE'S JUKEBOX - Terry & Anna Langlois
RAGTIMES SHADOW CRUISER - Lissa Townsend, Fred Delf
GENELON - Marjorie Lacy
LL'S GINGER SPICE - Jesseca Johanson

AND FIRST EVER

PLATINUM & PLATINUM PLUS AWARDS for a STALLION

UPHILL HEIR TRIGGER

Bred & owned by Charles & Marjorie Lacy

THE PLATINUM BREEDER AWARDS

are reserved for breeding animals – sires and dams. Breeding animals receive the Platinum Breeder Award as a result of Awards achieved by their offspring.

UPHILL HEIR TRIGGER has sired nine Gold Award recipients plus has the Gold Award himself.

UPHILL HEIR TRIGGER # 3008 by M. Lacy

Uphill Heir Trigger, also known as ‘Smokey’, is a descendant of Roy Roger’s ‘Trigger Jr’. But as a 4 month old, this was his first change of coat! He looked nothing like a ‘real’ palomino so we called him ‘Smokey Gold’. Of course by the next spring he’d lost the dark dapples and shed out to a golden palomino colour but... the name stuck!



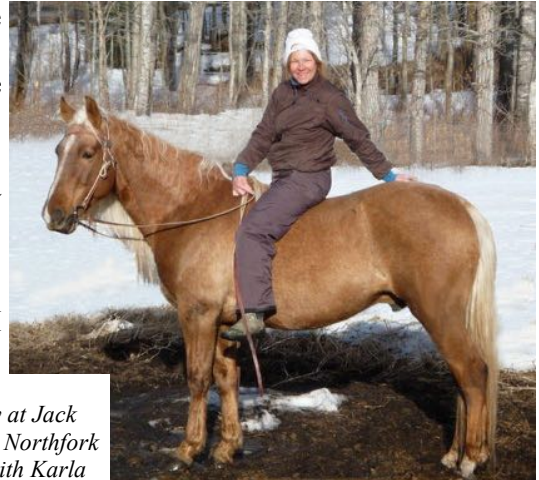
Uphill Arnica & Smokey in 2002

Smokey was born in 2002, to Uphill Arnica, the first TWH mare we’d raised. Her sire was Prince Radar, #37 in Canada. Her dam and second dam were our first purebred Tennessee Walkers, Major’s Gold Lady and Lady’s Merry Mist, purchased in 1974. Both were from Calvin Miller’s Double Diamond Ranch in Rhame, N. Dakota. Uphill Arnica (aka Sawdust) became my husband’s saddle horse for hunting and mountain trips, but she also raised eight foals. We’d always kept the fillies and sold the colts. But when Sawdust was 25 she foaled this sturdy friendly boy by our stallion, Darkie’s Last Chance... and I knew he would be her last baby. I thought we should keep this good-natured using bloodline going. So Smokey (Uphill Heir Trigger) remained a stallion.



*Smokey at McDonald Farms, Pouce Coupe, BC in 2006.
Photo by Jo-Anne.*

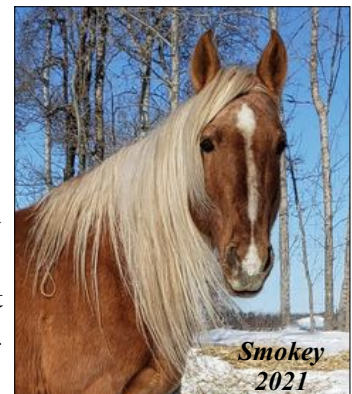
However with his mother and all his sisters and aunts here, he has never stood at Uphill Farm. Instead his stud career has taken him to Northern B.C., Central Alberta, Interior B.C., and back to Central Alberta. A heartfelt ‘Thank you’ to all those who have cared for him over the past 18 years, handled and trained him, bred their mares to him and given him the chance to sire off-spring from a great cross-section of TWH mares.



Smokey at Jack Gurnett's Northfork Farm, with Karla Hansen up.

Smokey achieved the Gold Award in the CRTWH Program For Excellence in 2008, trained by Bill Roy, Falkland, B.C. He has now sired over 30 CRTWH registered foals and a number of only U.S. registered ones, usually passing on his gentle nature and big walk. By 2021 nine of his off-spring have achieved Gold in the Program for Excellence as well, giving him the honour of being named the first Platinum Plus stallion in the Program For Excellence. His nine offspring that have achieved Gold in the PFE (pictured on the facing page), and their current owners are:

1. NORTHFORK COTTON TRIM 3724 Lori Dyberg
2. UPHILL HEIRESS #3780 M. Lacy
3. DUPLICATE DIAMOND 3348 Bobbie Buck
4. DD's LYRICAL DREAM #3462 Brenda Woodall
5. R. DIAMOND SMOKY AUTUMNGOLD #3382 M. Lacy
6. GENELON #3349 - M. Lacy
7. SMOKY MOUNTAIN MELODY #3350 Bill Roy
8. NORTHFORK RED DUCHESS #3725 W. Scott
9. NORTHFORK CHEERFUL CHIPPER #3723 Lori Dyberg



Smokey 2021

The FIRST EVER P.F.E. PLATINUM' PLUS STALLION!

UPHILL HEIR TRIGGER #3008

*Here are his 9 GOLD AWARD offspring,
named on facing page .*



Thank you to all the breeders, owners and trainers who made this award possible.

UPHILL HEIR TRIGGER

BILL ROY, FALKLAND, BC writes,

I have been training horses for over 40 years and I have been training Tennessee Walkers since 1985. I trained Uphill Heir Trigger (Smoke) all the way through the CRTWH Program for Excellence, achieving his Bronze, Silver and Gold. I spent a lot of time with "Smoke" and the thing that stood out for me was his temperament, more simply described as his "mind". I can safely say that Uphill Heir Trigger has one of the finest minds on him of all the horses I have ever worked.

It is one thing to be a good-minded horse but Smoke has reached another level when you see that he stamps his foals with his temperament. Smoke has achieved the "Platinum" level by siring NINE foals, who have gone on to achieve their own Gold level ranking in the Program for Excellence. "Smoke" could only have done that, from a diverse book of mares, because he stamps his get with his "good mind". His babies learn fast!

My training program has improved over the years. I used to "work the body to get the mind" and now my approach is to get the horse truly relaxed so I have its mind with me and then the body will surely follow. Everything goes better for all concerned when you get the horse's mind relaxed and co-operative first.

The main thing about temperament is that it doesn't change. You can make a good tempered horse worse but it is very difficult to relax a high strung, ornery horse and get anything done.

Folks are attracted to colour, size, flashy gaits - none of which are as important - in my experience. Without a good mind you are "stealing rides" and a nervous, flighty horse will leave you at the very worst time.

The challenge of training these beautiful animals is less complicated than the industry "experts" would have you believe. Good minded horses require very few of the latest fad "strategies" and never-ending gimmicks. If the temperament is willing and docile and the mind kept relaxed, the sky is literally the limit.

To me, "Smoke" represents what our pioneers of the TWH were striving for when they set out to produce a good using horse that was uncomplicated and a joy to ride. He has shown that he has these qualities and he passes them on to his foals, and that is just what this breed needs - more good-minded horses!

As Bob Womack states in his history of the TWH, The Echo of Hoofbeats, 2nd ed., page 226,

*"The old plantation horse was not trained,
he was bred."*

From JO-ANNE MCDONALD, POUCE COUPE, BC

Uphill Heir Trigger or "Smokey", as he was known on the farm, came to stand at McDonald Farms in 2006 and 2007 when he was 4 and 5 years old and just starting his breeding career.

His first year here we selected three mares for his harem. They were Yankee's Melody Maid, High Hopes 'N Dreams and Maybe's Memory.

From these mating's we were blessed with two fillies and a colt. All three offspring from these breedings have achieved Gold in the Program For Excellence, they being Smokey Mountain Melody, Duplicate Diamond, and Genelon.

His second year here we picked two different mares from the herd. They were Paintin' Double Dreams and Twisted Sister. From these pairings came a filly and a colt. The filly, DD's Lyrical Dream also achieved Gold in the Program, and the colt, Ringo Starr achieved Bronze.

McDonald Farms would like to congratulate Uphill Heir Trigger, "Smokey", for reaching Platinum Plus status in the Program for Excellence. This is indeed an honor and he is also the first stallion to achieve this goal. Well deserved!

We would also like to give a shout-out to the owners and trainers of the above horses who put in the time and effort to get their awards, thus contributing to Uphill Heir Trigger ultimately getting his Platinum status.

Congratulations, Marjorie, for breeding this fine horse and seeing that he got his chance to prove himself.

Below: Bill and 'Smoke'





Windi with Uphill Smokey Gemstone

From **WINDI SCOTT, MAYERTHORPE, AB,**

Congratulations on receiving the Platinum Plus distinction for your exceptional stallion, Uphill Heir Trigger. I have enjoyed riding his offspring over the years. Such naturally talented horses that have the most 'automatic' walk. Just get on and go. No fussing with gait! Isn't that what it's all about?

I am loving his daughter, my big red mare Fergie (Northfork Red Duchess). She is my go-to ride for this year and for years to come. I have now worked with and ridden several of his get, and have two beautiful youngsters here that show all of the promise of the others.

Although I don't know 'Smokey' personally, I feel as though I have met him over and over in his progeny. What an exciting award for him!

KARLA HANSEN, PONOKA, AB writes,

I happened upon Walking Horses in early 1992. I have met some wonderful horses, and have created a number of Canadian registered Walking Horses over the years, trained many, and ridden many. I have enjoyed and learned from them all.

It was a great pleasure for me to have had the chance to stand one particular stallion at my farm - Uphill Heir Trigger. I took a mare to be bred to him when Jack Gurnett was standing him. I was pleased with his get, and even more pleased to be able to ride the beautiful stallion. Kind eyed, and smart, with a smooth gait and nice conformation, he was also a 'thinking' horse, as I like to put it. So in 2016 I met with Bill Roy in Golden, BC where Smokey readily loaded into my trailer. We were off to my place in Alberta! We stopped a few times in the mountains to rest him, and he went easily in and out of the trailer, level headed and steady.

He was welcomed by my mares and I had them quickly lined up for service. Smokey was easy to handle, and got along with mares that were brought in as well. He was always good for the farrier. He welcomed any visitors big or small, and would always come up for a 'hello' scratch (or a treat in case there was one to be had). He could be a bit of a Houdini, I will admit. One time I was walking away with a mare and he was tied to the far side of the fence... and to this day I do not know how he got onto the other side - no scratches or rub marks! I guess he went under... but other than that he was always well behaved and a pleasure to have in my yard.

I always had comments on 'who's the beautiful palomino stallion'? Oh, that's Marjorie's Smokey!

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE SMOKEY'S AWARD POSSIBLE!

My sincere appreciation to all who stood Smokey at stud on their farms, those who bred their mares to him, and the owners and trainers who worked with him or with his offspring. Without you, his Platinum Plus award would not have been possible.

I must recognize the contribution of Jack Gurnett, Bluffton, AB particularly, who stood Smokey for several years and bred three of the Walkers that achieved Gold: Northfork Red Duchess, mentioned above, Northfork Cheerful Chipper (Dodge) and Northfork Cotton Trim (Dusty). Both Dodge & Dusty went to Blair and Lori Dyberg as weanlings. Dybergs trained the two, not only to Gold in the PFE but also went on to Cowboy Challenge and Dressage. They are the kind of owners every breeder wishes for their young horses!

Last of all, *Thank you* to the Canadian Registry of the Tennessee Walking Horse and Board Member Dianne Little in particular for the Program For Excellence. It is a unique Program for breeders who want to 'prove' their stock, and gives anyone the opportunity to do it through video assessment by qualified Walking Horse judges.

Marjorie Lacy

Here I am in 2003, halter training Smokey, 16 months old. He was the easiest one I ever, trained, even at that age.

MCL



What Do YOU Do with Your Walkers? Why, Ride them, of course!

At the AWhA Fort Assiniboine Ride, May 21-23.



- 1. Shari Stashko & Copper by the Athabasca.
- 2. Anna & Terry Langlois.
- 3. L-R: Lorraine Roy, Shari Stashko & Windi Scott. Photos courtesy of Windi.

Below, at the Donalda, AB Ride.

Photos courtesy Shari Stashko.



LADIES OF DISTINCTION: THE FOUNDATION DAMS OF THE TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE BREED PART TWO: MERRY LEGS F-4 by Franne Brandon

Albert Dement of Normandy, Tennessee, was convinced that in his champion plantation show mare, Nell Dement, he had the perfect mare from which to develop a plantation stallion that would consistently transmit the running walk gait to his offspring. It must have been highly frustrating for Dement when Nell's first foals either died at a young age or failed to demonstrate the running walk gait that was the ultimate goal of Dement's breeding program.

Finally, in 1910, Dement purchased the black Standardbred stallion Allan which had been standing near Manchester, Tennessee, at the farm of James Brantley. That year, Nell was bred and settled to Allan. The old stallion died before Nell dropped the result of their union, a bay filly with a blaze and four white feet. Dement named the filly Merry Legs. Finally, in this Standardbred/ American Saddlebred cross, Dement achieved the gait that he had been seeking with Nell's previous matings.

Merry Legs received no special handling as a young filly, but after she was weaned, Henry Davis of Wartrace, Tennessee, showed her in weanling classes at such venues as Fayetteville, Murfreesboro, Shelbyville, Tullahoma, and Winchester, all in middle Tennessee, where she remained undefeated. No records exist of Merry Legs competing as a yearling filly. In fact, she ran with the calves on the Dement farm, and those critters proceeded to chew off the hair on the end of her tail.

In 1913, Merry Legs' two -year- old season, the filly was shown again, this time under saddle, as was customary in that day. This time, her trainers were the team of Henry Davis and Joe Crawford. They took the filly from the Dement farm in Normandy, Tennessee, to Winchester, about thirty miles from home, where she'd won a weanling blue. After introducing Merry Legs to the saddle and riding her for only two-three days, the reunited team of Davis and Merry Legs proceeded to win first place in her class. Davis competed with Merry Legs across the entire circuit that summer of 1913, and she won each class that she entered.

In the fall in Tennessee, horse show fans turned their attention to the Tennessee State Fair, where the state fair championship was considered the pinnacle for the old plantation horse. Henry Davis took Merry Legs to this hotbed of competition, and she won her class. Although only two, she appeared in the championship class that required three gaits, and she was given the second -place nod. One observer, a P.B. Jones from

Memphis, Tennessee, was heard to say that if he were the judge, he would place the bay filly with the chewed off tail to the championship honors.

Merry Legs returned to show ring competition during her three-year-old year. The bay filly won every class that she entered and at the season's end, returned to the state fair in Nashville. Again, she won the class for her age bracket and returned in the plantation championship, only in 1914, she won this stake. She was the first three-year-old to achieve this honor, a feat that would not be repeated for over twenty years.

Merry Legs won her Tennessee State Fair championship while carrying her first foal, a filly by the stallion Moreland's Pride, later given foundation number F-13 when the TWHBAA was organized. This foal, called Maude Dement, was never registered with that organization, although her name does appear in its records. Unlike the modern -day Tennessee Walking Horse show mare, Merry Legs held dual careers as a successful show mare with an enviable record and as a brood matron. Her second foal arrived in 1916, a black colt named Merry King, also by Moreland's Pride, was given TWHBAA registration number 360121, and had a successful career as a breeding stallion. Both Moreland's Pride and Merry Legs were bays, so this black son proved that both of them had the genetics code of Aa, only one copy of the dominant agouti gene.

Biography of the Tennessee Walking Horse describes Merry Legs as "a straight-going mare with no amble whatsoever. She had lots of head motion, a good long neck, perfect ears, and large eyes. Her canter was perfect, and her flatfoot walk and running walk were truly as great as any ever displayed by Tennessee Walking Horses. Anybody could ride her, because she had perfect manners, and was as gentle as could be." (p.50)

How many modern show mares could be described in this way? As she was competing, in her area of Middle Tennessee, in Kentucky, on another Tennessee circuit closer to Nashville, she was usually in foal, at times had a foal in the barn on the show grounds, or had just weaned a spring foal.

Merry Legs' third and fourth foals, foaled in 1917 and 1918, were full brothers by the stallion Mitch, a son of Roan Allen F-38 out of a Stonewall Jackson mare. The older, Major Allen 350059, was a black, while the younger, Bud Allen 350049, was a bay. Their bloodlines are still prominent among the Heritage Walking Horses.

After Bud's Allen's arrival, it was four more years before Merry Legs foaled her second filly, a "roan" named Grace Dement by Roan Allen. The following year, Merry Legs had a full sister to Grace, a filly named Silver Fizz. The white filly offers proof that Merry Legs was in reality a minimal sabino, but without the white ticking/ roaning hair to get her labeled as a roan. The third foal from the Roan Allen/ Merry Legs cross came in 1925. Black sabino Merry Boy 350189 was the most popular of the trio, although oddly enough Albert Dement sold him and he was registered as the property of J.L. McMichael of Wartrace, Tennessee.

Merry Legs took another year off from motherhood in 1926, foaling her eighth living foal in 1927. This bay filly, named Skip, was by the Giovanni son Slippery Jim. The following spring, Merry Legs produced another filly, a black named Snip, her only foal by the Bramlett son, Grey Lad. Through this filly, the great line of mares that produced Sun's Delight D. in 1959 had its start. Merry Legs' final foal, appropriately named Last Chance 350034, came in 1931, when the mare was twenty years old. Others might have followed, with Merry Legs producing into her mid-twenties like her dam Nell Dement, had Albert Dement not lost the big bay mare to colic.

The influence of Merry Legs F-4 continues to be felt in the Tennessee Walking Horse world in the present, most strongly through her prolific and long-lived son Merry Boy. Last Chance, her final colt, stood all his life at the Dement Farm, where his influence went out to other areas of the country through early sons like Trouble and later the palomino line of John A's Chance. Crossed back on his half sister Snip, Last Chance and Snip produced the three sisters who were significant producers of show horses in the sixties, but whose lines have also been important in pleasure circles as well.

Nell Dement and her Allan F-1 daughter Merry Legs were strong influences in the early days of the walking horse breed association, their influence continuing into the twenty-first century. The other foundation mares were accorded foundation status in their era, but their significance in the present day varies.

Sources:

Green, Ben A. **Biography of the Tennessee Walking Horse**, first edition. Nashville, Parthenon Press, 1960

Womack, Bob. **The Echo of Hoofbeats**. Second Edition. Dabora, Inc., 1984

STILL SEARCHING FOR THESE TWH:

The horses below are not CRTWH registered, but they figure in many Canadian pedigrees.

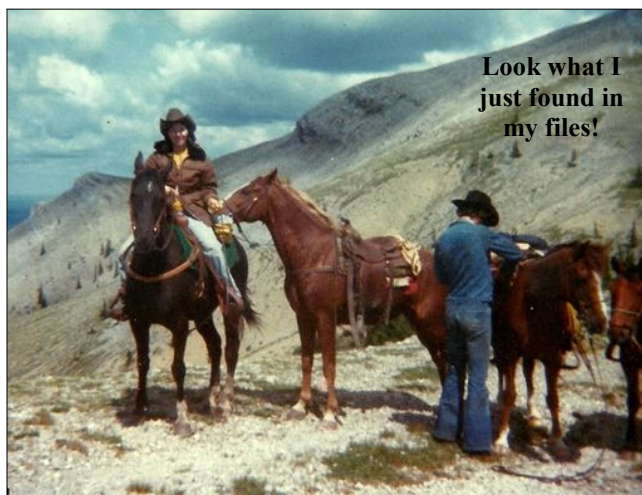
Do YOU have a photo of any of them?

Please send to Dianne Little by e-mail or mail, for the Great Canadian Walker round-up!

Shadow's Lyrical 695790
Generators Iron Eagle 853446
Another Dimple 765171
Midnight Jester E. 612548
Shadow's Lyrical 695790
The Contender 612313
The Gallant Lady 621441
Sun's Dakota Daisy 745304

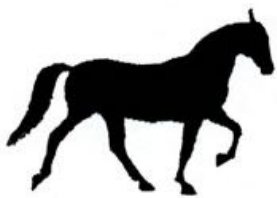
Here are more whose photos are missing:

CDN Registered
Northfork Paige's Jewel 2580
Northfork Willow Star 627
Bell's Little Beauty 222
Shadow of Riverview 155
Iron Eagle's Cherokee 1243
Calta Onyx Beauty 1245
McLaren's Robert 569
Dark Crystal CDN 827
Chapie's Sassy Doll 1003
Wind Drift 285



Left: SHADOW'S LYRICAL & Madeleine Chapman.

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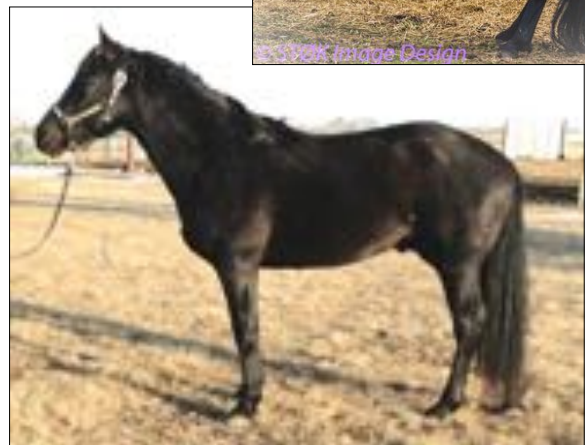
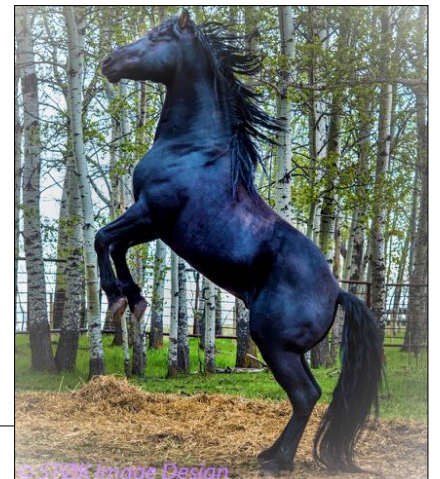
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