

Uphill Penny By Chance and Dianne Little



Jack Gurnett (former CRTWH President) participated in a demo at the Horse Expo in Red Deer. After the demo his daughter Susan Banks, mentioned that the combined age of Jack and Sundancer was 104 years. Volunteers in attendance included some CRTWH Board members who realized the significance of this combination and the CRTWH Century Partner program began. To be eligible for membership as a Century Partner, the combined experience of horse and owner must be at least 100 years. I never expected to join this distinguished group, but Uphill Penny By Chance (2326) and Dianne Little are eligible for membership. Penny joins her dam, Uphill Dusty Gold (1071) and owner Natalie Speckmaier as a Century Partner. I believe Trigger and Penny are the only mother and daughter members.

I believe each horse we have the privilege of having in our life provides an opportunity to expand not only our enjoyment of a partnership, but an opportunity for both to expand our knowledge and experience. Penny has given me an opportunity to appreciate and strengthen my

connection with her through body work. I enjoy a body massage and I have learned Penny appreciates human touch as much as I do. To learn what is important to Penny, I have discovered the ability to breathe slowly, to touch lightly, to relax, to take the time it takes. Most importantly, Penny has taught me patience. There is no pattern that works best for us. Each session is different. Sometimes Penny shows me where to begin and sometimes she challenges me to discover what would be best for the day. We work together or we do not click. The reason could be Penny or me or both of us. My attitude and approach are integral to the experience and so is Penny's. Every session with Penny is unique. I learn something about her and about myself - sometimes it is when to stop, what part of her body would she like me to start. We have a common goal – share time together in a situation that benefits us both.

I never intended to breed Penny but a unique situation was presented. For many years I boarded at Westridge Farms, owned by Helen and Ron Williamson. Helen was a founding member of and the first CRTWH president. She was a breeder and stood 2 stallions – Go Shadow Go and Shaker's Royal Heir. In approximately 1983, semen was collected from both stallions. In 2014 I was offered frozen semen from Go Shadow Go. There was no guarantee the semen was viable, but I chose to give it a chance and breed Penny. The breeding was



successful and in May of 2015 a black colt was born. His registered name is Go Shadow Go Again (Buddy) registration number 3893.

Penny continues to give me a special gift – partnership and acceptance of strengths and weaknesses. I continue to discover what is important for Penny and for me and to deepen the relationship.

