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Walking Horse News

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

Walking Horse News

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#### On Our Cover

Retired National Park Warden Gordon Anderson on TWH 'Flip' (aka Chet's Promise) with pack mule, Hali'imaile on a fall pack trip into the Willmore Wilderness, northwest of Jasper National Park, AB

Photo courtesy of Kirby Smith

#### NEXT DEADLINE NOVEMBER 7, 2023

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WALKING HORSE NEWS Box 7326, Edson, AB T7E 1V5 Email - whn@telus.net Volume XLVII #5

September/October, 2023

Dear Subscribers,

It's just too nice *outside* to be *inside* working on *WHN*. So this will be short! Hope you enjoy the fall adventures and photos from Karla Hansen, Anna Langlois and Taegan Bradshaw. Thank you to Franne Brandon and Allanna Jackson for your articles. We also have Bill Howes' reminiscences. Thanks to all of you who sent news, photos and ads.

And don't forget to take a journey through the Canadian history of our breed on the CRTWH website crtwh.ca. It's a treasure trove of stories, history and photos. You can also look up the pedigree of any CRTWH registered horse on the clrc.ca website.

The *Walking Horse News* Archives *will be* on the CRTWH website - once I get in gear and send the back issues to be scanned. So far only 1977 plus some recent issues are there. What a contrast!

Hope you enjoy the issue - and the best riding season of all!



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October, 2023

Walking Horse News

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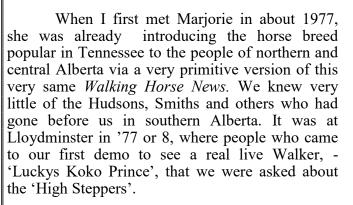
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## CANADIAN TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE HISTORY & HERITAGE TWH REMINISCENCES by Bill Howes



Below: Bill and Koko at Lloydminster Fair in 1980.



Then Russ Davies 'stepped into the picture' and we had our first real promotor. Russ loved to talk Walkers and we agreed that he should be the first President of our newly planned Yellowhead Walking Horse Association.

Next up was Helen Williamson of Priddis, near Calgary, who had heard of our efforts and arrived at our first club formation meeting in Brookville Hall, along with her trainer Diane Meis/ Sept and other interested friends of theirs from the south.

For Good or for Bad, Neale Hubbard stood up to promote his views on the 'Big Lick'. Neale was already applying pads, chains and 'mustardoil'. Helen suggested we might promote our horse shoeless, The fight was on. We were soon to learn a lot more about this practice, as 'scarred-up' Tennessee Walkers made their way up from the States. Though that fight had been on there for many years, we were destined to have to fight the good fight all over again in Canada.

What now, in hindsight, seems very quickly, scattered Walker owners and interested others came to our meetings to help with the club's formation. Old friends Ellwood Smith of Donalda and Jack Gurnett of Rimbey arrived to help us get the 'ball rolling'. Jack was a Director along with yours truly for many years and was still actively involved as Helen and her group put together what is now known as the Canadian Registry of the Tennessee Walking Horse.

Ellwood was the earliest representative who, as a TWHBEA Director, went to a TWHBEA meeting in Lewisburg. Marie Hubbard was, I believe, our first official YWHA secretary. Bonny Jacobs, I think, came along with her to help. Marilyn Armstrong, Debbie Kabarchuk/ Baxter, Val Klatt and many others came out to help. The ball was rolling, documented in Marjorie's *Walking Horse News. (See at CRTWH.ca)* 

	P*g* ≠ 2	June 1977
up, with the help of Boe Mars	sland and Linds Beise send in their names,	mers that I've been able to round 11. If you know of any others who or better yet, show then the news-
<pre>Palph C. Assert, Box 568, Mbi' Wrs. Joey Archibald, 4909-69 Duncan Betrum, R.R.A., Some Linds &amp; Dermis Pelsel, Box J Jons Sonerts, Fincher Creek Lynns &amp; Dure Omspheil, Box J Nike &amp; Tomi Sue Orters, Box Jack C. Chapann, Stattler Hagh A. Connolly, Dywland B. J. Connolly, Dywland B. J. Connolly, Wilms Deerge A. Ourtis, Box 91, St Dans Dwice, Diffield Dans Dwice, Diffield Dans Dwice, Diffield Dans Dwice, Diffield B. J. Borne, Stattler Ben E. Hudens, 421 - 25 St. Jack L. Kerns, 9107 - 115 St Marjoric Lagerns, Flor AdS, Ede Bob &amp; Eden Lagort, Box AdS, Ede Borbes Lagort, Box 263, Ede Boy &amp; Eden Lagort, Box AdS, Ede Downther Mw, Box 257, Ele Fo Wayne &amp; Bue Narsland, R.S.1, Jon McDarby, Box 275, Ele Dot &amp; Schward, R.S.1, Sch 2000, Cocoles Dr. Clark Lundgree, Ste 100 Marther My, Box 257, Ele Fo Wayne &amp; Bue Narsland, R.S.1, John McDarby, Son 176, Legn Dat &amp; Chris McKinnen, 5014 John Helson, Youngeton Linde Oubsk, Box 141, Seigew</pre>	St. N.W., Onlgary remosf Parks 545, Drayton Walley 52, Strathmore 579, Penneka TOC2HO ross t. S., Lethbridge el., Moter Walley South Omap, Mildred dross Aross N., Lethbridge , Edmontes on TOS OFO Vermilion , Medical - Dental B int , Cochrens 1 TOS 1LO 5 St. S.W., Calgary 10k	ldg., Lethbridge
Ellwood Smith, Box 505, Stet Frank & Marie Smith, 88 - 1 Harry H.S. Smith, Box 39, Con Melan Williamson, 11505 - 24	- 2 - 52, Lethbridge utts	
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Wanted: Good-sized Walker by	rood mare, Sue Marel	and, R.R.1., Cochrane.
	ed.Flashy roam 3 yr.	older big rown mare with filly, old, halter broke, Mrs. H. Turner,
For Sale: Tenn, Walker fill Frince George, B.	ly, sorrel, 2yrs, Mrs	. D. Dathie, RHS, Crambrook Hill,

# NEWS - NEWS - NEWS



From JESSICA SPARROW, CALGARY, AB via Sue Gamble, CRTWH Facebook, "I got this nice photo of one of our Stampede volunteers that I thought you might like for the registry Facebook page. It is Julia with her 18 year young mare Calta Calais. We will be looking for more volunteers next year as well. Hopefully you might be able to help us find some people who can showcase the breed."

MARIAN TAYLOR, VICTORIA, BC writes, "Image and Corona are still squealing at each other, and I'm not sure if she loves him, or hates him! I guess time will tell. I am having fun with Corona. He is so smart, and so sensible, but full of beans! Hope all's well with you and your horses Happy trails."

From Bob WATSON, DUCHESS, AB, " I wondered why you wanted a picture of me on a horse - now I know. That picture was taken in 2011 by

Cec's sister Julie Franke of Rimbey who almost always accompanies us on our Kananaskis equine adventures. We try to go at least once each summer month for five days and ride 100 to 125 kms (25 kms/day average). We aren't riding Walkers in the picture. I'm on a purebred Morgan and Cec on a part bred. We have owned, bred, raised, trained, shown and competed with Morgans for 45 years. For a number of years Cec



years. For a number of years Cec trained and showed Walkers as well but has cut back and concentrated on Morgans for the past seven or eight years. Julie has a gaited Morgan that she or her LESA LUCHAK, TWO HILLS AB writes, "Hello to all the readers. We hope everyone had a great summer. At our Maple Lane Acres Farm, we were blessed with five healthy foals this year. Three were by Uphill Heir Trigger, a colt by our home bred young stallion, LL's Canadian Red Rascal and a cross bred colt by Carbonado's Midnight Moon."



"It's now the beginning of September and the foals are growing so big, it's hard to believe that soon it will be weaning time. Summer has flown by too quickly. If anyone is looking for a nice sorrel Heritage filly, I may have one available in a few months. I'd love to keep her but I really do have enough mares and she will be too good a horse to sit around in my pasture."

"Here's to some fall miles in the saddle, the best and most beautiful time of year to ride in our area. Happy Trails!"

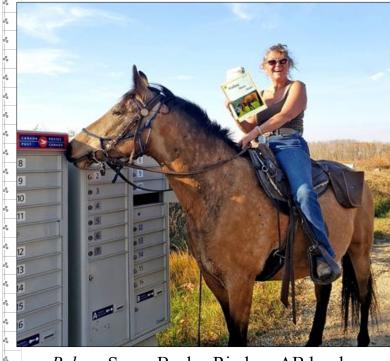
From NATALIE SPECKMAIER, VAN-COUVER, BC, "Trigger had a Christmas Day episode, then a few more, of falling down and not being able to get up. She could get up if she fell on her left side. When Emelie figured this out, they were then prepared - two people at the front legs, two people at the back legs and they would flip her over to her left side. The vet prescribed Bute and when the dosage was doubled, she was able to move more freely. Then came a torn check tendon but it seems to be progressing as expected."

"The latest edition of *WHN* arrived on Friday in all its colourful glory. I was shocked to read of Bill Roy's bear encounter and the result thereof. So glad to hear he's recovering at home now."

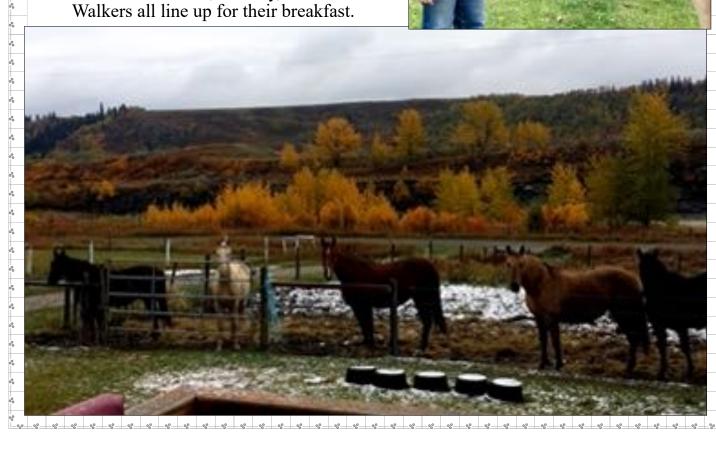
# and and an an WHAT DO YOU DO WITH YOUR WALKERS?

Below: Karla Hansen, Ponoka, AB on Karla's Colt 45 rides over to get the mail & finds the August Walking Horse News has arrived!

Below right: Marjorie Lacy, Edson, AB and Uphill Dyna's Princess share a quiet moment.



Below: Susan Banks, Rimbey, AB has her Walkers all line up for their breakfast.



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#### HORSES WIN!



Wow, did my summer ever go by quickly! It was a very busy summer, but I did get some riding in, though *Never Enough* for me. Some of my favorite rides included swimming in Gull Lake, but I had some other excitement...

I was recruited to rescue a dirt bike out west by Nordegg, AB. The bike was stranded about 7.5 miles from the truck, down some cutlines and trails. Pat had had to drive through a big pool on the trail that turned out to be too deep - so his motor quit and he had to walk out.

It wasn't until a week later that the horses and I could go to the rescue. I *had* harnessed Colt once before, so he and Raven were loaded up and off we went. When we arrived, neither horse was too keen on the motorbike noise, but the two guys on bikes took off, and Pat got on Colt. Colt had a harness around his neck to pull the bike if it wouldn't start, but (optimistically) Pat was wearing all his biking gear in hopes of getting it running, so he could bike out. His dirt bike boots wouldn't fit in the stirrups, so he wore his shoes.

There were some pretty good puddles along

the way and long hills up and down. It was a hot day, but in the shade of the trees it was just right. It always smells so good out there. When we came around the last corner, I looked down into a ravine with a small creek running in it and saw the other two bikes and bikers, I gasped! THAT is where the bike was left?

Down we went, Colt and Raven and I. We hung out on the sides of the small creek while the guys started to work on the bike .... new sparkplugs, oil and filters were replaced, and about an hour later, we heard a 'brap' as the engine turned over. Both horses woke up, and shifted in spot, and I assured Colt that it was a *good* sound. He should be glad, because that hill is super steep, and if he thought it was a work-out carrying Pat with all his bike gear, the whole motor bike is about 300 lbs! I was still not sure how that was going to work, but with determination, they got the bike running and up the 40 degree hill!

So I re-secured the saddles, shoved the runners into the saddle bags, and off we went, Raven and I ponying Colt. I was halfway back when I realized one of the shoes was missing! Oops! A brown shoe would not show up on the trail, so I didn't even try to go back. Pat had to wear my flip flops or go barefoot.

But most importantly, he got his bike back.

Karla Hansen, Ponoka, AB



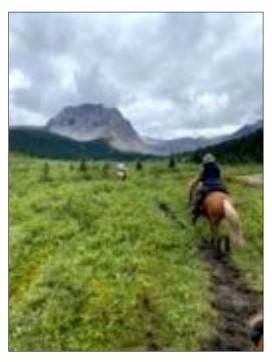
# WHAT DO YOU DO WITH YOUR WALKERS?

Taegan Bradshaw took hers on a pack trip...



We just got back from our first pack trip of the year. Dolly has been my main saddle horse this year since Juno's busy being a mama.

The beginning of this trip, I was starting to wonder if Dolly and I would be a good fit together. She was slow, didn't seem to have much forward motion and I can't say



either of us enjoyed the first couple of days.

But, all of a sudden it was like her drive option button turned on and wow!!! Her gait came together, her forward motion came out and the two combos are beautiful. She was a joy to ride the remaining 120 km on our trip.

It was also a good reminder for me that it sometimes takes a couple of trips for all the aspects of your horse to shine through and come together. Here are a few pictures from the trip.



Taegan Bradshaw Beaverlodge, AB





Uphill Hello Dolly



**BACK YARD WALKIN'** by Allanna Lea Jackson, © July 2023

#### **CANADIAN ADVENTURES Part 2**

Sunday, May 7, 2023. At Ride Easy Ranch, Ponoka, the weather was cloudy, windy, and threatening to rain so I needed my yellow jacket. A little before 9 am a lady brought a buckskin mare to be bred to Karla's black stallion. Hustler hustled around his corral demonstrating his canter to everyone for several minutes before remembering he gets the mare faster when he listens to Karla. I forked hay to rest of the herd while Karla and the mare owner were busy with the horses.

After securing the horses Karla phoned Joyce Thomas in Tofield to ask if we could come see her bay stallion DCM Kentucky Mornin's Brew, a.k.a. "Rocket" (Kentucky Hummer x Mornin's Cupa Koko) who combines the lineages of Beauty's Sage King, Laddie's Monte Ray, Rodgers' Perfection, He'za Walker, Kary's Jeepers, Luckys Koko Prince, Kentucky Rainbow, Chance's Gold Dust H, and Golden Promenader. Joyce agreed but warned us it was cold, windy, and snowing at her place.



It was raining in Tofield but stopped a few minutes after we arrived at Joyce's. Of course, the horses had rolled in the mud. Rocket didn't know what to think of my yellow jacket. He sniffed me carefully, being friendly, curious, wary and defensive all at the same time. His conformation is excellent. He showed us a nice flat-foot walk but mostly hung around so close we didn't see as much of his movement as we wanted. Rocket is fiveand just the sort of stallion the Program for Excellence was designed for.

Joyce took us by her Morgan stallion "Diesel" on the way to the mare pasture where we met Mornin's Cupa Koko (Dixie's Hot Chocolate x Top O' The Mornin'), a red roan Singlefooter called Rosie, Rocket's white yearling daughter, and another mare. The wind remained unpleasant so we made the visit short, thanked Joyce and returned to Ponoka. We had phone conversations with Karla's cousin Connie, Marjorie Lacy, Sue Gamble, and Bill Roy while traveling.



Back at Ride Easy Ranch Karla wanted to go riding. I picked Karla's Colt 45, a buckskin gelding sired by Uphill Heir Trigger, for my ride. Karla got out her mare Raven. Saddling up was slowed down by our discussion of the problem of saddle fit for short-backed horses. Colt was a little nervous about the wind and kept looking toward home as we followed Karla and Raven to a gas well road, then along it to the edge of a field. Karla stopped Raven to adjust the GoPro camera she was wearing. Colt yawned a couple of times, then suddenly lay down under me. I scrambled off without getting hurt. Karla leaped off Raven, handed her to me, got Colt back on his feet and mounted him. I mounted Raven and we resumed a large circle around several fields with both horses gaiting nicely. On the way home Karla stopped to chat with some new neighbors who were shooting gophers.



Monday, May 8, the weather was so lovely in Ponoka I didn't need my jacket. Karla announced we were going riding again. Colt was the first one to meet us at the gate but Karla wanted to ride Gracie, who was more interested in eating. I thought I'd ride Raven again but overnight she decided she didn't like me. We settled on my riding Colt and Karla riding Raven. Colt greeted me with a friendly sniff that seemed to say, "Hi, I like you" and was on his best behavior. Karla's gelding Roy followed us out the gate so Karla and Raven herded him back in and closed the gate. This time we went the other direction, passing the neighbor's place on the opposite side of the road to avoid their llama. We went down another gas well road and took a trail in a strip of bush. Colt was relaxed and happy, enjoying the ride as much as I was. Karla wanted to make a circle through some fields back to her ranch, but the gate was locked and there were cattle in the field so we backtracked the way we'd come. We were strolling along in the ditch beside the road chatting when both horses suddenly leaped into full gallop. Behind me Karla yelled, "One rein stop!" When I took the slack out of the right rein Colt stopped as fast as he'd started, then stood waiting for me to tell him what to do. I reassured him and asked him to flat-foot walk. From behind me Karla reported the llama had come galloping over the hill, then announced we were going to chat with the neighbor. As I turned Colt to follow Raven I could feel him thinking "We're not going back to the monster, are we?" I reassured him as we angled across the road to follow Raven up the driveway. Colt kept a wary eye on the pasture and stopped to look at the goats several times but trusted me enough to obey when I asked him to move. Nobody likes to be run away with, but I really liked Colt's response afterward, displaying what I consider the ideal mentality for a trail horse. Karla chatted with the neighbors until both horses were standing still and calm. We flat walked back to the ranch, with a detour into her field to get out of the way of a truck on the road.

At lunch we confirmed that Marjorie was home from the wildfire evacuation and the bus was running again so Karla took me to Edmonton airport to catch it. There was no sign of the bus at the time it was supposed to load. The people I asked said it had left, so I used the information desk phone to call Karla and Marjorie. Karla turned around but then the bus arrived late so we were loading as Karla got back . We waved, I gave her a thumbs up and she headed home again.

For the first two hours all the bus passengers were totally silent. We detoured through Mayerthorpe to get to Edson. As we left Mayerthorpe the man across the aisle woke up and asked me where we were. He then asked where I was from. When he learned I live in Arizona he asked, "What do you think of Donald Trump?" What a question! He explained his friends pay more attention to US politics than they do to Canadian politics. I generally keep my political opinions and my ballot to myself. I explained the arithmetic of Arizona elections, then changed the subject. He was from eastern Canada going to Jasper for a vacation.

Contrary to what it appears, there are more than two political parties in the USA. Arizona voters now have five to choose from. Roughly one-third of Arizona voters are registered as Republicans, only one-third as Democrats, about 5% are Libertarians, 1% are Greens, and most importantly, more than one-third are registered with no political party affiliation – what the media calls "Independents". Winning a general election in Arizona requires a supermajority of these Independent voters plus *all* of the voters from the candidate's party. The next time somebody tries to tell you there is something wrong with Arizona's elections, remember that the 40% of Arizona voters who determine the outcome of general elections are neither Republicans nor Democrats and disapprove of both parties.

I was glad to see the sign for Edson where the bus dropped me off in front of a hotel. I didn't see Marjorie so I used the hotel phone to call her and got her answering machine. After awhile Marjorie arrived. When she walked across the parking lot to greet me I said, "You look like you could use a hug." She answered by opening both arms wide. We took our take-out supper to Uphill Farm.

*To be continued.* 



# Canadian Registry of the Tennessee Walking Horse

# THE CANADIAN TRIPLE **CHALLENGE**

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# **HISTORY & HERITAGE**

Stories of how the Walker came to Canada and how and why the Registry began, with photos of some early sires.



# Go to CRTWH.CA All about Tennessee Walkers, their people, pictures and programs.

# A HORSE TO REMEMBER

Stories of special horses from the people who loved them.

Do YOU have a special TWH that you'd like to immortalize in a story about its life and legacy?

This is available to anyone who wants to create such a tribute.

# **CENTURY PARTNERS**

See the article in this issue on **Dianne Little and her mare Uphill Penny By Chance.** 

Then look up the other stories and photos on CRTWH.ca of the many other people who have been recognized as **Century Partners.** 

See the photos & read all the stories on our website! 





# The Canadian Walker

Volume 22, Issue 5

www.crtwh.ca www.facebook.com/crtwh

Sept/Oct, 2023

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# **CRTWH TRIPLE CHALLENGE DEADLINES**

# YOUR PFE & TLC VIDEOS ARE DUE October 31, 2023

Make and submit your videos for the 2023 Programs.

For more information please go to the website

crtwh.ca

or

email ddlittle@telus.net

Contact Dianne Little at **403-271-7391** or mail to: 619 Lake Linnet Cres. S.E., Calgary, AB T2J 2J3

RIDE/DRIVE/A.L.T. hours are not due until March, 2024.

#### **REGISTER YOUR 2023 FOALS!**



You have **one year** from the date of birth to register your 2023 colts & fillies at the **current lowest rate of \$40**.

Beginning January 2023, CLRC added an additional assessment of \$600 for CRTWH. Regrettably, CRTWH must increase our fees to cover the additional expense.

Watch for new fees Jan 1, 2024.

## **CRTWH AUTUMN AUCTION**



We'd appreciate any items you'd like to donate for our 4th on-line auction to be held

## OCTOBER 1 TO 14.

Please donate as soon as possible by contacting Bobbie at

## bobbiebuck7@gmail.com

All funds raised will go to support the CRTWH Programs. Items can be anything you'd like to donate, not necessarily horse-related.

We look forward to hearing from you! Please donate as soon as possible, then look over the offerings, and get your bids in on your favorites.

Most of all - have fun with it!

# CONGRATULATIONS TO A NEW PAIR OF CENTURY PARTNERS Dianne Little and Uphill Penny By Chance

Jack Gurnett, a former CRTWH President, was participating 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 his horse, Northfork Sundancer, was 104 years. Volunteers in attendance included some CRTWH Board members who realized the significance of this combination and the CRTWH Century Partners program was born. To be eligible for membership as a CRTWH Century Partner, the combined years of experience of horse and owner must be at least 100 years.

I never expected to join this distinguished group. However, Uphill Penny By Chance (2326) and I now find ourselves eligible for membership. Penny joins her dam, Uphill Dusty Gold (1071) and owner Natalie Speckmaier as Century Partners. I believe Trigger and Penny are the only mother and daughter members.

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 of us 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 that 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 her is unique. I learn something about her and about myself - sometimes it is when to stop, sometimes where on her body she'd 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 an unique situation was presented in 2014. For many years I boarded at Westridge Farms, owned by Helen and Ron Williamson. Helen was a founding member of CRTWH and its first president. She was a breeder and stood two stallions – Go Shadow Go and Shaker's Royal Heir. I think it was around 1983 that semen was collected from both stallions.



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Approximately 30 years after that, 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.

by Dianne Little



"Ohhh that feels so good." Penny relaxes as Dianne massages her neck and poll.



Congratulations to Dianne and Penny on joining the ranks of the CRTWH Century Partners. We wish you many more years together.



**CRTWH Century Partners to date:** See their stories on crtwh.ca/Programs/Century Partner

Jack Gurnett & Northfork Sundancer (760) Bill Fraess & Toddy's Skyhawk (3781) Marjorie Lacy & Uphill Sand'N Sable (1226) Jo-Anne McDonald & Monteray Snip M (1053) Donna Edwards & Shadows Koko Boy (566) Kathryn Minor & Rock's Flicka CDN (703) Natalie Speckmaier & Uphill Dusty Gold (1071) Jayne Walker & Go Boy's Crown Royal (412) Don McDonald & Misty Dark Delite M. (1033) Murray McCargar & Ranger. Charis Cooper & D-J's Peppi Two (438) Bev Skowronski &Black Beauty's Beau Dee (202) Jack Chapman, Tony & Walkaway Moon-dancer (1119) Jo Kingsland & Candy's Bay Lady 2 (370) Keith Oberle & Yvening Sugar Moon (3503).



# From Foundations to the Future MORE CAREFREE AND COLORFUL: PART 2 by Franne Brandon

The fall season has begun to supersede all others as the most popular time to hit the trails in the U.S. South. While spring is always welcome, the weather is quirky, and mud is often a factor to cancel an organized ride at the last minute. Summer is the southern United States sees riding, but the humidity is high and the biting insects are horrendous.

As fall trails are beginning to beckon, trail riders like to be able to saddle up their mounts in their preferred colors. With walking horse genetics boasting a variety of dilutions, patterns, and modifiers, not found or uncommon in breeds like the Arabian, Standardbred, and Thoroughbred, trail riders have many options in colorful mounts to carry them on the trails wherever they travel.

Not surprisingly, based on stallion ads and "searching for" queries, the largest number of people favoring a non-base color that responded to the Heritage Facebook query of "What is your favorite horse color?" expressed a preference for classic roan. Stephani McKinnon stated simply "Blue roan." Elizabeth Gregory was equally brief, although she used the term "black roan." Nicole Heim stated "I want a blue roan or a black sabino with blue eyes and four tall stockings. I also love dark gold buckskins and shiny reds." Bonnie Hunter posted "Blue roan because I just think it's a beautiful color." Rhonda Kelly-Duncan exclaimed "I love a blue roan! You get a different looking horse with every season." And Jan Pippins was less selective of the base color. She stated "Always been a fan of the roans, especially the blues and reds with a lot of chrome, but as Mark Rashid said, "A good horse is never a bad color."



sabinos have been great and I loved them, but tall again. I looked for a short blood-bay with chrome for years... already broke and heritagebred.



Audra

and

Birdsong

My

Burton explained her

reasons in detail. She

wrote "My true love is

a blue roan. However,

they come with quirks

height.

I guess my favorite is broke to death because I own a good spotted horse and still looking."

In walking horse circles, only recently has the breeders' association distinguished between classic roan and sabino1. Both of these have been present since the foundation era, but with sabino quite common and roan not so much.



Some breeders and owners are still confused, but not Stephanie Cantrell. Her favorite is "loud sabino. Like my guy ... on any base color." Her guy is a highly expressed sabino with extensive body spots. Arna Erhart also prefers the sabinos, and like Stephanie, for a reason. She says "My favourite color is a lit-up bay sabino. The reason is probably because my Dad's stallion that was his mountain ranch horse was this colour. Second favorite would be a lit-up black sabino. Reason is definitely because my first horse who was a daughter of this stallion was a black sabino mare. I was four when she was born and claimed her as mine. I started riding her bareback when I was six."

Danielle Price Herrera also has a definite preference for the sabinos. She remarked "My favorites are anything sabino, But I'm happy with a plain bay, black, or chestnut. I don't care much for roans or paints. Liver chestnuts are also one of my favorites. Any color is good on a good horse." Karen Denaro agrees, stating "I love sabinos, doesn't matter what color. I also love bays, blacks, chestnuts, and silvers, oh heck, I love them all! But all of my horses, but one, have been sabinos."

The dilute colors were very popular in American Tennessee Walking Horses from the late nineties until the horse market crash of 2007-2008. Although not bred in such large numbers any more, the dilutes remain popular with some riders. Votes were evenly split between buckskin and palomino. Elysa Miller



wrote "Sooty buckskin roan. Because they change color like a metallic paint job on a car. They are just cool looking. But of course, color is not my first thing I look for." Lesa Luchak wrote, "I can't pick one colour that I love. I like all colours, especially palominos, buckskins, tobianos, overos, sabinos. I just love colour." Stephanie Cantrell commented "A perfect buckskin is gorgeous!" And finally, Vicki Salo Spitz stated simply "Buckskin with a star."

Four people expressed a preference for palomino. Jo Anne Hissem said simply "palomino and black" as favorites. Ashley Stroud wrote "This is such a fun thing to discuss! When I was a kid, I always wanted a palomino because *I* was a blonde. I know that's a silly reason to prefer a color. But when I got my palomino as an adult, my inner child was screaming! We prefer little to no white markings on a horse." Laura Carlson also reached back in time for her reason. She recalls "I was a Trigger and Mr. Ed fan; always loved their color. I have a beautiful Quarter Horse palomino; waiting for my Heritage palomino filly. Buckskins, blue roans and



bays..." Diane Sczepanski, who stood both a blue roan and a palomino stallion last season, stated, "Well, blue roan is fast becoming my favorite but a golden palomino has always been

my heart horse. Always loved Mr. Ed and Trigger." Windi Scott was the only person to prefer black with cream, or smoky black.



Her reason was intriguing. She wrote "Smoky black! Because they are palominos in their hearts and you can see their souls in their eyes."

The champagne gene was not defined in the walking horse breed until 1996, although this dilute has been around since the foundation era. This is the preference of Suzanne Hicks, the first person to respond to the query, who insisted, "Champagne. I never believed the pink-skinned palomino story when I was a little girl." Jinece Rees also expressed a preference for champagne. Anna Overstreet added a pattern to her champagne preference, for she wrote "Champagne and white."



Although grey has been part of the breed scene since Boone's Gray John in the 1860's, only one trail rider, Terence Kitchens, liked grey the best. Several other people expressed preferences that are rare in the overall breed picture. Sara Long said, "Dun! Any shade!" McDonald Farms wrote, "Love what are proving to be silver dapple. That rich chocolate body with the lighter mane and tail. Have had the pleasure to raise a few of these." And Karen Sullivan listed a number, saying "faves are grulla, blue roan, buckskin, and black and white pinto."

As a final thought, Sue Gamble expressed what I thought was a novel idea. She said, "I think all the new information about colour genetics is enticing people to breed more just to see what they get in colour. Not good, in my humble opinion." I had never thought that genetics information would be used for this purpose, but this appears to be the case with some breeders, not just walking horse breeders, who seem to be attempting to obtain the maximum number of color codes possible in one DNA color test result.

Horse breeds were developed over the centuries to serve certain needs. The Tennessee Walker was crafted to be a sensible, strong, intelligent, good- looking animal with a gait that covered ground without tiring the horse from excessive speed. The early ones came in fancy colors, and there is nothing wrong with that, but color should always be secondary to the traits for which the breed has been known for decades.

# WHAT DO YOU DO WITH YOUR WALKERS?

Anna & Terry Langlois and friends went on a trip in the Ya Ha Tinda...



# Captions for photos opposite:

ANNA LANGLOIS writes, Photo 1: Terry on Wildrose King of a Castle overlooking the Ya Ha Tinda Valley from Sheep Cliffs.

Photo 2: Our German friend Simona on Wildrose Jove's Jukebox. (The gelding is sold to Portland, Oregon.)

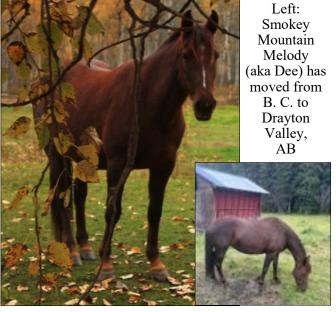
Photo 3: Our dog, the Australian Ranch Hand, on holiday with us. She loves the mountains as much as we do. Wildrose Jove Bojangles and the doggo and I were enjoying the nice weather.

Photo 4: Karen Sollid on her gelding Mister JFK, followed by our German friends Julia Kiefer on Singlefooter Sadee, and Simona Konradi-Kunz on Wildrose Intrigue Silver (aka Loonie). At the end of the line is Terry on Wildrose King of a Castle.





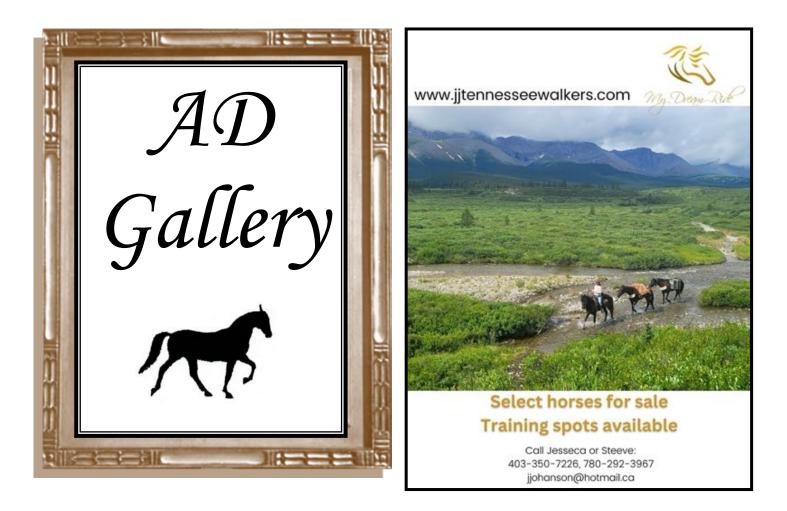
WINDI SCOTT, MAYERTHORPE, AB writes, "Here's a photo of my three geldings, L. to R. Future's Fortune Teller, Ghost of Future Past and Future's Precious Brick. All are sons of the beautiful 1996 palomino stallion, Generatin' Future Goldust, that I owned and stood at stud some years ago."



Congratulations to Dave Coward on his purchase of this good mare from Bill Roy.

BILL ROY, FALKLAND, BC is making a good recovery from the injuries that resulted from the bear encounter that caused him to come off his horse, but he's finding it very inconvenient to have only one working arm! He was instructed to lift nothing heavier than a water bottle and not to drive his truck for at least three months until his arm and shoulder heal. You can imagine how frustrating that must be!

Hang in there, Bill. We are all sending you best wishes for a complete recovery. Have patience!



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