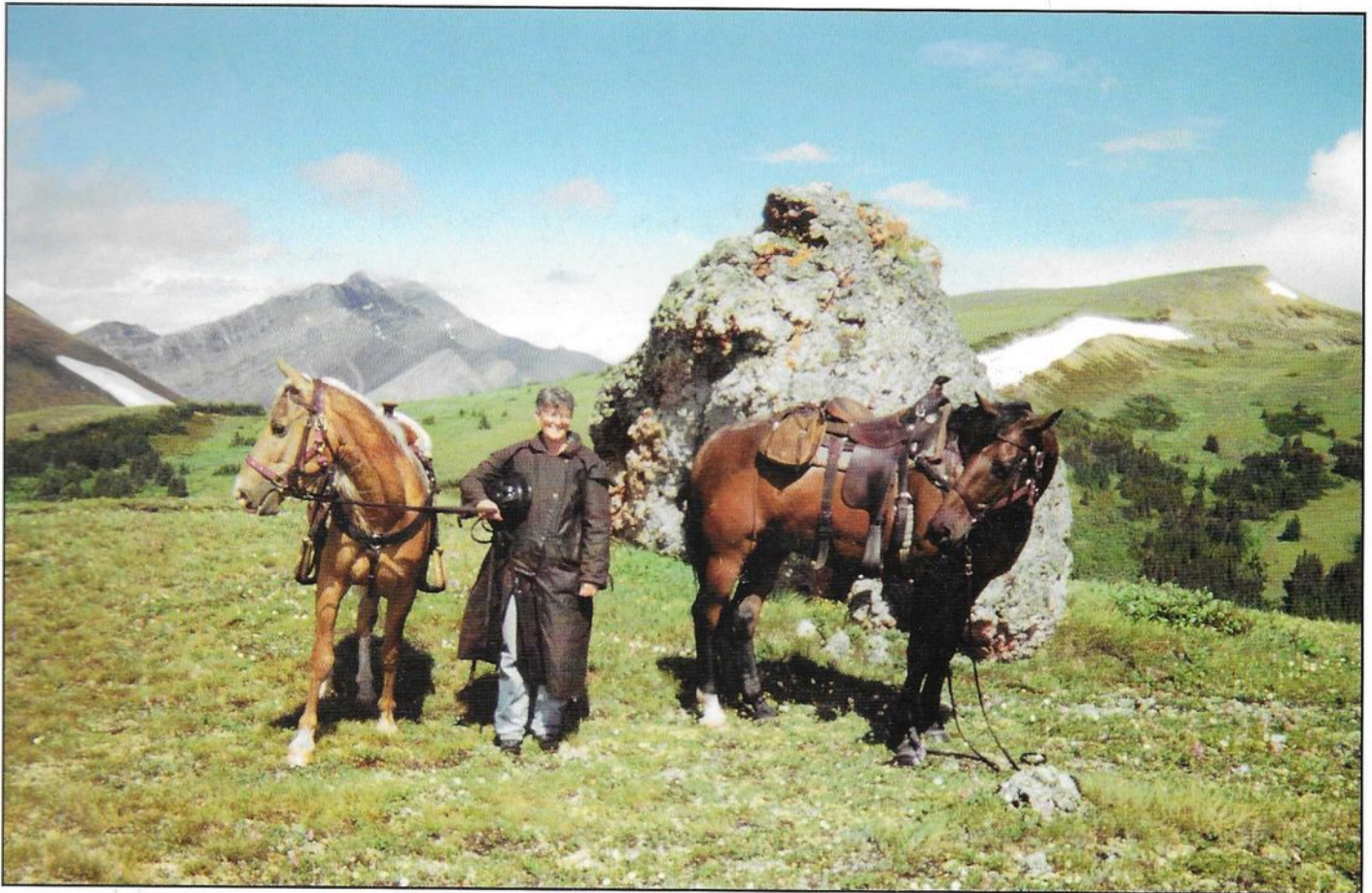


VOLUME XXVII No. 5
SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2003



Walking Horse News



DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN - SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE IN CANADA

COIN'S DOUBLE PLAY

May 5th, 1992 - November 14th, 2002

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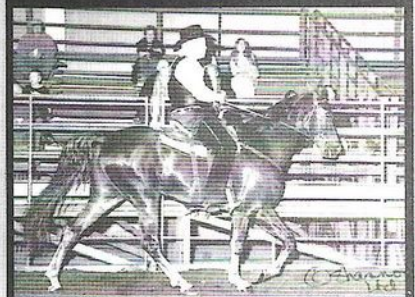
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Liz Levangie and Comet
(Ridgewalker's Golden Comet)
with Ace (Jackson's First Prize)
at the top of a ridge near Onion
Lake in the mountains about 15
miles west of Ram River Falls
in Alberta. See page 9 for Liz's
Festival of the Gaits report.

Photo by Norm Levangie

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Volume XXVII, # 5 September/October, 2003

Dear Subscribers,

When I woke up this morning the ground and trees were white with snow. It's Sept. 16 and we're getting our winter "wake-up call" that summer's over and we'd better get ready... I hope everyone has pasture left, and more winter feed than last year. The snow & rain is *good* news for those in the drought and fire stricken areas of the country. Good luck to you all.

Once again it's time to book cover advertising for next year. I have to know early so I can plan for the upcoming issues. Advertising on the covers of *Walking Horse News* is a very cost effective way to get your message out to all Walking Horse fans. And this year it includes web coverage as well. Please see page 34 for particulars, and contact me as soon as you can, since cover space is limited.

I am just back from "The Canadian" Futurity in Olds, AB. There were almost 100 entries and a fairly good turn out. We missed those of you who couldn't make it. It was an enjoyable weekend, with beautiful young Walkers, friendly people, a relaxed atmosphere, and great weather (most of the time!). We saw very good movement in many of these young horses. Dominator's Tenneka took top score in the 3 Gait Class while her yearling son won his class and took the trophy for top movement score entry. I'm sure that's a first! Congratulations to the Smiths and Burtons. See page 19 for more.

There's a varied menu for you in this issue, from clinic reports across the country to pleasure horse sales in Tennessee. Faith Meredith continues her series on improving your riding with "Following the Motion", and Maureen Hummel answers Rolanda Eadie's question on Maintenance Hoof Trimming. We also have Maureen's History & Heritage story and Eldon Eadie's second article on Breeding for Gait. Thank you to all contributors.

Let's hear the news & ads from *your* farm for the next issue, along with your opinions & reactions. And enjoy the autumn. The weather is bound to improve!

Marjorie



Walking Horse News

S/O 03

“DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN-SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE IN CANADA”
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HISTORY & HERITAGE PROJECT 2000

"CANADIAN TIMES OF THE TWH"

HOW I GOT INTO WALKERS by Maureen Hummel

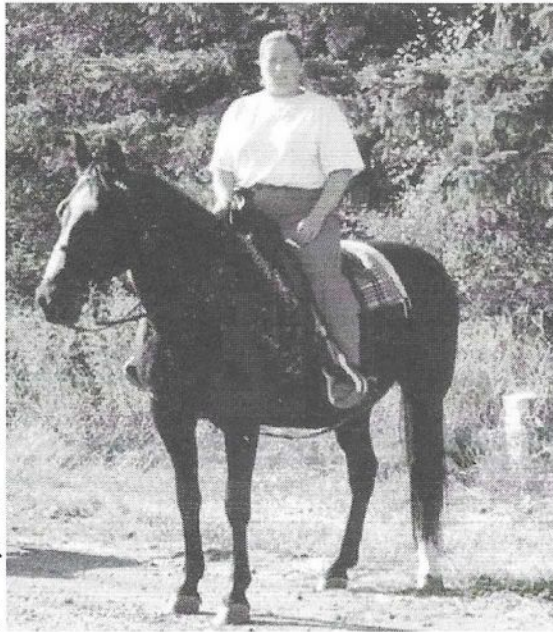
A series of goofy little mishaps in my formative years left me with a wonky knee, a so-so hip, and a touchy back. Riding a trotting horse was possible, but not as comfortable as I would have liked. And hey! You have to ride, don't you?

I read about the Tennessee Walking Horse breed in a magazine and was intrigued by the idea of a smooth gaited horse with a gentle temperament. I decided to get one - and embarked on my search.

Unfortunately, my first two Walkers, although well gaited, did not have the kind of temperament that impressed me. It's a good thing I don't give up easily, because the third time proved to be the lucky one. I talked to Marjorie Lacy about a black filly she had advertised. She sent me pictures and I bought that filly, "GIPSY'S DARK VELVET" aka "Dusky", on the strength of a photograph. (Not, perhaps, the most intelligent way to buy a horse, but I have never regretted that decision.) Dusky was born in 1985, about the time Rick and I got engaged. We were married in September of that year and Dusky came to live with us a couple of months after that.

Dusky became my foundation mare. She has it all: quiet temperament, well gaited, an absolute cinch to train (pretty much trained herself) and a lot of 'heart and go' all wrapped up in a little 14.3 hand package. (See photo above.) That little mare could keep up with the big horses with no trouble and very often led the ride. She also has proven to be an exceptional mother and throws absolutely beautiful, well gaited, sane babies no matter what stallion she is bred to.

I went along for several years with just the one Walker since we lived on small places and couldn't keep many horses. But in 1993 we moved to three quarter sections in northern BC - and all that changed! Our little herd of one Walker has grown to 15. I've since returned to Marjorie's place several times and gotten another 4 mares from her. UPHILL FIREFLY, the mother of my stallion, R DIAMOND PICASSO, (aka Casey), was from Marjorie's place. All these mares have been quiet, well mannered and well gaited, and have crossed very well with Don & Jo-Anne McDonald's "DRESSED FOR



SUCCESS", with his son Casey (Dressed for Success X Uphill Firefly) and now with T-Bone.

T-Bone (TRAMP'S T-BONE WALKER) arrived on the scene two summers ago while Casey was in training with Rick Hemmett. I didn't have a stallion for breeding while Casey was gone so Rick & Stu Pritchard entrusted me with leasing T-Bone. I fell in love with T-Bone's gentle nature, size, bone and gait. I ended up purchasing him as an outcross for Casey's progeny. He has not disappointed me. He has given me good-minded foals with size, substance and gait.

Now, unfortunately, due to Casey's untimely death this summer I'll never know how T-

Bone's offspring would have crossed with him. However, I do have three of Casey's fillies who will be bred to T-Bone when they are old enough.

During my years in the Walker breed I feel fortunate to have made some good friends. Marjorie, Don & Jo-Anne McDonald, and Rick Hemmett have all become friends as well as mentors. I meet new Walker people on a regular basis and have to say that on the whole, they're a pretty neat bunch of people.

It's amazing the good things that one decision so many years ago has brought into my life.

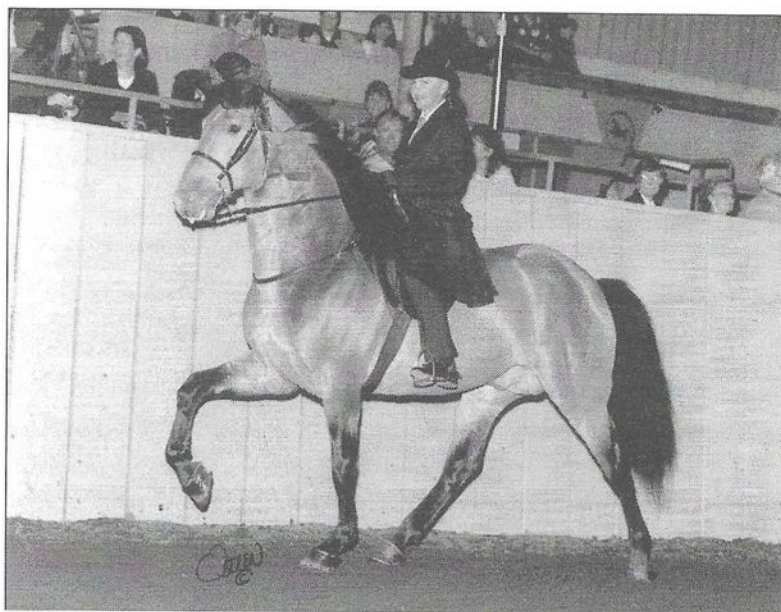


Dusky as a foal, showing the 'character' that won Maureen's heart.

JENNIE JACKSON CLINIC

Sponsored by AWWA
Held at Cloudwalker Stables,
Strathmore, AB
July 26/27 '03

Report & clinic photos by Jo Kingsland



Jennie & Champagne Watchout (Photo supplied by Jennie.)

The clinic was fully booked with at least 14 horses and a handful of auditors. We got started early on Saturday morning. Jennie was introduced and she began with a blessing and a prayer for all participants.

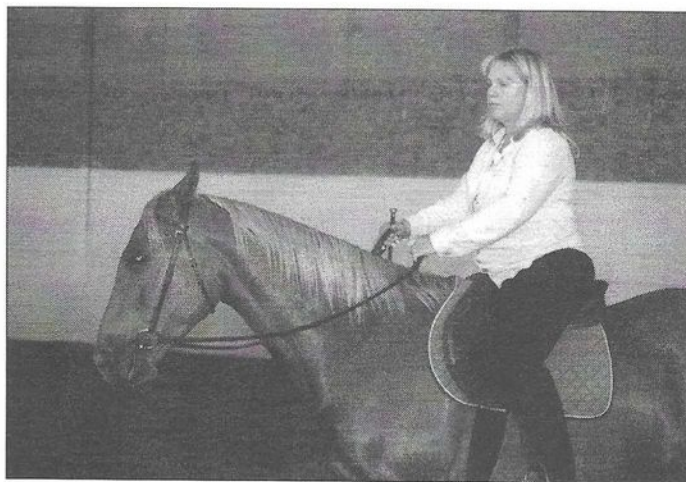
To understand the basic gaits of each horse - "and each horse will be different" - everyone made a solo run in halter, on a long lead, at enough speed to just break out of the walk. We saw examples of trot and pace, along with some that were described as "walky". In order that we could more easily recognize the various gaits, Jennie set up a demonstration using visual aids designed to help us really see the different footfall patterns. "TWHs are capable of doing 13 different gaits!!"

Now that we are aware of the basic gaits we need to find out what each horse needs to develop its own individual potential. "Start with the basics or you're not going to get anywhere!" Jennie, a student of a graduate from the Spanish Riding School in Vienna, uses the basic dressage training on all her horses. *Dressage means* training. "Don't be scared of the word. We are not talking about *haute école*, just simple, basic training."

"All TWH need some flexibility training," and we started right out with leg yielding exercises. Some horses did not respond right away and Jennie got into the saddle of one hard customer to demonstrate how to ask, ask a little harder, insist, and then reward for the correct response. Leg yielding (i.e. yielding to the pressure of the rider's leg) requires a subtle bend in the horse's body with

the hind quarters moving just off the track of the front feet. The exercise must be practised on both sides, and you may find one side easier than the other at first.

"Always use a snaffle bit, you can actually 'talk' to a horse with a snaffle." Some 15 or 20 samples of snaffle bits were brought out and discussed. TWH generally have shallow mouths and the single jointed bit will hit the soft roof of the mouth too easily, so the double jointed bit was recommended. However, the centre link must not be too wide (as in a Dr. Bristol bit) or it can cause pressure on the bars at the side of a narrow mouth. Jennie praised the Canadian Show Rules that allow horses to be shown in a double bridle, which has both a snaffle bit and a curb bit on separate reins.

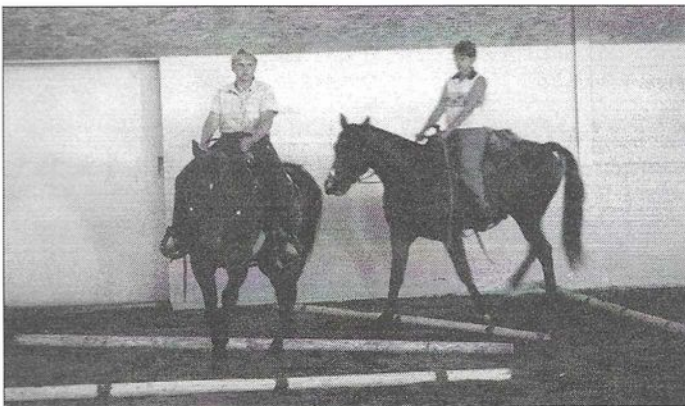


"Always use a snaffle bit; you can actually 'talk' to a horse with a snaffle." This horse is listening!

“Cantering is essential for all TWH”. Cantering circles combined with leg yielding exercises will soon square up a horse that wants to pace. As the horse’s muscles strengthen, the slower rocking-chair canter can be developed by working in 20 meter circles with frequent stops, backing up 3 steps, and cantering on again. Good muscle tone is very important and must be developed first, from regular riding - “a 20 minute ride every day is way better than 6 hrs riding at the weekend with no ride all week”.

Jennie’s advice for training TWH that want to trot is to practise lengthening their stride at the flat walk, and then increase speed very, very gently into a running walk. She said (and I heard it twice!) that many horses are ridden too fast and lose their rhythm.

Sunday morning, with everyone saddled up & rarin’ to go, 5 or 6 ground poles were laid out around the corner of the arena for more cantering. The poles should be placed about 9 feet apart for cantering. But first we had to sharpen up our leg yielding skills, first along the wall as we did yesterday, then anywhere in the middle (- no wall for the horse to lean on!).



5 or 6 ground poles were laid out around the corner of the arena ...

We were asked “Where is the horse’s engine?” The answer was accompanied by a resounding slap on the horse’s rump... “the hind quarters, of course”. The canter starts with a hind leg push, so the horse needs to strengthen and practise control of his hindquarters. The back-up is an excellent exercise for this purpose and your horse should be able to walk backwards, evenly, in a straight line, the length of the arena. More backing up was practised with Jennie advising individuals.

Finally, we were cantering over the ground poles. The corner arrangement made it easier to get the correct lead, and the smaller horses could take the inside of the curve where the poles were not quite so far apart. Some horses were a bit puzzled at first, but when they figured out how to do it they thought it

was a lot o’ fun!. Horses cannot pace over ground poles - so here’s another exercise for the pacey ones.

After lunch our clinician was available for questions (and most participants had a few) which led to long, interesting discussions, and ultimately to Jennie’s story of “How I got started with TWH”.



After lunch our clinician was available for questions (and most participants had a few).

What did we learn? ...Three essential basics for TENNESSEE WALKERS are:

LATERAL FLEXION - as in the above exercises.

TENACITY IN TRAINING - try, try, try again until you both get it right (but don’t nag continually).

DEVELOPMENT OF MUSCLE TONE - ride *every* day, even if it’s a short one.

Thank-you, Jennie.

About the Clinician:

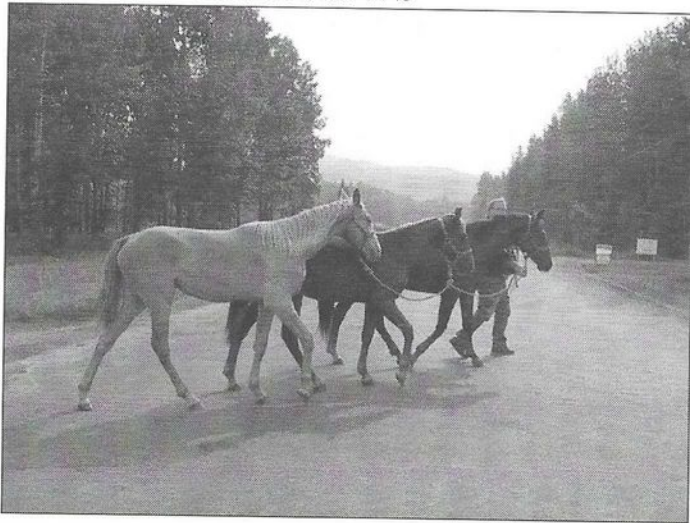
Jennie Jackson of Cookeville, Tennessee (formerly of Copperopolis, California) is well known as a strong competitor in all aspects of the Tennessee Walking Horse world. She shows the same horse in English Pleasure, Western Pleasure, reining, trail and dressage and wins in each division. Jennie’s horses exemplify the true meaning of *Versatility*.

She is perhaps best known as the owner and trainer of the big champagne Tennessee Walking Horse stallion, Champagne Watchout. Owning and training in themselves are not unusual, but what Jennie has accomplished with this horse is another matter. Wearing lite shoes, Champagne Watchout competed in the 1999 Celebration against the traditional padded show horses. Most thought it could never be done, but Jennie proved it could happen. In addition, during the same Celebration, Watchout competed in other, plain shod classes.

Jennie has a thorough knowledge of breeding, conformation, and standardized foot-fall patterns for each breed, and how to get the horse to perform them. Dressage, Centered Balance Riding, and years of experience working with all types of gaited and non-gaited breeds are the foundation for her breeding and training program.

NEWS - NEWS - NEWS

ALBERTA NEWS



From MARIANNE WRAY, SUNDRE, "This is the way we start every morning - taking the three young-uns across to pasture. Doodlebug takes her responsibility very seriously, and tries to keep the two yearlings from getting their ropes tangled. They are waiting at the gate each evening to come back to the barn."

JULIE & LUIGI VALENTINI, V4 STABLES, ENTWISTLE, write, "We were blessed with four foals this year. One bay colt, one black colt, one sorrel pinto colt and one liver chestnut filly."

"We would like to welcome Bob and Irene Zimmerman of Drayton Valley into the TWH family with their purchase of our three year old black gelding, Romeo. They are having a wonderful summer together. We wish them many happy trails in the future. Please send them a subscription, compliments of us at V4 Stables, to the best local *Walking Horse News* available. We sure enjoy all the news and information about Walking Horse people from all parts of the world."

From JACK GURNETT, NORTHFORK FARM, BLUFFTON, "We sold a good looking two year old gelding named Copper Chance (Darkie's Last Chance x Summer Penny) to Keith Anderson of Drayton Valley, AB. He also bought an interesting Percheron/Walker cross two year old as a possible pack animal, and a well broke big gelding from our daughter, Susan Banks. Please send Keith a subscription to *WHN* with our compliments."

SASKATCHEWAN NEWS

From MELVA KING, SASKATOON, "Well, the horses and I have survived a long, buggy summer and now are looking to cooler weather activities. Riding is not very enjoyable in unbearable heat and annoying flies, not to mention grasshoppers the size of ducks!"

"I started off the month of July by visiting my sister in Cochrane and attended Spruce Meadows. The reason for going to Spruce Meadows on this early weekend, July 4th, was to view some Australian saddles from Williams Lake, B.C."

"I also did a side trip to visit with the Oberles and see some of their fine horses. Keith's daughter Elise was over to warm up "Skyline's Dark Storm" for the Calgary Stampede parade so I had the privilege of observing him close up. Very nice looking boy. I commented that my four year old black filly, Izzie, looks a lot like Storm and also has a wonderful gait."

"I was able to engage the services of a university student who has worked with two of my other horses, to ride Izzie for 2 months, approximately 15 rides, and she did a wonderful job. Izzie is going very well, especially when using the Parelli hackamore, as she seems more relaxed."

"Anyway I'm looking forward to lots more rides as well as driving my gaited Welsh cross pony. She paces in harness and when under saddle she does a diminutive running walk. All in all she is a very interesting little mare, just under 14 hands."

"Totally enjoy reading *WHN* and always look forward to more interesting columns and advice. Because I have been looking at new saddles, I am interested in hearing from other people about saddle fitting for gaited horses. The saddle I finally purchased is an Australian endurance saddle. It is very close contact but with the security of the "poleys" - kind of wings that sit in front of the thighs."

"Keith Oberle showed me the beautiful saddle that his wife had custom-made by someone in Red Deer and it was very light, which is what I was interested in. This endurance saddle that I did purchase weighs in at about 17 lbs. Thanks again to Keith and his family for showing me around."

"Looking forward to advice on saddles. Happy fall riding, everyone."

BRITISH COLUMBIA NEWS

From MAUREEN HUMMEL, ROUGH DIAMOND FARM, ROSE PRAIRIE, "Speaking of wonderful Canadian Walkers, Meg just added to the population. The little sneak didn't look like she was due for awhile yet. I've been checking her regularly and she still managed to have it when I wasn't expecting it. She had a chestnut filly. Of course, she had to do it hard on the heels of that awful storm we had yesterday (down to +3, howling wind and pouring rain)."

"I've been wracking my brain cells to come up with a name for Katie's baby and FINALLY came up with it on the way out to check Meg. Katie's baby will be called R Diamond Casey's Last Tango (Katie was the last of my mares to be in with Casey) and Meg's baby is going to be called R Diamond Casey's Storm Chaser since she was born right after the storm."

"Both fillies will be just about as hard to tell apart in the pasture as their moms are. They both have white blazes (Chaser's is wider) and both have two hind stockings (Tango's are higher). I already have enough trouble telling Katie and Meg apart in the pasture!"

"With all the bays and chestnuts I'm getting, I'm going to have to look seriously into getting a palomino or cremello stallion. EEK!"

From SUSAN FLYNN, NELSON, "Thanks for sending me a renewal order form. I am as yet not the owner of a Tennessee Walking Horse, but am planning to have one within the next two years. I really look forward to the arrival of *Walking Horse News* as I am learning so much about this wonderful breed from my armchair."

JOYCE PATTERSON, CAWSTON, writes, "Just a short scrawl to let you know I am still alive. Had a bad four months in spring. Then July and August have been terribly hot and now there are fires all over. Very smoky here. Everyone is hoping for rain. There are hundreds of miles of fires now."

"Blue Bell's still lame in her hip and leg. It's been a whole year now and it's not safe to go far as she'll still fall once in a while."

"We're making our own hay this year, end of August or beginning of September. We'll put up the second cut and we'll have enough so we won't have to buy any this winter."

"Enclosed is my cheque for another year of pleasurable reading. I find it exceptionally informative too. Thanks, from Joyce & ponies."

NATALIE SPECKMAIER, VANCOUVER, e-mailed, "Here is the promised article on the gaited horse clinic with Dianne and Bill. Now I need to get busy and relate the results of our Parelli clinic with Jonathan Field on the long weekend. And there's a Monty Roberts clinic coming up that Nicole's friend volunteered us for... Should be interesting, especially since we get to watch for free, get a free T-shirt - and dinner to boot! Not a bad deal even if I wasn't aware that I had *volunteered* for the honour! Will let you know how it all goes."


"Loved the cover on the latest *WHN*. Looked like Diamond in a set of identical tack Nicole had agonized over at Stampede Feed and Tack which was on consignment a year or 2 ago. She decided a parade outfit wasn't practical and is using my synthetic Tennessean until she finds something else that fits. I'm still struggling with the leather one, and as soon as I regain strength in my right arm that is giving me some problems (who knows why), I'll practice the Parelli method of swinging it up effortlessly onto Trigger's back, and won't have to holler for help."

From JO-ANNE MCDONALD, MCDONALD FARMS, POUCE COUPE, "We have sold the yearling stallion, Dark Celtic Chance (Misty Dark Delite x Heather's Angel) to Jack and Madeleine Chapman of Stettler. There is some interesting breeding there - his sire, Darkie, is by LH Sur Me Big (HF Midnight Allen breeding) out of Doll 'O The Mist (Merry Go Boy blood) and Angel is the daughter of Shadow's Super Seven (by Shadow's Brantley) and Midnight's Heather (by Red Eagle Mack K). He is to be their future breeding stallion. He is a very well built dark chestnut with a nice loose square gait. We wish them all the best with him. We had a nice visit with the Chapmans when we delivered him in July."

"It has been pretty dry here this summer and once again, feed is scarce. We have actually had to buy some of our winter feed and that is a first on our farm. And that's all the news from the north for now."

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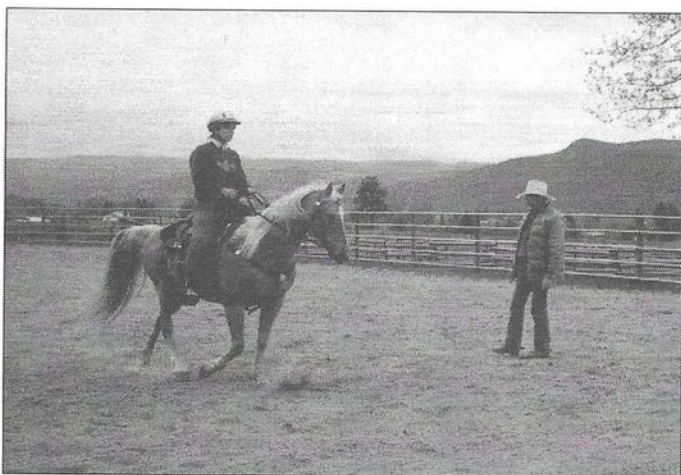


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GAITED HORSE CLINIC AT GOLDEN GAIT ACRES

by Natalie Speckmaier



Three of those at the clinic: Bill Roy, & Nicole on 'Trigger'.

The clinic was held at Golden Gait Acres on June 21/22, with ten horse/rider participants, and as many auditors.

We were extremely fortunate to have Dianne Little and Bill Roy as clinicians. I believe all WHN subscribers are aware of Dianne's reputation in horsemanship circles, and her expertise in the world of horse show judging. Bill is well known as an excellent horse trainer, whose specialty is training gaited horses. His patience and gentleness in the performance of this task is the by-product of his quiet nature and sense of humour.

Dianne made it very clear that she is not a Sally Swift Centered Riding Instructor, but her knowledge of the methods and her demonstrations were truly expert. Her explanations of horse body mechanics certainly lit a lot of light bulbs over the heads of everyone, and applying the Centered Riding position in the saddle had a lot of amazing results: Nicole had an unbelievable response from Diamond, riding bareback, at liberty, steering with her body, with him performing like he'd done it all his life. Trigger, standing ground tied for at least a half hour and then standing quietly for ten minutes at a time while I was on her. For me to get back into the saddle for the first time since my "airborne" experience would have been stressful but for the fact that Bill was there to do the "carnival pony thing" - leading Trigger with me on her for at least an hour. His quiet relaxed manner and words of encouragement did a whole lot to rebuild my lost confidence.

The ground exercises we did before we saddled up were basic Parelli stuff but it sure helped to have each step explained, with troubleshooting hints offered when your horse didn't respond. The people exercises were very helpful in getting us supple and limber, and then helping us get properly positioned in the saddle. One trick Bill uses for that is to take your feet out of the stirrups, bring your knees up until they touch, then put your feet back in the stirrups. This is guaranteed to place your butt properly balanced in the saddle. Eventually your butt finds its own saddle seat without your having to do the 'knees up' thing.

We were fortunate to have good weather, since the clinic was held in the outdoor riding arena. Everyone got into the swing of things very quickly, and *swing* we did. Dianne demonstrated how the belly of the horse sways out of the way of the legs, as well the cadence of hoof beats for each gait. It made for some pretty hilarious moments.

She went on to show us different bits and explained the mysteries of the snaffle. So much ground was covered (no pun intended) in two days that I can't possibly relate all that we learned... and tried to retain. I believe one thing everyone will remember is to always ride with legs in an inverted U position, not a V.

Bill did a saddle fit demonstration on Sunday, and it was interesting to see the results. The most common problem showed pressure spots on the withers. I had my saddle tested last year, and was happy to learn that it was a perfect fit.

In closing, I'll give the names of the clinic participants: 7 Tennessee Walkers: Nicole Haseler & Diamond; Natalie Speckmaier & Trigger; Linda Rasmussen & Flame; Georgina Connelly & Star; Charlotte Merrick & ?; Lauren Kemp & Frenchie; Amin Devji & Koko. Then there were Vanessa Fraser & Mac (TB x TWH); Darla Malkoste on a Missouri Foxtrotter, and Susan Croft on a Paso Fino.

Thank-you, Dianne & Bill, for an excellent clinic. We can't wait to have another one!

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FESTIVAL OF THE GAITS

Report by Liz Levangie, photo by Jo Kingsland

July 12, 2003 promised to be a hot, dry day for the Festival - and it certainly was! Even so, we all had fun. For those of you who don't know, the Festival of the Gaits is a fun show held each year by the Central Alberta Tennessee Walkers. It's a time for owners of gaited horses to get together for a stress free day of participating in classes - just for fun.

We had more than double the number of participants that we had in 2002. There were riders of all ages and skills. I have to say we were all impressed with our junior riders who were game for most - if not all - of the classes offered. As the day was starting out *hot* (at a temperature in the 20s by 10:00) it was decided to have the Gymkhana and Trail classes first. We had both 2 and 3 gait Flags, Pole Bending and Barrels. The Trail class is always a good opportunity to expose an inexperienced horse (or for that matter, rider) to a number of trail "obstacles" in a safe way.

After that we took a break for a delicious potluck lunch. As usual everyone had outdone themselves bringing an outstanding selection of salads, main dishes, fruit, buns, garlic bread and sweets - and I can personally attest, most of us "stuffed" ourselves. Anyway, then it was time to get back to business.

The afternoon was spent in classes showcasing the smoothness of a gaited horse. There was the Middle Gait Race (once around the track in any middle gait so long as your horse did not canter), Egg and Spoon, and the Water Glass Race. As it was such a hit (hoot!) last year, we had the Egg Stomp again. In this class (again 2 and 3 gait), an egg (raw) is placed at one end of the arena, horses and riders at the other and the idea is for your horse to break the egg in the fastest time. Some eggs were buried in the dirt by the horse moving around, only to pop up again unbroken as the rider moved the horse looking for the egg. We would like to have more classes like this for our younger junior riders. (Any ideas from Pony Club?)

At this point I would like to thank all our riders. As well, members of the Wildrose Club have always been tremendously supportive of the Festival with their participation. To our volunteers, Sheila Holtz, Mike Grose, Roy Olson, Jo Kingsland - what can I say? "We just couldn't do it without you!"

Again this year, a Great Big **THANK YOU** to our sponsors for their generous support. Thanks to:

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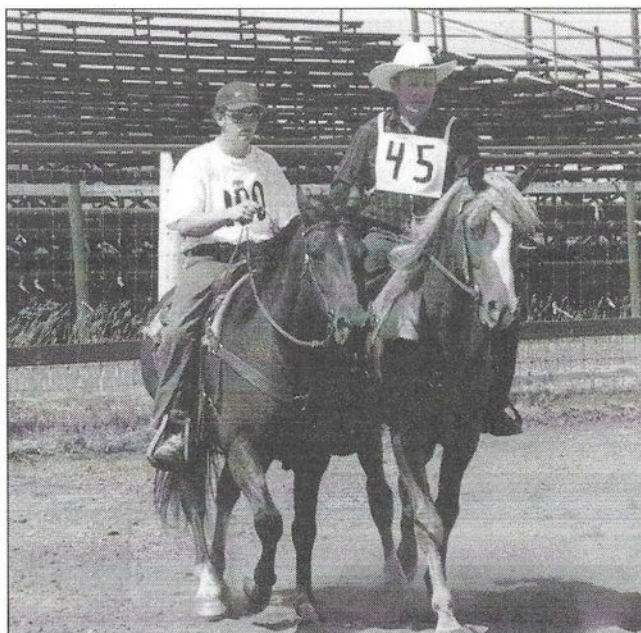
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We have a beautiful new High Point Perpetual Trophy sponsored by Noisy Hollow Acres (Dave and Rhonda Lemmon). This year's winner was Chris Levangie riding Jackson's First Prize owned by Norm and Liz Levangie (*Photo below, on left, in Delsey Derby with Norm.*)

As well this year, a special plaque was presented to Jean Rempel and Northfork Sky Walker. Jean is retiring "Luke" after many years of faithful support and attendance at The Festival of the Gaits. We will miss seeing your boy, Jean!

At The Festival of the Gaits, the idea is to enjoy yourself and your horse. Everyone is welcome! I encourage anyone who thinks they might like to try showing, doing something different with their horse or just socializing with other horsey people to come out. Until next year...



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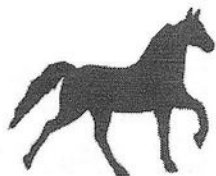
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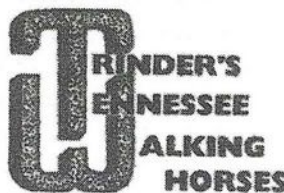


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ONTARIO NEWS

MARLYNN REY, STITTSVILLE, writes, "We've had a good summer with our horses despite the deer flies, a billion mosquitos and suffocating heat and humidity. Most days I was in the saddle at 6:15 a.m. to avoid all those lovely Ottawa attractions. Both Ranger (4) and Shaker (3) benefited from Kim Pringle's coaching this summer and are progressing well. Our eleven year old daughter Rebeca also got the riding bug and has been riding Ranger on our outings. It's a bit scary for me to be out with two green horses and a green rider, but I guess you gotta start somewhere!"

"I finally met Charlie Varjas - and found out she keeps her horses only a few kilometres from me!"

KIM PRINGLE, ARDEN, e-mailed, "Well it has been an interesting few days in ONTARIO. More interesting yet if you find yourself in the Kingston airport trying to fly to Edmonton via Toronto. I was trying to get to clinics booked out west, one in Vanderhoof, BC and one in Grand Cache, AB."

"When all the power on the Eastern Seaboard went out, I was extremely glad to NOT be anywhere near Toronto. We lost power on Thursday at 4:00 pm. Our farm is well set up with our own shop & generators so we were fine. Our farm is a family run business so everyone works together to keep it going. My dad is one of our farm's greatest assets - he is a fabricator/millwright/mechanic. We call him "Magiver". He is our ROCK. My mom keeps us all focused and fed. My sister Tammis works with me to take care of the horses; she is my right hand. I am 'The Rainmaker' (I bring in the clients and make all the work for everyone else)."

"Today it's Monday morning (August 18) and I am writing this e-mail from Edmonton. I will be able to do my clinic in Grande Cache but will have to re-book the BC clinic for next year."

"Ontario has some 'Huge Ice Storms' and some 'Big Power Outages' but living in the 'cottage lake country' has some assets. This week when the lights went out at PRINGLE FARMS - once all the horses were taken care of - we stayed at the lake and drank all the beer (so it would not go bad)..."

"With all the difficulties that happened as a result of this Power Outage 2003 I am grateful that we were not affected too badly, I am grateful for my family, and I am really grateful that I do not take the subway in Toronto!"

"P.S. The horses did not even know that the lights went out."

DARLENE SHANTZ, MILFORD, WRITES, "Last time I wrote *WHN* I had a yearling Walker filly I'd purchased back in 2000. The goal I'd set 10 years earlier was to have a TWH to ride by the time I turned 40. I sent my filly, at 3 years old, to Kim Pringle for 3 months to get her started under saddle. Well, the day before my birthday in May 2002, I rode Foxy for the first time - so I made it!"

"However... as most of you already know, Walkers can be addictive. Who can stop at just one? When Foxy returned home she was in foal to Kim's stallion, Trackin' on Heir, for a 2003 foal. I rode Foxy until late fall when the days got shorter and her pregnancy started to show. I was hooked on the glide ride, and now faced spring without a horse to ride again. At least I'd have a foal to look forward to."

"Winter is long and the internet too tempting... For months I researched bloodlines and looked at Walkers for sale - just for fun, of course! I kept coming back to this cute strawberry roan sabino filly with flaxen mane/tail in Northern Alberta. She looked very sweet, but she was a bit small and not broke. Still, I was drawn back to her and finally, after several months, I inquired. Yes, she was still for sale - and shipping turned out to be more reasonable than I'd anticipated. Several phone calls and many e-mails later I took the plunge and purchased her right before Christmas."

"On January 15th she arrived in Paris, Ontario after 5 long anxious days of travelling across the country. It was very cold with snow squalls as we headed out on the 3 1/2 hour drive to pick her up and see just what I'd purchased. As you can imagine I didn't tell too many people I'd bought a horse over the internet as they thought I was being foolish (crazy) to do so but I had faith! Around 7 pm I first laid eyes on my new Walker."

"My first thought was "what an unique colour". She was much sturdier & more solid looking in real life, a nice stocky western type horse. I fed her a couple carrots and she was hooked on me. The trip home was uneventful. It took her a few days to re-hydrate and get steady on her feet but she was very happy to be on solid ground!"

"Red Wings Sun Shower (aka Sunny) has been here 6 months now. She quickly took over boss mare status of my little herd but she is sweet and gentle with people. I spent the winter gaining her trust and teaching her about the longe, saddle, bridle, roads and traffic in hopes of a great spring of riding."

"Spring arrived cool and wet along with all the usual busy activities that left little time for training but we are riding in the ring and out on the trails whenever we can and she is doing really well. Foxy was due in April but that dragged on into May (meaning lack of sleep!) before she delivered a delightful black filly. Little Ebony is wonderful! She has that Walker temperament I appreciate so much, sweet, willing, extremely friendly and sensible. She has learned to lead, tie, clip, pick up her feet very easily and my 13 year old daughter has done most of the training on her."

"What a joy to look out my window at my pasture and see my Walkers peacefully grazing - three dreams come true."

*What the colt learns in youth
he continues in old age.*
French Proverb

TWHBEA CLINIC UXBRIDGE, ON June 7/8, 2003 By Darlene Shantz

Free clinic! It was Kim Pringle telling me about the TWHBEA sponsored Bobby Richards clinic coming in June to Ontario.

But despite my best intentions I just hadn't ridden my 4 year old mare Red Wings Sun Shower enough. My daughter had been on her back a few times and my first ride on her was May 26th. The free clinic was in 2 weeks, so I decided not to go.

A few days before the clinic Kim phoned. "You're missing a great opportunity", she told me, "Think about it". I did think, then I called my friend Heather, who has 3 Walkers as well. "I'll go if you'll come with me", I said and she agreed to go. I put 2 more rides on Sunny (for a total of 5), then Saturday morning at 5.30 a.m. I loaded her up and off we went. Right away the trailer was rocking, so I slowly proceeded to Heather's where we discovered that Sunny had launched herself into the manger of my trailer with her feet up at her nose and the rope over her ears. Since the last trailer ride had lasted 5 days on her trip from Alberta, perhaps she was a little upset at the prospect of travelling again? We managed to extract her from the trailer, checked her over, then re-loaded her and Heather's horse, Koko, and we were off, only a half hour late.

We arrived at the clinic behind schedule and very nervous. I had no idea what to expect, but everyone was happy to see us and were very welcoming and friendly. The facilities were wonderful and the horses settled in really well. Bobby Richards put us all at ease with his casual, friendly manner. We brought the 5 horses that were participating into the arena first and discussed conformation; then one horse/rider at a time worked in the arena. It was a great opportunity for me to see a variety of Walking Horses and meet some of the nicest horse people around. Bobby had lots of stories to tell and helped each horse/rider with any questions they had on improving their horses gaits.

Other topics covered included saddle fit, shoeing, braiding (TWH style), biting and longeing. On Sunday each rider rode again, then Bobby got on and rode each horse. What a difference I could see in each horse from Saturday to Sunday. I was thrilled with how well Sunny behaved herself handling everything really well even though I was nervous. Bobby helped me to get her started on her flat walk and was very encouraging, telling me how much he liked to see owners training their own horses. I came away with more confi-

dence in my abilities and my horse. In fact Sunny has been steadily improving since. For those of you that were there, remember how she would squeal whenever the rider dismounted? She hasn't done it since!

Thanks to Kim Pringle, Bobby Richards and TWHBEA for organizing the clinic and helping to promote our wonderful Canadian Walking Horses!

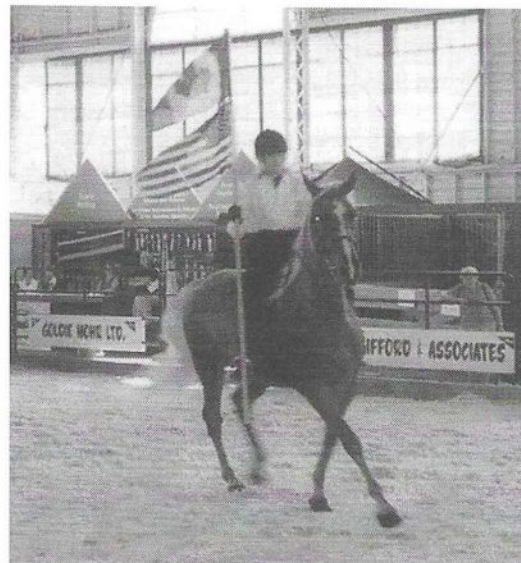
WALKING HORSE DEMO at the OTTAWA EXHIBITION

by Marlynn Rey

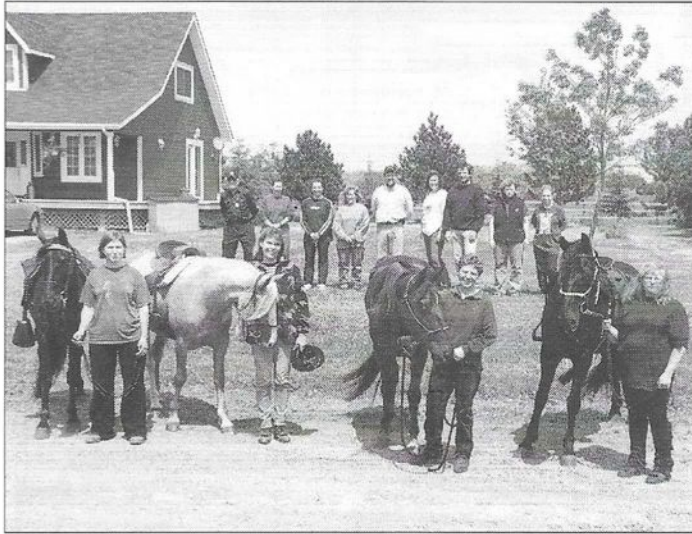
I had the privilege of riding for three days at the Ottawa Exhibition with Ian Lockett in August. Ian was there for ten days! It was my horse, Ranger's, first exposure to screaming kids, roller coasters, sirens and loudspeakers. In the pavilion, when the other stalled horses ignored the crowds, Ranger's head was still stuck out of the stall as if to say, "*Pet me, love me, give me more!*"

He did a wonderful job in our Walking Horse Demonstrations which were held twice daily. Ranger's only tense moments were when we passed the flag during the demo. He was SURE that Ian was coming after him with that flag pole! Ian and Duster did their usual amazing demo, including doing a running walk with a glass of coke held on a tray.

The 4-H Pony Club challenged us to a relay race in which we had to ride around the arena with jellybeans in a spoon. Amid wild cheers from the crowd, the Walking Horses beat the Pony Club at their own game! The grand prize? A bag of jelly beans, of course. There was significant interest at our information booth. Several seasoned horse people expressed genuine interest in trying a Walking Horse. Ian said that one man was so moved by Duster, he was in tears. I hope we get a chance to do a demo next year again. Thanks, Ian, for making the TWH Demo a success this year at the Ex.



Marlynn
&
Ranger
carry
the
Canadian
&
American
Flags
at
the
Ottawa
Ex.



ONTARIO TWHBEA CLINIC

with Bobby Richards Jr. June 7 & 8

The planning for this clinic started last December at the TWHBEA board of directors meeting. Jan Keyser approached me and asked if I would be willing to organize a clinic in Ontario with Mr. Bobby Richards. This clinic was paid for by TWHBEA and was open to everyone, but was free for all TWHBEA members. Jan Keyser sent out personal invitations to every TWHBEA member in Ontario and to anyone who had been a member in the last 5 years.

We had a great turn out. The Riders & Auditors who attended the clinic were Cindy Blunchell, Dr. W.A. Lloyd Smith, Ian Lockett, Cathy Baldwin, Lue Fennell (new member), Darlene Shantz, Heather Hughes, Jodi Lougheed, Patricia Gosse, Jan Pells, Kim Pringle, and new youth members Vanessa McCormack & Elizabeth Nixon.

Saturday morning started with conformation evaluations. After lunch Mr Richards worked with each horse and rider separately. We had 2 gait and 3 gait horses at this clinic. The youth riders wanted to work on developing the canter. (This was great to see). Mr. Richards stressed the importance of developing the canter in all horses.

On Sunday Mr. Richards continued to work with each horse and rider. After lunch he gave a clipping and showmanship demo. Shoes, biting, and saddle fit were also covered. In the afternoon all participants continued to build on what was learned the previous day. There was great improvement in the horses & riders. Mr. Richards did a fantastic job! Our riders and owners are mostly pleasure riders (no show people) so the information he provided was geared specifically for them. He was well received, professional and entertained everyone with some great stories all weekend long.

I would like to thank everyone who came out to support & enjoy our first Ontario TWHBEA clinic held at THE MEADOWS EQUESTRIAN CENTRE in Uxbridge

Ontario. It was a huge success! Barbara Fletcher and Tina Northern from the Meadows were invited to audit the clinic. Both ladies loved it. Mrs. Fletcher was happy to have her staff given the exposure to a new breed. They have seen the growing interest in the gaited horse here in Ontario and were very happy to have this event held at their barn. The stalls and horse care were excellent. Everyone was made to feel very welcome and all participants were presented with a beautiful 'The Meadows Equestrian' coffee cup.

Jan Keyser sent 5 videos as door prizes. The following people won the videos: Rea Windsor, Jodi Lougheed, Vanessa McCormack, Patricia Gosse, while Lue Fennell won a Video & TWHBEA hat.

Kim Pringle, Ontario TWHBEA Director

GAITED HORSE GROUP OF ONTARIO MUSICAL DRILL TEAM CLINIC

The second clinic of the GHGO education committee was a "hot success" in more ways than one. Horse lovers are a versatile and hardy group of people though, and despite the 30 degree heat, riders and horses had a wonderful day at the "Drill Team" clinic.

The success of the day was largely due to the "ever-so-enthusiastic" energy of the clinician, Kim Pringle! Kim is extremely knowledgeable and passionate about horses, particularly of the gaited type, and July 5th was no exception.

The day commenced with a briefing about what to expect from the clinic and theory about the different formations and drills teams would be experiencing. In all there were 8 horses and riders – a perfect number for the drills Kim had planned. Horses and riders all did extremely well, considering that there were a few youngsters in the crowd - horses that is. (We definitely won't get into the ages of the riders, but pony clubbers they were not!)

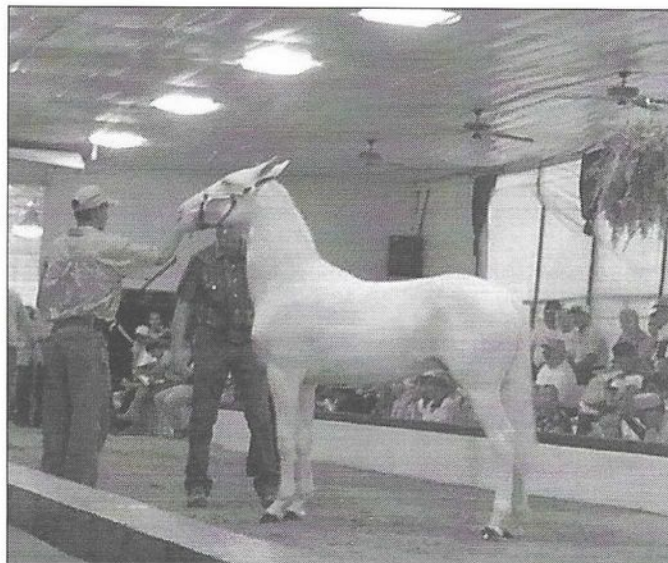
After a well-deserved water break late in the afternoon, Kim worked on a few individual challenges that riders were having with their horses. She would have continued all night if we had let her. THANKS, KIM! A special thanks also to Rea Windsor for her lead role in organizing the clinic – Rea is always up to the challenge when it comes to horse-related activities.

Patricia Gosse, GHGO Publicity & Education

Author Patricia Gosse is in charge of the Education Committee for the GAITED HORSE GROUP OF ONTARIO. (GHGO), a club for promotion of the gaited horse in Ontario. Members are made up of owners of Tennessee Walking Horses, Rocky Mountain Horses, Kentucky Mountain Horses, Icelandic, and Peruvian Pasos to name just a few.

A SUNDAY SAMPLER: PLEASURE HORSE SALES DURING THE TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE NATIONAL CELEBRATION By Franne Brandon

The Tennessee Walking Horse Celebration is a ten day extravaganza that brings thousands of visitors and hundreds of horses into the town of Shelbyville, Bedford County, Tennessee, and other surrounding towns. While the people come to see the show, the horses do not all arrive registered for classes in the big oval or Calsonic Arena. Many horses make the trek to Shelbyville in order to change owners at one of the many auction sales that occur during the daytime hours of the show's ten day run.



Topping the cream dilutes was a handsome cremello stallion consigned by Clayton Stables.

Initially, these events began as yearling production venues for certain stallions, with the exception of the Sale of Show Ring Champions, which always reserved some slots for open consignments. With the burgeoning pleasure market of the eighties and nineties, however, several sales began to designate specific days for pleasure stock. The Wisner Farm Sale, located on the Lewisburg Highway at the former GLL Farms Yearling Production Sale site, has for a number of years designated its Sunday afternoon sale numbers for pleasure, flatshod, and spotted consignments. The 2003 edition took place on Sunday afternoon, August 24th, beginning at twelve noon, after the local church services had finished.

Wisner Farm had reserved 110 slots for the shorter Sunday afternoon. Busy with other projects at home, I had time to watch only a third of these, in order to compare them with the prices from the earlier Independence Day Extravaganza held the first weekend in July. My expectations were that the August prices would be lower than those I had tallied during extensive time at both days of the July event, because of the large number of animals being offering at several different sales.

Many of the entries featured in the Sunday pleasure consignments were yearlings. Fall is the season when many breeders want to sell the previous year's youngsters, and the Wisner Farm pleasure sale accepts these. Continuing a strong trend from the 2002 sales year, dilute yearlings commanded the most attention and the highest bids.

Ivory Tower (above) was sired by ACE'S SILVER STREAK and was out of a mare by the palomino MULBURY RUBER BAN MAN, a Chance's Goldust H. descendant. This well-developed colt brought a round of spirited bidding which topped out at a \$4500 no-sale bid. The second highest bid on a dilute came on a tall and strong-boned palomino stud colt with striking dark gold color. The Gold Legacy Pride, by Wisner Sale owner's palomino stallion, Gold Legacy Pride, drew a final bid of \$4400. Fillies, as would be expected, fared slightly less in the bidding, but a second entry from Clayton Stables, also sired by Ace's Silver Streak, sold for \$3050. This fine filly was also tall and well-developed, and a lovely shade of gold with white mane and tail. A fourth palomino, a filly still immature in appearance when compared with the other three, brought slightly less than half of what the larger filly had sold for.

Tobiano yearlings were also well-represented at the Sunday afternoon sale, but, as in July, bids were less intense. A homozygous black colt, foaled in March, big and handsome, brought a final bid of \$2800. A smaller colt, also homozygous but with more white in the coat, no-saled for \$1750. Claiming a much higher bid was a very attractive homozygous filly with more size than many two year olds. New owners claimed her for \$2600.

Bringing much less was a small and fine golden champagne filly foaled in early August of 2002. The Sunday entries did not include any grey, roan, sabino, or solid champagne youngsters. The few of ordinary hard colors that went under the hammer brought final bids of under \$1,000.

Horses presented under saddle were generally of the Tennessee trail horse variety, doing smooth saddle gaits but not walking. Two exceptions to this pattern were consigned by trainer Wallace Brandon, whose wife Laura was one of the Celebration judges for 2003. The first Brandon entry was a ten year old former Celebration World Champion Lite Shod Driving horse. The chestnut gelding was ridden in the sale arena to exhibit three distinct gaits, including a balanced, rhythmical canter. New owners claimed him for a \$3,800 bid. The second Brandon entry was named Redemption, but had no registration papers. This three-gaited 1992 gelding did not present a true running walk, but a stylish show gait and an excellent canter. The final bid was an astounding \$6,900 for what was essentially a grade gelding.

The trail and pleasure horses brought a variety of prices. Topping the group was a 1996 palomino gelding named Logan's Hero. Though not walky, he showed a lot of flash and style to bring a final of \$3100. An amber champagne August/01 youngster evidencing plenty of saddle time but not perfection of gait attracted a \$2700 offer. Two more unregistered geldings, a black by the noted Dean's Bossman from an unregistered mare, and a RHBAA light palomino, commanded bids of \$2050 and \$2600. An extremely green black tobiano two year old stallion, ridden in a snaffle, brought a final \$2000 offer, which was rejected. Two small, smooth tobiano saddle mares, both with foals by side, sold for \$2100 and \$1850. Neither the mares nor their offspring were sired by any of the prominent and popular tobiano stallions. A dark-eyed, white stallion, quite attractive, with an unfortunately lateral gait, did not sell at \$1000.

Celebration sales ran for eight of the show's expanded eleven day run. Veteran observers attending a number of these reported an upswing in the market in 2003. Yearlings by Generator's Silver Dollar, Jazz Man and Gen's Major General commanded top dollar, but more yearling sales broke even or at least made a little profit. Horses under saddle also sold well, and some mares attracted top bids too. Now that the Celebration is over, the TN sale scene will swing to the fall trail season, where a walker must prove itself in the woods and hills to claim top sales honors for its owners.

R DIAMOND PICASSO

(Dressed For Success x Uphill Firefly)

1996 - 2003

On July 26th at approximately 11:30 pm
R Diamond Picasso was humanely euthanized following irreparable damage caused by an accident.

Casey Doofus, as he was affectionately called, was a once in a lifetime horse.

Just an overgrown kid at heart, Casey thought all of life was a lark. He loved to play and run, tossing his head and showing off. And he had a right to show off. Right from day one Casey was a gifted athlete. He had a loose moving, head nodding, running walk and an utterly gorgeous canter that had to be ridden to be believed.

An excellent baby sitter, he loved to play with the foals and was incredibly gentle with them. None of the farm animals who wandered through his pasture ever had to fear him.

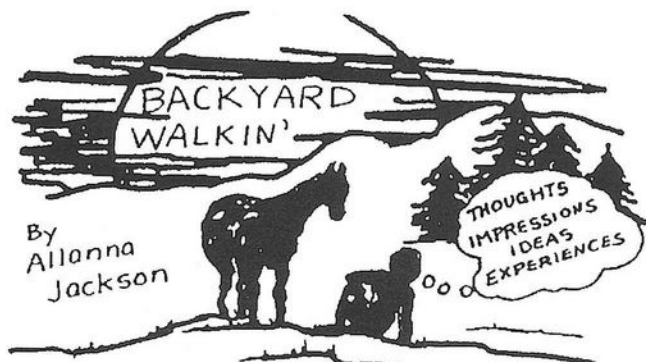
Although Casey is gone, his legacy lives on here on our farm in his fillies Velvet, Tango and Chaser. They all exhibit his trademark rocking chair canter and all have the deep head nodding running walk. They've also inherited his 'look at me attitude', his gentle nature and that playfulness that made him such a character.

His untimely death was a great loss to the breed, but more than that, I feel like a part of me has died. I know he is now in a place where he feels no more pain. The pain is now mine to bear. It is with a heavy heart that I say,

"FAREWELL MY FRIEND,
I WILL NEVER FORGET YOU".

Maureen Hummel





In Loving Memory of "Koko"

April 29, 1971 - August 17, 2003

Luckys Koko Prince 713971& 154

(Rambler's Lucky Socks x Sundown La Marr)

14.3 1/2 hand brown bay stallion, right hind sock.

Bred and registered by David W. and Helen M. Morris,
Whitefish, Montana, USA.

Koko was a pleasure horse, trail horse, parade horse, breed exhibition horse, children's horse, family pet, competitive trail horse, driving horse, sire of 20 registered Tennessee Walking Horses and an unknown number of American Walking Ponies and unregistered pure-bred and part-bred pleasure horses.

Luckys Koko Prince was a very well-bred Tennessee Walking Horse from the oldest and best of western Walking Horse bloodlines. The stars on his registration papers included Roy Rogers' "Trigger, Jr." (Allen's Gold Zephyr) and the 1940 World's Champion Stallion, Trouble, by Last Chance. Koko was a great-grandson of Fitz Allen and Thornton's Glamour Girl, the first two registered TWH sent to Montana in 1941. He was also a grandson of Silvertip-Rickey, making him the closest Rickey descendant to survive into the 21st century. Luckys Koko Prince was only the 5th generation from Lady

L a M a r r ,
foundation mare
of the La Marr
Walking Horses
that originated in
W y o m i n g .
Koko's pedigree
also featured such
rare but notable
horses as Rose
Bud Allen

350001, the first
horse registered
in TWHBA (on
his papers!);
Curlee's Spotted



Allen, the Squirrel horses and 31 different foundation horses including most of the Hal and Brooks foundation horses. This impeccable and authentic foundation breeding made Koko a living example of Tom Moss' ideal for his La Marr Walking Horses - a sturdy horse, suitable for western uses that would running walk perfectly, with no tendency to pace, when ridden casually in the western manner.

Far more important than Koko's impeccable pedigree, sturdy conformation and superb Walking gait was his wonderful character.

Luckys Koko Prince was an exuberantly cheerful, people loving horse who loved life. He was amiable, forgiving, gentle, trusting and trustworthy, communicative, honest, reliable and affectionate with a fun sense of humor. People failed Koko, betrayed and mistreated him numerous times in his life, yet he forgave them all, retaining his gentleness and trust to the very end. Koko possessed a stamina, toughness and determination that enabled him to survive starvation, several bouts of colic, emphysema, evacuation from a wildfire and a choke. In the end he succumbed to the ravages of time.

The last 7 1/2 years of his life Koko enjoyed the best care money could buy, along with the love and friendship of Allanna Jackson and Sacia's Pride and friends. Koko lay down for the final time in the grass on a balmy Sunday afternoon with his little band of mares nearby. He was lovingly escorted to the door of death by his owner and the many neighbors who appreciated him. We showered him with love and affection in his final minutes on this earth. Koko contentedly lived out his final months in the Back Yard and is now buried in the front yard, because that's where the neighbors could dig a suitable grave with a borrowed back hoe.

The Bible tells us there are animals in heaven, but it does not specifically say the animals we have

here go to heaven. Still I find it comforting to think that Koko is now walking through heavenly pastures, frolicking with Corban and Back Yard Second Edition, Sassy's colts by Mischievous Secret and Honey Boy's Rebel, and perhaps meeting mares he

loved and his own foals that preceded him in death.

I have many happy memories from the last 7 years and 9 months of Koko's life... Koko winning Sassy's affection by sharing his hay with her and shaping up his manners to meet her standards; Koko training Sassy to use the shelter of a barn.; Koko opening the corral gate and climbing into the feed shed to raid the psyllium bucket, while ignoring the hay and grain. Koko being daddy to the foals - mock fights with Mister Star La Marr, a rowdy romp with April Velvet, a gentle game of tag with Back Yard Cinnamon. There were happy trail rides with Koko strolling through the forest, cheerfully splashing through streams and sometimes leaping a narrow one for mischief. Koko's bold confidence in the face of construction equipment, vehicles, dogs, motorcycles and the other oddities of modern civilization was delightful. Then there were the momentary double takes for a plywood cow yard ornament, the debarked dog that sounded like a squeeze toy and a gaudily flowered white sofa dumped in a clump of junipers. There were canters under the old powerline route and those never recorded minutes of flawless, smooth, flowing running walk through the forest in company of a neighbor and her Arabian mare. Other times he enjoyed walking so fast the Arab or Quarter horse mares we rode with had to lope to keep up. Other days there was his loose, reaching flat walk coming home from a ride. Other times he snuck into a foxtrot as smooth as his running walk, just to see if I'd notice, or because his arthritis was bothering him.

When Koko discovered I wanted to open gates without dismounting he happily demonstrated his ability to open the gate without my help, then strutted home so proud of himself. Koko strutted his walk on the way up to the beginning of a parade, and was mistaken for a Foxtrotter. The day Koko scared my sister with his sloppy steering by mischievously walking into Scott's Reservoir, then taking her turn command too literally to crash through the middle of a small oak clump. Yet he took her home safely and patiently stood tied with his rope halter on upside down when she couldn't figure out how it was supposed to go.

Then there was the time we celebrated Sassy's birthday by trailering to a new trail. We ponied Sassy for awhile, then turned her loose in a safely fenced area. Koko and I strolled down the official trail while Sassy wandered and grazed, lagged behind, then dashed ahead like an inquisitive foal. She worked herself harder than I'd planned, but enjoyed it and happily resumed ponying correctly when we got to the next gate. Koko and Sassy gave the neighbor girls

their first hands-on experience with horses. Koko contentedly oozed affection on them as the girls groomed him 'til he shone, combed and braided his mane and even cleaned out his hooves. Then he taught them the proper way to lead a horse, from either side, strolling obediently beside them, as quiet as an old gelding. He also taught them to pay attention to him, and to my instructions, reminding them he was a stallion with moments of talking and flirting with the mares. Koko loved to be cuddled, but didn't like to admit it, at least not at first. He oozed affection on me when I groomed him, scratched his neck or just stood there petting him.

With such a delightful horse there are simply too many precious moments to recount them all... If a horse can exhibit Christian character Koko certainly did. He was a wonderful horse, a unique gift from God. I was blessed to have him and will miss him. Koko touched people's lives in ways that will not be forgotten. God bless and keep Luckys Koko Prince.

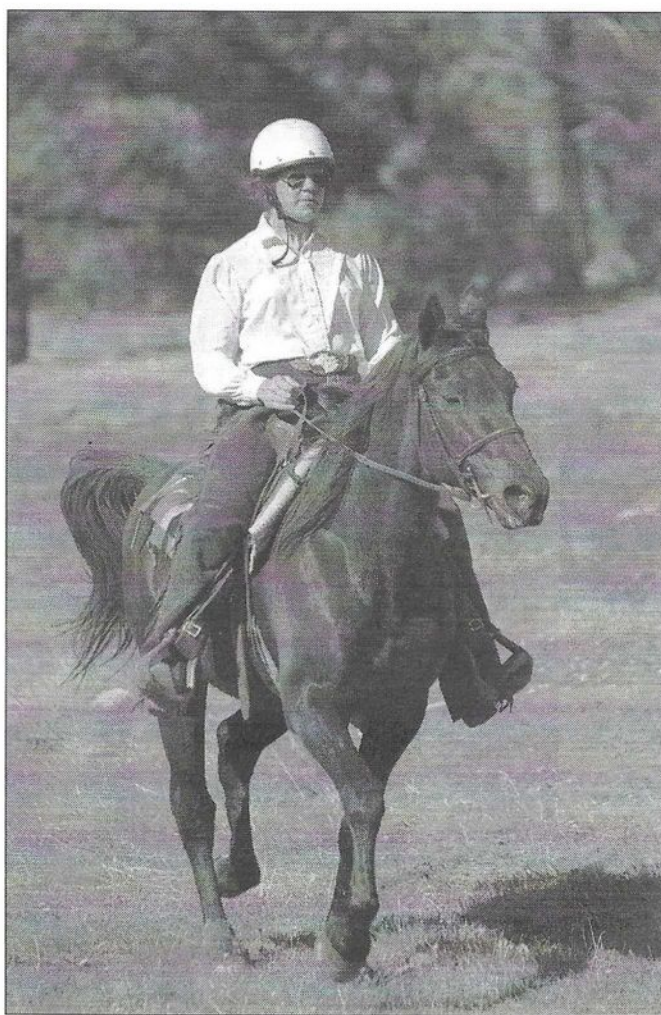


Photo above by Ian Allan Jackson. Photo on facing page by Sheryl Gregston, Mt. Aukum, CA.

NEWS FROM OUR U.S. READERS

GRACE LARSON, FORSYTH, MONTANA, writes, "We just sent off the renewal for the *Walking Horse News* and I have already read many of the articles in the July-August issue. And I also went in to visit your web site! I read Franne's article on the Dement horses. Mom bought Silvertip Rickey because he was a Line Bred Last Chance walking horse. I have never ridden another walking horse that could equal him either. He could walk up a storm unshod, turn on a dime, scale the steep hills, cut cattle and horses, look great in parades, and my sister & I could safely ride him when we were small children. I was 7 when Mom brought him home, my sister 4. By the time she was 7 and I was 10 we were riding him all over, around mares and other horses, and all over the ranch."

"Then I read Keith's article on his trip to Germany. I really enjoyed that and I know a young stud colt from Cochrane will be going to Germany soon. Then Ron Smith's article was excellent! But all of the *WHN* is so informative and enjoyable."

"I was trying to figure out the stallion that was from the US that Ron mentioned; guessing that maybe it was Go Shadow Go or Midnight Toddy? I really like the way Toddy's offspring running walk; no shoes; no gimmicks."

"We have been able to find a safe home for the Foxtrotter mare we rescued a few years ago. She was ready to be shipped for meat when we bought her from a kill buyer in Great Falls. She had been badly abused so has needed a very special handler. Well, the other day an older man who trains mules and horses stopped by. We brought her in and watched him work with her and felt that he can give her the safe home she needs."

"We have cut down on horses a lot BUT yesterday a young girl called. Her parents are separating and she needed a home for her mare and yearling filly! The filly is by Chance and is gaited. The mare is an unregistered 15 year old quarter pony. Well, they will be coming here right after Labor Day! We told her they won't be leaving unless they are going to a good safe & sound home."

"That's it for this time. We sure enjoy *The Walking Horse News* and having it on line is all the better, but we will always keep up our subscription to the magazine too. The magazine has such value! I am always going back and looking something up in an old issue. They are just priceless and the day will come when the current issues will be Historical!"

From ELSIE DARRAH, LAST CHANCE FARM, NORTONVILLE, KANSAS, "Since 1993 I have worked to perfect my breeding program and produce quality foals by using exceptional mares and breeding them to stallions that crossed to produce awesome foals that have sense, natural gait with the correct conformation, a friendly disposition and a bonus of exotic color. I found that cross with the cremello stallion, Royal Ivory, in 1997. Since then I have bred 1 to 3 mares a year to him and never had a foal that didn't measure up in natural ability, conformation, disposition and spectacular color."

"Last year I was blessed with a cremello colt that validated my efforts to breed the perfect TWH. He is Darrah's Ivory Chance and is out of my buttermilk buckskin mare, Darrah's Sandy Chance who is out of my bay mare, Fireball's Mountain Maid. He is the stallion of my dreams. He was a year old on 22 April, 2003 and is now 15 months old."

"I spent Saturday morning trying to take pictures of the little darling. I had his trainer Althea, her assistant Angie, and my two friends, Bev & Bobbie, from Kansas City. I took 232 pictures with my Sony Digital Camera and my friend, Bobbie, used **two rolls of film** with her 35 mm camera. . ."

"Chance has been so de-spooked that he wanted to look at and get a bite of the flag, the plastic bag, the umbrella, the clinkers and finally the can with rocks in it. He parks beautifully and while looking ahead kept his ears turning to hear everything - everywhere but forward. He was bathed and brushed to perfection. It was hot but there was a breeze. We certainly worked harder than he did. We were all tired and sweaty and he was clean and dry."

"Finally we got the few good pictures and here is one for you to see."

*Darrah's Ivory Chance
& some of the hardworking photo crew, below*



"Chance has been in training with Althea since weaning. I have had so many health problems so I sent him to Althea where he would be worked with daily and get all the basics he will need before he is old enough to start under saddle and hopefully to a driving cart. He lounges and ground drives and has been exposed to all the different obstacles found in trail classes. I think it will pay off when he is ready to ride and drive. When his testosterone levels go up he will already have the basic foundation in training."

"I have big hopes for him when he grows up. He is very personable and I think he is going to be an awesome stallion when he matures. I hope he will be an ambassador of the breed with a natural gait and with style and presence. I have four mares: 2 buckskins, a cremello and a bay, bred to Royal Ivory for 2004 foals, so it should be a colorful year for me."

"My website is being updated and I am just learning so it will be slow going but hopefully will be worth the wait. The site is online but in a scaled version to keep it going until the update is done. I hope you like the pictures."

SHELLIE & MARK PACOVSKY, SLUSH CREEK WALKERS, BAINVILLE, MONTANA send out a very colourful brochure several times a year. This year they had 11 good looking foals, sired by Blaze of Threat or Slush Creek Jubal S, their Miller ranch bred stallion. They also have quite a number of Miller breds in their broodmare band.

CRISTINE HOLT, DUBUQUE, IOWA formerly Editor/Publisher of *The Walking Way*, writes, "How very nice to hear from you! It has been such a long time. You are probably still in the thick of the walking horse industry? I, on the other hand, am not. In fact, I don't have a single Walking Horse here anymore, as of two weeks ago. But they are still close to my heart. It's just that after MERRY MAN died, it wasn't fun anymore. And my emphasis in life turned more towards people. (I have three children married or almost married and one just-a-teenager left at home.) Horses became more of a little hobby and an escape for some peace and quiet more than anything else. All of my old broodmares died one by one while just living out their lives on my house lawn or the pasture or whatever suited them."

"These days I have a donkey and a little pony to eat the apples under my apple tree..."

Those of you who are long time subscribers will remember many of Cristine's great articles that were reprinted in the *Walking Horse News* from time to time some years ago.

A TASTE OF 'THE CANADIAN'

'The Canadian' Futurity, Sept. 13/14, was judged this year by Sally Frones of Carlton, Minnesota. She had judged at the Futurity once before, when it was still judged by comparing the horses actually in the ring. She said she really liked the current evaluative form, in which each horse is scored individually against a standard, and given points accordingly for such things as correct front legs; hind legs; head, neck, body, balance; and most importantly, *movement*. "This is more than just a 'pretty-party'". Sally said that when she goes home she will urge her State Futurity Committee to adopt this form of judging. Unofficially (and please forgive any errors), the top scoring animals shown in this 21st Futurity were:

Weanling Filly - UN-NAMED Calta Stables
(Calta Commander x Miss Big Stuff)

Weanling Colt - THE JAGGED EDGE Bar Cross Performance Horses
(Solstice Memory x Sunbonnet Bonnie Pride)

Yearling Filly - COIN'S OLYMPIC EDITION Allan Burton
(Coin's Double Play x Gen's Olympic Edition)

Yearling Colt - DOMINATOR'S COOL MILLION Allan Burton
(A Cool Million x Dominator's Tenneka)

Yearling Gelding - CALTA'S COMMANDER GENERAL
Calta Stables (Calta Commander x Topper's Sunset Lady)

Yearling in Hand - SILVER'S RING OF FIRE Big Rock Walker
Ranch (Generator's Silver Moon x Gold Star's Secret)

Two Year Old Filly - DOUBLE PLAY'S PENNY LANE
Maryann Schlaut (Coin's Double Play x Handshaker's Mirror Image)

Two Year Old Colt - RIDGEWALKER'S DIAMOND
Liz & Norm Levangie (Ridgewalker's Golden Comet x Caliente)

Two Year Old Gelding - KARLA'S BRAVE HEART Sheila Rodney
(Cherokee's Dark Knight x Karla's Black Diamond)

Two Year Old Line Driving - THUNDER FROM THE PREACHER
Big Rock Walker Ranch (Call the Preacher x Perfection's Marque)

Two Gait Performance - HOT LIGHTENING Sharon & Ted Smith
(Icy Hot x President for Keeps)

Three Gait Performance - DOMINATOR'S TENNEKA
Victor J. Burton (Pride's Dominator x Regenerated)

Driving - POWER'S CANADIAN COPY Cloudwalker Stables
(The Power Is On x Kelly's Victry Kiss)

Breeders Class - KELLY'S VICTRY KISS Cloudwalker Stables
(Calta Midnite Victry x Kesi)

Jack Strachan Memorial Trophy
DOUBLE PLAY'S PENNY LANE Maryann Schlaut
(Coin's Double Play x Handshaker's Mirror Image)

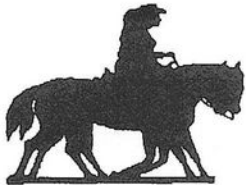
Top Score Entry: KARLA'S BRAVE HEART
Sheila Rodney (Cherokee's Dark Knight x Karla's Black Diamond)

Top Movement Score Entry: DOMINATOR'S COOL MILLION
Allan Burton (A Cool Million x Dominator's Tenneka)

Highest Score Over 5 Years - POWER'S CANADIAN COPY
Cloudwalker Stables (The Power Is On x Kelly's Victry Kiss)

Mare Whose Progeny Accumulate Most Points
KELLY'S VICTRY KISS (Calta Midnite Victry x Kesi) Cloudwalker

Stallion Whose Progeny Accumulate Most Points
GENERATOR'S SILVER MOON Big Rock Walker Ranch
(Gentr's Honey Gold x Generator's Ginger)



**Meredith
Manor**

careers in horsemanship

THE RIDING TREE:

FOLLOWING THE MOTION

Faith Meredith, Director of Riding, Meredith Manor International Equestrian Centre

Our goal as we move up the riding tree is to develop an independent seat so that we can influence the horse. An independent seat means that you are not relying on anything but balance to hold you on the horse. You use an athletic muscle tension to help you stay in balance but you are relaxed, not gripping with your muscles to hold you on the horse. Once you are in control of your own body, you can begin to influence the horse and control its body.

The first step in developing an independent seat is learning to relax while sitting on the horse. The second is learning to balance your own weight over the horse's center of gravity. The third is learning to feel and follow the horse's motion at the walk, trot, and canter.

"Following" does not mean just sitting and passively letting the horse's motion swing you along. It is an active muscular activity that aligns your rhythm with the horse's rhythm and puts the two of you in harmony. The rider needs to be aware of various body parts. She needs to be riding in balance, using elastic, athletic muscle tension to help her stay in balance rather than tight, gripping, nervous muscle tension. It takes strong abdominal muscles and loose, flexible hip joints that open and close smoothly. Being able to follow the motion is an essential skill the rider needs in order to ride in rhythm and harmony with the horse. Without this independent seat where you have total control of your body parts, you are always going to be limiting your horse.

A good instructor will choose school horses that can help a rider in whatever phase she is in at the moment. A good schoolmaster can help a rider become more relaxed and balanced so she can learn to follow the motion. Many instructors use longing to help riders develop a feel for the horse's motion.

This understanding of it is fairly simple. But mentally understanding it and applying it physically takes a lot of hard work and mental concentration. It takes a lot of hours in the saddle on a lot of different horses to achieve a truly independent seat and there are going to be a lot of times when your progress

seems very uneven. You get it on one horse but not another. You jump ahead on one horse but fall back on another. The key is to accept the feedback you get from each horse you ride to help you pinpoint weak areas.

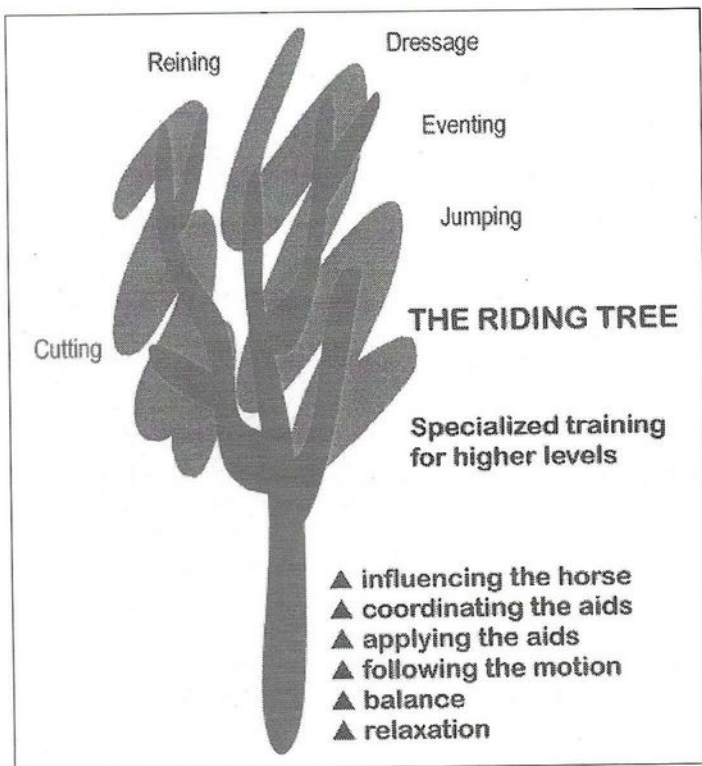
The horse's reactions are clues to whether you're not following his motion properly. When people get ahead of or behind the horse's motion, they put the horse out of balance. The horse will try to correct this so he can feel comfortable and in balance again. If you fall behind the motion, the horse will either sense that as a driving aid and run forward or he will slow down, maybe even stop, as he tries to position you back over his center of gravity where it is most comfortable for him to carry your weight. Most people tend to get behind the motion.

Our typical student riding at least twice a day spends about a year developing the necessary skills and muscles to be able to ride at all three gaits first, with relaxation; second, in balance; and third, while following the horse's motion. During that year, there will be times when the rider might easily achieve all three of those goals at the walk but find that it is really difficult to stay steady over the horse's center of gravity at the trot. Or she has no problems with following the horse's motion at the walk and the trot but find she's unable to achieve the right degree of physical relaxation at the canter to follow the horse's motion on both leads.

It's a very normal thing in the development of the seat is to hit plateaus. Just remember that everybody progresses differently and even if it takes you longer at one step, you might fly through the next two or three steps when you reach them. Expect plateaus and blocks from time to time and don't get discouraged or frustrated because they will happen. Be aware that it is normal. The body awareness and control you are trying to develop is very complex physiologically and psychologically.

A lot of times in order to progress, you have to give up some level of control you've used and start all over again. The rider who's been staying on the horse by gripping may feel she's "balanced" on her horse.

Continued on next page...



However, if she's going to achieve a truly independent seat, she's going to have to give up the security of her grip in order to learn how to ride with relaxation and true balance. Until she does, she's not going to be able to follow her horse's motion. She's going to get stuck on a plateau. The irony is that when she gives up her grip, her riding is actually going to regress for awhile. That frustrates many people and makes it hard for them to give up the bad riding habits they've developed that at least give them some sense of control. The reality is that unless you are able to give that control up and re-educate your body, you are not going to be able to progress to the next level.

If you don't have an independent seat, you will still influence the horse but your influences are going to create the wrong results and frustration for both you and the horse. Before you and your horse can play at the upper levels of whatever game you have chosen, being able to stay **relaxed**, to stay **balanced** over the horse's center of gravity, and to **follow the horse's motion** at all gaits is essential.

Faith Meredith coaches riders in dressage, reining, and eventing and has successfully trained and competed horses through FEI levels of dressage.

She is the Director of

*Meredith Manor International Equestrian Centre,
Route 1, Box 66, Waverly, WV 26184;
1-304-679-3128;*

TWHBEA MEMOS *Registration & Transfer Amnesty*

For those who missed it in the May/June *WHN*:

"Nancy Lynn Beech, vice president of the breeders' division ... recommended the creation of a **six-month amnesty period beginning July 1, 2003 and ending December 31, 2003**. During that window, members would be allowed to record transfers exceeding 120 days for a flat fee of \$100.00. In addition, registrations beyond 24 months would cost members a flat rate of \$200.00 (\$90 of which is non-refundable if the horse does not parentage verify - \$50 for the blood-typing kit and \$40 for the base fee). Her new motion, which applies only to current members, was unanimously approved."

TWHBEA News & Information, April 30/03

CANADIAN REGISTRY of the **TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE**

Canadian Registering Your 2003 Foals?

1. Check that **both** sire & dam are either DNA profiled or blood typed. If one parent is blood typed and other DNAd, the foal can't be parentage verified. If you don't know, phone Maxxam 1-877-706-7678. Have your horse's papers at hand.
2. A NEW REGISTRATION APPLICATION form is in effect now. Use it! All members received one with their *Canadian Walker* AGM report in May. Old forms will be rejected and cost you a penalty.
3. For a complete explanation of the amended registration process, please refer to your last *Canadian Walker* or to CRTWH's ad, p.15/16, Jul/Aug *WHN*.



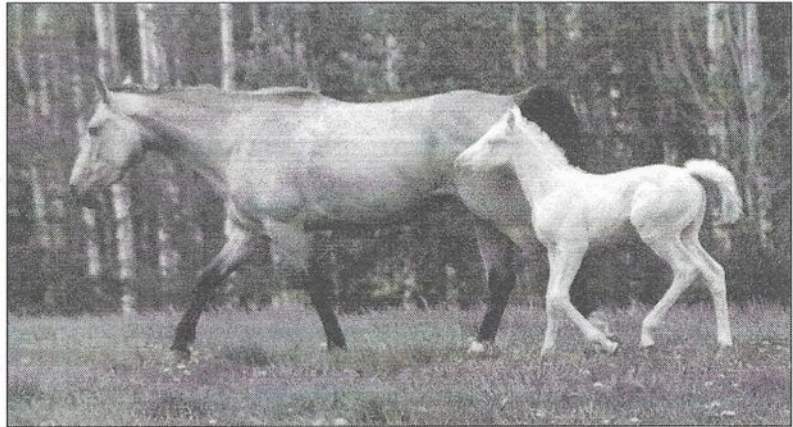
Westhill Farms
Registered Tennessee Walking Horses

- * Stud Service by Go Shaker Go
- * Foals and Yearlings available

Allen and Connie McKenzie

Site 290, Box 18, RR 2 home: (780) 968 - 6395
Stony Plain, AB T7Z 1X2 cell: (780) 619 - 1004

2003 FOAL CALL



Above: 'Princess Blue Eyes' at Valley Vista Ranch, Rimbey, AB.



Left: 'Turnip' at Eagle's Moon Ranch, Pincher Creek, AB.

BLACK FILLY (Walkaway Black Nugget x H.B.'s Triple Black);
 BLACK FILLY (Walkaway Black Nugget x H.B.'s T Bird)
 TURNING GREY COLT (Walkaway Black Nugget x Keen's Bum Champion)
 It seemed like a long, long wait to see these babies and what a relief to have them all healthy!!
Don & Shirley Campbell, Ponoka, AB.

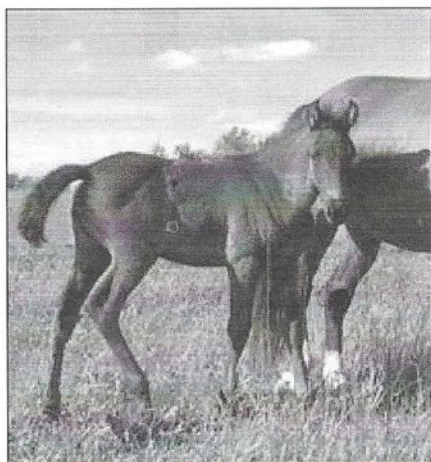
CHESTNUT FILLY *R Diamond Casey's Last Tango* (R.Diamond Picasso x Uphill Call Me Kate) July 20th.
 CHESTNUT FILLY *R Diamond Casey's Storm Chaser* (R.Diamond Picasso x Uphill Ace's Meg) Aug. 9
Maureen & Rick Hummel, Rough Diamond Farm, Rose Prairie, BC

BLACK FILLY (Go Shaker Go x Westhill's Echo)
 CHESTNUT SABINO FILLY (Go Shaker Go x McLaren's Megan Rose)
 CHESTNUT FILLY (Go Shaker Go x Success Glorious Dream)
 CHESTNUT FILLY (Darkie's Last Chance x Westhill's Miss Daisy)
Westhill Farms, Allan & Connie McKenzie, Stony Plain, AB

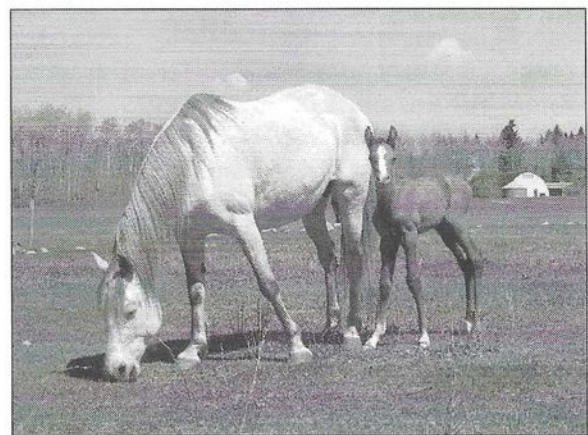
PALOMINO FILLY (Gold King x Ridgewalker's Copper Penny) born July 21
Donald & Rolanda Eadie Valley Vista Ranch, Rimbey, Alberta

BLUE ROAN COLT (Cherokee's Dark Knight x Peggy's Blue Dancer) **Merlayne Reilly, Stony Plain, AB**

SORREL FILLY (Darkie's Last Chance x V-4 Sun's Sweet Candy) born May 6
Joan Penner, Niton Junction, AB



*Left:
 'Lady Sings the Blues'
 at Rough Diamond Farm,
 Rose Prairie, B.C.*



*Right:
 'Turning Grey Colt' at
 Campbell's Farm,
 Ponoka, AB.*



CANADIAN REGISTRY OF THE TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE

SCHEDULE OF FEES Effective March 1, 2003

1. MEMBERSHIP	Fees	
a. Full Membership (Individual, Family, Corporation, Partnership: All Canadian Resident). Voting, member fee schedule applies		\$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, All Canadian Resident). Non-voting, non-member fee schedule applies		\$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 HORSES NOT ALREADY REGISTERED WITH CRTWH	Member Fees	Non-Member Fees
<i>Registration by TWHBEA is not required if sire and/or dam is not registered with CRTWH. Submit a photocopy of both sides of the TWHBEA certificate for the sire and/or dam with the application. Foals must be parent verified.</i>		
a. Within 12 months of foaling	\$40.00	\$80.00
b. After 12 but less than 18 months of foaling	\$60.00	\$120.00
c. After 18 but less than 24 months of foaling	\$125.00	\$250.00
d. After 24 months of foaling: Non-refundable fee of \$125.00 if application is rejected.	\$300.00	\$500.00
3. REGISTRATION OF HORSES Already Registered with TWHBEA or WHOA	Member Fees	Non-Member Fees
<i>Applications must be accompanied by a photocopy of both sides of the TWHBEA or WHOA 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: 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.	\$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 at time of application.	\$60.00	\$85.00
b. DNA Hair Analysis Profiling for a Registered animal: DNA Profiling kits are available from Jean Rempel at (780) 696-2105. Do NOT send fee to CLRC. DNA Hair Analysis Profiling charges will be invoiced by CRTWH to the owner.	\$50.00	\$85.00
c. Blood-typing/DNA updated certificate for mature horse.	\$10.00	\$25.00
d. Registration of Breeder's Prefix	\$45.00	\$90.00
e. Registration of Lease	\$20.00	\$40.00
f. List of Progeny of Individual Breeding Stock	\$20.00	\$40.00
g. Surcharge on incomplete or incorrect applications	\$20.00	\$40.00
h. Duplicate Certificate: Shall be issued upon application by the registered owner accompanied by satisfactory proof of loss accompanied by a witnessed Statutory Declaration.	\$40.00	\$80.00
i. 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 (except DNA profiling for a Registered Animal) are payable to Canadian Livestock Records Corporation.
Please submit to: CLRC 2417 Holly Lane, Ottawa, ON K1V 0M7 Telephone **613-731-7110**, Fax 613-731-0704.
 The CRTWH accepts Visa.

CRTWH Home Page: <http://www.crtwh.ca> e-mail secretary@crtwh.ca
 The CRTWH accepts either Blood Typing or DNA Hair Analysis Profiling.

You Wanted to Know...

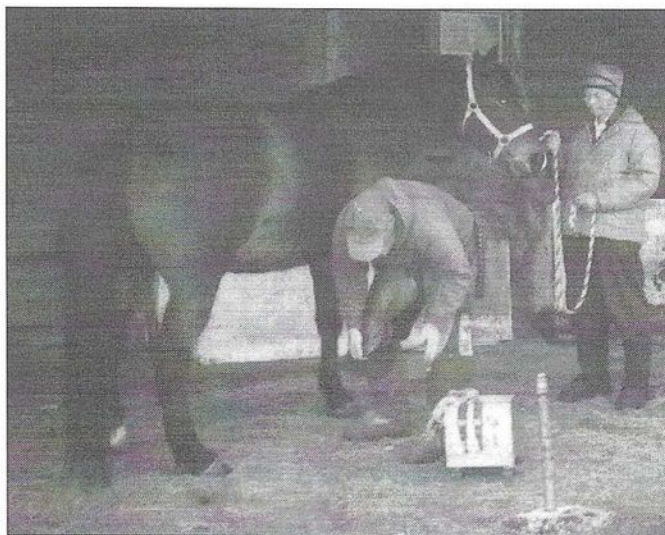
MAINTENANCE HOOF TRIMMING

In reply to Rolanda Eadie's question in the May/June issue about basics of hoof trimming & maintenance for 'in between' farrier visits, here is a quick overview of keeping your horse's feet healthy and tidy. Hope it helps. (A teacher I am not!) If you'd like to learn more about trimming and shoeing your own horses you might want to look into the Canadian Farrier School. Contact Gary Johnston email garyd@telusplanet.net He offers one and two week classes monthly. Maureen Hummel

1. View the foot from the side, front and rear. Look for problems like a low heel or flare on either side.
2. Clean all dirt, manure, and stones from the foot and frog. Check the foot over well, looking for bruises, cracks, nail punctures, etc.
3. Start by removing the dead sole, which will be dry and flaky and will come out very easily. You do NOT need to pare the sole down until it is shiny. Just remove the dead stuff. If you pare it down too much you cause the hoof to dry out faster and can make your horse 'ouchy'. A good way to remove the dead sole without taking too much is to use your nippers. Just hold the nippers as if you were about to start trimming the hoof wall, open them to where the inside edge is near the frog, place the cutting edge on the sole and scrape it across the sole towards the hoof wall. This very nicely removes the dead sole without cutting into the live sole. It's hard to explain, but once you've done it you'll see how easy it is.
4. On the frog, just remove any dead tissue and any overlapping tissue in the groove. Again, do NOT pare the frog down until it's shiny, for the same reason as number 3. Horses naturally shed their frogs every year so there's no need for you to do any more than clean up any pieces that may be hanging loose or covering the groove.
5. Then start trimming at the toe with your nippers. Trim back to the point of the frog with your nippers at a 45 degree angle. Each new cut you make with the nippers should start about a quarter or half way in the cut you've just made. That keeps the cut at pretty much the same depth all the way around and makes it easier on your hands and arms because you aren't cutting so much hoof material with each cut. In many ways it's similar to trimming your own nails. You don't want to cut down into the quick. Just remove part of that which extends past the sole, the same way

you would trim your nails. Leave the bars of the hoof alone if possible since they help strengthen the heel but if they are sticking out and can get caught, trim them just enough that they can't catch on things.

6. Now rasp from the toe to heel at a 45 degree angle. To check whether you have trimmed evenly, hold the foot so that the bottom of it is perpendicular to the ground. Are both heels even with each other? Are they even with the toe? If anything is sticking out higher than the rest of the hoof rasp it down so that the bottom of the hoof is even all the way around.
7. Set the foot on a stand and rasp lightly around the trimmed hoof taking off the sharp edge. Very often horses' hooves will flare out more on one side than the other. It's very noticeable when you have the hoof up on a stand. This can cause strain on the leg. You can remove this by rasping the flared area straight up and down parallel with the hoof wall. This will make the hoof more consistent all the way around. Don't rasp into the outer hoof wall any more than you absolutely have to to remove the flare and the sharp edges. If you remove too much of that protective coating the hoof will dry out faster. If you don't have a stand you can rest the horse's hoof on your leg just above the knee. A stand is safer for you if you can get one. If the horse decides to freak and pull back it can hurt your leg if its foot is resting on it.
8. The hoof wall is weakest on the sides. You can rasp the sides a little higher so they don't make ground contact. This keeps them from breaking out.
9. After finishing - make a final check of all four feet. A good rule of thumb is that the angle of the hoof should be the same (or as close as possible) to



Jo Kingsland holds her gelding, Chino, as Ivan Schlag trims him. Photo by Stewart Smith, Alix, AB

MAINTENANCE HOOF TRIMMING

TIPS TO MAKE THINGS EASIER:

If you're trimming in fly season, put fly repellent on your horse. It is NOT fun (not to mention highly unsafe) to be working underneath a horse who is being driven mad by winged critters of the nasty, bitey persuasion.

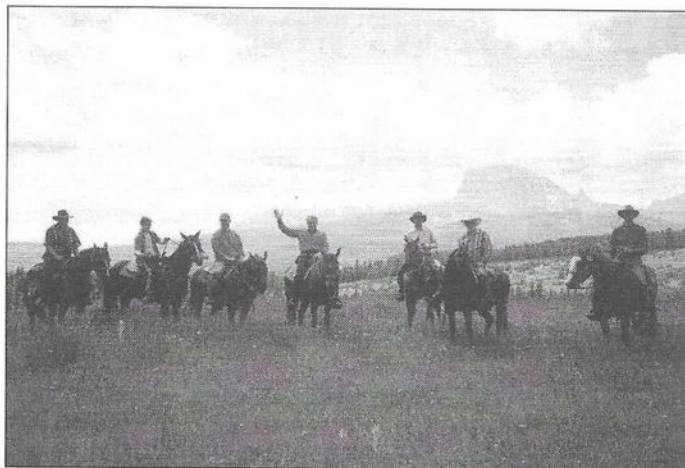
If possible try to trim after a rain or if the horses have had access to some moisture for their hooves. It makes a big difference in how easy it is to trim the feet. In winter, hooves are easier to trim in a spell of warm weather than when it's -20 or lower.

Keep your tools sharp. Sharp nippers make a neater cut with less effort on your part. A sharp rasp will make rasping the hoof a lot faster and easier. On the flip side a rasp is known as "a device for removing skin from the farrier's knuckles" - and with good reason. If you aren't careful with a rasp you will remodel your knuckles, especially if the rasp is very sharp. When rasping the hoof don't push really hard on the handle. Use the handle more to guide the rasp. Place your other hand flat on the rasp at the other end and just float the rasp across the surface away from yourself. This does take some practice especially when using the coarse side of the rasp for the main hoof rasping. The fine side of the rasp is best used when you want to rasp lightly around the edges. When you are rasping the hoof, stop and check your work frequently so you don't take too much off.

Bend your knees, not your back when you are trimming. Take plenty of breaks where you set the hoof down, straighten up and walk around. Both you and your horse will appreciate it. Because I take plenty of breaks, even more with young horses and my older mare, my horses are much happier. I don't have to tie them up to do their hooves and in fact I can usually walk out into the pasture and trim their hooves without even a halter on.

You can do both front feet and then both back feet. That way if you can only manage two hooves in a day they will both be on the same end. Obviously, it's better to do all four at once, but if you haven't trimmed before or if you only do one horse every four to six weeks you will find it pretty tiring. If you keep on until all hooves are done, the last hoof or two that you do probably won't be done as well as it could be.

Obviously hooves/feet with serious issues, ie. navicular disease, laminitis, deformities, and other bad damage should be left to a professional farrier. However, if your horse has reasonably normal hooves that just need maintenance there is no reason you can't learn to do them yourself.



ALBERTA NEWS

CHRISTINE & JOHN KOBZA, EAGLE'S MOON RANCH, PINCHER CREEK, sent a few photos: "Our first Myster Bojangles babies, 'Turnip' out of Chinook's Blue Beauty and 'Peach' out of Mountain Jasmine. Also here are my three oldest nieces 'just out riding' on Esperanza, Sun's Blue-Eyed Mystery, and Thing's Diamond Lil (24 and still flying!). The group photo (*above*) shows members of the Chinook Club (3 generations of Burtons, Ron Smith, a friend, Bob Whitehead, & the Kobzas) on a Pole Haven Ride, Chief Mountain in the background."

"We're hoping things are not as dry, smoky, and 'hoppery' for the rest of you as they are here!"

ELDON EADIE, TURNER VALLEY, writes, "This year marks 100 years of gaited horse ownership in the Eadie family. My great grandfather came to the Lacombe area in 1898. In 1903 he went down to St Louis for the winter and in the spring he returned with two mares that were pacers. They were Hambletonians. In those days breed associations were almost unheard of. Horses were referred to by their bloodlines."

"In 1959 my father gave me a fourth generation descendant of those two mares. It was a five gaited horse that would do each gait on cue. When it got old I started looking around for a replacement and settled on the Tennessee Walking Horse."

"The last horse from my family's Hambletonian line was a gelding that we called Ben. He was sired by a Quarter Horse and died in 1995. His only gait was a nice Fox Trot."

From the "It's a small world department", I (MARJORIE LACY) recently took some new Canadian Registry of the TWH registration applications down to the stationery store in Edson to make copies. The clerk took them over to the copier, and looking at them as she put them in the machine, said, "Tennessee Walkers? I'm from Collierville, TN where Carbon Copy was the pride of our town. My folks used to take me to the horse shows where he'd be competing so we could cheer him on!"

BREEDING FOR GAIT

Part II

by Eldon Eadie

In order to breed for gait you need to understand gait, and in order to understand gait, you need to understand the rack. The traditional definition of the rack is that it is an evenly timed gait, at a faster speed than a basic walk but with no overstride and no headnod. The timing of the hoofbeats is the same as in the basic walk but the speed is notably faster. You can find racking horses in almost every breed in existence. In the old days we just called them singlefooters and we were able to live in peace with each other. Racking horses have no special conformation that makes them any different from any other horse in the breed. They just have a different sequence of muscle contractions that allow them to move differently than the trot or pace.

This is what I call the 'programming of the brain'. A strong gaited horse is programmed for fast walking in the range of 10 to 20 mph. An ungaited horse is programmed to break into a trot or pace at 3 to 4 mph. A weak gaited horse is programmed to drift to a trot or pace at 5 to 7 mph. Most TWH are weak-gaited or un-gaited. With twenty thousand dollars worth of training, farriers, tack shops, etc., most walking horses can be squared up (prevented from trotting or pacing). My point is *that gait should be bred into the horse* so that nothing needs to be done to them to make them gait. No shoeing, no training, no action devices, no soring. Most of the strong gaited horses that I have seen are Paso Finos, Peruvian Pasos, Morgans, Pocket horses and a few others that were grades. One hundred years after Black Allan was siring strong gaited horses in Tennessee, we should have an entire breed of strong gaited horses, but somewhere along the line people stopped breeding for gait and started breeding for conformation.

Horses are foaled with the brain fully programmed for movement: walking, galloping, etc. The first thing that a foal does is struggle to its feet and take its first wobbly step toward its mother. Within a short time it will be walking, trotting or pacing at its mother's side. These gaits are *genetic* characteristics. If they were not, the learning process would take months, as it does in humans, not minutes. When a foal is born, the sequence of muscle contractions necessary for the act of co-ordinated

movement is just as deeply ingrained into the brain as those necessary for breathing, sucking, chewing, coughing, defecating or any of the dozens of other activities that it will perform on its first day of life. All that is needed is a little bit of nourishment and a small amount of strengthening of the muscles, and the foal will be able to run almost as fast as a mature horse. God, in His wisdom, has designed a genetic system that gives each newborn, of each species, almost everything that it needs to ensure its survival.

In people, walking is not necessary at birth so all we get is a healthy set of lungs to attract our mother's attention. We have to learn walking later on, so walking is *developmental* in humans. In most animals it is genetic because they have to be able to escape predators within minutes of birth. All characteristics of every form of life on earth are either genetic, developmental or environmental, and the genetic nature of gait has been proven by every breeder who has ever mated two horses to produce a foal. The only time in a horse's life when you can observe the pure genetics of gait is on the day the foal is born. Very soon, developmental and environmental factors begin to influence that genetic ability and sometimes it becomes completely obscured, but the basic patterns of gait programmed into the horse's brain are never far below the surface. They are always there to be influenced by man or nature, and it is the combination of these factors that produce the fascinating study that gaited horse people are involved in.

OK, with that discussion behind us, let's start looking for breeding stock. If you are willing to use extreme methods of squaring up your horses (pads, chains, scootin' juice, alligator clips...), you do not need to bother to select for horses with gait programmed into their brains. All you need is to select for is bone structure and you can skip the rest of this article. But if you want to produce horses that have the ability to hold an even gait at speed without benefit of any special training, shoeing or gait modification device, then you need to be concerned with how well your breeding stock holds their gait with an increase of speed. A strong gaited horse that can rack, foxtrot, run walk or stepping pace *without breaking at high speed* is a very valuable addition to the breeding program. This is the most important aspect of a breeding program for natural gait and you must have it before you can succeed. If your breeding stock consists of broken down padded horses that have good conformation of movement and no ability to hold an even gait at speed, you could always start a

campaign to discredit the value of speed in the running walk. The only problem that you will have is that you will also find Percherons and Clydesdales and Shetlands and rhinoceroses and gazelles that have a wonderful "new definition" running walk at two miles an hour.

Let's not argue. If you want to breed natural gaited running walk horses, just get at least one horse that can hold its gait (any middle gait) at high speed.

The horses that you breed your strong gaited horse to should have the rest of the characteristics that you need in a running walk horse. If your gaited horse is tight moving, breed it to a loose, long striding horse. If your gaited horse is a tight moving fox trotter, breed it to a loose, long striding pacer. If your gaited horse is an ugly, tight moving fox trotter, breed it to a beautiful, loose, long striding pacer. If your gaited horse is a long backed, ugly, tight moving fox trotter, breed it to a short backed, beautiful, loose, long striding pacer. (And don't forget disposition, soundness, heart, stamina, agility, color, and a few dozen other things that make a pleasure horse a pleasure to own.)

You will never accomplish all that you want in one generation. In fact you will have a hard time to accomplish everything in ten generations unless you start with the very best breeding stock that you can find. Take advantage of the progress that other breeders have made. That is what pedigrees are for. Trace the patterns of inheritance of certain characteristics to see how well established or strong they are in your breeding stock. A mediocre horse from a good family is better than a good horse from a bad family as long as that horse has some strengths.

Whenever possible breed strength to strength. Whenever you have no options, breed strength to weakness. Never breed weakness to weakness. This should not even need to be stated, but it never ceases to amaze me to see the number of breeders that are breeding beautiful, loose, long striding pacers to beautiful, loose, long striding pacers and trying to sell the foals to people for pleasure horses. Someone recently asked me how to stop a certain beautiful, loose, long striding pacer from pacing. There is only one totally effective way to stop any pacer from pacing and that is to shoot it. It will never pace again.

Why don't breeders just breed horses that walk? It can be done because it *has* been done. If we had breeders that were actually breeding for the running walk we wouldn't need to do anything to make them walk. Certain things could be done to

make them walk better, such as hoof angle, collection, etc. but if you had a pleasure horse that you could just get on and ride at the running walk, you would have something very valuable.

However, World Grand Champions and their offspring have much to offer the breeder of natural gaited horses because the conformation of the show horse of today has been developed to a much greater degree than at any time in the past. (Occasionally you even find strong gait in some of these horses but it is *very* occasionally.) The old bloodlines that are strong gaited almost never show good conformation of movement. I hesitate to say never, but I will say that I have never seen excellent movement in a non-show-horse-bred animal except in video from 50 - 60 years ago. The best natural gaited horses that I have seen have always been combinations of good moving popular show horse lines (from Midnight Sun to the present) and strong gaited old bloodlines.

One of the pioneers of this type of breeding is Sylvia Crouter from Box Hanging Three Ranch in Wyoming. Thirty or so years ago she bought HF Midnight Allen to breed to her good solid ranch stock and has produced hundreds of good moving natural gaited horses since. We have in Alberta a number of good moving horses that are crosses between show horse lines and old time strong gaited lines. I am not here to promote anybody's horses, but just look around for yourself.

Some are always better than others but if you have all the ingredients of gait in your breeding stock you have at least a chance of success. When you have only one of the two important ingredients, you have a 100 percent chance of failure. When you breed strong gaited, tight moving, stiff, choppy, short striding horses to strong gaited, tight moving, stiff, choppy, short striding horses you have **no** chance of breeding a good moving running walk horse.

Next issue: Conformation of Movement



EQUINE MONEY MATTERS

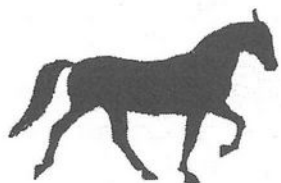
Want to know the quickest way to double your money on a horse deal?

Fold the money in half and put it back in your pocket.

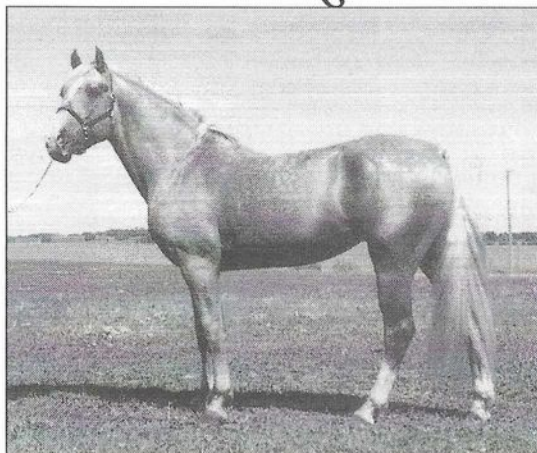
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Breeder's Gallery



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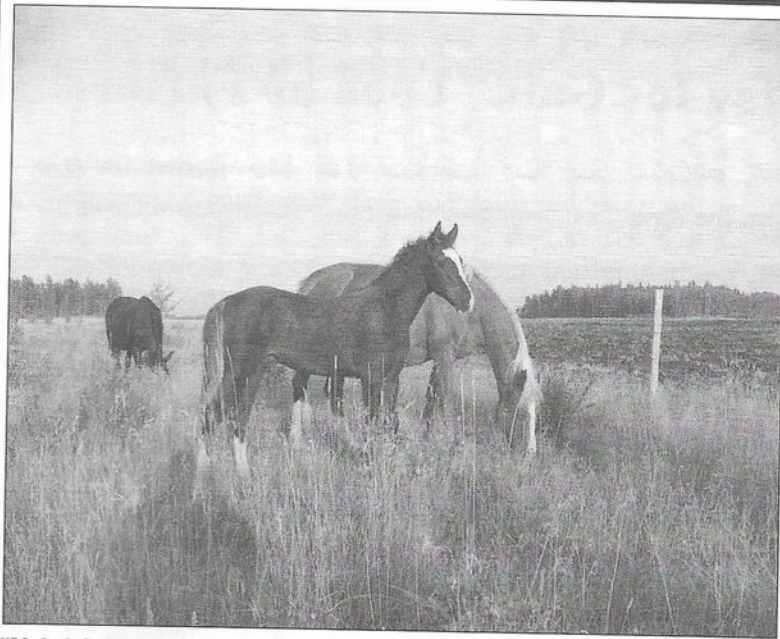
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\$2500.00
- "Fancy"** Chappies Fancy-1995-1661; Chapies Shadow King out of Canadian Flicka
8 year old mare; black with white markings; 15 H
\$2250.00
- "Dancer"** Chappie Star Dancer-1996-1808; Dixies Black Magic out of Chapies Daisy May
7 year old mare; black with four white feet; 15-2 H
\$2250.00
- "Chicklett"** A Touch of Tradition 2000-2547; Angels Ebony Secret out of Chapies Star Dancer
3 year old mare; black with white markings; 15 H
\$2100.00
- "Topper"** **Yearling Stallion Unrelated to above Mares**
Generators Top to Bottom- 2002-2816; Generators Silver Moon out of Jodie's Sawyer
Brown; black with a star. His name says it all, line bred "Prides Generator"; loose moving,
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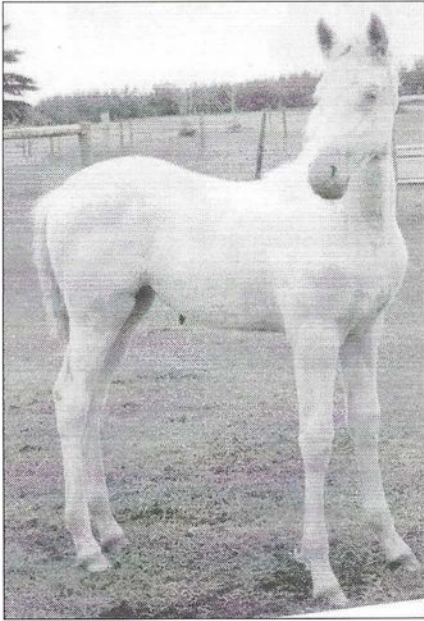
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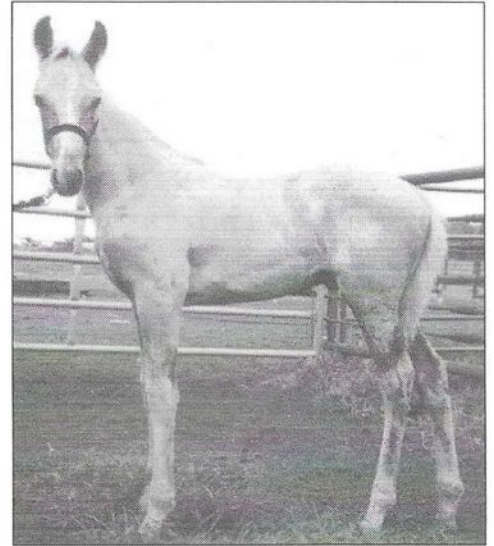
Champion Rainbow Walkers... is offering for sale two foals from the amber champagne stallion, "Champion's Gold".



Gold champagne tobiano
Weanling filly
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Dark gold palomino
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Helen Pawluk
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780-675-9196



See my web site for more details about these foals and other horses for sale, or give me a call.

I would be happy to answer any questions. www.championrainbowwalkers.net

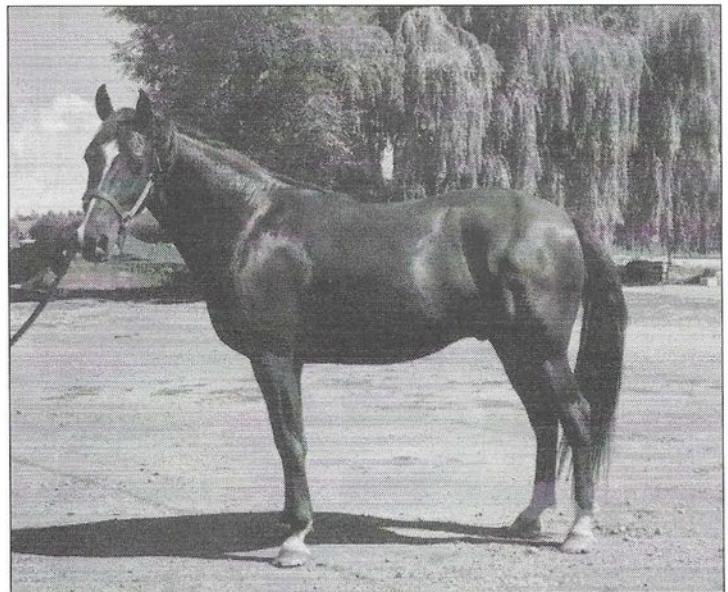
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1996 - 2003

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of this great Canadian Tennessee Walking Horse.

"Casey" endeared himself to all who were affiliated with him during his all too short life.

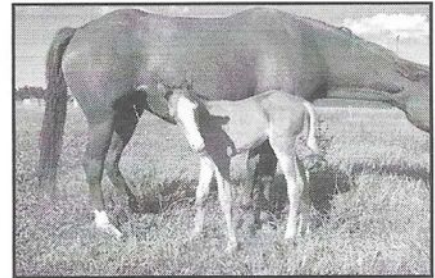
He will be remembered...always.



His legacy lives on through these beautiful 2003 fillies which we will be retaining as future broodmares to cross with "T-Bone"



Dam: Uphill Call Me Kate



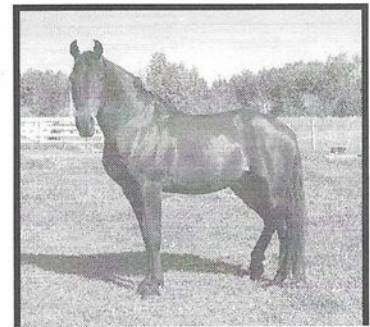
Dam: Uphill Ace's Meg

TRAMP'S T-BONE WALKER

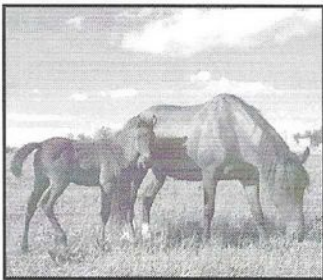
"THE SUPER SIRE"

Pictured in pasture at eighteen years of age

"T-Bone" continues to amaze us with the consistency with which he produces Champion caliber foals. He is the sire of a Reserve North American Champion and the grand-sire of a multiple North American Champion. In addition he has sired numerous Canadian Futurity and Regional Champions throughout his illustrious career.



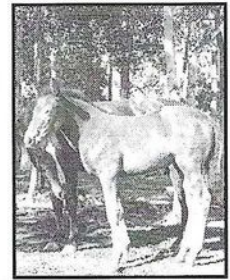
These 2003 elegant fillies represent the quality & class of the "T-Bone Horses" Both these fine weanlings are currently for sale!



Dam: Uphill Lady By Chance

Dam: Gipsy's Dark Velvet

We are retaining Gipsy's Dark Velvet's 2002 yearling filly as a future broodmare.



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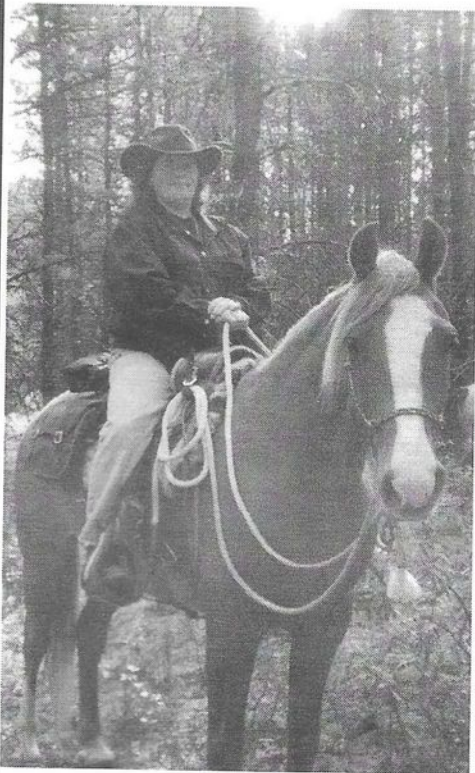
Box 52, Rose Prairie, B.C. V0C 2H0. Phone (250) 827-3386

Email: mhummel@awink.com Website: www.roughdiamondfarm.com

YANKEE BLAZE

(Go Boy's Yankee X Handshaker Candy S)

Can #1918 IPWHR #1248



FOR SALE *only* because I have a lot of young stock to bring on and I don't have the amount of time he deserves.

Blaze is a 15.1 hand 1997 sorrel gelding with flaxen mane and mixed tail. With his colouring and his exquisitely pretty head and neck, he is a real looker!

He was started by a Parelli Natural Horsemanship certified Young Horse Starter. I passed my PNH Level 1 on him and he's been through a two week Level 2 course. He sidepasses, backs with a whisper of pressure, does his turns on the forehand and hindquarters. He stands stock still for mounting (both sides) and moves when asked, not before. He is trained to pick me up from the fence. He is also started on liberty work and does most of the 7 Games at liberty.

He's very athletic and an extremely loose mover. He does trot at liberty in the pasture, but he has an impressive flat walk (which I had him doing with the reins hooked around my saddle horn) and a canter that is so smooth and flowing it even caused oohs and ahhs from my fellow clinic attendees. Because I've been working through the PNH program with him I haven't done much gait work, so that is next on our agenda.

Blaze has been to the mountains and crossed rivers and muskeg (belly deep in places). He's been packed as well. We had him on a cattle drive last year and he did very well.

He leads like a dream. I can point him into the trailer and he loads. He stands well for the vet (negative Coggins in June) and for me to trim his hooves.

Blaze is an extremely sensitive, alert horse and is NOT for a beginner or an aggressive rider. He needs a calm, loving home where he can flourish as someone's special partner. When he knows what you want he will give you 200%, but he is easily rattled if you're harsh with him. At this stage in his training he is not a horse you can ignore for 3 months and then hop on.

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Video available for interested purchasers.

Rough Diamond Farm, Box 52, Rose Prairie, BC V0C 2H0 Ph (250) 827-3386 email: mhummel@awink.com

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(Zepher's Monte Ray x Lady's Merry Mist)

Line bred top & bottom to Trigger Jr.

UPHILL FARM

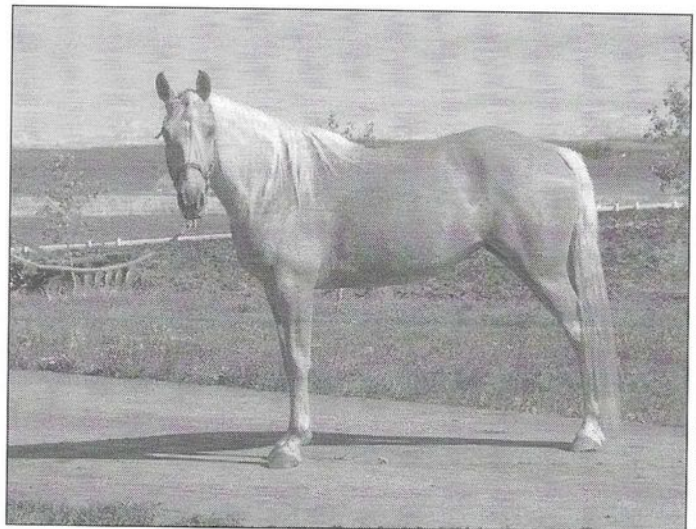
Foals occasionally for sale by contract.

Charles & Marjorie Lacy,

Box 7326,

Edson, Alberta T7E 1V5

1-780-723-2547



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2004 COVER CONTRACTS SALE OF PRIME ADVERTISING SPACE

For

WALKING HORSE NEWS, VOL. XXVIII

Our magazines, with their professionally printed, high gloss covers, will be distributed to subscribers all across North America and made available at Breed Demos, Horse Shows and Trade Fairs.

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WEANLINGS BY "CHAMPION'S GOLD" - Dark gold palomino colt; Gold champagne tobiano filly. Colour photos on www.championrainbowwalkers.net or phone Helen Pawluk ATHABASCA, AB **780-675-9196**. See our ad in Breeders Gallery on www.walkinghorsenews.ca

ANGEL'S HALO - Final's Goldwell x A Coin's Secret Angel. U.S. Reg. Beautiful palomino weanling filly, bred to walk!! She is tall, extremely well put together with a high, lovely head. She should mature to 15.2 - 15.3 hh at least. She is a real eye-catcher and would do well in the show ring. Very sweet, easy-going nature. What a winning combination! \$4500.00 **403-638-2817** SUNDRE, AB 19 Mile Ranch, See picture at www.telusplanet.net/public/laurind/

NORTHFORK LADY IN BLACK #2830 is a showy, good-moving black yearling filly out of Sue's Lady Lue #2023. **VELVET'S SUMMER CHANCE #2831** is a quiet chestnut yearling filly out of Summer Velvet #844. Both fillies are sired by Darkie's Last Chance #1118, are halter trained and DNAd. Choice at \$1350.00. Northfork Farms, BLUFFTON, AB Phone **1-403-843-6124** and ask for Jack.

MAJOR'S MARGARITA US reg. #20007748 (Ultra's Major Threat x Canadian Seniorita). 3 year old bay TWH filly, 15:3 hh. "Magie" is very well started under saddle. She will make an excellent pleasure or show mare, and broodmare. **MAJOR'S PICTURE THIS** US reg. #20207132 (Ultra's Major Threat x Common's Picture Perfect). Yearling black TWH gelding. This guy is so friendly, natural and easy to train, he'll be an all 'round pleasure - in the show ring or on the trail. **KIMBERLEY, B.C.** Phone **250-427-4233** or e-mail mtwalker@rockies.net

BEAUTIFUL BABIES BY GOLD KING (Chance's Gold N' Yellow x Queens Big Star): **PALOMINO YEARLING GELDING & PALOMINO FILLY** (their dam - Ridgewalker's Copper Penny); **CREMELLO FILLY** (x Panda Capri); **CHESTNUT FILLY** (x The Last Rainbow). Come choose your 'pick of the crop'. See Valley Vista Ranch on www.walkinghorsenews.ca in History & Heritage. Rolanda Eadie, RIMBEY, AB **(403) 843-4016**

SPECIAL PACKAGE DEAL! 4 mares in foal to "Counts Summer Flash: Chestnut, flaxen mane/tail, 8; Three Blacks with white trim, 8, 7, & 3 years; unrelated yearling stallion, Generator Top to Bottom- 2002-2816. See our ad in colour on Breeder's Gallery www.walkinghorsenews.ca Neil and Elizabeth Adams, **ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE, Alberta (403) 845-6356** adams_en@telus.net

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GORGEOUS PALOMINO TWH, US & CDN registered. Muscular gelding, 15:3 hh, 8 years, well trained for experienced rider. \$5,500.00. **SORREL MARE**, CDN registered, 6. Very gentle disposition but fast. 14:31/2 hh. \$3,500.00. **BLACK TWH GELDING**, CDN registered. Very friendly, ground work started. 2 years. \$1500.00. Selling farm. **SHERWOOD PARK, AB 1-780-464-2701**

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November 7, 2003

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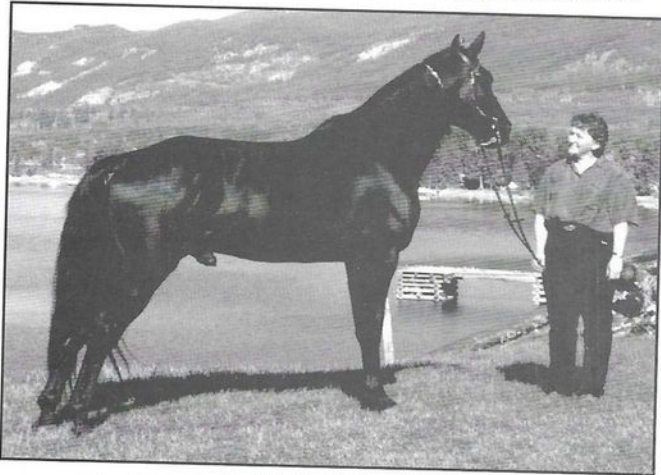


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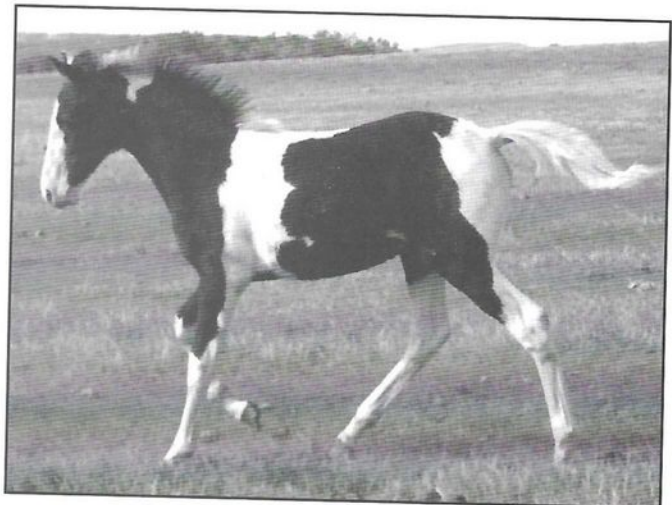
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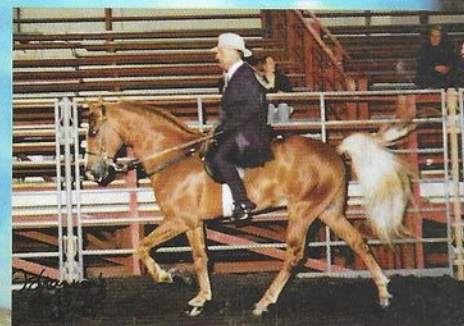
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