

FEBRUARY 2005
VOLUME XXIX No. 1



Walking

Horse

News



DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN - SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE IN CANADA

Laurindale Stables

Bringing The Best To Canada



THE POWER BROKER

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Walking Horse News

DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN-SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE IN CANADA

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Walking Horse News is
published six times a year.

Annual subscriptions are

\$18 in Canada

\$24 US Funds in U.S.A.,

(or \$32 CDN for U.S. subs)

\$52.80 CDN - Overseas.

Please send Subscriptions,
Classified Ads, Display Ads
and Editorial Material to

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Box 7326, Edson, AB T7E 1V5

(780)723-2547

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The opinions expressed in the
pages of Walking Horse News
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On Our Cover

At the June 1/01
Black Diamond, Alberta
Parade, Dee Jay's Peppi
Two, with Charis Cooper
riding sidesaddle, won the
ribbon for Best Parade
Horse.

Photo supplied by Charis.

Deadline Dates

for Jan/Feb issue

JANUARY 7

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MARCH 7

for May/June issue

MAY 7

for July/Aug issue

JULY 7

for Sept/Oct issue

SEPTEMBER 7

for Nov/Dec issue

NOVEMBER 7

Canada

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE
FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF CANADA,
THROUGH THE
PUBLICATIONS ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM (PAP), TOWARD
OUR MAILING COSTS.

TO POSTMASTER:

Publications Mail

Agreement No.40050207

PAP Registration No.08869

If undeliverable please notify

WALKING HORSE NEWS

BOX 7326,

EDSON, AB T7E 1V5

Volume XXIX, # 1

February, 2005

Dear Subscribers,

If this issue is late, please blame the *weather!* It has been raining for two days and now it is snowing as if it will never stop. The roads are like skating rinks and I don't want to drive on them. Hmm... Guess it's time to change over to e-files so I can send the magazine to the printers via the internet and never leave home. (Except out to the pasture to feed the horses.)

A big 'Thank you' to our 2005 cover advertisers - Ethical Breeders' Group, JRJ Walkers, Karla's Klassy Walkers at Ride Easy Ranch, Laurindale Stables, McDonald Farms, Pringle Farms, Skyline at Horse Creek, Triangle B Tennessee Walkers and Westridge Farms. We hope readers enjoy the new ads & colour covers.

Speaking of advertising, the March/April *WHN* is a strategic issue for advertising your stallions. This is the time of year when people can't *do* too much with their horses so they start dreaming - of new foals, new horses, new adventures... And don't forget to let people know if you have horses for sale. I've already had a number of calls from folks who are looking for 'just the right horse' come spring.

This issue has stories of Walkers that have touched their owners' hearts, controversial stories, stories that have a lesson within them, as well as advice, history, news, and readers' responses. Thank you to all who contributed.

I hope that *you too* will write in and add your story and opinions to our magazine. How did you fall in love with this breed? We'll look forward to hearing from you.

Happy New Year!

Marjorie





Walking Horse News

J/F '05

"DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN-SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE IN CANADA"

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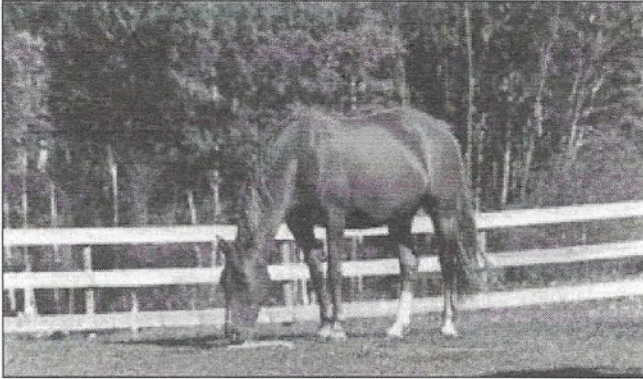
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Thank you for advertising in Walking Horse News.

HISTORY & HERITAGE PROJECT 2000

“CANADIAN TIMES OF THE TWH”

BLALOCKS SUMTER LADY #753688 by Randy Johnson, Jus' Fine Tennessee Walking Horses



BLALOCKS SUMTER LADY #753688 (above) was foaled June 6th, 1975 in Americus, Georgia and originally owned by Wallace H. Blalock. Her color is listed as sorrel, and she is approximately 15 hh with both hind stockings, both fore coronets, strip, mixed mane and tail. One of the mares we have that does not have any Midnight Sun breeding, she has Merry Boy, Joe Allen, Brantley's Roan Allen, Jr. and Saddlebreds on her papers and none of the horses have WGC status. Most were sired in the 30's and 40's. She was brought to Canada by Neale Hubbard, and upon his recommendation I purchased her for the large sum of \$1100.00.

Blalock is the oldest mare we own at 29, and it looks as if she will easily make 30 years or more. She did not enjoy being ridden by an adult, but carried small children around so carefully. She has had a productive career as a broodmare and a few of her foals and their accomplishments are listed below.

Her last foal was born in 1999. "Jus' Remember Me" was featured with her dam on a Tennessee Walking Horse 2004 calendar that was sold around the world. "Jus' Remember Me" was the Canadian Futurity Top Movement Score winner, and Reserve Champion Weanling Filly. I suppose it was appropriate I named her that, as she was killed the following year.

Blalock has had a number of other foals by My Touch of Pride which have done well at the Futurities. One was purchased by Helen Williamson after I exhibited him as a weanling. Jus' Touch a Walkin' Man" won the yearling and two year old classes as well as the Jack Strachan award for most points over three years.

We bred Blalock to our Gold Legacy, and she produced some beautiful colts by him. Her first foal by Gen's Terminator (who stood here at the time) "Jus' Lady's 1st Generation" did well as a cattle penning horse and was later sold to Germany.

A foal, "Jus' A Lady's Pride" by Prides Gypsy

Man, a stallion we leased from Luigi Valentini, went to Ontario to Denise Ham.

Her third foal, sired by Ebony's Jack Daniels H. was named Eb's Jack's Star. He was Melanie's first show horse and her 4-H project until Star was purchased by Don and Marjorie Fabro.

Lady Bonnie Shadows was Blalock's second foal. She is also by Jack Daniels and was one of the first horses I exhibited when there was a Yellowhead Walking Horse Association. At age 21 she is still one of our best producing broodmares. Her foals have won numerous awards at the Futurities over the years, and have been sold across Canada and the US. She was the first Premier Dam recognized by the TWHBEA Regional Futurity. Her colt born this spring won TWHBEA Reserve Weanling Colt Championship. She has also had a healthy and productive life, and is back in foal again.

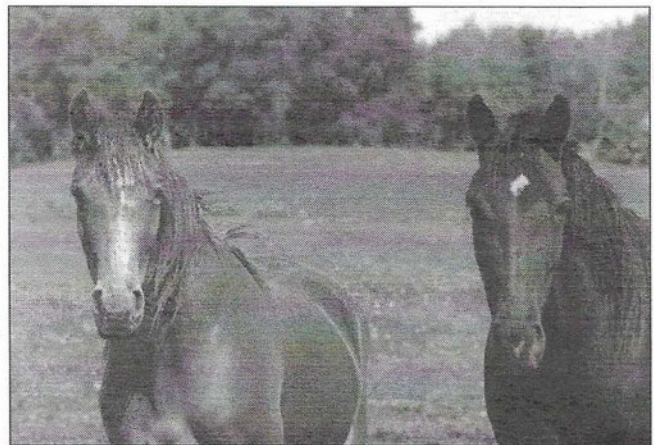
Blalock's first filly, Ebony's Faith, is in Georgia and we still have contact with her owner.

Blalock was not the big flashy show horse. She was rather small and shy and would not stand around much to be petted on, but she watched over the other horses we kept with her and rightly earned the "Grandma" label, even though she's never looked her age. She has her duties now as the replacement tutor for the weanlings. When their mothers are taken from the pasture, she is very good at teaching them about respect.

On a number of occasions, we had people drive into the yard wanting to purchase "that sorrel quarter horse in the pasture".

Blalock is and will always be, a friend of the family, and as long as I can afford to buy feed for her, she will remain with us.

Photo below of Jus' A Lady's Pride and Eb's Jack's Star (Little Lady and Star).





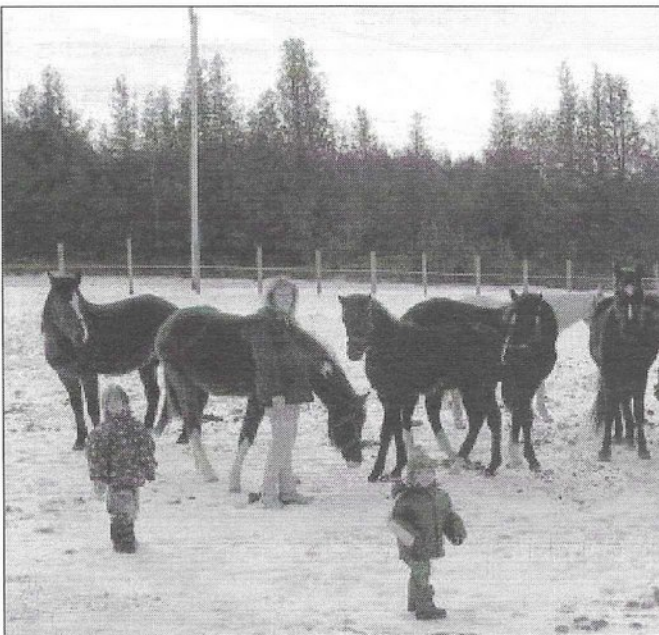
MY STORY

by Jodi Lougheed, WildWind Farm, ON

I grew up in central Ontario around Quarter Horses and the like, trail riding and watching my neighbour's parents roping and barrel racing, and wishing desperately that I could convince *my* dad to get me a horse some day. As kids, Craig (a neighbour with whom I grew up) and I would hop on anything, including his parents' roping calves. We'd put them in the chute and off we would go - until we fell off! Since that time, I'm a little more careful (The ground seems to have got harder over the years) and the ride has now become a lot smoother, thanks to my Walker pals.

As an older kid and teenager, I worked at an equestrian center as a trail guide and giving YMCA kids basic riding lessons in exchange for riding whenever I wanted. In my late teens and twenties I got away from horses due to school and work. (I went to university & college, training in environmental engineering and water resources and working in the field for a number of years before marrying, having kids and buying our farm).

When we purchased our farm in Sunderland, Ontario I immediately knew I wanted horses, but business sense told me not to get into the typical breeds already in Ontario. I felt that there must be a better breed for an all around pleasure horse than what I had seen. My husband Russ, in turn, bought me a beautiful book on horse breeds. I came across the Tennessee Walker in that book, and kept coming back to those pages again and again...



I started studying the breed and decided that it was a truly amazing horse, and when I met my first Walker I was sold (even before the ride). I started out with two excellent mares (Allen's Midnight Lucette and Allen's Midnight Angel) and planned to breed TWH. As things went on, I got to know and have had the pleasure of talking with many Walker enthusiasts out west, which naturally led to more horses.

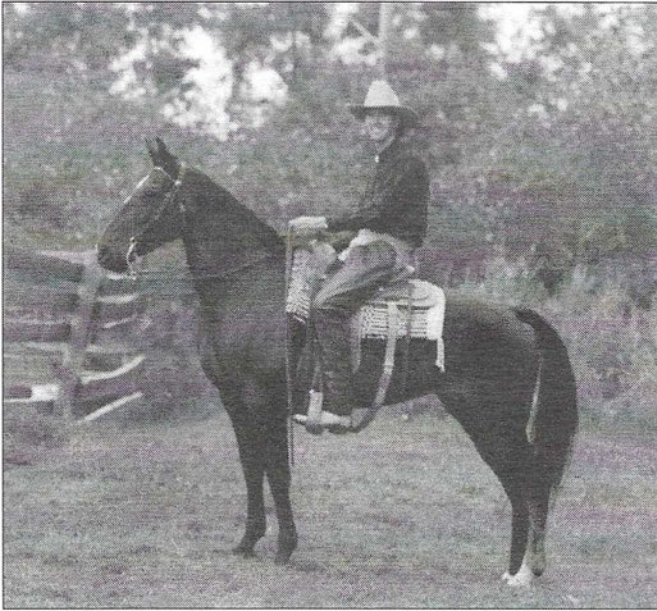
Most of our horses here are quite young and I train them here on the farm. During the past few years I've studied natural horsemanship training methods intensively from a variety of master horsemen and use this in the training here. A lot of it is common sense, but understanding how a horse thinks and the best way to communicate with the horse gets incredible results. As we build our farm business here, I plan to not only introduce and pair up more people and Walkers, but to offer natural horsemanship handling and training courses/clinics and do gaited horse demonstrations at fairs and other venues. I have dreams of getting together TWH fun events here in the future as well, bringing together Walker owners and get them into *doing it all* with their horses! I'd also like to spend more time riding and maybe get out on a horsy camping trip. Oh yeah, 4-H Ontario and local fairs - look out when my kids start 'run walking' all over the place!

Well, as I said, my dad never got me a horse, so I've made up for it now. I have 17 Walkers (plus we're expecting four foals this spring!). This year I expect to have a couple of fully trained geldings for sale, and possibly a mare or two, as well as some young horses. We will also be offering stud services from some awesome lines. At Wildwind Farm, we also breed Scottish Highland and Dexter beef cattle (the most gentle and tasty big horned things you ever saw. My breeding cows are truly pets).

To wrap it up, I'd like to thank all those devoted TWH people who have helped me along the way and continue to be a great source of knowledge and inspiration. Special thanks to Ian Lockett, Ian Green, Jack Gurnett, Jean Rempel, Shirley Wesslen, Norm & Liz Levangie, Dan & Cindy Safron, and Walt Glover. Check out our website periodically to see pictures and descriptions of our herd and upcoming events and courses.

This photo of me and my Walkers (left) was taken in December, 2003. (Please note that my kids, Medaya and Rushell, are actually on the other side of a fence which I edited out of the picture. Safety first - small kids and a group of horses standing around loose are not a good idea.)

(Jodi is the new CRTWH Director for Ontario.)



MEMORIES OF CHARO

by Christine Kobza

In the late autumn of 2003, it became obvious that THING'S DIAMOND LIL (Charo) was losing control of her hindquarters. Over the past couple of years her muscles had gradually atrophied so that she was pulling herself along with her powerful front end. Our hearts sank when we noticed on several occasions that she'd slipped on the ice patches and struggled to get back to her feet. We knew it was no quality of life for this dignified mare with the unbridled spirit. We kept praying for a sign — some kind of an answer to what the humane and proper solution would be. We didn't receive any kind of feeling or intuition about it. A very spiritual friend told us, "Often no sign is an answer."

As Christmas break drew nearer we awaited a time in which we would be able to observe Charo's daily routine more closely. Her heart and will continued strong. Her eyes still expressed the passion of her youth, although her body was breaking down. On New Year's Eve 2003 we spoke to our vet and came up with a plan for a dignified and comfortable end - but when? We still didn't know when the right time would be.

That evening as John went through the feeding routine, Charo pushed everyone out of the way as usual to get to the gate for her 'senior ration'. In the ration pen, there were always two buckets - hers and Chinook's. Faithful to her ritual, she laid her ears back, bit Chinook in the rump, nosed through both pails, then settled in to eat her choice, as cantankerous as ever. As we left for the house, I asked her "Please give us some kind of sign, Girl." John said jokingly, "Phone me!"

New Year's morning dawned with a cold front coming in from the northeast. We noticed the herd frisking in from the river bottom flat, headed for the water trough. Lagging behind reluctantly were Mystery and Chinook, but no Charo. John and I felt it was the time. We dressed and walked toward the hill with the Bouviers. On our way down, we saw her big brown body lying on the first flat. Our hearts in our throats, we approached, choking back tears, but feeling relief that she had chosen the time and place. When she sensed us coming near, she gave one last brave effort to get up. She rolled onto her sternum, a sparkle still in her eyes. We told her, "It's okay, just stay here."

John went for the neighbour while the boys and I kept Charo company. We all sat together — Charo's big head on my left lap, Kalani on my right lap, and Kenoa leaning against my back. We reminisced about the overwhelming feeling of freedom experienced by everyone every time we rode her; about how many people were converted to Tennessee Walking Horses after riding Charo; about the ear to ear grin on people's faces after an exhilarating excursion on her; about the overwhelming pride we felt as we showed her offspring and when they won awards for her. I thanked her for her beautiful foals and recounted each one's birth, savouring the awe and miracle of each one. There was always a feeling of heaven on earth in the hush that surrounded us during each foaling. I told her then that I was going to have a baby too and wished that she could be there.

John arrived with our neighbour. He told us to drive back up to the top of the hill and when we got there, we parked the truck. Just then about 1500 geese took flight from the river as Charo's spirit ascended. When we met our neighbour on his way back up the hill, he said, "Wasn't that a great send-off?"



After the birth of our daughter, Erika Anne Monica, on August 6, 2004, the head nurse exclaimed,

"It's a filly, Mrs. Kobza!"

I believe Charo was with us then, and always will be.

NEWS - NEWS - NEWS

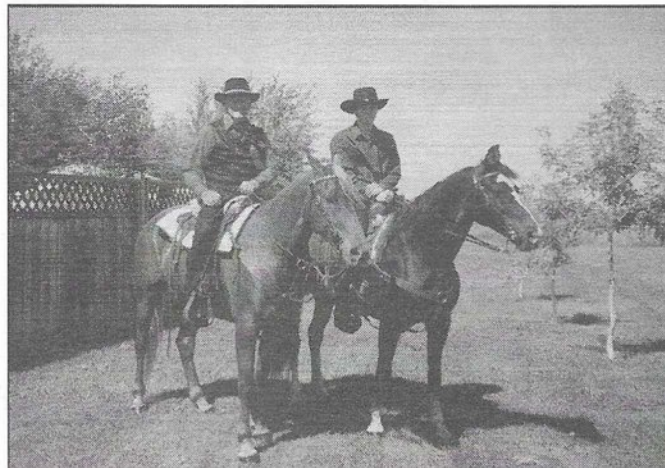
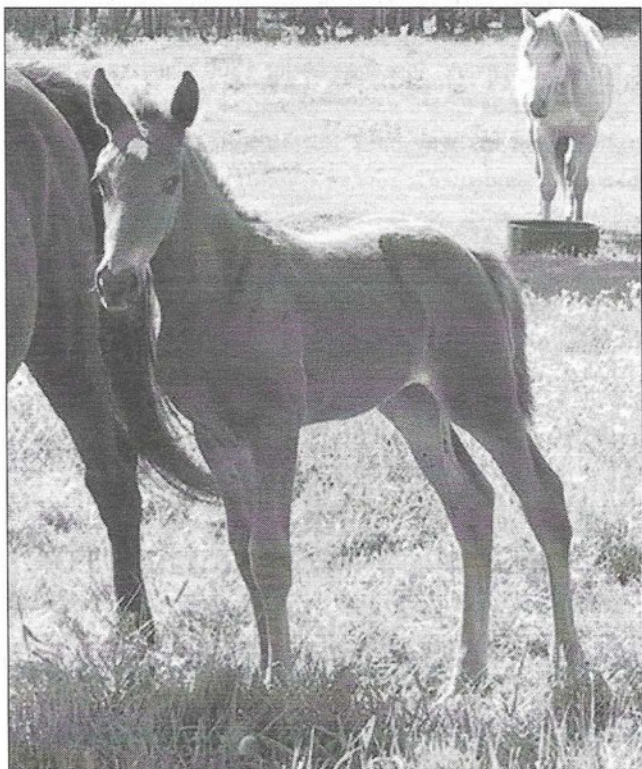
ALBERTA NEWS

STU PRITCHARD, CALGARY, e-mailed this note, "Regarding my Thunder's War Eagle gelding, One More Whiskey Jack is connected to the ANDADORES Sue blood line through his dam and grand dam, for your interest."

STEVE SHORT, AIRDRIE, bought the six year old black TWH gelding advertised in *WHN* by Marlene at Stauffer, AB last fall and says, "He's working out well so far, and has a good gait. Please sign me up for another two years of the magazine."

DONNA CURTIS, WINFIELD, writes, "We are still in 'major reorganization mode'. We haven't moved yet but our place is still for sale and we have the majority of our horses for sale. It was really a hard decision to make, as we spent so many years building a herd, but I guess life is about change."

Donna sent me this photo of a 2004 Yvening Strolling Thunder filly that traces back to the ANDADORES line through her dam, Sundance Kit. Kit is by Sundance Lad (Little Wonder x Andadores Sue) out of Sun's Fair Lady F.F. who's out of Andadores Nita.



Above: Albert Heintzig on 'Copper' and Brennan, his grandson, on 'Veda' at the Olds Parade staging area.

From ALBERT HEINZIG, DIDSBURY, "Reflecting back on 2004 brings to mind the many pleasurable hours spent with Copper. Her Canadian registered name is Angel's Jet Commander, sired by Toddy's Commander. Her dam is Angel's Alberta Rose, owned by Norm Thachuk. In the summer sun she shines like a new Copper."

"Copper and I have covered a lot of miles in the equestrian camp areas — Blue Rock, Little Elbow, Panther Corners, Burnt Timber, Ya Ha Tinda and the magnificent Hummingbird trails."

"We have also worked out a few riding trails about 25 kms west of Sundre, which we frequent quite often when we can't go to the bush and the eastern slopes. From where we board our horses, we enjoy riding the road allowance going one mile west, two north, one east and two south — makes for a great outing on our horses. Mabel and her Walking Horse, Veda (Invasion's Innovation), are excellent company. Wherever and whenever we ride, it is for the sheer joy and pleasure to ride a Walking Horse."

"This summer Copper has also had some experience with cattle. She is quick and nimble on her feet and responds well to rein and leg aids — she is fast and spunky. For winter riding I keep both horses shod with corks and pads. It gives the horses confidence to know they have a good footing."

"Hope to see more Walking Horses and riders on the trails next year — have a happy and blessed New Year. Please find enclosed a cheque for subscription renewal. I enjoy the magazine — usually read it at one sitting. Good job, editor."



REPORT from *SKYLINE AT HORSE CREEK*

KEITH AND KATHY OBERLE, COCHRANE, AB



It's December 24, 2004 so obviously the year is drawing to an end. It has been another good year at the Skyline. I have sold some horses (including my stallion, "Stormy"), had some others born, did some riding...the usual.

Probably the most difficult decision I have had to make with the horses was to sell Stormy, (SKYLINE'S DARK STORM, by Midnight Toddy out of Someday Justy Nuff), my parade, show, demo, and driving stallion.

In my over 40-year association with horses, he is, without a doubt, the best horse I have ever owned - and likely will ever own again. From the time he was born he was a "people" horse, and never lost it, even though he definitely knew his business in the breeding pen. His willingness to learn is unequalled. No one really believes how little training he had. We refused to push him too fast in his development, and added to our busy schedule with other aspects of life, he was often ignored for months. Occasionally, Elise would decide to show him, so he would get a few days in the arena, then on to the show. That would be it until the Stampede parade came along. I would ride him a few days prior to the parades, then back to the pasture he'd go until Spruce Meadows Equifair in September. He learned to drive exceptionally well, as evidenced by his beautiful performance at the 2002 Wild Rose show 7 days later. With only three training sessions he was jumping in the Hunter class at the Early Bird show. That particular course, designed by Carol Hall, was not easy! He did not win, but placed higher than much more experienced horses than he. When Elise rode him to demonstrate him to his prospective purchaser in August, she asked him to do a quarter pass with head and torso straight but haunches bent into the pass. This is a difficult dressage maneuver. I'm not sure when he learned to do it, but he did!

A Walking Horse is nothing if it doesn't *WALK!* Stormy gaited from birth and never lost it. He was shown rarely, so never really exhibited his best gait in public. Those other horses always caught his attention! His manners, however, were impeccable. He was not hard to control even with estrus mares around, but it did prevent him from loosening up and walking like he did at home. In one Airdrie parade, he had to follow two estrus mares the whole length of the parade. He knew they were there, and so did I, but no one else noticed, he was so well behaved.

The third area where Stormy excels is his conformation. Again, he was not shown often, but took Grand Champion Halter Horse in a large class in one show.

So why sell him, you ask. It simply came down to use. I am only breeding one or two mares a year now, and don't need a lot of stud power for that. I still have Generator's Diamond and Elise has Trouble's Gold Sun, both of whom have provided us with excellent foals, and neither of whom is rideable due to injury. Elise has had a Grand Champion weanling filly at the Canadian Futurity from Diamond and I have the Reserve Champion weanling colt from the 2004 Canadian Futurity by Trouble (aka "Peanut"). I still have quite a few yearlings, two and three-year-olds to train and sell, so Stormy was not going to be ridden any more than he has been in the last years. It is a shameful waste to have such a good horse around with nothing being done with him, so when one of my German guests asked to see him and accepted my price for him, he was sold. Stormy now resides in Germany where he will be passing on his great genetics to European Tennessee Walking Horses. He had mares booked almost upon his arrival at his new home!

Rainer Schwede bought Stormy firstly as a good riding horse and birthday present for his wife. He was going to have me geld Stormy prior to transporting him to Germany. European taxes and further consideration of Stormy's attributes changed his mind. He phoned me one morning to say, "Don't do it!" Rainer wrote me after Stormy's arrival to say how happy he is that the surgery was not done. Rainer's wife Christine rode Stormy shortly after his arrival and was suitably impressed both with his manner and his natural gait. He never broke gait once while she rode him. They keep him in a pen separated from other horses by a single electric fence wire. Rainer and Christine have owned a couple of TWH and an Icelandic pony, so are quite familiar with gaited horses and know the difference between a running walk and a pace!

My grandchildren are near as I write this. They are asking me why I sold Stormy because they like him so much, and I must confess it brought a tear to my eye. However, I still feel I made the decision that is in Stormy's best interests, and would do it again. Kathy and I are going to Europe this coming spring and will be visiting Stormy as well as about 5 other horses we have exported.

I sold a horse to France this year. Rainer Schwede was brought over by Walter Enderli, who had been here before. Walter bought a 3 year old gelding (Generator's Diamond x Lyndy K's Heir KB) that I had started under saddle. He writes that they are getting along quite well. Walter has another TWH, a good mare. He felt he needed another Walker to keep her company and to have for friends to ride when they visit him. I expect to ride him in May! Walter had bought a Tennessee Walking Horse from me a couple of years ago. That horse, Skyline's Sunnyboy (Midnight Toddy x Chinook's Blue Angel), has moved on to Austria, where his new owner, also a previous guest at Skyline, loves him dearly. (Photo below right). I expect to ride *him* this spring, too.

I sold a mare, Sunset Sarah's Gypsy, to Deborah Poirer of Calgary, a first-time TWH owner. I bought "Gypsy" out of Saskatchewan last fall when I needed a pack horse. She is a good horse and has a very caring owner. Gypsy is staying at Skyline. I also have a deal in the works on Toddy's Rambling Rose. Please send a subscription, with my compliments, to these folks.

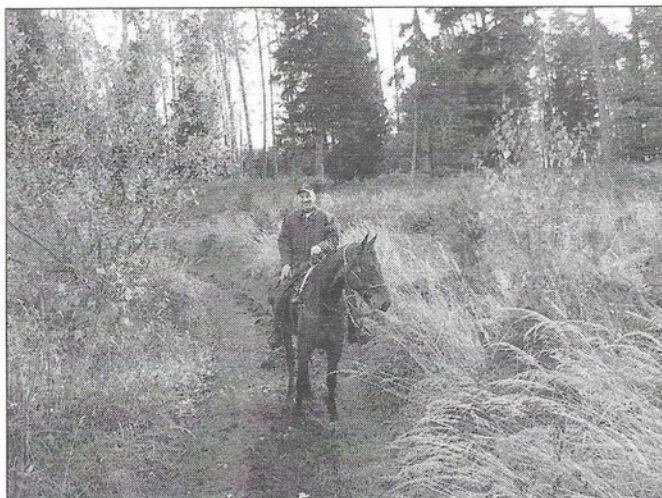
For me, there is not much point in owning horses unless they are going to be used. I kept track of my mountain trail riding this year. I have logged about 800 km, including a 160 km pack trip from Abraham Lake over the Job Pass to the Brazeau River, and out through the Wapiabi Pass finishing at the Big Horn River trail head near Crescent Falls. We ended up 20 km from our starting point. We did the 160 km in essentially 6 days without any long days. Most of the rest of the mileage came from "Friday rides" with friends from around here and from as far away as Fort McLeod. As many as 10, as few as two, but we missed very few weeks. The "Friday riders" will be at it again next year.

I again rode Stormy in the Airdrie and Calgary Stampede parades. I participated in the TWH demonstrations at the Spruce Meadows Equifair for

about the 5th or 6th time. (It wasn't as much fun this year as I could not use Stormy. He was in quarantine at the time awaiting his export to Germany.) It was really nice to have Carla Freeman join the Spruce Meadows demo team. Her enthusiasm was infectious. Her horse 'playing dead' on command didn't hurt, either!

We rounded out the year with an appearance at the Canadian Futurity. Elise and I took three weanlings. I haven't shown at the Futurity for a few years, but found that I need the "deadlines" to encourage me to work with my young horses. It really makes a difference when it comes time to start them under saddle. Anyway, a second and a fifth place ribbon made it worth the effort. I maintained my record of always taking home more money than I put into entry fees!

I am just putting the finishing touches on my updated website. It should be up and running by the time you publish this. We invite all to visit the site at www.skylinewalkers.com. Looking forward to next year, it looks as busy as the last. I have four 3-year-olds to start under saddle, three 2-year olds, 2 yearlings and an expected foal to bring along. A month in Europe should set me up right!



BRITISH COLUMBIA NEWS

DEANNE HARSHENIN, CASTLEGAR, writes, "I am finally getting around to renewing my subscription again to your wonderful magazine. I have been out of 'Walkers' for a couple of years now, and am looking forward to getting back into 'the glide ride' again. I am hoping your magazine will help me find a special horse by spring. So, I would like a subscription for myself, as well as one for my friend, Vicki Pether. Thank you so much! Can't wait for that first copy..."

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MANITOBA NEWS

From CLIFF & MARSHA TRINDER, T W RANCH, RUSSELL: Things have been busy here on the ranch. Cattle numbers are much higher than they should be due to the BSE crisis.

The horses are doing really well. Naturally, they are in winter mode, with a fair amount of snow on the ground and the temperatures over the past couple of weeks dropping as low as minus 40. Then the odd day when all of a sudden it's above freezing!

We had a busy summer this past year, doing lots of training with the horses and putting on lots of miles. Laura Peters from Fraser Lake, B.C. and Ashley Friesen from MacGregor, MB, proved to be capable assistants in working with our horses in training over the summer, and then Laura stayed on until December. Her brother, Grant, spent a couple of months this fall visiting Laura and helping us out on the ranch. I think he's learned to love horses while he was here, and I had to check the pasture when he left to make sure he left his favourite horse behind!! We did lots of cattle work with the horses this fall and besides both people and horses learning lots, we had fun! Moving herds of cattle seems to be a favourite activity with almost everyone.

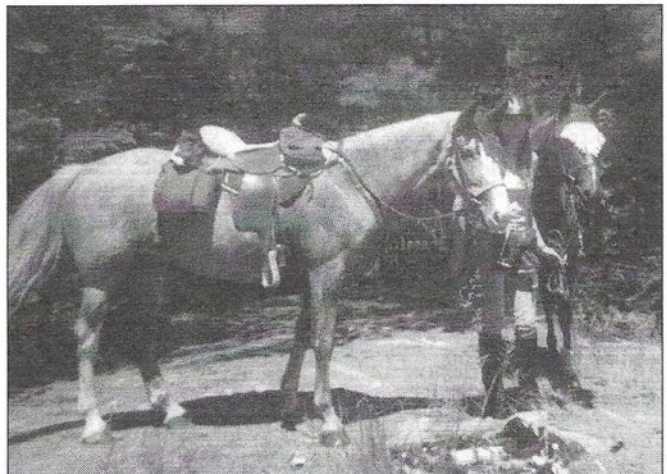
We really encourage prospective buyers to spend a few days here with their selected horse, and to play with and ride that horse out with us, making certain that this horse is going to work before they take it home. Susan Flynn from Nelson, B.C. spent a week here in the fall with her new horse, Trinder's Gato, and we sure had a good time. We also made her work, helping move cattle, and even rescuing a silage pile cover that was ready to blow away into the next municipality. You can imagine Susan and Marsha spread-eagled on the top of the silage pile attempting to hold down huge sheets of black silage plastic while the wind tried to literally pick the plastic up and throw us off. It was a huge relief when Cliff got there with the tractor and some large tires to hold down the plastic!! Thanks, Susan.

Marsha took in a couple of Parelli clinics in Manitoba this past year and is hoping to take advantage of some of the Parelli clinics that are coming to Manitoba again this year. And to think it's not *that* long ago that we had a fairly difficult time in getting instructors to come to this province! Thank-you to the people hosting the clinics for all their hard work. We used to host Parelli clinics and know how much time and effort it takes.

Wishing everyone a happy and prosperous New Year!

ONTARIO NEWS

DARLENE SHANTZ, MILFORD, writes, The riding season is winding down and weather is becoming less rider-friendly so I thought I'd send you my walking horse news for 2004. We had a great year and it was so nice to be riding again (but I did miss having a foal to look forward to). My black mare turned 5 this year and she was ready to put on some trail miles. We also needed to learn to canter under saddle and since she tends to be pacey, it was quite a jumble of gaits in the beginning. My daughter worked her over trotting poles and small jumps to teach her to canter. Once both of us were relaxed, the canter just seemed to fall into place and it's lovely. I find you can't over ride this horse; she is quite sensitive. My other 5-year-old mare is so sweet natured and gentle that she is mainly ridden by friends when they come riding with us. It is wonderful to have a horse like that around.



Above: Sunny (TWH) Sondra & Pyra (Morgan).

In June we rented a cottage with a barn up near Algonquin Park and for 3 days four of us enjoyed the trails -and fended off the bugs. We had three Walkers and one Morgan to ride. All of them were on their first trip like this and they behaved very well. I was very pleased with both my Walker mares as they took everything we encountered in stride and were well behaved. I hope to make this an annual event. My yearling filly is going to be a super nice horse. She is very easy to handle, smart and pretty, even at this awkward age. I think she is going to be a big horse when I compare her size with other yearlings.

In September my daughter and I had plans to see the Masters at Spruce Meadows. We had an awesome time there and both of us fell totally in love with Alberta. I really enjoyed meeting some great Walking Horse owners and had nice chats with Hilton

Hack, Keith Oberle and Brenda Baker. I wish we'd had time to visit some others, but perhaps next time I will be able to come to see the TWH show in October. My daughter and I had great fun visiting Brenda's farm and seeing all her horses and other animals. (Thanks, Brenda!). We had a ride at the Anchor D out on the trails which we both thoroughly enjoyed. (However I must say I'd forgotten just how bumpy those trotting horses can be! I can never go back to that after being spoiled with riding Walkers.)

In October while on vacation in North Carolina I looked up a Walking Horse Stable and booked a riding lesson. This was a show barn and I got to ride a 17-year-old champion show gelding. He had pretty heavy shoes on by my standards, but I was told they consider that light shod. Riding him was opposite to anything I've done in the past. Mostly he was ridden out of his mouth in a long shank walking horse bit and by voice, with no leg pressure. The more pressure on the reins signaled him to go faster whereas to stop you loosened them off. It was an interesting learning experience for me to ride a trained show horse but I think I'll stick to my trail horses. My mare has always disliked bits and I now ride her in a very mild sidepull type of bridle that endurance riders use. A lot of nervous bad habits went away when the bit did, and she became mellow instead of excitable on rides. I try to use my seat and legs to adjust her gait but we are far from perfect yet!

After that experience I came home and my daughter and I took our horses to a Parelli Level I clinic. I went to see the Parellis in Guelph in April and really enjoyed what I saw. I have played around with my horses a little 'Parelli style' but it was nice to have someone there to coach us and show us the right way to handle different situations. We all learned a lot, horses especially. This fall we purchased another yearling filly to be my daughter's project horse, a Canadian/Thoroughbred cross and looks a lot like my Walker yearling. My daughter has been playing some of the Parelli games with her as she hasn't had a lot of handling and it's working well. She is very sweet natured but what a difference from my imprinted foal. It is so much easier to teach them everything when they are just babies - at least, that was my experience.

Despite the rainy weather all summer (7 to 10 inches the day we left for Calgary!) I managed to accomplish what I set out to do this year with my horses. We had some rough spots - our Morgan developed Potomac Horse Fever in July, in August we lost our wonderful pony, but that's part of having horses in our lives. I wish everyone all the best for 2005 and already I can hardly wait for spring riding!

In My Opinion:

OVERSTRIDE

by Sylvia Crouter, Dubois, Wyoming

Reprinted with permission

From the Box Hanging Three Newsletter, Fall - Winter 2004

Is there a Walking Horse that is the perfect blend of flashy lite-shod show horse and sure-footed trail horse?

Owners that show their pleasure horses in flat-shod classes often wonder to what criteria the TWH judges are holding their mounts. Too often judges have in the backs of their minds the big lick image of tremendous over reach and high-stepping front feet. These judges seem to expect or encourage a mini version of the big lick horse. The owners of beautifully performing Walking Horses - those doing a classic running walk, cantering on the correct leads, and really flat walking (not doing a slower running walk!) - feel confused and frustrated when a judge chooses a pacey, deeply overstriding horse for the blue ribbon.

We sympathize with these owners. We believe that sure-footedness is the most important attribute in any horse of any breed. One e-mail correspondent agrees:

"When I'm out on the trail I like to know that the horse's legs are underneath me, confident where he is placing them, not excessively long-strided. [A 'big back end'] is perhaps good and desirable on a straightaway, but for any kind of terrain at all I want a horse with a lesser back end."

The breeding goal of this ranch is the production of the classically gaited, four-beat running walk. An overstride of 12 to 18 inches is good. A more exaggerated "back end" might be great in the show ring, but for coming down a steep shale stretch of trail with a 200-foot drop-off on one side and a rock wall on the other, give me a horse bred for the mountains!

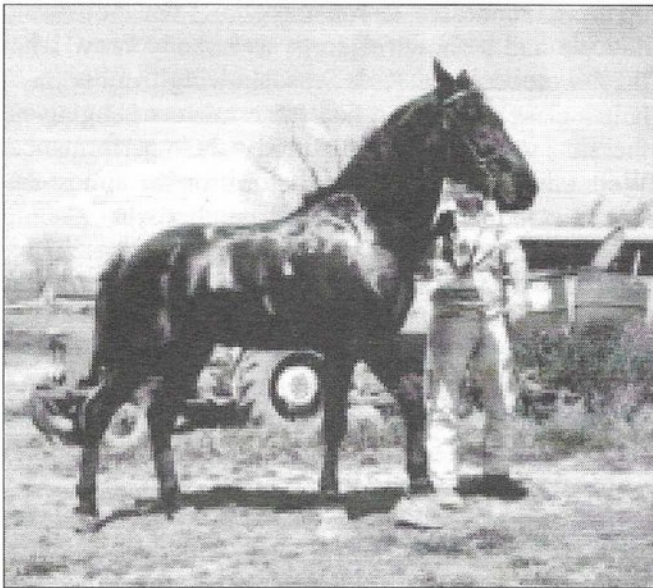
The pacey component must not be so extreme as to prevent an easy canter on both leads. Nor should a trotty tendency overshadow a strong running walk. The careful crossing of stallions and mares to accentuate the positive and downplay the less desirable traits in the pairing is the best way we know to achieve the ideal.

And let us not neglect disposition! Crabby, high-strung, nervous mares should not be bred. There is a medical procedure available for overly aggressive stallions that produce ill-natured offspring.

The Walking Horse is famous for its Cadillac ride and its people-loving characteristics. Here on this ranch, we strive to perpetuate these attributes.

A Visit To A "Big Lick" Barn

by Barb Fenwick



This is the picture of the 'big lick' TWH in Missouri that I rode. You will note the pads, bands & chains on the front feet. His name was Magic. It was sad, he was a truly beautiful horse.

I visited a "big lick" barn, by accident really, while I was in Missouri last spring. I was out looking for a TWH for a certain client and was directed to this show barn/farm where one horse was being retired from showing, I was told, and was a good prospect. When I drove up I saw a rider on an obviously very young horse that had hugely padded feet. Turns out he was just coming two...

However, I was curious enough to see this visit through. I was taken to the barn to meet the prospect horse. He was big, black and very beautiful. He was standing with approximately 5 inches of pads & shoes on his front feet. The trainer saddled and rode the horse in the alley of the barn. It was an old barn with maybe a dozen box stalls and an alleyway of about 12 feet across. This is the "training run". Wendy (my trip companion) and I stood and watched this lovely creature being put through his gaits. In order to canter him, the trainer had to stop to put on bigger chains around his pasterns. The rack of chains are handy in the middle of the aisle. On one side wall stood a rack of clubs, like billy clubs. They are the tools of "persuasion" to help get the horses through inspections...

The horse was really sweet. The trainer asked if I wanted to ride him, so I did, outside in a dilapidated outdoor ring - there were no pastures. The

horses live in their stalls all the time when they are not working, or not going around on the hot walker which is inside in an add-on to the barn.

I flat walked the horse for a round or two; he was responsive, massive and powerful. I had seen that the trainers used special cues and kicks or whatever to put them in their exaggerated gaits, so I kept my cues soft and light and worked up into a runwalk that was as close to natural as this horse could do with those shoes. I have to say it was the most incredible ride. He was magnificent and true in gait. (His huge shoes came off the next day apparently and he was put on keg shoes. He took a week or so to get used to them and his runwalk left him.) He was 12 years old and had never been off pads.

Anyway - long story shortened - the client for whom I had looked at him couldn't have handled him. She was too green a rider and the horse was scared to death of anything outside the barn or ring. Of course he would be.

The people we met in that place showed us a shoe & pad to demonstrate how benign they are, saying they were just some weight and had ball bearings which just helped the horse get its rhythm right. *Right...* The shoes felt like lifting one of those old time irons that we used to heat on the stove for ironing clothes - remember? That heavy. And what were the ball bearings for, do you think?

As for that horse, he is retired... for now.

It was an experience I will never forget in many ways. I had read & heard about the Big Lick horses, but seeing it myself sears in my mind the reality of the pain and agony those horses must go through every day. There is nothing right about it, not for the horse.



Speaking of Horses

Anything forced and misunderstood can never be beautiful. And to quote the words of Simon:

If a dancer was forced to dance by whip and spikes, he would be no more beautiful than a horse trained under similar conditions.

- Xenophon, 400 B.C.

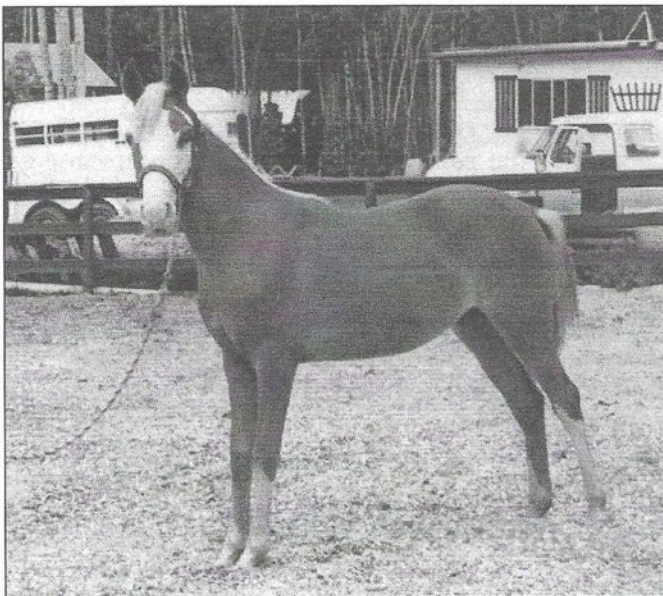
READERS WRITE

JO-ANNE MCDONALD, POUCE COUPE, B.C.
writes,

"Just got the latest issue December 10 and the front page is gorgeous. What a good picture!"

"I also must congratulate "Silver" on her comments. Finally someone who will say something about that "Do you have a paint stallion" thing. That and the tri-colour horse are two of my pet peeves. I have also had people who claim to have a 16.5 hand horse!!"

"In response to the e-mail query about the lineage of Uphill Golden Laddy, sire of the palomino gelding owned by Susan Williams in Idaho, I found the pedigree of that gelding's dam, SHADOW'S AMBER MISS (Shadow's Super Seven x Jones' Miracle Miss) in my file. Amber was born in Prince George, B.C., the property of Kirk & Sheila Coburn. She was sold to Wyn Armstrong, Charlie Lake, B.C. as a 2 or 3 year old, I believe, and then traveled with Wyn across the border. She was sold somewhere in the States and that must be how this gelding ended up in the U.S. I suppose Amber could still be alive. She was a loud chestnut sabino and had a very nice disposition. If you want a picture I can get a good one from Sheila."



**From SHEILA COBURN,
PRINCE GEORGE, B.C.**

"I have lots of pictures of "Shadow's Amber Miss" as she was our first foal. (See photo above.) She was born in 1979 from "Shadow Super Seven and Jones' Miracle Miss. We took her to a clinic/

show in Dawson Creek as a yearling. It was her first time in a trailer and we hauled her with our stallion. No problems at all. Mac Motes and Sis Wolaver came up from Tennessee to run the clinic. On the second day we had a show (of sorts, as nobody knew what they were doing). Kirk was showing Amber in a halter class. The arena had large mirrors hanging on the side wall so riders could see their performance. Well, when Amber spotted that mirror she almost ran over our judge, Mac. I don't remember what placing she got - if any! She was a very sweet filly and later that year we sold her to Wynn Armstrong from Fort St. James. Wynn later sold her or gave her, I'm not sure which, to her daughter and she took her to Oregon. I never heard any more of her and have always been curious, as she was our first foal.

**SHIRLEY SHERMAN (nee' Martin),
LOMPOC, CALIFORNIA**

writes on November 14/04, "It is with such pleasure that I receive your newsletter. It's a touch of home for sure, and I eagerly await each issue. I married and moved here about a year ago but I sure miss Canada and so much more."

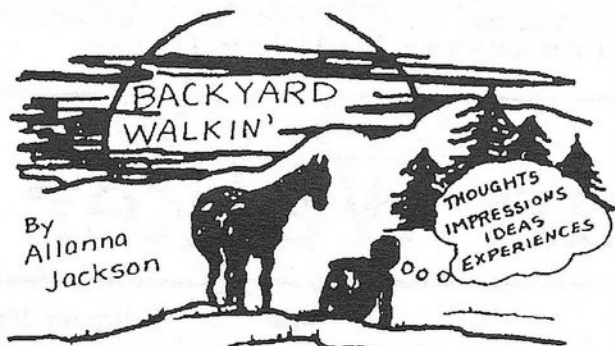
"Rain has happened in the last couple of weeks and pastures are blessed with renewed growth. It is green again. Four seasons? It seems there are only two now: brown and green. The life style for California is so different when it comes to horses. Regretfully I own no Walkers now. I have not seen a Walker since I came here. I had the pleasure of attending a Vaquero exhibition displaying the life style of the California cowboy."

"I hope to go on-line and see if Canadian Muskie is still alive. And what ever happened to Neale Hubbard and Ebony's Jack Daniels? I've never seen any more Jack Daniels offspring advertised."

"As for Walking Horses, I still think the best horse I ever saw was Uphill Gypsy Bay. That mare could walk!"

Editor's Note: Bill Howes tells me that Neale Hubbard died about 4 years ago. Neale and EBONY'S JACK DANIELS had parted company quite a few years before.

Jack Daniels was living with Carole Nipshank and Lenore Shiels near Stony Plain, AB in July, 1986, and died there some years later. One of his sons, Shadow's Jack Diamond, left many offspring, first as the property of Bill Howes and then under Jack Gurnett's ownership. See Randy Johnson's story (p. 3) for another reference to Neale Hubbard & Ebony's Jack Daniel's offspring. If any readers have further information for Shirley, please write to WHN.



Lunging Part 3 The Effect of Bell Boots on Gait

It seemed logical that Velvet would be most likely to injure herself while lunging when she was being rowdy. She survived those episodes unscathed. Velvet's self-inflicted injury occurred during an orderly lesson one day while we were experimenting with how to differentiate between trot, canter, and gait on the lunge line. Velvet was calm, cooperative, obedient and giving me clear indications about which of my cues were confusing and which made sense to her.

It was a productive session for both of us so I was dismayed to find a cut on the inside coronet of Velvet's right front leg, just above the bulb of her heel. Evidently she'd stepped on herself during the lesson. Being barefoot had not protected her from interference caused by her own crooked legs and juvenile clumsiness. It was a small cut and not very serious but I wanted it to heal without scarring. I treated it with the scarlet oil Dr. White had supplied for treating a more serious cut on another horse's nose and gave Velvet several days off, hoping she wouldn't step on herself again while at liberty.

While waiting for Velvet's cut to heal I bought a pair of plain black bell boots for her. Calf roping is one of the favorite equine activities here so it was easy to find bell boots intended only for protection at a local feed store. I bought the smallest size they had but Velvet is so fine boned they were still half an inch too big around. Fortunately, the bell boots have velcro fasteners that provide a safe and secure way to overlap the edges of each boot by half an inch. Nobody thinks twice about using bell boots to protect roping horses and they don't expect the boots to alter the horse's way of going. But putting bell boots on a TWH drastically changes their movement... or does it?

If you associate with TWH long enough, sooner or later you'll read or hear the assertion that the extremely high front action of the big-lick TWH is just the horse's natural reaction to having something around its front feet. Supposedly the horse does not have to be sore since he's merely reacting the way he

does to tall grass, trying to step out of a light-weight and harmless action device.

Velvet's natural way of going is quite low. She's a 'daisy clipper', or a 'baseball tipper', to use Ben Green's description of the original Walking Horses. Velvet is also a product of 50 years of breeding show horses that reacted to boots and action devices by stepping higher. Velvet also exhibited hints of a naturalized big-lick way of moving as a suckling foal. Therefore, if the assertions about the way TWH react to having something harmless around their front feet were true, putting plain, light-weight, protective bell boots on my perfectly sound barefoot Velvet would cause her to step much higher, square up her gait, and create a sound, natural big-lick.

That's not what happened. True to her breeding, Velvet accepted the bell boots quite readily. She did notice them and did paw tentatively a time or two, but she did not try to step out of them. The first time I asked Velvet to move with the bell boots on she strolled along tipping baseballs exactly the way she does with nothing on her legs or feet. She did not step higher. In fact, the bell boots had no effect on the height of her stride at all!

Increasing speed did not increase Velvet's reaction to the bell boots. It took her only 15 seconds to get used to them, even at the canter. The bell boots did not change what gait Velvet did. They did not square up her gait. She'd already learned to trot on command without bell boots and the trot is the squarest gait a horse can do.

The only discernible effect the bell boots had on Velvet's movement was that she became more willing to lengthen her stride at the flat-foot walk after she realized the boots protected her from her own missteps. When Velvet was wearing the bell boots she would stride so long I could hear her hitting her hind toes on the bottoms of her front feet every stride. When I lunged her without the bell boots, she either shortened her stride enough to minimize that interference, or reverted to a pacey way of going in which the more lateral timing moves her front foot out of the way of the hind foot sooner than a truly square walk does. This was Velvet's natural choice when barefoot and barelegged, which tends to confirm that the quest for a big back end and extreme overstride encourages pacing.

This did not really surprise me. My perfectly sound, naturally gaited, naturally trained Walkers have never reacted the way the Tennessee trainers say they will, especially in matters of gait modification. Since the bell boots had no effect on Velvet's gait behavior and did provide the protection she needed, they became a permanent addition to her lunge wear.



The Canadian Walker

Volume 4, Issue 1

February 2005

2004

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ELECTIONS

Members in Alberta and Ontario received forms in December to nominate new Directors for their areas. The results are: Jodi Lougheed of Sunderland is the new Ontario Director and Dianne Little of Calgary has been selected for Alberta. Both were by acclamation. Congratulations to both Dianne and Jodi.

RESIGNATION

Barb Fenwick has resigned as CRTWH Director for Manitoba. She has served for the past 4 years. Thank you for your time & input, Barb.

AGM

The Canadian Registry's ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held on Saturday, April 16 at the Crossroads Restaurant in Ponoka, AB.

The meeting will be in the downstairs meeting room, and everyone can order their own lunch from the menu. Door prizes and a guest speaker will round out the gathering after the business is concluded. Mark your calendar (& bring something interesting for the Silent Auction which will be concluded after the meeting!).

Hope to see you there!



MEMBERSHIPS

Membership renewal forms should have arrived at your home right around Christmas with a large package of other materials. All memberships end with the calendar year, so if you have not yet renewed to CRTWH for 2005, please do so as soon as possible. (And don't forget to register those 2004 foals before they turn one year for the cheapest rate.)

PHOTO HISTORY

The History & Heritage CDs are available from Dianne Little now - 2 CDs packed with over 1400 photos and pedigrees of Canadian Walkers. They let you *SEE* your TWH's extended family!

2004 FUTURITY SPECIAL AWARDS

Here are the special awards from 'The Canadian' Futurity 2004.

TOP SCORE ENTRY:

HOT LIGHTNING owned by SHARON and TED SMITH

TOP MOVEMENT SCORE ENTRY:

HOT LIGHTNING owned by SHARON and TED SMITH

HIGHEST SCORE OVER FIVE YEARS:

HOT LIGHTNING owned by SHARON and TED SMITH

MARE WHOSE PROGENY ACCUMULATE THE MOST POINTS:

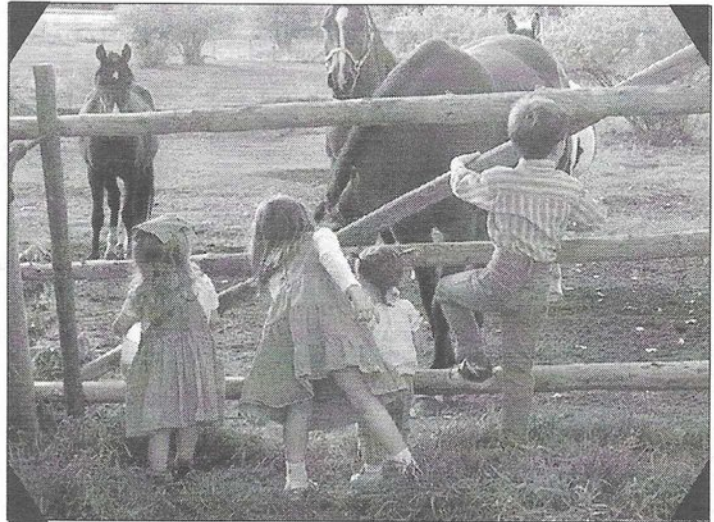
TOPPER'S SUNSET LADY owned by CALTA STABLES

STALLION WHOSE PROGENY ACCUMULATE THE MOST POINTS:

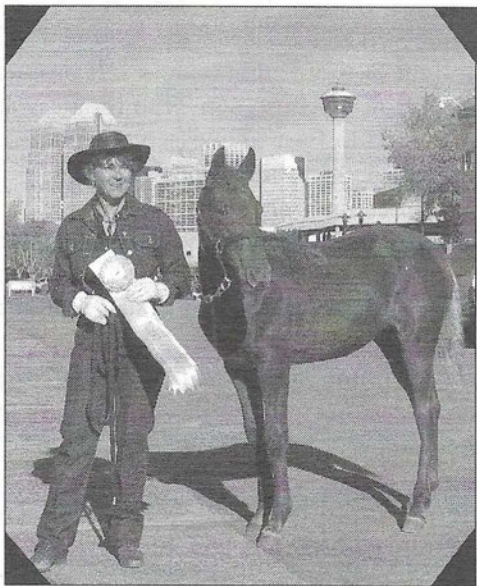
GENERATOR'S SILVER MOON

owned by **BIG ROCK WALKER RANCH**

What do YOU do with your Walkers?



Above: Donna Curtis sent this picture of her grandchildren, Montana, Valenna, Brooklyn and Austin Brown, looking at their horses. "It seems to me that there definitely is a bond between horses and kids. We, the grandparents, hope that these children will grow up to be "horsey" people like we are. So far, looking at this picture, they seem to be on their way."



Above: Karla Freeman took two weanling fillies to 'The Canadian' Futurity held at the Calgary Stampede Grounds in 2004 (See the Calgary Tower in the background?) and took home two ribbons.

Mail your photos to
WHN,
Box 7326, Edson, AB
T7E 1V5

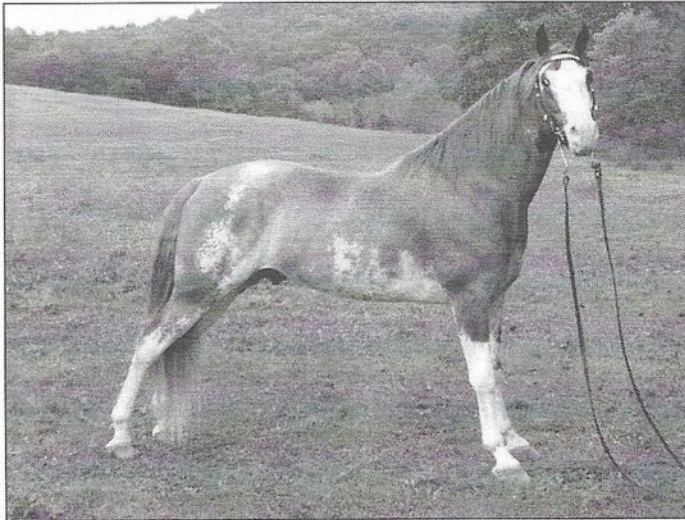
Below: Maureen Hummel, B.C. Director and Elizabeth Olynyk, a former Director spent a good part of the Thanksgiving weekend with a group of intrepid helpers at The Mane Event in Chilliwack manning a Canadian Registry of the Tennessee Walking Horse information booth. Just look at that eye-catching banner!

Photo courtesy of Debbie Smith.



FROM FOUNDATIONS TO THE FUTURE

WILSON'S HEIRLOOMS by Franne Brandon



Carl Parks' stallion, Society's Lee Allen by Paige's Echo

When the new Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders Association of America celebrated its tenth birthday in 1945, breed growth was beyond expectations. The popularity of the horse found it all across the United States and no longer a regional breed. The fledgling Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration in Shelbyville provided a contest with world championship titles to appeal to all elements of the show set. Breeding establishments, large and small, throughout the United States did a healthy business in selling everything from foals to saddle stock. Many bloodlines were widely promoted, but due to the emphasis on show ring success, one stallion had come to the fore as the leading sire of horses with the winning gaits. Six years after his death, WILSON'S ALLEN, once disparaged as the "One-Eyed Johnson Hill Horse", was recognized as a sire like no other in the breed.

Show horses by Wilson's Allen walked with a looseness and power unlike those by other stallions of that period. In the six World Grand Championship stakes from 1939 to 1944, geldings or mares by Wilson's Allen had captured the tricolor and many of the other ribbons as well. In 1945, the first stallion to win the Celebration's top honors would be a son of Wilson's Allen. Although Midnight Sun catapulted the stars by Wilson's Allen to even greater heights, he was only one of seventy-eight other sons of the grand old stallion who contributed to the breed in the formative years of the registry.

For at least ten years after the death of Wilson's Allen, his sons reigned supreme in the stallion ranks of the walking horse world. Horses like

Miller's Wilson Allen and Red Warrior were rated at the top as sires and their get are featured as among the breed's best in the TWHBEA video A Look into the Past. Some lesser known stallions, like the blacks, Midnight Streak and Black Allen, bred only a few mares. Others, like the grey Top Wilson, remained with one owner and continued to receive a court of mares long after other stallion lines became popular as a result of Celebration World Championship wins.

Many sons of Wilson's Allen did not sire breeding sons themselves. Their genetic contributions continue forward through their daughters and their daughters' foals. Other stallions, like the famous Gold Bond and Wilson's Dean did sire sons who served as breeding stallions. Gold Bond's son, Apple Jack, sired Gold Rush Rocky, an influence on the breed in the mountain states of the West. Wilson's Dean, while best remembered as the sire of the dam of 1963 WGC Sun's Delight D. sired this mare's full brother Wilson's Dean's Choice, whose son True Magic was quite active in the stud in East Tennessee. Seven sons of True Magic carried the Audie Dean stallion lines forward at smaller breeding farms.

As the mid-fifties approached, though, the lick required of the walking show horse changed dramatically, and with it, the type of stallion to sire this gait. Wilson's Allen stallions were noted for natural movement, not pace. Their popularity declined. Diane Sczepanski of Northern Foundations Farm in Whitehall, Wisconsin, acquired a young, linebred Wilson's Allen stallion in 2001. Curious about how rare his breeding might be, she spent a summer conducting painstaking and tedious IPEDS research to identify horses currently standing at stud that were grandsons, great-grandsons, or great-great grandsons of Wilson's Allen on the top lines of their pedigrees. Of the **seventy-nine** Wilson's Allen sons that once served in the stud, only **five** can still be found on the top lines of living Tennessee Walking Horses. Besides the obvious MIDNIGHT SUN, whose line now dominates the breed, the stallions SIR MAUGRAY, his full brother FRANK'S WILSON'S ALLEN II, WILSON'S ALLEN'S ORDER, and the 1943 Junior World Champion stallion, SOCIETY MAN, are the only other four with grandsons or great-grandsons actively standing at stud in 2005.

The chestnut stallion Society Man was a very popular breeding horse in his day. When his owner, Alton Pierce, sold the old World Champion, he

retained a son named Paige's Black Boy. Black Boy remained Pierce's property until his death. Highly regarded by breeders at the edge of the Cumberland Plateau, Black Boy was not well-known in the larger TWH community. It is through this black grandson of Wilson's Allen, however, that the stallion line of Society Man continues into the 21st century.

One of the breeders who brought mares to Alton Pierce's farm was Dan Taylor of Franklin County. In the spring of 1965, his mare Pinkey Lu foaled a dark sorrel horse colt from this mating. Taylor named the horse Paige's Echo and later sold him to J.W. Sanders. Sanders liked the big stallion, but basically did nothing with him. He allowed the horse to run freely in the same pasture as his beef cattle. Stallions being what they are, Echo would periodically get tired of the cattle and go seeking better company. Neighbors would return the stallion to his owner. One of the neighbors who did so was Lee Parks. Lee also bred mares to the stallion. On one occasion, he crossed a Belgian mare with the big sabino. She had a fine stud colt which Parks gave to his son, Carl. Carl started the young gelding under saddle and was pleased by its disposition, comfortable flatwalk, and smooth singlefooting gait.

Some years later, Carl Parks decided to get serious about raising Spotted Saddle Horses, at that time an up-and-coming breed with a steady demand for smooth-going, stout trail horses. Parks had a tobiano mare which he thought could produce a stallion prospect if crossed with the right horse. Determining that a stallion which could put gait on a Belgian crossbred foal might sire a really topnotch spotted horse, Carl bred his mare to Paige's Echo. The next spring proved that his theory had been a good one. Parks named the handsome bay tobiano colt Paige's Desperado. The young stallion broke out to be everything that Carl had wanted. As so often happens, however, other people were also wanting what Carl had bred. He wound up selling Desperado to Hilke Holstermann of Bad Zwischenahn, Germany, to serve the growing number of SSHBEA mares at their Downunder Stables and in their part of Germany.

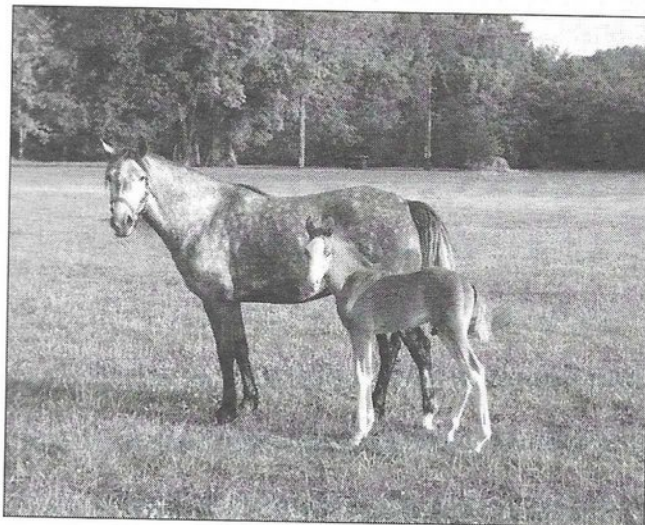
With Paige's Desperado in Europe, Carl decided that he would like to shift his focus to TWHBEA registered horses. Once again, he needed a stallion. It had to be a special horse, however, well-gaited and not pacey, handsome, strong, sensible, smart, and with a good set of papers. Color, of course, would be an added bonus. When Leon Oliver heard of his search, he told Parks that Billy Taylor, who with his brother Danny had acquired Paige's Echo

following the death of his lifetime owner J.W. Sanders, had a nice weanling stallion by Old Echo for sale. Carl saw the horse and knew that this was the one. He purchased the highly marked sabino and began his Tennessee Walking Horse breeding program.

In 2005, ten years after that decision, Carl Parks is pleased with everything about Society's Lee Allen. His papers are unique. Sired by the Society Man grandson Paige's Echo, a stallion with no Midnight Sun or Merry Go Boy breeding, Lee Allen is out of a daughter of Mark's Crackerjack, a linebred Merry Boy horse. Lee Allen's second dam is by Red Bud's Rascal. The third dam's sire, Duke of Dearmanville, was a son of Setting Sun. Lee Allen has the beauty of the Crackerjack line, but the sweet disposition of the Echos and the Red Buds. His foals have all been attractive, handsome, and smooth-gaited. Those competing in plantation or liteshod classes in the show rings near the Parks' Joyride Farm have all placed in good ribbons. Several Lee Allen foals started to saddle have sold for strong prices to new owners who believe in paying for quality personal mounts. For 2005, Carl Parks has advertised the stallion in which he has so much pride in the *Voice* magazine's new Sire Summary. He feels that Lee Allen's gait, looks, and disposition, coupled with the rare bloodlines with no Midnight Sun showing on the papers, offer the ideal outcross to the vast majority of today's heavily linebred Midnight Sun mares.

Through Society's Lee Allen and his half brothers at other farms, the line of Society Man will continue to Echo resoundingly across the United States and in Europe as well.

Sterling Moon Shadow, a Bullet daughter, with her son, Society's Moon Dancer by Society's Lee Allen.





SELECTING A STALLION

by Marjorie C. Lacy



Spring *is* coming... It's that time of year. Mare owners start getting a far-away look in their eyes as they jot down possible pedigrees for the 'perfect foal' that their mare will produce next year.

But how DO you go about selecting a stallion to sire the perfect foal? I don't know - I've never raised 'the perfect foal' and neither has anyone else - but here are a few points to ponder as you attempt it.

First, go out to the pasture or barn and have a good look at your mare(s). Shake all the sentiment out of your eyes so you can see her clearly. With the market as it is, there is no percentage in breeding mediocre horses. How's her conformation? Does she have straight legs? Well proportioned body? Good bone and muscling? A back that will hold a saddle?

There are a lot of questions to ask, because 'the perfect foal' will have to have an *excellent* (not just 'good enough') mother. What kind of disposition does she have? Foals often turn out a lot like their dams in disposition. It's not only inheritance but her example here too.

Finally, what's her natural gait? Does she pace in the pasture? Trot? Run-walk? Do a little of all three? What is she like to ride? Has she a good smooth, ground-covering gait? The running walk is our breed's signature gait. What's the point of raising foals that can't do it?

Some people maintain that a calm and sensible disposition is a horse's most important characteristic, others believe that conformation should be put first, and lots of TWH breeders think gait is paramount. But the best description I've ever read about the relative importance of disposition, conformation and gait put it this way: they are like the three legs of a milking stool and if **any one** is lacking, the stool won't be of much use...

Having looked at your mare with unbiased eyes, if you decide that she is of sufficiently high quality to raise the "perfect foal", your next step is to decide why you want to raise it and for what purpose.

Yes, I said why and what for. Are you raising a foal for yourself, as a replacement for your mare? Are you raising it to sell? Do you want to breed a show horse, a trail horse, a pleasure riding horse? Asking yourself these kinds of questions will help you sort

out which stallion will make the most suitable sire. If your aim is to breed a smooth going, dependable trail horse, you'll look for a stallion that has been a good one himself - or has sired lots of offspring that are. If you want a show horse with refinement, fire and presence, choose a stallion that has been successful in the show ring. *It is wise to look not only at the stallion but at as many of his sons and daughters as you can.* Don't condemn a stallion for one poor offspring (Hey, remember, the mare contributes half too!) but look for common characteristics that he passes on. It may be that he *always* puts an excellent shoulder on his get - or it could be wobbly hocks. You might also want to check out Eldon Eadie's article on Measuring for Gait.

Have I forgotten about pedigree? Well, not really, but there are fashions in horse pedigrees just as there are in everything else. A fashionable pedigree may certainly give you an edge in selling your foal. It will not necessarily give you a *better* foal. Look at the pedigree and see what the parents, grandparents and so on back, actually did. Usually the names we recognize in a pedigree are World Grand Champions from the U.S. Celebration - which are all big lick show horses. That may be a good thing to have *IF* you intend your foal to compete in that area. If your foal will grow up to chase cows in BC or climb mountains in Alberta, it will give it no advantage at all. To sum up, make sure that the stallion's pedigree, fashionable or not, goes with a really good horse.

So here I am, almost at the end of my spiel, and how much have I said about selecting the ideal stallion for your mare? If you have REALLY looked at your mare, and thought about your breeding goals, the choice of stallion should be a whole lot clearer. If you can find one that complements your mare's strengths, and adds strength in areas where she may be slightly lacking, maybe *you* will be the one to breed that 'perfect foal'. Good luck!

Speaking of Horses

Our eyes tell us what a horse appears to be...
His pedigree tells us what he ought to be...
But his offspring tell us what he is!"

From an e-mail from Elsie Darrah, Nortonville, KS



MORE LEARNING FROM HORSES:

Patterns and Habits

by Ron Meredith, President, Meredith Manor International Equestrian Centre

Horses are creatures of habit. And the habits they learn can be good ones or bad ones depending on who's handling them. And whatever habits or patterns they have when they come to you can be changed if you go about it in a methodical, horse-logical way. If memory serves, one of the horses that taught me this was a Morgan stallion that belonged to a friend of mine. This was back in the '60s and I don't remember the horse's registered name but we called him Little Brother.

My friend Ray was raising a few Morgans and when breeding time rolled around, he'd call me to help him handle the stallion. Little Brother was always very, very easy to handle. He had a favorite wife named Quaint. When she was in season and ready to breed, my buddy would hold Quaint on a lead line out in the pasture. I'd go to the barn and bring Little Brother along. The stallion would nuzzle and tease and do his job then I'd take him back up to the barn. I never needed a chain shank or anything. Little Brother knew Quaint, she knew him, they liked each other and there was never any fuss.

One year Ray fell off another horse, broke his leg, and decided to skip breeding that spring while he healed. Somebody asked him about leasing Little Brother to use on his mares and that sounded like a reasonable idea to Ray, given the circumstances and all. Little Brother was leased to this other guy and, at end of breeding season, he came back home again.

The next spring Ray's leg was fine, Quaint came into season, Ray took her to the field, and I went and got Little Brother. This time, however, instead of going to nipping and loving her, he started eating grass. Quaint let Little Brother know in every way she could that she was interested in him but he just ignored her. Ray was pretty upset. He figured the stallion was ruined. But I was at the beginning of thinking about training from the horse's point of view and I thought I knew what might be wrong. So I took Little Brother back to his stall.

When I got Little Brother back to his stall, I put a chain under his chin and picked up a whip. I slapped and jerked and screamed and made a huge fuss. Sure enough, Little Brother got all excited and, in no time at all, he was ready to breed Quaint before he even got out of stall door. So I took him back to the pasture, he served the mare and then he went back to eating grass.

Now, in those days, everybody knew that every

stallion in any barn was just naturally mean and ornery. If you didn't knock 'em around and show 'em who was boss right from the get go, you were sure to get hurt. So I figured this other guy had probably handled Little Brother like he was afraid of him. I figured that he'd probably fought with the stallion to show him who was boss before he took him to breed. So the fellow taught Little Brother that a big fuss meant there was going to be a party. But, horse-logically, Little Brother had also concluded that if there was no fuss, there wasn't going to be a party. So each year we did a little less fussing in the stall and in a couple years, Little Brother was back to being the laid-back breeding stallion he'd been before.

Horses are so very pattern-istic. The patterns or habits that they learn can work for you or against you. So it's important to think through what you're teaching a horse from the horse's viewpoint. You can try to physically dominate a horse to control him or you can psychologically control him by becoming the safest, most comfortable place for him to be. One big difference between the two systems is going to be how events unfold when something physically scarier than you comes along.

When things get scary or confusing, you want a horse that responds to a familiar pattern that creates a feel of a safe place that he can go to rather than fleeing or fighting. That's why we start our training out on the ground and under saddle using rhythmic exercises that create relaxation in the horse. When rhythm habitually creates a feel of relaxation in the horse, a rhythmic pattern becomes a safe place for both the horse and rider to go to whenever things start falling apart. Then when the horse gets excited or upset, the rider goes to any exercise that reestablishes rhythm, and habit will help the horse relax so he can listen to the next thing the rider asks.

This makes a lot more sense than using big bits and sharp spurs and going back to fighting over who's the boss. But it took me a few years and a few horses before I unlearned my old habits of loud and startling communication with horses and learned a better way. If you or your horse has poor communication habits, be sure to allow yourself plenty of time to learn some new ones.

Ron Meredith has refined his "horse logical" methods for communicating with equines over 30 years as president of Meredith Manor International Equestrian Centre, (Route 1, Box 66, Waverly, WV 26184; 1-304-679-3128; <http://www.meredithmanor.com>)

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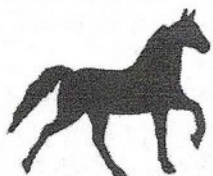
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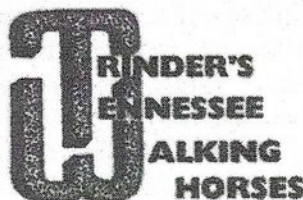
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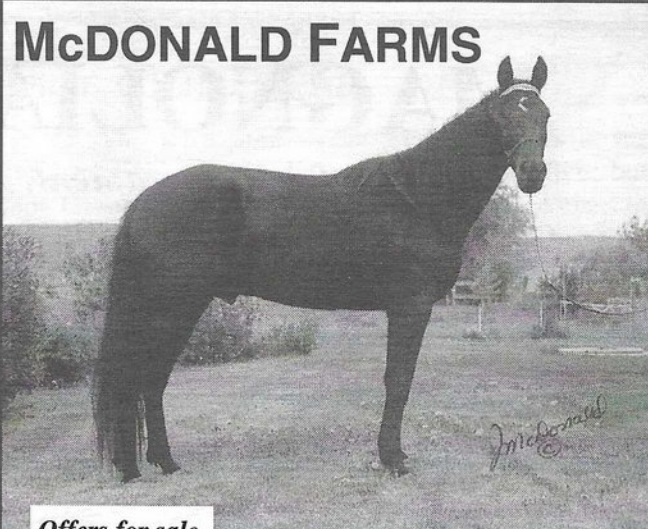
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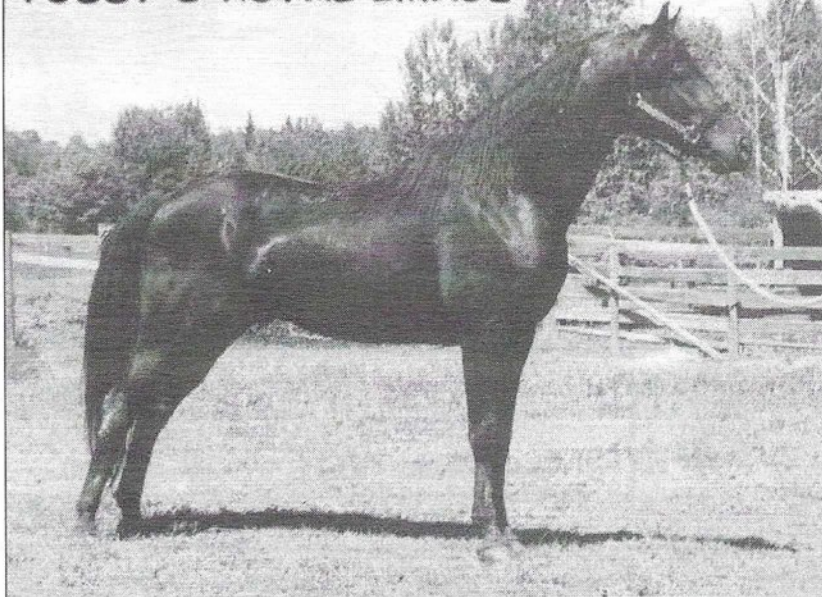
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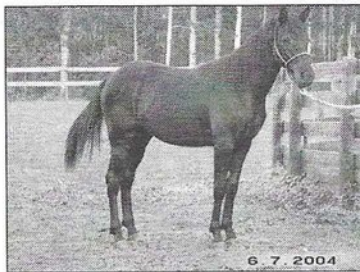
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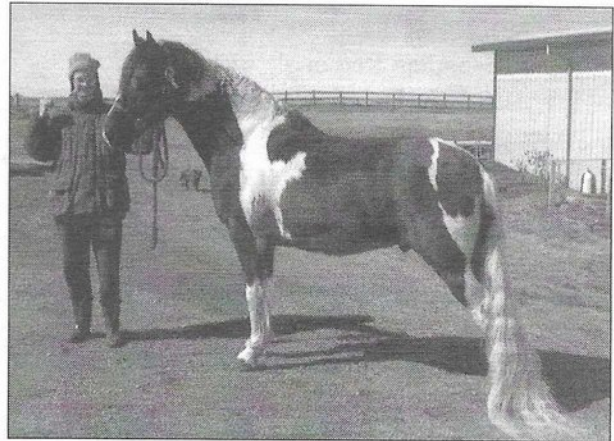
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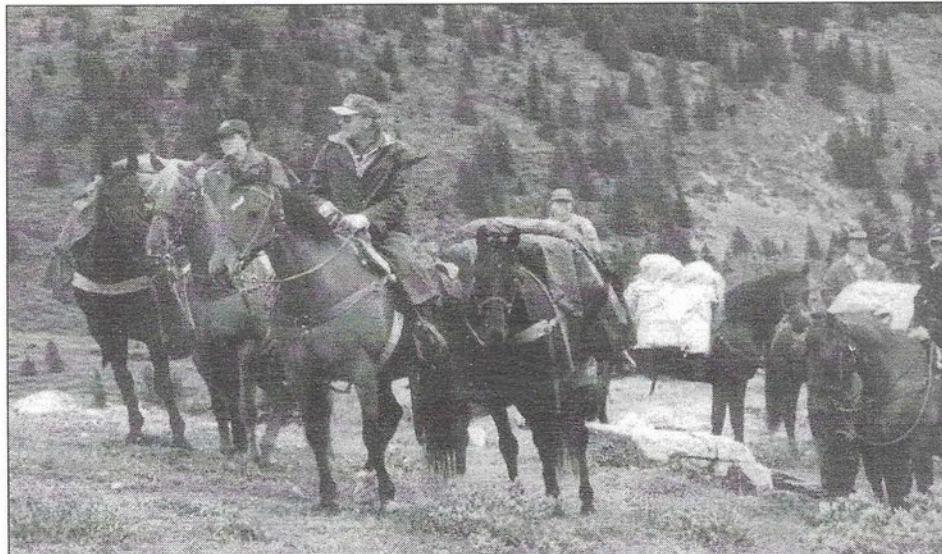
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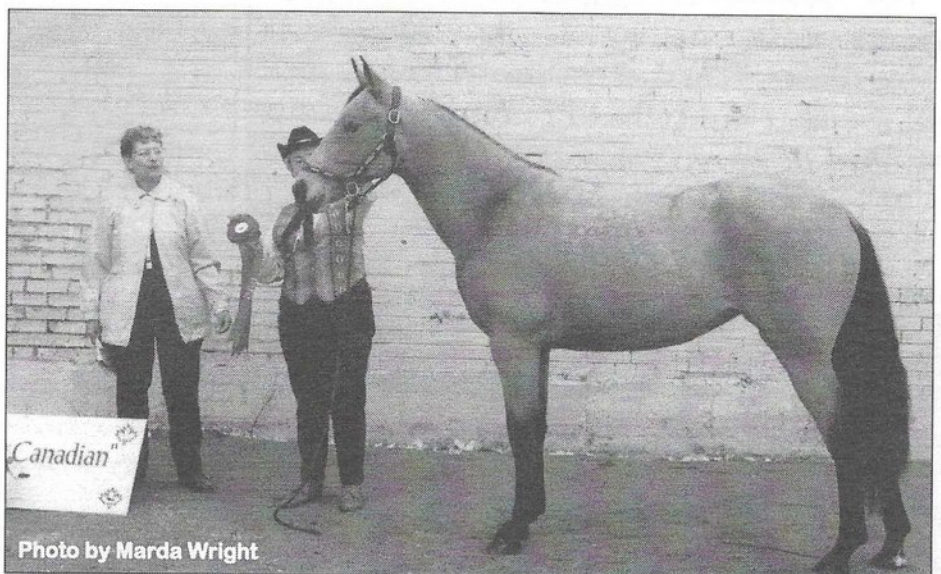
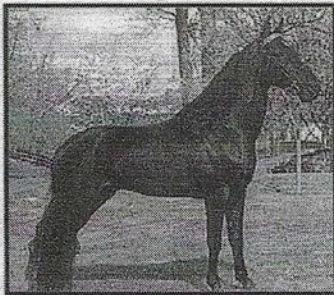


Photo by Marda Wright

Berry Hill Walkers Classifieds

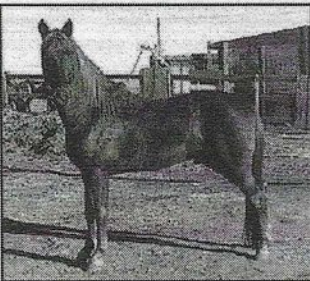
Stud Services



Ebony's Director

- *15 H.H.
- *Dark Bay
- *Son of Ebony Masterpiece
- *Grandson of Sun's Delight D.
- *3/4 brother to Dr. Elmer
- \$250.00**
- (plus mare care)

He's a product of H.M. King Jr's breeding program. His sire Ebony Masterpiece and dam Delights Delectable were carefully chosen for their confirmation, their ability to walk and their impeccable blood lines. After a successful show career, he was retired and went on to become a prestigious breeding stallion. He has produced many greats that have gone to win in both local futurities and in the celebration. Truly one of a kind and he has one of the most reasonable stud fees in Alberta



Arkansas General

- *15.2 H.H.
- *Dark Liver Chestnut
- *very quite and easy to handle
- *breath takingly beautiful
- *Special pricing for the first 10 Mares

Berry Hill Walkers (Canada) is very proud to announce it's newest acquisition. Canada welcome the son of the great "Gen's Major General", 5 time world champion, two times sire of the year, grandson of "Prides Generator", one of the greatest walking horses ever. The son of "Coin's Lovebug", grand champion show mare, winner of the 15th annual international, grandson of "Prides Gold Coin". The championship ribbons in "The Generals" pedigree would fill a small room.



A Natural Born Genius

- *16 H.H. Blue Black
- *Son of Prides Genius
- *Proven Show Winner
- *Sire of Show Winners
- \$450.00**
- (plus mare care)

Horses For Sale

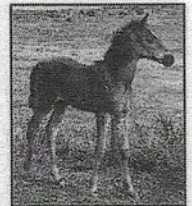


Ebony's Centurion

- *Grandson of Ebony Masterpiece
- *Grandson of Ebony's Threat A.
- *Incredible Colt
- \$2,500.00**

Ebony's Dunitagain

- *Grandson of Ebony Masterpiece
- *Grandson of Coins Double Play
- *Incredible filly
- \$3,000.00**



Industrial Sewing Machines For Sale

Want to get into the equine manufacturing business? Three industrial sewing machines - two double stitch and one single stitch. Great opportunity to make a few dollars manufacturing, or repairing horse blankets, halters, etc.
\$3,000.00

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Training By Mandy Newton

Mandy Newton is now offering you the ability to obtain World Class Tennessee Walking Horse Training in Canada. She has a natural horse sense and knows how to get the best out of your horse. If you have a quality horse that you want finished correctly call her today. She's already over 1/2 booked for the fall and winter sessions so
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THREE YEAR OLD GELDING by Dixie's Hot Chocolate out of a Chapie mare. Chestnut with blaze and white socks. 16 hands and growing. Awesome ground covering walk. This big, bold, boy will take you places in a hurry! Ground work started. \$3500. COCHRANE, AB (403) 932-9975 or e-mail windwalkerfarm@hotmail.com

8 YEAR OLD BLACK CHESTNUT MARE, 14:2 hh. Double registered TWH. Great granddaughter top and bottom to Merry Go Boy. Daughter of Canadian Shaker and Go Boy's Tar. \$2300.00 1-250-827-3113 FORT ST. JOHN, BC

THREE YEAR OLD FILLY by Trouble's Gold Sun. Smokey black, very pretty and friendly. She is always first to the fence for attention. Regular handling, excellent ground manners. Super gait and flawless conformation. Has placed well in Futurity. 15.2 hands, US and CDN reg. \$4500. COCHRANE, AB e-mail windwalkerfarm@hotmail.com or Phone (403) 932-9975

10 YEAR OLD BLACK GELDING, registered, Merry Boy breeding. 15:1 hh, smooth in all three gaits and goes all day, herds and cuts cattle, rides double, ready for experienced riders. 403-845-6705 ROCKY MTN HOUSE, AB

2004 CHESTNUT FILLY by Generator's Diamond (Pride's Generator x Go Boy's Shadow mare). This filly is gorgeous, high headed, and bred to perform. She has inherited her sire's gait and presence. Will be U.S. and CDN registered. \$2500. COCHRANE, AB windwalkerfarm@hotmail.com or (403) 932-9975

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SPLASH - FLASHY RED ROAN gelding, a very big striding grandson of Coin's Double Play. 3 years, very quiet. Lots of ground work and started under saddle. An easy keeper, he'll mature 15 hh with a solid build. Good ground manners, easy to load, all shots up to date. He'd make a very good sure-footed trail riding horse that would go all day. \$2500.00 LLOYDMINSTER, AB skschroeder@telus.net or phone 780-875-4208

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WALKING HORSE NEWS: Subscription rates as of June 30/04 are \$18.00 / year in Canada, \$24.00 / year (in US funds) to the United States. *WHN makes a great gift!* Please support your Canadian TWH connection. Send your subscriptions to WHN, Box 7326, EDSON, AB T7E 1V5

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In response to requests, *WHN* now offers "stand alone" web ads that may be put up on www.walkinghorsenews.ca at any time, and do not have to be paired with a magazine ad. Cost is \$75 for a one photo display ad. The ad can be ordered at any time, and we will create it and put it up for two months. Thereafter you can keep it up for \$7 per additional month.

We also continue to offer Breeders' Gallery photo ads on the website. (If you'd like to change a photo on your web ad, the charge is \$10. A major change of text to the original is \$20.)

Please send original photos or .jpg images. Attach only ONE .jpg per email message. We can accept ads in MS Word or MS Publisher, but not as .pdf files or in other programs. We will make up an ad for you from your instructions. Prices above include the ad layout.

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Would the contact person for each listing above please write or call to confirm the above association or area information.

Marjorie Lacy

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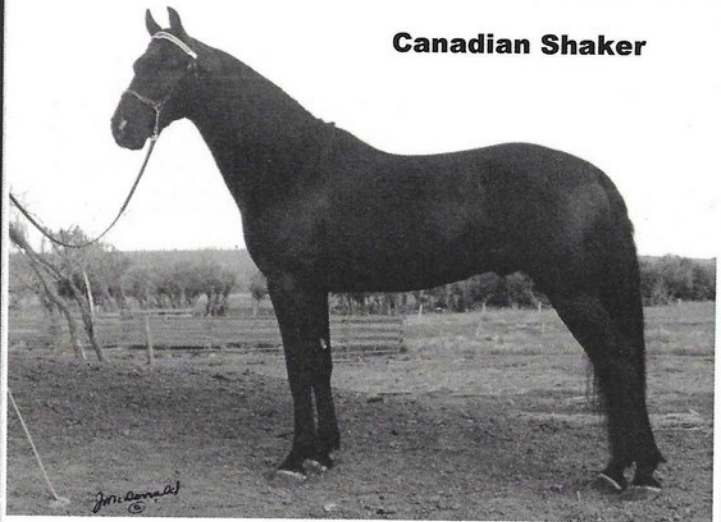
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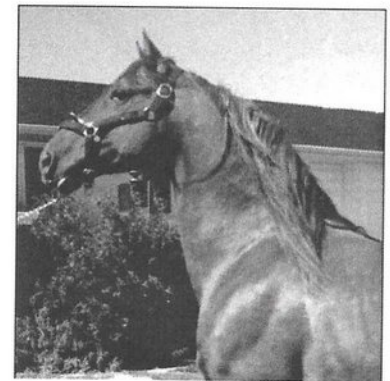
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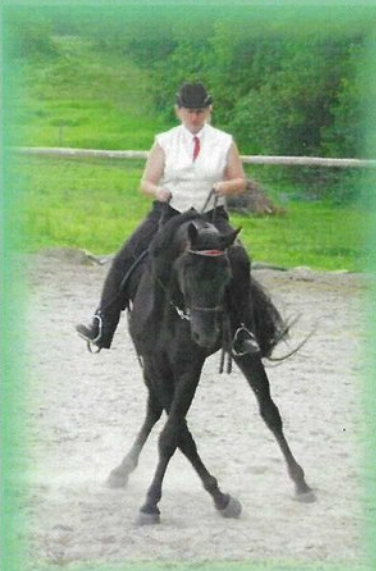
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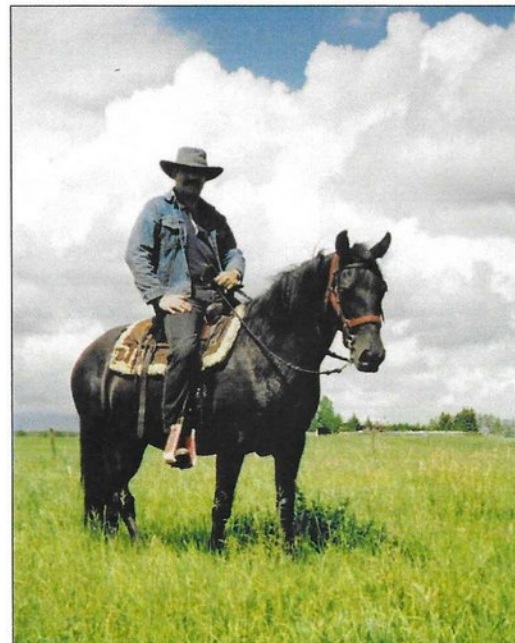
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