

DECEMBER 2005
VOLUME XXIX No. 6



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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Laurindale Stables has been breeding, showing, training and selling Tennessee Walking Horses for ten years. In that time our knowledge of the walker has grown and developed. I feel we have a good understanding of what constitutes a great walking horse. We have been very aggressive in culling any mares or stallions that do not meet our stringent breeding requirements. We breed for three main attributes: temperament, correct gait and pedigree. With that in mind we have developed a band of top broodmares and stand three World Grand Champion bred stallions. We breed each mare to the stallion we feel will best complement the wonderful qualities she already has.

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Walking Horse News

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On Our Cover

Early snow dusts the
headwaters of the
South Berland River in
the Willmore Wilderness,
north of Jasper National
Park in Alberta. Can you
see the 4 Walkers, who
packed us into the area,
grazing on the meadows?

Photo by Marjorie Lacy

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for Mar/Apr issue

MARCH 7

for May/June issue

MAY 7

for July/Aug issue

JULY 7

for Sept/Oct issue

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Dear Subscribers,

It's November 20 and I'm writing this for the last issue of 2005. This is the thirtieth issue I've done with the help of computer guru, Shirley Bossert, since Jo Kingsland retired from doing the set-up and production part of the magazine. It doesn't seem very long ago that everyone was worrying about the millennium, so how can it be that we are already five years into the next century? My computer has become an 'aged' machine - at five years old. It's good thing horses don't age that fast!

On a sad note, just yesterday Marianne Wray sent me the news that Hanne Christersson of Sundre, AB had passed away. Hanne was a long time subscriber, and one of the few who remembered the early days of Walking Horses in Alberta. Our condolences to her family.

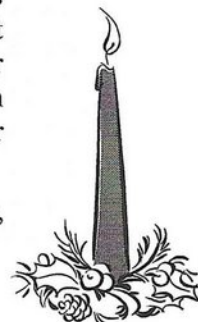
All those of you who are interested in horse colour, take note: Dr. Phillip Sponenberg, author of Equine Color Genetics, will be speaking at the Horse Breeders and Owners Conference in Red Deer, Alberta in January on the inheritance of coat colour This conference is always informative and well worth attending. See the ad on page 16 describing some of the sessions to be presented .

I'd like to say a special 'thank-you' all who have bought subscriptions to *WHN* for friends, neighbours and customers this year. Your generosity is very much appreciated, and really helps the magazine grow. Thanks, also, to those who have advertised during the year. *WHN* has bills to pay like everyone else, and it's the ads that help cover them. Finally, to all you loyal subscribers, thanks! Without you there wouldn't be any point at all to putting out this magazine.

Hope you enjoy the articles and news in this issue, and let's hear from you for next time. Any tips on selling horses? Photos for possible cover pics? We love to hear from you. And we always look forward to your stories on How I Got Started with TWH...

A happy holiday season to everyone,
and best wishes to you all for the New Year.

Marjorie



“DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN-SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE IN CANADA”
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Thank you for advertising in Walking Horse News.



HISTORY & HERITAGE PROJECT 2000

“CANADIAN TIMES OF THE TWH”

HOW AND WHY I BECAME INTERESTED IN WALKERS

by Louise Reigert, Sherwood Park, AB

Thanks, Sheila and Lloyd Rodney, for giving me a subscription to this magazine. I am enjoying it very much. This is my story on how and why I became interested in Walkers.

I first saw some Walking Horses through friends of mine at Niton Junction. Joan and Austin Penner raise Walkers. They own the handsome stallion, Darkie's Last Chance, and have some nice fillies by him. Thanks, Joan and Austin, for telling me that the great gelding I have now was for sale. What a good horse he is.

Last summer, 2004, I got to ride a Walker for the first time. We went riding in the mountains at the Ya-Ha-Tinda for a week. I was amazed at the sure-footedness of this young TWH, and the stamina he had. This gelding is also used as a packhorse. I have trouble with my lower back getting so sore if I ride for several days, but after riding him, my legs were stiff momentarily when I got off, but *no* sore back! I've always been a Quarter Horse person but find some of them choppy-gaited, so I noticed a big difference. I don't mean to offend any QH people, I still like the QH too, but I sure had a very nice, comfortable ride on this Walker gelding. Thanks, Cliff Gagnon, for lending him to me. He's a great gelding.

Then on June 22 this year I lost my paint QH mare. That night we'd had a very bad thunderstorm, with terrible lightning. The vet figured she'd been struck by lightning while foaling. That night two other people I knew each lost a horse (one being a Walker) in the same storm. I know how those people felt, because I was devastated, losing my good saddle horse like that. And it was even worse, losing her at foaling, when she was in foal to Darkie's Last Chance. I'd so looked forward to that foal. It was another reason why I decided to buy a Walker.

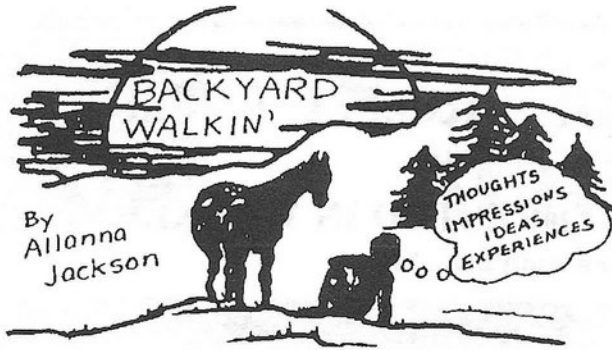
This summer, before purchasing my gelding, I was riding (would you believe?) a Tennessee Walking Mule! Copper's Image has the Walker disposition (gentle and willing to please) and the Walker gaits. She's a good ride, liver chestnut with flaxen mane & tail, and about 15 - 15:1 hh. She's great in parades, has been in the mountains lots, and ... is also a racing mule! She is one of the mules that races in the 'Great Canadian Mule Race' at the Bruce Stampede each year. She's won the mule racing several times. I'm proud to say that this great Tennessee Walker breed, even crossed with a donkey jack, produces a wonderful mule to ride. Thanks go out to Mr. George Hines from Drayton Valley for letting me ride Copper's Image in the Bruce parade and on trail rides. So this impressed me even more about Walkers.



Thus, on August 19/05 I purchased Rose's Flashy Chap, a beautiful chestnut gelding, from Sheila and Lloyd Rodney of Ponoka (*above*). What a wonderful disposition Flashy has! He is very smart and learns 'right now'. When I got him he'd had ground work done and been saddled 2 or 3 times, but wasn't ridden. About a week later, I saddled him up, put a small barrel beside him, then stepped up and got on. Well, I've never looked back. He's about 15 - 15:1 hh, and I'm quite short and 58 years old. So training him to let me get on him from something was nice. He lets me get him now without a barrel so we're going places. I've been on him 12 times only so far, but even after he'd been left for three weeks (due to surgery I had) I could just get on him and go. His disposition is unbelievable, one of a kind! Flashy is only three and a half years old, so we have many days of 'happy trails' ahead. Thanks, Sheila and Lloyd, for the good ground work you've done with this gelding. I've broke and trained several Quarter Horses to ride and drive over the years, so I know that good ground work definitely pays off. To me it's one of the most important parts of a horse's training. I'm proud to own and ride Flashy.

So, what I'm saying is, if there is anyone out there who is tossing around the idea of buying a Tennessee Walker, don't hesitate! The investment is certainly worth it. They are one of the nicest dispositioned breeds I've ever worked with. They're very eager to please, have lots of stamina, and are very nice to ride. Like riding in a Cadillac...

Last but not least, I want to thank Muriel Rabby on your help with our decision to buy Flashy. And thanks, everyone, for taking the time to read my story.



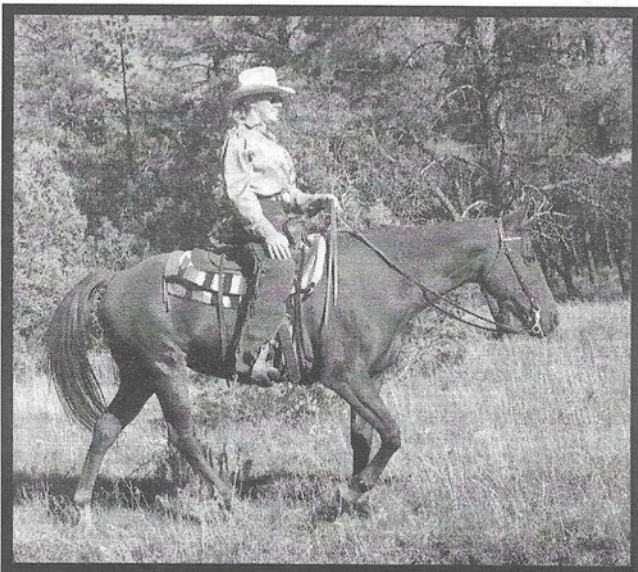
SACIA'S PRIDE 745076 (Gold Rush Rocky x Katrina's Dolly)

It was with heavy hearts that my family and I said our final good-byes to my beloved Sassy on Oct. 24, 2005. Sacia's Pride 745076 was my first horse, purchased in mid October 1981, when I was just 18 ½. She was a timid, green-broke, half blind, barefoot, pregnant, seven and a half year old. I was a total novice. It should not have worked, yet it did because it was a partnership created by God that changed my life and had an impact on the Walking Horse world.

Sassy and I taught each other by trial and error using Johnny Berguson's "World's Most Complete Course in Horse Training." I got a few lessons here and there but mostly it was Jesus, Sassy, me and what I gleaned from books and magazines because there were no TWH trainers or instructors within 200 miles. Despite my ignorance, incompetence, blundering ineptness and moments of unwitting cruelty, she became a trail and versatility horse.

Sassy carried me over ten thousand miles on mountain trails, riding most of them alone, with no injuries and only one lost shoe. I did fall off a few times, always near home. We enjoyed a few group trail rides and camp outs, including two trips up and over 10,000+ foot Mount Baldy.

I rode Sassy in 22 parades, carrying a flag 13 times, side-saddle once, and ponying Back Yard Cinnamon twice.



I used her registered name in the show ring. Sacia's Pride won the Open Gaited (3-gait) class at our first show in June 1984. She went on to earn a total of 92 awards in All-Breed Open shows competing successfully against trotting horses in such a diversity of events that in the late 1980's she became known as "That blind Walker that does everything." She was shown flat shod with ordinary shoes. Sassy's final show appearance was in June 2003 where she placed third of eight in a \$25 Working Ranch and Trail Horse Class, wearing borrowed tack and having had no schooling in 10 years.

One of the highlights of our lives was our trip to Alberta in 1992. My mother and I trailered Sassy from Arizona to Alberta. We slept in a tent and picketed Sassy to the trailer every night. Mom flew home from Calgary. On the trip home Sassy and I enjoyed a wonderful unity of thought on the beautiful trail to Mirror Lake in the Spanish Peak Wilderness of Montana.

Sassy produced a total of six foals – four colts and two fillies. Tragically, the two colts I bred were stillborn through no fault of hers.

Sassy introduced other people's young horses to trail riding and parades. In her retirement Sassy mentored my foals out of other mares including the last Koko foal, Back Yard Cinnamon.

Sassy gave many neighborhood children, and one young man from Japan, their first experience with horses. In 2003 she assisted me with the Blue Ridge 4H Horse Club.

These accomplishments only hint at what made Sassy extraordinary - and that was her inner character, heart and personality. "Sassy" was a very misleading moniker for such an attentive, supremely docile, perfectly cooperative and willing mare. Sassy had perfect manners and was perfectly gentle, very patient, communicative, honest, quiet, loyal, consistent, reliable, obedient, forgiving, tolerant, trusting and trustworthy. Externally she was just a very plain chestnut horse but her heart and character were valuable beyond price.

I owned Sacia's Pride for 24 years. Along the way she co-authored 20 years worth of Back Yard Walkin' columns and the book Back Yard Walkin' Training Tips.

Sassy's final trailer ride was a 400 mile trip to see an animal eye specialist vet. Though she had very recently gone totally blind, Sassy loaded into her familiar trailer and rode perfectly. She navigated a place she'd never seen by following my voice and quietly accepted exams by several vets with no sedation. Sassy enjoyed a final grazing session in the yard upon our return home. At the very last Sassy trustingly followed my voice to my front yard where the vet was waiting. She was euthanized to spare her from the worst effects of an invasive brain tumor, and is buried next to Koko.

Sassy, my Pretty Girl, my Special Pet and best friend, is no longer on this earth. Yet she is my forever horse because Jesus used her to teach me His ways and change my heart for eternity.

NEWS - NEWS - NEWS

BRITISH COLUMBIA NEWS

From RON & LIZ TAYLOR, LADYSMITH, "Well here I sit, thirteen months after the thought first occurred to me that I should write to the *Walking Horse News*. You see, thirteen months ago, we purchased our first Tennessee Walker. Having wanted one for almost fifteen years, I finally took the plunge and made a dream come true. My beloved QH mare had passed away nearly two years earlier and it had taken me that long to mourn and be willing to open up my heart again. Besides I had all that tack, buckets and supplies just collecting dust out there in the barn anyway... right?"

"So I called the only person I knew who possessed a lot more knowledge than me about Tennessee Walkers. I explained to John Agar what was on my mind - and bought "Boothills Doodle Tina Z" from him over the telephone."

"Now my husband, Ron, is a cow man and never seemed to see much use in horses - before, that is - because, well, this little girl stole his heart the first time he laid eyes on her. So now, you see, she's not really my horse anymore 'cause those two only have eyes for each other..."

"So, Ron's decided that we'll need another horse for me. Which led us to Laurindale Stables and a sweetheart date with "The Power Broker". The new addition to our family is expected the end of May. (I'm already hearing Ron say things like "my foal". So I imagine I'm just going to have to go and buy my own horse and keep "him" away from it.)"

"Anyway, we're new to the Tennessee Walking world and really appreciate your magazine. The various TW horse owners and breeders I've talked to have been a barrel full of knowledge that they're more than willing to share. Just wanted to say that I appreciate everyone's patience answering this greenhorn's questions."

"Please find enclosed our cheque for our subscription renewal."

"Thanks again and happy trails to one and all."

MONA FERGUSON, WINLAW, writes, "I just received the October *WHN* and have read it from cover to cover as usual. What piqued my interest a little more than usual was the book by Lee Ziegler called *Easy-Gaited Horses*. Now my problem is I live out in the middle of nowhere. It will be next to

impossible to find the book in a tack shop because - guess what - we don't have any! So if anyone could help me to acquire the book I would be grateful."

"Now the up-side to living in the middle of nowhere would be the *great* trail riding we have around here. I have owned walking horses for many years now, and in fact I used to breed and raise them 20 years ago. How time flies by... In the spring of 2002, my best pal "Boss Stock" fractured his leg in a freak accident and, sadly, had to be put down. In all my years with horses I must say this was my most difficult loss. I owned Boss's grandmother, dam and sire (Sundown's Woodstock). I raised him from a baby, trained him and rode him for almost 14 years. He was the one that my girls always had as back-up, in case one of their QH's couldn't go on a ride, to a clinic, or to a horse show. Boss did it all - dressage, jumping, English and western riding - he did very well over the years in the show ring. Boss was one amazing horse; now I think of him as 'forever running free', but I still miss him everyday."

"This brings me to the new TWH I bought. It took me a few months to find another walker, because living in the middle of nowhere, there are very few. I'd always dreamed of an offspring of Midnight Toddy, so in Strathmore, AB I found her in Dec. 2002. "Toddy's Wonder Girl" was foaled June 16, 1995. I call her "Wyn". That was almost 3 years ago now. We have had some difficult training sessions and lessons to be learned but it has all paid off for me. "Wyn" has become a great new friend and companion who never ceases to amaze me. She's a real head turner too; people are always coming over and asking about her. I always enjoy sharing information on Walking Horses with people; they are always so fascinated with the breed."

"I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the *WHN*. I have enjoyed it for many, many years, and now that I have a mare instead of a gelding, I'm starting to really look at the stallion advertisements... ("Oh no," says my husband.) I'd like to breed my mare to a colored walker, (that is after I buy a new horse trailer that she will fit into.) I am so looking forward to many years of riding on Wyn; she was a good choice."

"Our riding weather has been very good; too bad winter follows. I can't wait until spring again and hours and hours of riding. Happy walking to all!"

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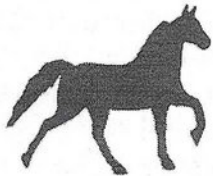
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BC NEWS

From KIRK & SHEILA COBURN, KREEK SIDE WALKERS, PRINCE GEORGE, "Well here I am again, late. I took out your first subscription notice with all good intentions to do it right away but got side tracked. I have been meaning to write since May, as we now have a new stallion, Tsuniah's Sunny Delight. "Sun" is a 15.2 hh chestnut with a star and snip. His dam is Tsuniah's Delite, a full sister to "Tsuniah's Sunday", World Grand Champion Pleasure Horse. His sire is Tsuniah's Triple Reward."

"We had not really intended to get back into the breeding business after Shadow's Super Seven died but... famous last words, here we are. Sun IS a true delight; he has a fantastic disposition, very gentle and easy-going, and as Leah says, (she owns one of his foals) "My foal came out halter broke." She is very happy with this foal and it shows that Sun throws his wonderful disposition. We have just let him settle in as we've been much too busy, getting a pen ready, tearing down the old fence and putting in a new one, building a lean-to, helping two neighbors build hay barns, and all the other horsey things we have to do."

"The weather has really been against us this year as it's rained more than we've had sun. 'Sloppy' would be a good word for it. Everyone around here was getting pretty worried that the weather wouldn't break to get in the hay. Had a hot spell for a week or so and then back to soggy again. Everyone hayed like crazy but some just didn't have enough time to get it all in before it started raining again. Weird year. We got in a nice ride yesterday but before we got home it started raining again. Sure hope we get an Indian Summer as we didn't get to ride anywhere near as much as we'd like."

"Well that's all the news that's fit to print. I'm enclosing our subscription for another year. Keep up the good work."

MANITOBA NEWS

DARLENE MOORE, BOISSEVAIN, writes, "Please send a gift *WHN* subscription to a long time Tennessee Walking Horse breeder and owner, Lorraine Schaaf, of Thunder Bay, ON. She owns, breeds, trains and shows her twenty Tennessee Walkers. She owns horses imported from Kentucky as well as Canadian Tennessee walkers she's raised."

"I wanted her to enjoy and participate in the fun we all have being a part of the *Walking Horse News*."

NOVA SCOTIA NEWS

From ANN MATHESON, "Greetings from AMHERST, NOVA SCOTIA. We finally made it and are settling into our new farm, horses and all. It was quite a trip, with my husband Jim and his nephew trailering the two mares for 3000 miles. It took them six days and they stopped at frequent intervals for water and feed, a minimum of every 12 hours for exercise and stopovers. I was afraid that after the journey started, the horses would come off the trailer and not want to get back on, but they went in on cue each day with no qualms. Aside from coming across country when gas was at its highest and meeting the trucker convoy shutting things down for awhile (and rightfully so), the trip was thankfully uneventful and the horses safe and sound. Looking forward to receiving the *Walking Horse News* at our new home."

ALBERTA NEWS

YVETTE HYAM, EVANSBURG, writes, "Please send a year's subscription to Thad Buckler of Evansburg, AB, who has two U.S. registered geldings that I raised. He finds they are very easy to work with. He goes to the mountains and also works cattle with them. They can do anything any other horse can do, but smoother and calmer!"

LINDA BLOCK, BRETON, sent in an ad for dispersing her herd of Tennessee Walkers, but she says, "I'm keeping two palomino colts."

From LUIGI & JULIE VALENTINI, ENTWISTLE, "Please find enclosed \$36 to pay for two subscriptions. One is for Linda Lee Rasmussen of Abbotsford, BC, who is the proud owner of a beautiful mare, V4 Dooley's Tripple Chance #946266, that she bought from us. The other is for Todd and Crystal Fitchitt of Winfield, BC, who are the proud owners of a beautiful black stallion named Yvening Gleason Ray #975446 and a very nice black yearling filly named V4 Miss Shadow's Princess 20410107. We wish them all many years of enjoyment with their new purchases."

"To all the Tennessee Walker owners, all our best for the New Year!"

LISSA TOWNSEND, COCHRANE, sent an address change and writes, "I'm very much enjoying the *WHN* magazine which was gifted to me by Christine Kobza. Please notify me when it's time to renew. Well done!"

ALBERTA NEWS

BRENDA BAKER, CALGARY, writes, "We are in the middle of Indian Summer at the moment but the wind has taken most of the leaves off the trees, leaving our favorite riding spot noisy with the crisp fallen leaves. The birch trees are beautiful and we can see the deer sneaking around at a short distance. Obstacles that hardly deserved a glance need to be well looked over by the young horses now that the undergrowth has flattened out."

"Grant Nelson was here again for a nice weekend of riding and visiting in the middle of October. He had a nice riding lesson on Chicklette and then on Tsuniah's Personality Plus (Sona), with Rick Bates instructing him. We all went for a couple of nice rides out in the hayfields and on the trails on the treed hillside behind our barn. Sona is a sweetheart and we'll miss her now that Grant has taken her home to have more fun with. Grant is from Vernon, not Armstrong, as I had written earlier."

"I'm really enjoying riding "Ruby" (Red Riding Horse). She is very well put together by any breed standards and she has a deep head nod combined with a great running walk. Ruby is a four year old daughter of Chance's Gold'N Yellow x Dictator's Merry Minuet, that we raised. Eldon Eadie stood that stallion for a few years only 6 miles from our place so we took some mares there once we saw what nice foals he sired. I only wish the horse had stayed with Eldon longer so I could have bred more mares to him. As it is we raised 2 fillies and a gelding by Chance's Gold'N Yellow. I'd like to hear from other people who bred their mares to that stallion. Eldon sure knew what he was doing when he leased that horse!"

"I'd better get out there and ride while this weather lasts!"

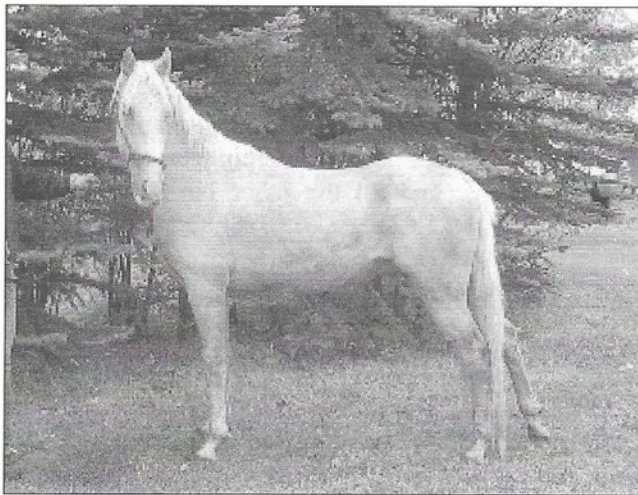
From KARLA FREEMAN, BENTLEY, "I started riding the little red gelding I had down at the Futurity. He left the farm with a little encouragement, but with the saddle and a worked-up field to ride in, I had him going like hot D--n! I rode him again on Sunday, alongside that girl that has that big 16 hand gelding, and little Red just kept right up to him. I'm so impressed with the little guy! It's always nice when you see your ground work pay off."

"Well, I am actually writing to tell you that Congratulations go out to Barb Sutcliffe of Pontpool, Ontario. She bought the yearling filly, Karlas Blonde Delight, out of Karlas Black Diamond by Cherokees Dark Knight. Barb saw my ad in the *Walking Horse News!*"

It was quite an ordeal, but we finally found a shipper."

"We got the second cut of hay off, and of course, *that* is why the weather is so nice... I wanted to let it dry another day, but just didn't trust the forecasters. Oh well, it should be o.k."

MARIANNE WRAY, CAROLINE, e-mailed, "Wanted to send you pictures of my colt (below). He is by Tuney, and, I think, looks quite a bit like him. He is very gentle and we had him out for some training. He is just two and has bred my DP mare. I am hoping to breed mares for two or three more years and then I will probably have to cut down to just a riding horse or two. We wanted to cut down our work load, so keeping a lot of horses doesn't really accomplish that."



"Hope you are doing well. We had snow this morning and it is wet and cold out. Am building a stand for an aquarium so that we can winter the fish from our pond inside. I should have just thrown the fish out and bought new ones - would have been a whole lot easier and cheaper! We have three weanlings for sale, and are expecting two or three foals again next year. This is the first year we have been able to grow our own feed (yes, managed to get it up dry), so that's a big relief."

"I sure wish the horses sold as easily as the little dogs. My ShihTzu and Yorkie puppies get snapped right up. Unfortunately they reside in the house, so we don't get much time away from them. They are just so adorable! We have six and I want to get a very tiny female toy poodle. Just doesn't end!"

"Take care, and thanks for all your hard work - I really enjoy getting my magazine and getting caught up on the news."

GRANT KIHN, HINTON, writes, "Hi, Hope you had a good summer - considering all the rain. Just thought I'd drop *WHN* a quick line to congratulate Loren and Ellen Lewis of Hinton on the purchase of "Bay Jack of Hearts" (Northfork Patch of Gold x Bay Queen of Hearts). "Jack" is a real nice young horse and will be a great horse for them."

From DELORES BOEYENGA AT STEP N OUT STABLE, GUNN, AB, "Things here at Gunn have been unbelievably busy this summer. I managed to get in a bunch of riding between breeding mares, foals arriving, training, hauling horses around, etc. My first colt from my gold champagne stud, Legacy's Goldmine, was born and he is headed to Washington as a stallion prospect. He is just a super nice colt and either a classic cream or amber. I also had a cremello filly by Generatin Future Goldust and my Generators Golden Boy mare. I acquired a buckskin filly and a smokey black filly, plus a classic champagne colt from Illinois who is by a son of Prides Generator and a Prides Final Edition mare; 9 WGC on his papers and will be a stallion prospect as well. Lots of colorful things happening. I have numerous mares in foal to Goldmine for 2006 so keep your eyes open for announcements on their arrivals next season."

"My daughter is now back living on the farm. She is a Certified trainer, Level II, with the National Registry of Horse Trainers and will be available in the early spring (beginning of March) to begin training and conditioning horses for people. She might take one or two horses over the winter as well."

"I recently purchased a wonderful gelding, Praiseworthy Enuff, who was owned by Morley Holman and shown by Dawn Hanson. He is presently in the Olds College Equine Program with Ross Hanson, the first Walking Horse that has been accepted into this program, and based on his performance he won't be the last. The kids in the two year program just love riding him and he is so well gaited they don't even have to worry about his gaits. He will be learning all phases of training including reining, cutting, penning, trail and obstacle courses as well as western equitation. Can't wait to get him on the trails this summer."

"Almost set for winter - the hay is home and stacked, but I'm not looking forward to winter. I am sending a bit of a write up and a couple pictures of one of our rides this summer."

From DEBBIE RAE, "Thanks for thinking of me. I have purchased a Walker from Bill Salt - a nice gelding that I have really started to enjoy over the summer."

KEITH OBERLE, COCHRANE, writes, "The Canadian Walking Horse was again represented at the Spruce Meadows Masters Tournament and Breeds for the World event in September. This year was the 25th anniversary of the annual 5-day world class event with visitors and competitors from around the globe. The Walking Horse involvement has historically been organized by the Easy Riders Division of the AWhA, but is a joint endeavour of the Canadian Registry of the Tennessee Walking Horse, the Alberta Walking Horse Association, and the Easy Riders. It has been my pleasure, in the company of many others, to demonstrate our breed at this event for several years. The last few years I have been the coordinator of the daily demonstration portion. The indoor booth, which includes having different hosts and their horse on display every day, was organized by Cheryl Gostola. An urgent family situation took Cheryl away a day or two before the start, so this year I became responsible for the indoor aspect as well. As Cheryl had it well organized before she left, it was not hard."

"This year was the worst weather in the 25 years of the Masters. It rained so much that for the first time ever some of the jumping events were cancelled. Some of our demonstrations were also cancelled at the last minute. Nonetheless, it was an overall good promotional event. The day that the jumping was cancelled, the number of visitors to the booths swelled. In the 5 days we rode 4 breed demos and 3 or 4 all-breed demos."

"This year's participants included Pat and Stu Pritchard, Leslie Hunchuk and myself setting up and taking down the booth. Leslie, the Widmer family, Eldon Eadie, the Hack family, John Dakers, Jill Bertin, and I hosted in the booth, while Charis Cooper, Randy and Jarod Widmer, Carol Hall and friend, John Dakers, Hilton Hack, Terri Green, Karla Freeman and I rode demos on one or more days. A big THANK YOU to you all, and to Cheryl Gostola for attending the meetings and organizing the booth participants. Dianne Little has done the announcing for the demos for the last several years, but was unable to help this year so Hilton or I did the announcing from buggy or saddle by means of a remote microphone."

"A special tribute to Karla Freeman, who drove all the way from Bentley, AB for a 2-minute all-breed demo; to Charis Cooper (one of our septuagenarians) who has been riding side-saddle almost every day of demos for more years than I have been involved; and to Hilton Hack who is there every day with a buggy and an entourage of folks from his stable to ride or support him. This kind of dedication in these days of hedonism is unusual and appreciated"

CHARIS COOPER, TURNER VALLEY, writes, "Hello from the southern foothills. Peppi and I had our usual busy time in spite of the monsoons and flooding. The High River Parade was a go, but then the skies opened up and the Black Diamond and Okotoks Parades were canceled. However, I managed a lot of trail riding with Jewel and Peppi."

"On September 4th, Millarville races put on a sidesaddle race, as they were celebrating their centennial, so seven of us sidesaddle riders had a short sprint of a race. As there were three Quarter Horses ridden by ranch ladies, they naturally left the rest of us, but an exciting time was had by all and the crowd really gave us an ovation. At seventy-five I was pleased to race against the younger women, one 16!"

"Then it was off to Spruce Meadows to participate in the demos for our great breed. Saturday we were rained out and all demos were cancelled, I am sure for the first time, but we got the message across."

"I've just purchased Dee J's Fire and Lace, a thirteen year old black mare by Beauty's Trail's End out of Miss Stroll-O-Way, a full sister to Peppi and just as nice. So will put Jewel (Whoa Baby Whoa) up for sale as I won't have time for her and she's too good not to be used for breeding or riding."

"Hope to have some pictures of the sidesaddle race to send. Enclosed is a check for my subscription for another year. Love reading the *News*."

HUGH ASHWELL, EDSON, dropped by to pay for a gift subscription for neighbour, Don Kalusky. Don now has several Tennessee Walkers that he enjoys riding in the mountains.

SASKATCHEWAN NEWS

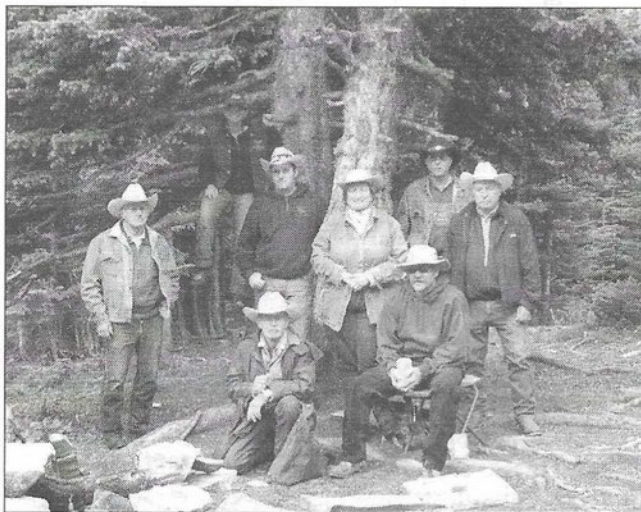
From CHRISTINE PIKE, STRATHDENE FARM, WASECA, "When I was a little girl in the late 1940s, I somehow came into possession of a catalog from, if I remember, the Bailey Farm in the heart of Walking Horse country in the U.S. The horses offered in their annual sale were straight Merry Boy or Roan Allen, mostly."

"The photographs on page 19 of the October *Walking Horse News* are so much like the beautiful Walkers offered in that annual sale catalog, although the set tails are a terrible thing."

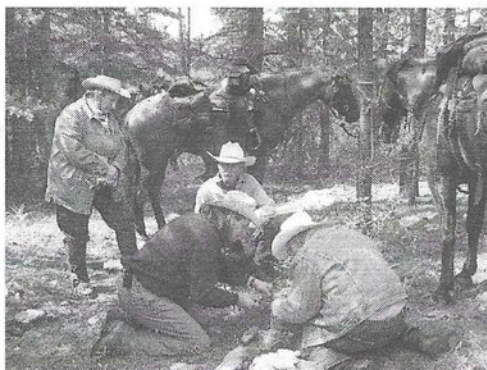
"When Walking Horses were first displayed at Lloydminster in perhaps the late 1970s, I parted with that catalog. I gave it to a young man who I thought intended to raise Walkers. I thought he could use the pictures as models – if he could find any like those anywhere."

CADOMIN TO MIETTE AND BACK

One of the Most Enjoyable Rides of the Summer



Above is the group that were the brave souls that did the ride from Cadomin to Miette this summer. What a wonderful group of riders we had and what a blast. We rode to Miette in about 9 hours with some stops along the way, arriving at the Hot Springs in time to settle in the horses, get cleaned up and enjoy a meal at an undisputed super restaurant. Day two was spent at the Hot Springs where we enjoyed soaking in the pools, eating well, and some went on a day ride while others of us just relaxed and enjoyed the wonderful weather and the Mountains. We dined well, and had a fire and fine time in a cabin that Al and Connie MacKenzie rented. Day three we saddled up for the trek back to Cadomin and covered that in record time, about 7 hours or so. What I thought would be a tough ride turned out to be just so super, gorgeous scenery, lots of river crossings, challenging terrain for the horses and riders and a group of real troopers that totally enjoyed the riding. A few lost shoes, fixed on the trail along the way, but no injured horses. These horses sure give their all to us when called upon. Rides like this sure reinforce why I am riding a Tennessee Walking Horse.



The City Crew - All these people to straighten one little horse shoe on the trail!

Delores Boeyenga

MORE BRITISH COLUMBIA NEWS

From JOYCE PATTERSON, CAWSTON, "It's been a year since I wrote in any news. But getting a hip broken slows you down. It's been 14 months now, and it's healed up well. But I hurt the knee a couple of weeks ago when I stepped in a hole. I'm still hoping to be able to ride a bit pretty soon."

"In the meantime, our horses are fat and sassy. The little black gelding I got from Fran Kerik is now a good 15 hh - and no signs of slowing up. I had him out for training in March and he is just lovely, so good-natured and smooth. And can he ever *jump!* He's a natural. Here's hoping I get him sold to someone wanting a horse for jumping, pole bending, driving, or anything. He's very fast but sensible minded. Just too tall (and young) for me."

"We've had a hot summer, with lots of flies and wasps. (Still do when the sun comes out.) Right now the leaves are beautiful. Wish I could get one ride up into the hills before the snow flies..."

"Hope everyone had a good year. Oh yes, I had a lovely overnight visit from Jean Rempel and her daughter Mary and family. I really enjoyed her four girls. (Photo below.) I felt bad to see them go so soon."

"Bye-bye for now, and Merry Christmas to all."



MAUREEN HUMMEL, ROUGH DIAMOND FARM, ROSE PRAIRIE, writes, "It's been a sad week. We had to put Dusky down on Sunday. She was in pain and was going downhill. Couldn't stand to see her suffer. It's the end of an era. I can still remember when we went to get her from you those MANY years ago."

Maureen & Rick bought Dusky aka Gypsy's Dark Velvet (King's Stormy Mist x Midnite Allen Gypsy) from Uphill Farm, Edson in the fall of 1985 as a weanling.

E. C. MARKETPLACE WEBSITE

Equine sellers and buyers are invited to place their classified ads free of charge on the newly launched Equine Canada Breeds & Industry Division MARKETPLACE website at www.equinecanada.ca/MARKETPLACE.

The Equine Canada Breeds & Industry Division MARKETPLACE is a marketing and communication tool for buyers, sellers and equine industry commerce in general. The horse listing section provides Canadians with the opportunity to advertise nationally and globally. Sale horses showing at Equine Canada sanctioned shows will benefit from a direct link to the Equine Canada Results Relational Database.

"With a "well-populated" Equine Canada Breeds & Industry Division Marketplace website of horses for sale in Canada, advertisers will help simplify the search process for potential international buyers who need a central source to find them," said Susan Stewart, Breeds & Industry Division Coordinator, who is responsible for the Equine Canada Export Market Development Strategy.

The resources section will feature information about Equine Canada's Export Market Development Strategy, including a calendar of events and information about incoming and outgoing trade mission, export preparedness training seminars and advertising campaigns. Eventually the site will help answer buyers' and sellers' most asked questions about buying and exporting horses from Canada. The aim is a one-stop shopping and resource source that is easily accessible from anywhere in the world.

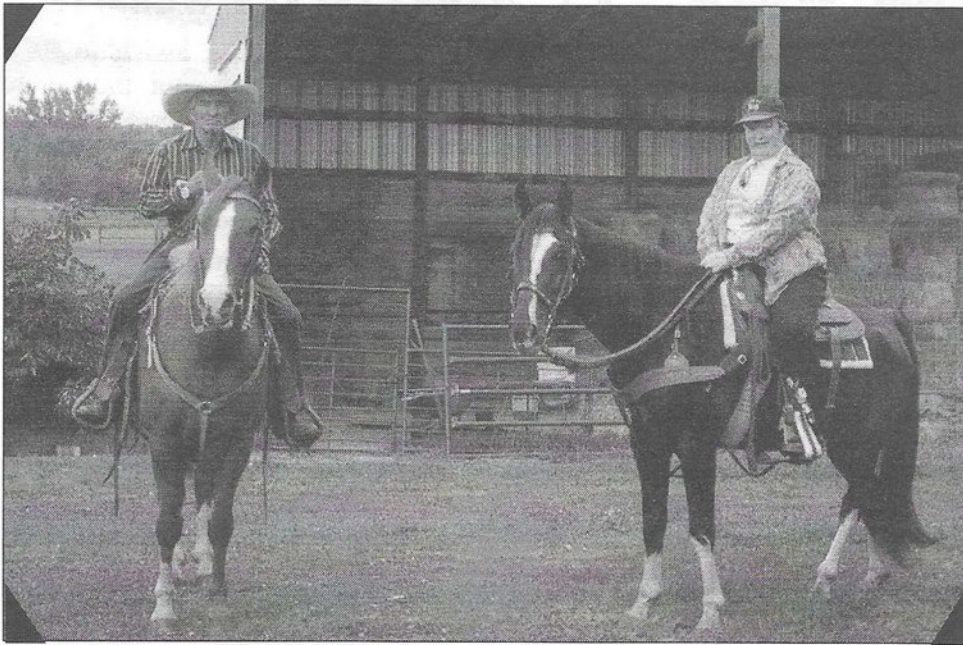
Sent in by Dianne Little

THE HORSE TV CHANNEL

We are happy to announce that The Horse TV Channel will be available on October 27, 2005! Many of you have been familiar with the HorseTV program blocks over the past five years, and we are delighted to tell you that we have moved to our new headquarters and production facilities in Calabasas, California.

We would like to invite you to visit the new www.horsetv.com website and catch up on some of the exciting things that have happened in the past few months. We look forward to hearing from you as we prepare for the launch of the first ever 24-hour a day, 7-day a week, television channel 100% dedicated to horses and the lifestyles that we share with them.

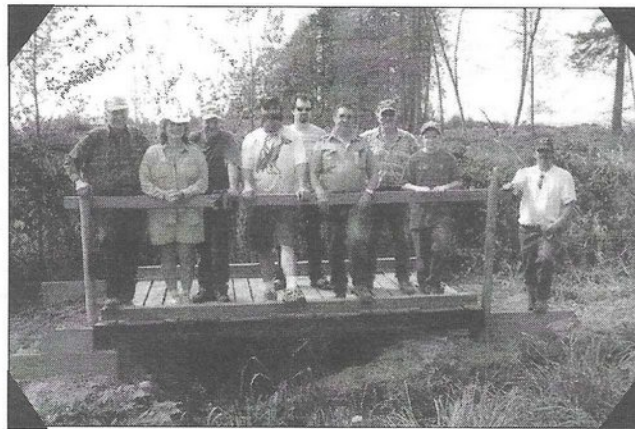
Sent in by Donna Edwards



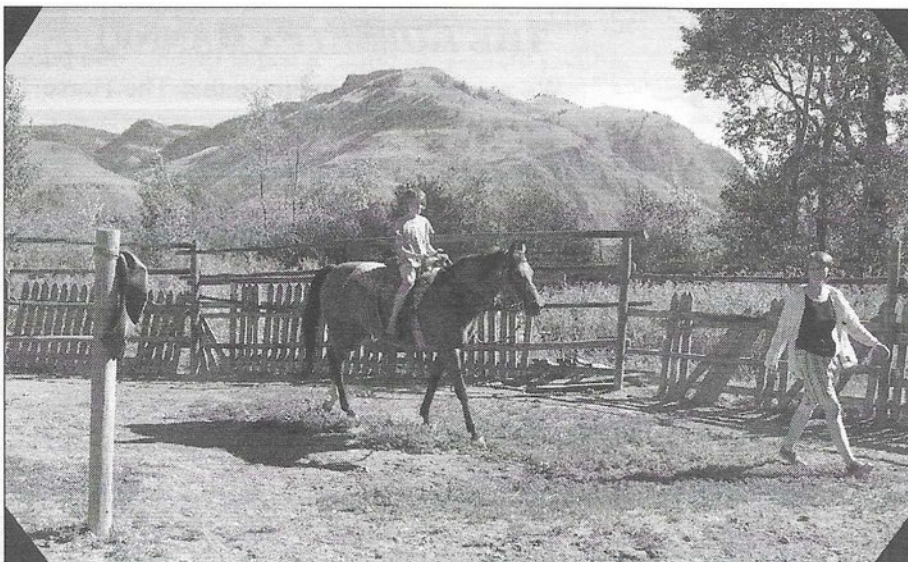
Joan and Austin Penner of Niton Junction, AB, all mounted up and ready for a trail ride near Tofield, AB last summer. Joan is shown on her black sabino gelding, *Frosty*, (F88's Dreamcatcher) while Austin is riding *Casey*, his chestnut gelding, K.C. Ranchman.



What do YOU do with your Walkers?



A work party of Haney Horsemen Association members built a bridge along the road to keep the horses away from traffic.



Joyce Patterson had a visit from the Kruger family and Jean Rempel, at her home near Cawston, BC last summer. Here Mary Kruger demonstrates a good ground-covering walk for Joyce's horse that is carrying her daughter, Amanda Kruger, age 10.



The Canadian Walker

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2005

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CRTWH MISSION, VALUES, & VISION

The Canadian Registry of the Tennessee Walking Horse is a national association organized under the Canadian Animal Pedigree Act, and working through the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation.

Our Mission: To register and record purebred Tennessee Walking Horses, both in Canada and internationally, with accuracy and integrity. We are dedicated to preserving the historical attributes of the breed, while encouraging ongoing improvement in the quality of the Tennessee Walking Horse.

Our Values: To foster the respectful and humane treatment of Tennessee Walking Horses through increased public awareness and education, and to encourage the enhancement of each animal's natural gait through good horsemanship.

Our Vision: We envision riders of all ages, in all applicable disciplines, having the opportunity to appreciate the smooth ride, strong build and mild disposition of the Canadian registered Tennessee Walking Horse.

MISSION STATEMENT

Your Directors began work on the above Mission, Values and Vision Statement under the direction of former Vice President Cathy Martinoff. It was voted on and accepted by the Board last May 31st and is now our official statement.

ELECTIONS

Alberta, BC, Saskatchewan and Manitoba members will soon receive forms to nominate Directors for their regions. Elections will be held early in 2006. Let's hear from you! Also, memberships end with the calendar year so renewals are due on or before Jan.1/06.

OCTOBER VIDEO WEEKEND

The 'Virtual Futurity', in which TWH were videotaped by a professional videographer for evaluation by a certified TWH judge was very successful, with 26 horses being presented. Tapes will be available to the owners once the judge has evaluated them. This innovation could give people all across Canada the opportunity to have their breeding stock professionally evaluated, while saving money on travel & other show expenses. Approximately 30 people also attended the meeting at Cloud-walker Stables at Strathmore, AB after 'The Canadian' Virtual Futurity, to discuss new ideas and directions.

RESIGNATION

Brenda Baker, an appointed director since 1998, has resigned from the Board. We'd like to thank Brenda for her work on behalf of the Registry, and her support of the Canadian TWH. Brenda was instrumental in setting up the CRTWH Colour Chart, and extending Registry advertising across Canada.

AGM

The Canadian Registry's ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held the last Saturday of April, 2006, so mark those calendars!

AMNESTY

Hurry! The special fees on registering TWH over 2 years old runs only until April 15, 2006.

SELL THOSE HORSES!

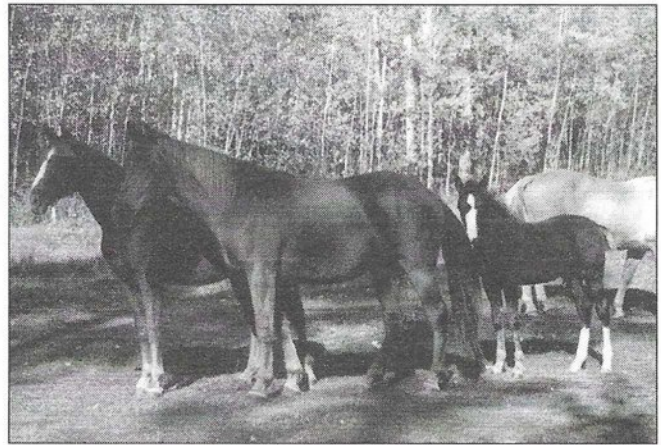
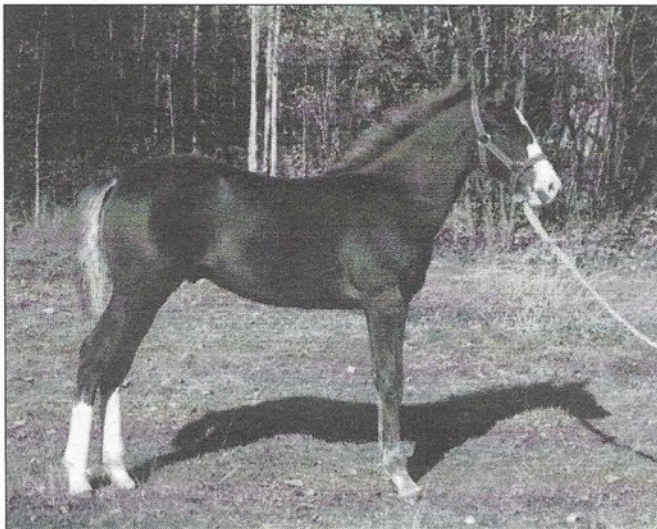
By Marjorie Lacy

Horses have been a tough sell over the past several years – even Tennessee Walking Horses, the *Cadillac* of breeds. So what can sellers do to market horses in these hard times? I've been thinking about this, and offer a few suggestions.

First, you have to let people *know* that you have horses for sale. That means advertising - in local papers, breed-specific and general horse publications. Put up posters advertising your stock and/or stallion in all the places where 'horsey people' gather, like feed and tack stores, local message boards, etc. Use the glossy pamphlets or posters supplied by your breed association - with *your* business card attached. Web advertising is also effective, and reaches people near and far. But don't count on one little ad getting the message across. **KEEP YOUR NAME OUT THERE!** It's amazing how fast people forget.

Once your ads are out there, think about how you'll respond to inquiries. Do you have a GOOD photo or two of the horse? Video clips? Copies of (both sides of) its pedigree? (NEVER send someone your originals because it's sad but true – all too often people don't return them.) You'll likely send out, or better yet, e-mail out, several sets before the horse is sold. Don't send poor pictures with an explanation that the horse really looks a whole lot better than it shows in the photo. Remember - first impressions! For example, if you were in the market for a young prospect, which of these two would you choose? Which makes a better impression?

Both are the same animal, but the first one (*below*) shows his conformation & training, while the second one (*above*) is just a 'nothing' pasture picture.



Also, advertise only when you have time to devote to selling the horse. You should be prepared to talk to the people who respond to your ad, and make time available to show them the horse. It's surprising how many people place ads just before they plan to be away or busy with other projects.

Now, what about the horse itself? Get out there and tidy it up! Make sure it's in good flesh. If someone comes out to look at your horse, don't show it complete with burrs in the tail, fairy knots in the mane, and ragged, untrimmed feet. Remember, you have only that one chance to make a good first impression. Does the horse come right up to you with confidence, and stick its head in the halter? How does it lead? Can you pick up its feet? Has it been dewormed? Is it in a place where it's easy to show it off? Set the stage to show it off to advantage.

Depending on its age and training, you should show what the animal can do. If you are selling young stock to newcomers, I think having a 'demonstrator horse' would make a huge difference in making a sale. If you can show people interested in Walkers a well built, well cared for, gentle youngster, that's *half* the sale. Then if you can take them out for a smooth 'glide-ride' on a well trained older TWH, that may just clinch it! We have an unique animal in the Walker, and being able to *show* people the gaits and let them *feel* the smooth ride will make a far greater impression than trying to explain it to them.

It takes work to sell horses. But if you have good, well cared for, friendly animals that you take pride in and can talk about with knowledge and enthusiasm, your chances of a sale are much improved. Then once you have a buyer, let's not forget the paperwork. Buyers are entitled to see the horse's registration papers, and to be assured that you will transfer those papers to them once the transaction is completed. It's an important part of buying and selling pedigreed stock. It's also good business.

Good luck selling your horses!





**Meredith
Manor**

careers in horsemanship

THE TRAINING TREE: FREEDOM OF GAITS

by Ron Meredith, President, Meredith Manor International Equestrian Centre

When we first start working with a green horse, we get his trust by working with him in a relaxed and rhythmic way whether we're catching him, grooming him, or doing some groundwork with him in some kind of pen. You want the horse to be comfortable with your presence and with the general pattern of what you're going to do today, based on what you did with him the day before and the day before that and the day before that.

When it's time to ride the horse, you introduce him to the saddle and the blanket and the bridle in the same relaxed and rhythmic way, breaking everything down into the smallest possible bites you can think of. The same goes with introducing the rider's weight. Now you've got the horse accepting the bridle and the blanket and the saddle and the rider mounting and the two of you are just standing there in the arena waiting for the next thing to happen. Maybe you're scratching him and patting him to keep his attention. At some point, the feeling's going to change for him, and the horse is going to offer to move a step. Your job is to allow the horse to move however he wants and to just follow whatever he does. You *allow* his freedom of gait.

Freedom of gait means the horse can reach forward with his hips and shoulders without meeting any resistance. That means the rider is not bumping him in the mouth or pulling on the reins or shifting her weight. Basically, the rider doesn't interfere with horse's natural movement.

Now freedom of gait is a very basic, simple concept. We want to let the horse figure out how to move on his own now that he's got a rider's weight on his back. Your job at this stage is to stay out of his way and to stay over his center of balance while you follow his motion. You're going to leave your reins long and loopy. You're not going to use your weight or your legs or your reins in any way that interferes with the normal way that horse moves. You don't want to constrict him or confine him in any way because when you do, you can actually deteriorate the quality of his gait.

This is an easy concept to think about but not always an easy one to execute. Normally we're quite

willing to allow horses to move freely when we're working them from the ground. When we get on their backs, however, our own fears or lack of riding skills begin to limit us. When we limit the horse's movements to what we're comfortable with, so we can stay on and stay in control, then our limitation becomes the horse's limitation. Think about the kind of basketball player little Michael Jordan would have become if his parents had always told him to keep his feet on the ground, and tied his feet together every time he jumped in the air, because all that jumping made them uncomfortable.

The horse's limit should be its own physical limit. And every horse is going to have one. Not every horse is going to be a grand prix dressage horse. Not every horse is going to be an upper level event horse or a top reining horse or a top cutting horse. But all horses should have to opportunity to develop physically to the point where they're the best that they can be. And that's going to be *your* job, to make every horse you ride *better*. You can make every horse better using this training tree because you're developing the muscle, you're developing the rhythm, you're improving how the horse carries itself, so it can be better at whatever game it's going to do. Your job as the trainer is to never limit the horse, to never make the horse less than what he can be by nature, to always allow the horse to be as much as he can be by nature.

Some young horses are pretty enthusiastic about life. So when you first get on and you're not interfering with how they move, they may choose to run around the arena in three leaps or to buck and twist a little bit. It's the rider's job to allow the horse to do any of this for two reasons. First, we want to allow the horse to develop its gaits to the best possible quality and, second, we don't want to quell its enthusiasm. Remember the whole purpose of the training tree and of training in a horse-logical sequence is to take what the horse has by nature and make it better.

It's the same with the baby horses. You have to allow them to play, to express their feelings towards

what they're doing in a positive manner. Later, when they understand the language of aid pressures, we can tell them what to do but we don't do that right at the beginning. Eventually all of their enthusiasm gets turned into work that develops the muscles, that develops the gaits, that develops the horse into an athlete. If you have a really enthusiastic horse, you can limit the range of his reactions by limiting the size of the arena where you work him.

Some communication with the horse does start right from the beginning but only in the sense that the trainer applies aid pressures that shape whatever the horse is offering then anyway. So it's horse logical. You've been doing groundwork that teaches the horse that when he moves away from a pressure, the pressure goes away. So if he offers to trot, you use a little leg pressure just as he moves off. Leg pressure means to move forward so you apply it just as the horse offers forward movement, then you reward by taking the pressure away and giving him a little pat. Eventually the horse begins to connect the dots. But we don't start systematically applying directional pressures until the horse is comfortable carrying the rider's weight.

In these early stages, the hands and elbows just follow the horse's motion and allow whatever the horse offers. There's no interference with the horse's forward motion. As the horse gets more and more comfortable carrying a rider's weight, he will start to relax and reach his head and neck forward and down. By showing him a little bit contact without interfering with or restricting his freedom, we start teaching him to move forward seeking contact with the bit.

We're not doing anything fancy at this stage in the horse's training. We're just building on the trust that rhythm and relaxation have produced, keeping him comfortable with having us around, showing him what we want in a horse-logical way. Rhythm, relaxation and freedom of gaits form a solid base for our training tree. By allowing the horse freedom of gaits, we allow his natural forward movement. With the next step up the tree - contact - we encourage that forward movement even more.

Instructor and trainer 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>), an ACCET accredited equestrian educational institution.

HORSE BREEDERS & OWNERS CONFERENCE

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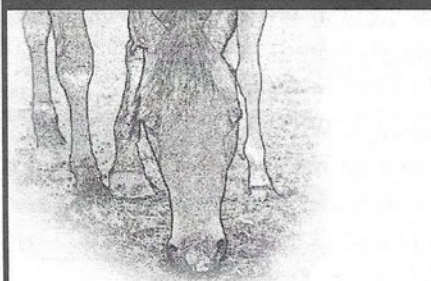
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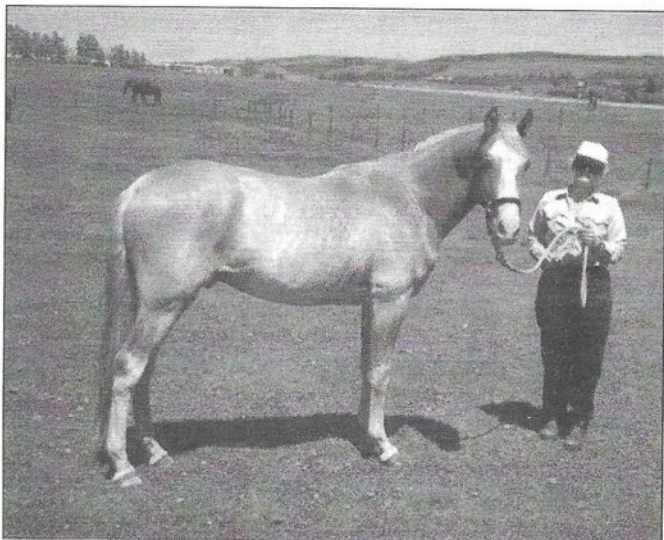
READERS WRITE

ON COLOUR

BRENDA BAKER, CALGARY, AB writes:

According to Franne Brandon in the last *WHN*, I can't describe my own minimal sabino horse as "a chestnut roan sabino with a white chin, wide blaze, right hind stocking; body color fades to a left hind sock, both front socks; flaxen mane and tail." Does this mean I should start using words like PINK to describe him? The horse I am describing has enough roaning to appear pink, not chestnut, other than on his head, neck and his hip, and even then, it is apparent in the winter months if you look for it.

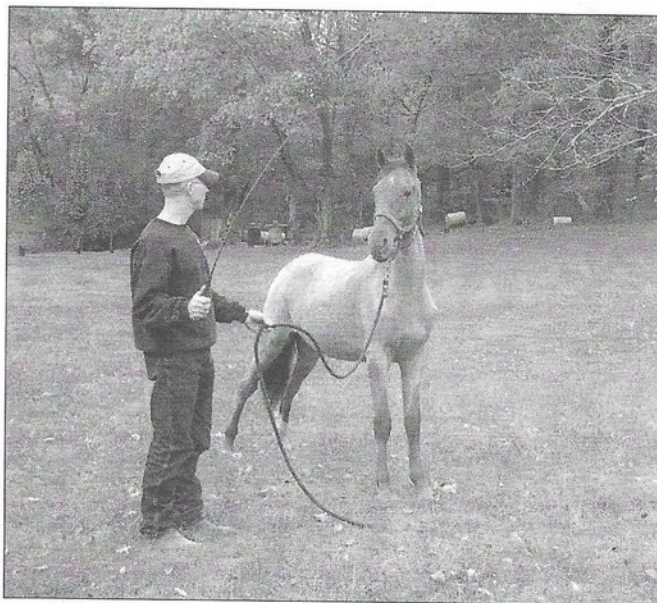
If a sabino has minor roaning, I would not call it a roan. I would only describe it as "chestnut sabino with roaning on the flanks", (or wherever.) When a sabino has major roaning like this one, (*below*) why would I call him anything BUT roan?



FRANNE BRANDON, PETERSBURG, TN replies:

The color and markings on a registered horse's papers should indicate what the color the horse is *genetically*, therefore telling future owners and breeders what he/she is capable of producing. When the Tennessee Walking Horse was an infant breed, not much was known about coat color and pattern genetics, but in the 21st century, most registries are reworking their color names in deference to those used by the scientific community. A chestnut roan sabino would possess **both** the true roan gene and the sabino gene, and would probably look like a chestnut true roan, only with a high stocking and a wide blaze.

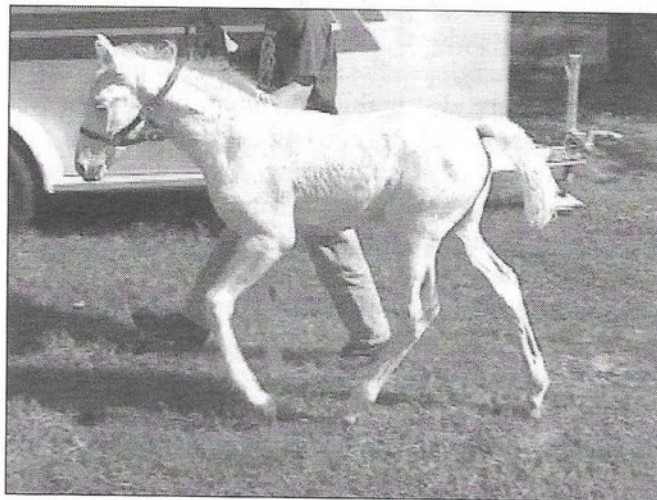
The sabino gene does produce white hairs mixed in the coat, but the pattern is not the same as that of the white hairs on a true roan. (*Compare the photo of the true roan below to Brenda's sabino, left.*)



The Australian, Jeannette Gower, in her book Horse Color Explained, calls the white hairs in a sabino coat "ticking." I have not found that many people who hear this term understand it, however. TWHBEA will permit breeders to make statements like "white hairs on body, on face, on neck..."

From **SANDY ALMO, CEDAR HILL, MO,**

I am finally the official owner of NFF Wilson's Iceman! I received his registration papers in the mail yesterday with ME as the owner! The really cool thing is that Diane had sent his papers back to TWHBEA, insisting on them properly documenting his color, and they did it! He is now officially a White Sabino with no markings. I'm thrilled, as you can



FROM FOUNDATIONS TO THE FUTURE

STARTING OUT RIGHT: THE LOWE-DOWN ON MARTY by Franne Brandon



You face a dilemma. You have raised that foal from a baby, or bought that yearling from its breeder, and now the youngster has grown and matured and it's time for some saddle training. You hesitate to attempt such a monumental task yourself because you lack the experience, or you don't have enough time, or you are simply uncomfortable with being the first human being to swing a leg over an unstarted colt. You are the first to admit that you need professional help. Where do you turn?

Breeders and owners in Middle Tennessee face these issues just like horse owners around the continent. Living in the heart of Tennessee Walking Horse country, they have access to dozens of professional padded trainers. Besides being prohibitive in terms of finances, though, these trainers raise issues of training style. Pacing up and down a barn hall is not the ideal way to start a young horse intended for the trails or even a bridle path! True, there are professional flatshod show trainers who devote their energies to the sound horse circuits. Their training fees are also high, and some do not want to start youngsters that do not have show potential or whose owners have no interest in the show ring.

Finally, there are the "country trainers." These range from teenagers who will climb on an untried horse and ride it to earn spending money to others with more experience who still employ the "goose 'em and go" method of riding until the horse finally gets accustomed to the process and is considered green broke. Trainers from other disciplines will give the horse the ground work that most need, but they often do not understand the subtleties required to

bring out the running walk from the range of gaits often inherited by the modern pleasure walker.

One country trainer from the hills of Marshall County ranks of pleasure retained an open mind. He saw that the traditional country style of starting horses resulted in the smooth saddle gaits preferred in the region, but did not produce horses that were truly trained. Always looking for better training techniques, he formed a vision of what could be if young horses got the best possible start as saddle mounts. It has taken several years, but now Marshall Lowe of Marshall County has joined the ranks of trainers who focus on the whole horse and not just the development of a particular gait. (*Photo left.*)

Marshall, better known as Marty, began riding between the ages of ten and twelve. Growing up on a working farm, he had plenty of exposure to ponies, mules, and the work horses his dad used for various farm chores. The work horses were grade draft horses with substance, strength, and strong trotting gaits under saddle.

At the age of fifteen, Marty decided that breaking colts would be a good way to earn some spending money. The first owners of young horses that he started were Eddie Taylor of Lewisburg and Jab Faulkner of Booneville. Marty knew nothing about Tennessee Walking Horses or the gaits that they were supposed to perform. He hooked the horse to a snap on the barn wall, practiced mounting and dismounting until the horses relaxed with the procedure, then rode off. The horses became bridle-wise on the trail. He liked to say at the time that his protégés were trail-broke, not barn broke, and had some experiences under their girths before they went back to their owners.

As Marty worked more young walkers and learned about the running walk by watching experienced owners ride their mounts in the signature gait, his vision developed. He wanted to put a better mouth on the horses he trained. He observed that "Most walking horse trainers produce a mouth of steel. Pacing a horse down a barn aisle and snatching on a snaffle bit produces a stiff horse." Looking for a different style of starting a young horse, he discovered Clinton Anderson. After attending a clinic and purchasing training tapes, Marty found an entire new view of training unfolding before him. Now, almost three years into the new program, Marty remains enthusiastic about its possibilities. He finds "the biggest difference is a softer mouth and (a horse)

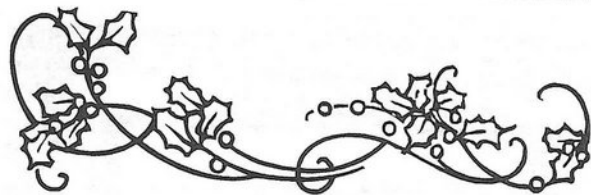
that is easier to handle. Flexing and turning in circles puts their feet to work and relaxes their minds." The result is a happier horse that is much more willing to work to please the rider.

Marty insists on starting all horses in the round pen. He teaches the horse to hook on the handler, to pay attention to the handler's moves. The horse bonds to the handler much better in a round pen without distractions found in other arenas. Once he has the horse's attention, it learns to bend its body and disengage the back end. On a halter and longe line, the horse learns the "sending" exercise that forms the basis for skills like willing trailer loading. Driving in the round pen teaches the horse to stop, start up again, and turn. Later, Marty will employ his own technique of driving in single harness pulling a tractor tire to build rear muscles.

The first lessons under saddle are also in the round pen. Marty starts everything in a true snaffle bit. The young horse learns to bend and flex its neck. Suppleness is a primary consideration. The horse also learns the one-rein stop. Marty admits that "To me, the one-rein stop is the most important thing when you go to riding." A horse that stops on one rein can then be put to work flexing and turning until the issues requiring the stop are forgotten. There is no need to saw on the bit or pull roughly in order to achieve a safe stop when the horse gets excited.

Once the horse has settled into a routine with quiet mounting, starting, stopping, and suppling exercises, then work can begin on the gaits – and also on the *gates*. Marty insists that horses coming from his "ranch-broke" program can work quietly in opening the farm's swinging gates, can work quietly around farm equipment, and can tackle obstacles like mailboxes often encountered on the trails. They also work around dogs and other horses. The hills that are part of the farm setting are also used to teach sure-footed progress on steep and rocky terrain. Horses leave his training barn with good minds and good mouths, ready to continue with whatever work their pleased owners devise for them.

Marty Lowe looked at the styles of training employed for pleasure Tennessee Walking Horses and decided that something was amiss. Instead of complaining, as some would have done, he set out to discover a way to make improvements. Using the techniques taught by Clinton Anderson, he established his own style of producing young horses that are not only smoothly gaited, but have the backgrounds to please those riders who expect their personal mounts to be supple, sensible, and responsive trail or show companions.



'Natural' Videotapes

I had a phone call from SHANNON McNEILL of EDMONTON, AB asking for recommendations for good video tapes to help teach a non-Walking Horse trainer about natural TWH gaits.

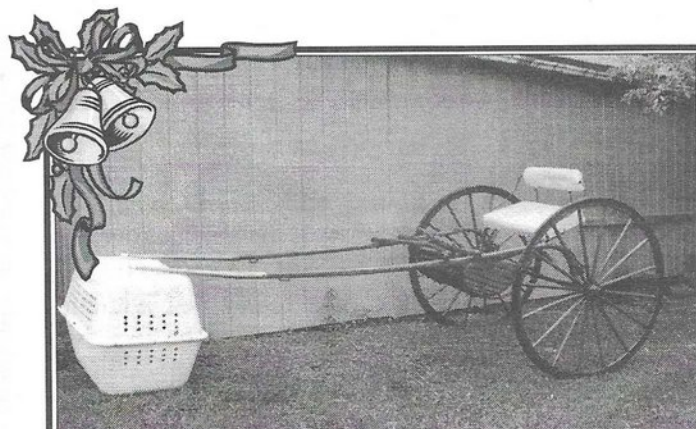
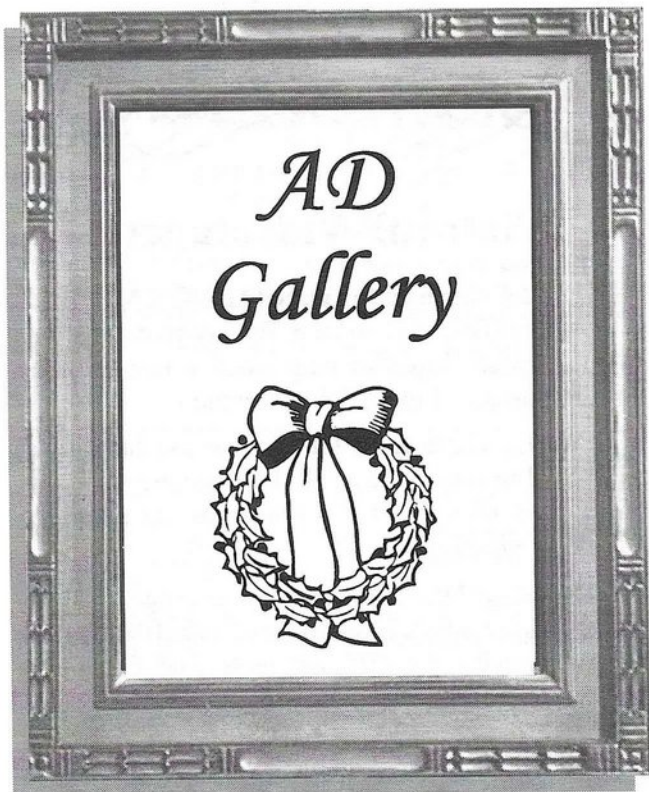
Well... There are a lot of tapes available now, so it's hard to review them all, but here are three that give a good idea of what a horse can do naturally, without weighted shoes, etc.

The Running Walk of the Tennessee Walking Horse, Eldon Eadie's original tape, is still one of the best for showing the different gaits, and explaining gaits, in general. Contact Eldon at 403-933-3627.

Gaited Horses, Naturally with David Lichman, a Parelli 5 star Premier Instructor, is a two tape set with accompanying booklet. The first tape, Knowledge has a section that our reviewer, Franne Brandon, says "Should be required viewing for anybody just getting into the breed, whether as spectator, breeder, or competitor!" The second tape, Techniques, focuses on a pacey horse and a trotty horse, and the riding that brings out the best 4 beat gait in each. You can read Franne's review in the Nov/Dec 2003 issue of *WHN*. This would be THE tape for anyone who is interested in both Parelli training and gaited horses. To obtain the tapes, contact PNH Canada, Box 543, 3627 Hwy 97A, Armstrong, BC V0E 1B0 or phone 1-877-727-3554. Their website address is www.parellicanada.com

Poetry In Motion is put out by F.O.S.H. (Friends of Sound Horses). It demonstrates the gaits, and criteria for showing pleasure and plantation walkers. It is available from FOSH, 6614 Clayton Road, #105 St. Louis, MO63117USA or go to the FOSH site at www.FOSH.info and e-mail them for the price.

Also MONA FERGUSON, WINLAW, BC asked how to obtain the book by Lee Ziegler called Easy-Gaited Horses. If you are on the web, you could probably get it from an on-line bookstore such as Chapters or Amazon. Allanna tells me that National Bridle Shop is currently offering the book with a \$3 off coupon in their latest flyer. They take orders over the internet at www.nationalbridle.com



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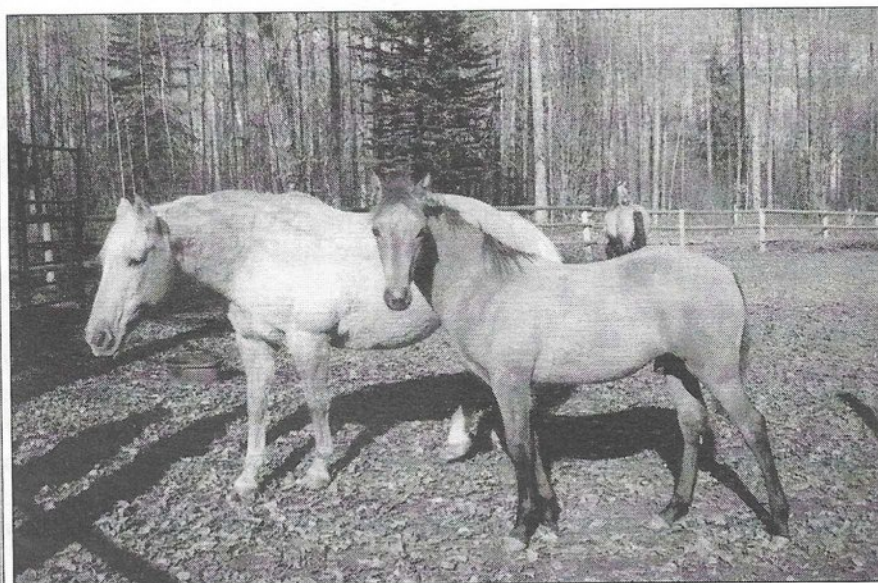
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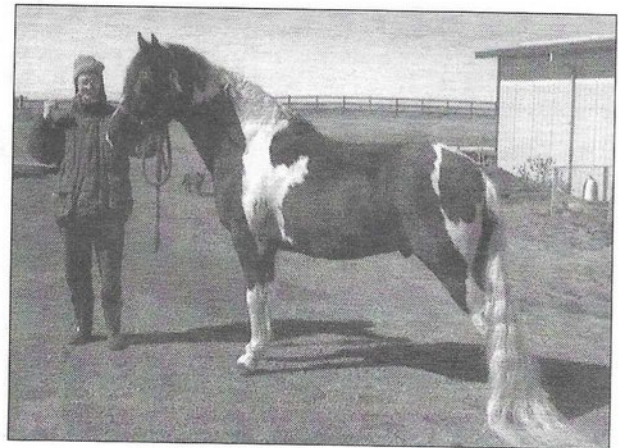
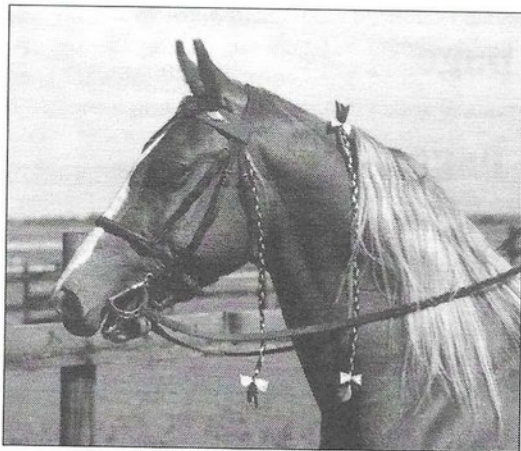
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KELLYS VICTRY KISS

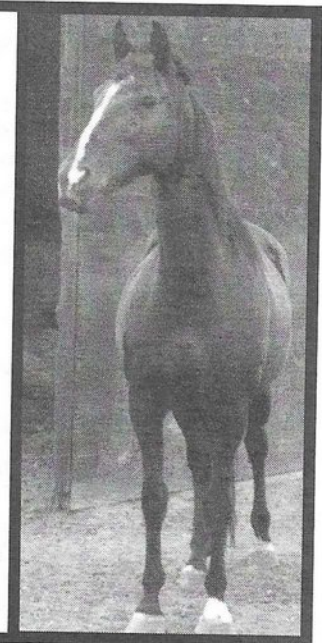
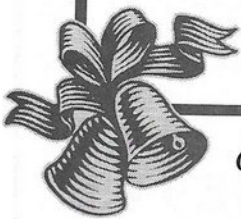
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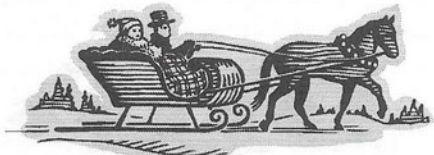
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I invite the newly elected officers from the clubs and associations to write, phone or e-mail their current contact information to me. WHN will provide a free listing here for the convenience of new owners and those interested in TWH. Please send in your Coming Events as well! Thanks,

Marjorie



Happy Holidays!

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January 7, 2006

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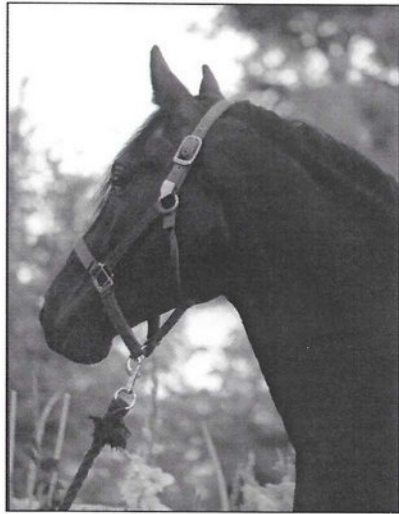
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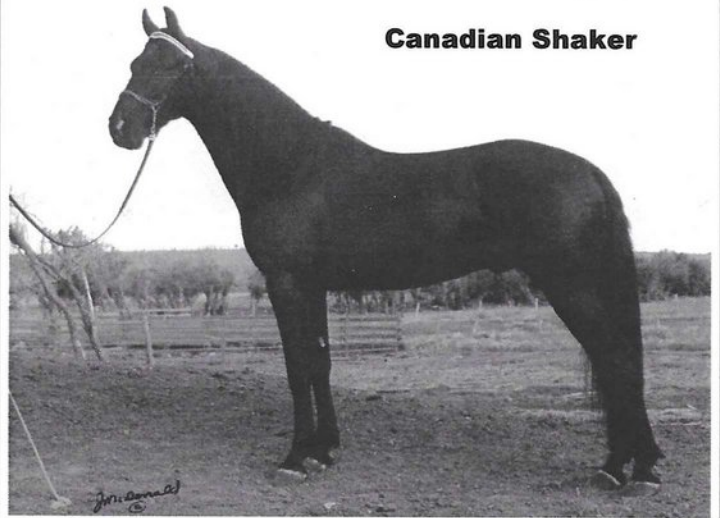
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