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VOLUME XXXI No. 1

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 Walking

Horse

News



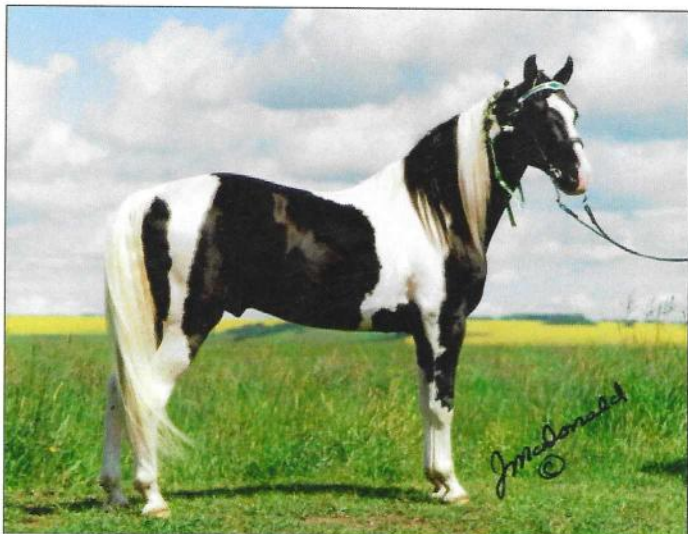
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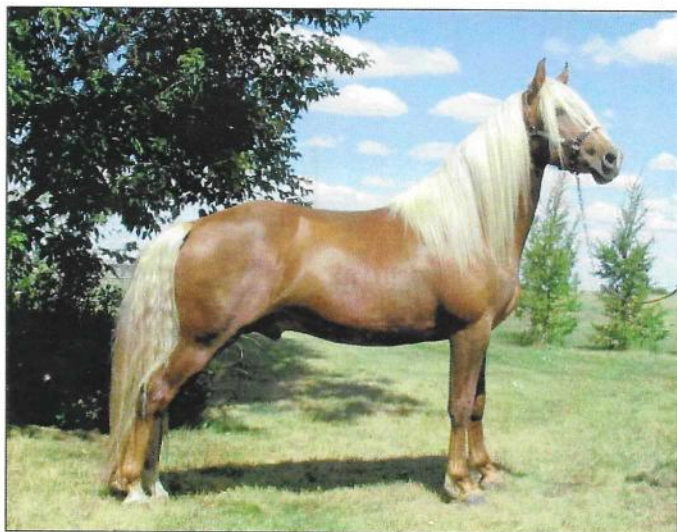


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On Our Cover

Calta Victry Mission,
also known as Missy,
the versatile mare who has
done so much public
relations for her breed,
with Hilton Hack and
groom Cheryl Gostola
at Spruce Meadows.
See the story about Hilton
on page 3,
History & Heritage.

Photo supplied by Dianne Little

Deadline Dates

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JANUARY 7

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MARCH 7**

for May/June issue
MAY 7

for July/Aug issue
JULY 7

for Sept/Oct issue
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Volume XXXI, # 1 January/February, 2007

Dear Subscribers,

Happy New Year to you all! January would seem to be 'hibernation time' but there is lots percolating in the world of Walkers. Check the ads and coming events. And there are rumours of quite a few more 'still in the works'.

Clinics and information sessions appear to be very popular these days, with so many folks training their own horses. And as one person I was talking to remarked, "If I learn only *one* new thing at a clinic, it has been worthwhile. Every horse is different so you as a trainer need more than one way of doing things."

Despite this strange winter, spring *IS* coming, and I would like to encourage all of you with stallions at stud to let people know who and where you are. With this in mind I am offering business-card-sized advertisements this spring that will include a photo and a small amount of text. Cost is \$25 for one insertion, or \$40 for twice. These will be printed in a Stallion Directory in the April and June issues. It's a good investment! I hope to hear from you all before March 7.

Thank you to all those who took out cover ads for 2007. They are Bob Showers Kennel & Stable, ON; Dolls' Tennessee Walking Horses, MB; The Ethical Breeders' Group, AB & BC; Karlas Klassy Walkers, AB; Laurindale Stables, AB; McDonald Farms, BC; Skyline at Horse Creek, AB; Uphill Farm, AB; & Westridge Farms, AB. I appreciate your support.

In this issue I am beginning a series of excerpts from The Echo of Hoofbeats by Dr. Bob Womack, the noted historian of the breed. In the chapter, The Evolution Of Training Techniques, he describes the Tennessee farmer's utility horse and how it became the Tennessee Walking Horse, with all its show ring speed, excitement, and glitz. Years ago Dr. Womack gave me permission to reprint any of his writings, and I think you will all be fascinated by this story.

In other articles, Allanna Jackson answers Stan Potter's question on the speed of the running walk, Franne Brandon tells us about a Dream Barn we all wish we had this winter, and Natalie Speckmaier describes a great boarding barn and asks others to write in about their *Life with Horses*. Ron Meredith's series on The Training Tree finishes up in this issue with Collection, the highest level you need to reach with your horse before going on to specialized training. History & Heritage features Hilton Hack of Calgary, and then there's the news and the breed association information. Hope you enjoy the issue.

Good reading! And let's hear *your* news for next time.

Marjorie

Walking Horse News

Feb. 2007

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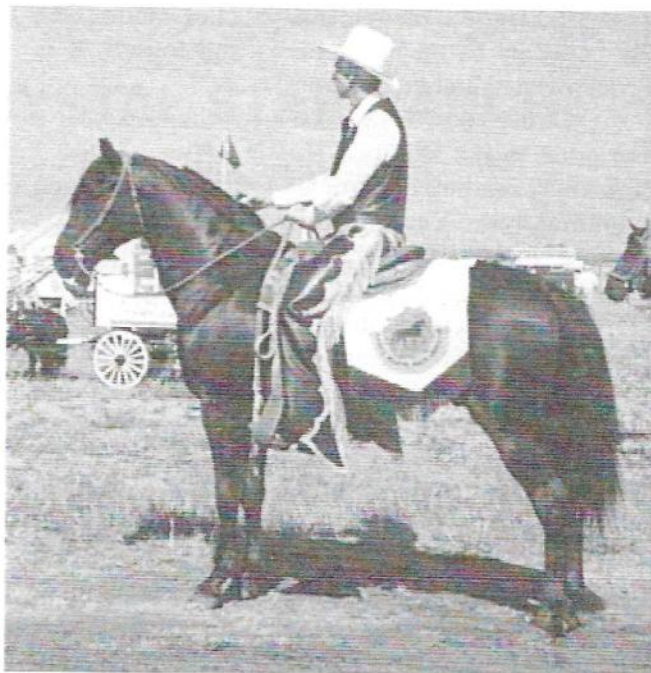
"CANADIAN TIMES OF THE TWH"

HILTON HACK - 25 Years on the CRTWH Board

Of all the people who have been on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Registry of the Tennessee Walking Horse over the years, Hilton Hack of Calta Stable near Calgary, Alberta holds the record as the longest serving. A founding member, Hilton was part of the beginning of the Canadian Walking Horse Association when a group of people with a love and respect for the Tennessee Walking Horse decided that it was time the breed was represented with its own association in Canada. Up until then, U.S. registered Walkers imported into Canada could be registered with Canadian Live Stock Records under the General Stud and Herd Book, but had no special breed association.

There was a great deal of work to be done - getting the word out to TWH owners, crafting a constitution, and setting up the CEF rules under which TWH would be shown. It was a major task, but by 1982 the constitution had been drafted and approved, and the new association was on its way.

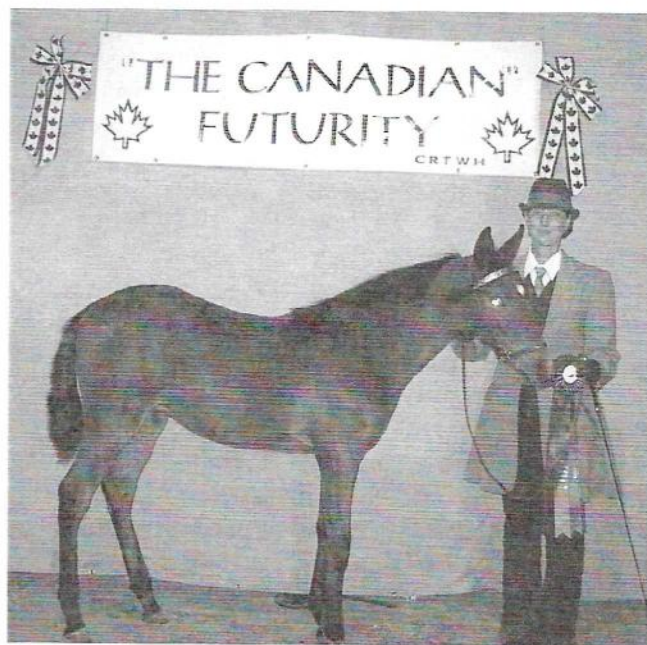
Since then Hilton has served for 25 consecutive years. He was the second President, in the 'eighties, and remains a member of the Board today. Hilton, along with Keith Oberle, gave a major impetus to the new Program For Excellence,



with his firm conviction that we must identify and retain the true gaits of the TWH. This program, just launched last year by the CRTWH, enables all TWH breeders, if they wish to take part, to have their breeding stock assessed by an ethical, qualified evaluator for strong, correct conformation, and the true four beat walking gaits for which the breed was named.

Hilton and his late wife, Claudia, and their daughters Lara and Kristin, were also very active in the Alberta Walking Horse Association. They have displayed and promoted Walking Horses at the Calgary Stampede for years, supplying a Walker for visitors to actually *see and touch* a horse! The Hack family have played a major role in the development of the Tennessee Walking Horse in Canada.

Hilton is shown above on the noted Alberta stallion he bred and raised, Calta Midnite Victry. Despite many health challenges, he continues to raise Walkers at his stable northeast of Calgary, standing a handsome bay grandson of Vic's, Calta Commander. At left is Cheryl Gostola with top scoring Calta Miss Maya, by Calta Commander x Miss Big Stuff at 'The Canadian' Futurity. *MCL.*



NEWS - NEWS - NEWS

ALBERTA NEWS

KARLA FREEMAN, RIDE EASY RANCH, BENTLEY, writes, "I've been riding recently in my new saddle. I got a 'new-to-me' Tucker saddle, and really enjoy its fit on my horses - and myself. It is very deep seated and quite comfy!"

"I trust you got my check for the next year's subscription to the fabulous *Walking Horse News*! I always enjoy reading the articles - thought provoking and informative. Yes, the Bear Aware article was *very* scary. I was glad it had a happy ending! Clip that cell phone to your pants!"

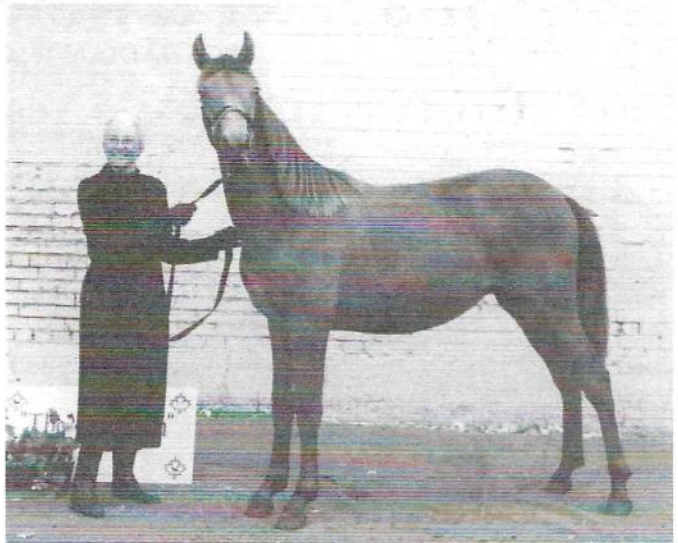
"When I read that the World Champion competition did not continue (because 6 of 9 horses were caught with evidence of soring) I made an out-loud *AHA!* sound. I knew something was *FISHY!* (and not F.O.S.H.Y.) I am deeply saddened that people let their drive to WIN override common decency, choosing to cause pain to the horse that tries to please them. No good comes from it - it's just evil and self-serving in my own humble opinion. Also it does not contribute to building up the genetics of the breed to preserve and better it. Really! We are only here for several decades. The breed will continue for centuries! Let's do our best to perpetuate its great attributes, to better this awesome breed, not screw stuff into their feet and then say, "Oh, you should breed to this, 'cause it won something!"

"I am now a member of FOSH, and I'm thrilled with their new book, 'Collection of Tennessee Walking Horse Training Articles'. It is easy to read, and has practical, useable advice. I will recommend it to all my customers, new and old alike. I wish I'd had it as a resource when I first got my Walkers."

"Please send congratulations to Don Nelson of Crossfield, Alberta on the purchase of Karlas Pure Red Rebel. I know he will have many years of fun with him. Happy Trails to All!"

LISA LAMBERT, PRIDE'S NOBLE WALKERS, PERRYVALE, writes, "Congratulations to Michele Mitchell and Doug Stacey of Redwater, AB who have bought my palomino filly, Powerplays Ivory Treasure (Major Power Play x Future Silver Dust). Can you send them a complimentary *WHN*?"

"Well, winter 'snuck up' on us and we didn't get our fencing done, so now we are trying to pound nails with the horses hanging over our shoulders!"



From BRENDA BAKER, Triangle B TENNESSEE WALKERS, CALGARY, "Here is a picture of Goldwing (Kit's Royal Pride x Holy Smokes) at the 2004 Canadian Futurity. (Photo by Marda Wright.) 'Honda', now a three year old, just went to his new home with Penny and Ed Arneson at Cochrane, AB. The Arnesons also own Flashback, a big chestnut gelding we sold them 3 years ago. The Arnesons do a lot of riding in the mountains every summer and Ed even hunts on horseback."

"The other geldings we've got advertised in the classified section seem to be growing each day. Two of them are going to approach 17 hands at maturity. They are becoming massive horses. It's a good thing they already know who the boss is when I walk out into the pasture!"

"Finally after a few false starts and many frustrations, we hired a professional and we have a website that actually has horses on it! New address is www.triangleb.com. Happy New Year to all."

From DONNA CURTIS, WINFIELD, "I hope you received my cheque for the magazine renewal. As you may know, Winston passed away September 29 from cancer. As anyone who has gone through this knows, one has a very empty feeling of loss, and especially the sharing of day to day experiences."

"I also lost my TWH stallion, Yvening Strolling Thunder. He broke his jaw last March, and it wouldn't heal, so I finally had to put him down. That means I won't be raising any TWH anymore so I've sold three of my broodmares, Melody in Motion, Miss Kitty and Kit's Echo. Boy, was that ever a hard

decision to make. I still have Roth's Shadow Merry Allen left; she too was exposed to Thunder last spring."

"I have about a dozen registered TWH and partbreds left. These I am going to keep and break to ride. This year I had 4 registered foals and two foals by Thunder out of part Hackney\Clyde cross mares. My granddaughter has expressed interest in the TWH so we will work on them together."

RON SMITH, LETHBRIDGE, e-mailed, "Well, over the Christmas Holiday I decided to catch up on the new technology so took my wife's digital camera and had her take a 12 second clip of me riding Canadian Perfection. I downloaded it to our computer, then went to "Youtube" and uploaded it for the world to see. I hope everyone who has Walking Horses can check out the video, as Canadian Perfection goes about as good as any light shod Walking Horse you have ever seen. He won the three gait Alberta Walking Horse Association championship six times so it is not just my opinion."

"I believe this technology is the greatest thing to hit the Walking Horse industry since Wilson's Allan. Now I don't have to travel all over the country looking at horses or ask for videos to be sent. All those who do not wish to show their horses for whatever reason have no excuse. They can just post their video on youtube for all to see and people can judge for themselves."

"This will be a great way to ensure that the breed has a more consistent pool of great walking genes. I have set up three groups and invite anyone to post their video. Just pick your group. They are "Light shod Tennessee Walking Horses for Sale", "Light shod Tennessee Walking Horse Video Show", and "Naturally Shod Tennessee Walking Horse Honor Roll". The Canadian Registry might want to post a group such as Breeding TWH Studs, or silver, gold and platinum horses. I believe they have to submit a video to get the award."

"Last year I laid down the gauntlet and said that I would honor any horse that did a great flat walk, running walk and canter both ways plus do an excellent job at the Trail Class. Based on this year's shows and as far as I know there are only three horses in Canada that fit the bill: Canadian Perfection, Hot Lightning (*photo right*) and Melting Point. I will make sure they get on the Honor Roll Group on "Youtube" If you think I am out to lunch, now is the time to show otherwise. Submit your great Walking Horse video for consideration for the Honor Roll."

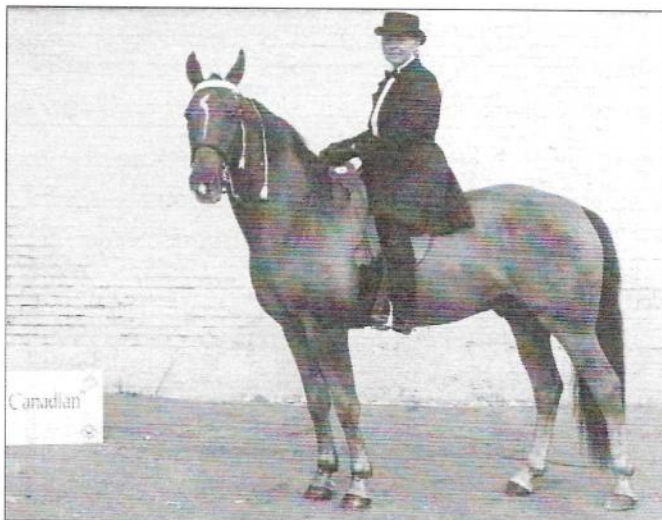
VERNA SPRAGUE, ROCKY RAPIDS, writes, Please renew my subscription for two years. I always enjoy the *Walking Horse News*. Thanks for a great magazine. I have five Walkers which we use for trail riding and some showing."

I received a letter & renewal from ARIANNE BAKER OF MEDICINE HAT in early January. We haven't heard from Arianne in over a year, and when I read her letter, it's no wonder! She was in a serious collision but, as she says, "I wouldn't be here at all but thanks to the vehicle (a 5 ton truck she was driving), experience and a whole lotta luck, I walked away and saved the other driver's life." We are very glad you survived this frightening crash, Arianne, and hope your hand surgery goes well.

Arianne writes, "I haven't had the courage to try to do much with my 'girls', but in 2007 I am going to breed a couple of the mares and see if I can come up with a new system for breaking and training. That was on the agenda for 2006 until I was in the head-on crash on July 25th. I really don't remember much of August and September, and by the time I got my act together it was time to get ready for winter. Hopefully by next summer we'll have a couple of fillies ready to sell. We had two calves born here over Christmas weekend which shows that life goes on."

"Time to go to work. Take care, everyone. This is a little late, but hope everyone had a great Christmas season and best wishes for 2007."

From ARLENE BOLES, THREE HILLS, "I enjoy your *Walking Horse News* and the many stories you print. Please renew my subscription for another year. I will write an up-date letter about my horses later."



*Hot Lightning and Dixie Ball at 'The Canadian' Futurity 2004.
Photo by Marda Wright*

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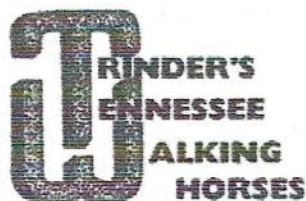
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ONTARIO NEWS



MARNEY DAVIDSON, DELTA, e-mailed, "Thank you for the October issue of *Walking Horse News*. Attached are photos of my Tennessee Walking Horse, Harley, and me. I am the old nag on the right. According to the Canadian Registry of the Tennessee Walking Horse, Harley is named Cee Dee Cherry's Hank. His sire is some flea bitten varmint by the name of Topaz Merry Go, owned, I understand by a character by the name of Bill Howes."

"All kidding aside... Harley is a *beautiful* horse. He is looking a little muddy and shaggy in the pictures, as we have only had rain thus far this winter, but I think that Bill will agree that a little mud won't hide his beauty."

From KIM PRINGLE, ARDEN, "I hope this email finds you all well. We are having a great winter - more like fall. It is January and we have no snow. I rode on soft sand in my outside arena Christmas day in a sweatshirt."

"Can you please send a copy of WHN to the following people? Mark Strangway of Toronto purchased 2006 Tracker's Midnight Legacy, and Brian and Joan Bell of Ernsville who purchased Maid of Motown. Brian is a real inspiration because he is blind and Molly is his horse!"

"Happy New Year, everyone."

Speaking of Horses

*If you're smart,
you'll listen to your horse.*

Jean Rempel

NEWS FROM OUR U.S. SUBSCRIBERS

From GRACE LARSON, FORSYTH, MONTANA, "Amy V. Howell, 93, of Polson, passed away Thursday, Jan. 4, 2007, at St. Joseph Medical Center in Polson. She and her deceased husband, Delbert Ross Howell, raised and promoted TWH for years in Montana. They were both instrumental in helping get the Montana Walking Horse Association going. They showed their Walkers all over the Northwest and in Canada. I see hundreds of Walkers now that have in their pedigrees one that Amy & Ross raised, trained, and showed. Chief Joseph was one of the most notable, as he had quite a number of offspring."

"Would you please note that we now have only one e-mail address - walker22@montana.com. The other is no longer valid."

"Also I just went over my income and outgo and I will have to raise the registration fee for part-bred Walkers to \$30. I will leave the name change, duplicates, and transfers at \$15. And we will still accept Canadian dollars at PAR."

"Does anyone have any pictures of Sunday's Sweet Heart, a sorrel roan mare sired by Sunday's Topper? Hans Burch had 4 of her offspring. Maybe someone knows of this mare or of Pearl Howse?"



From FRANNE BRANDON, PETERSBURG, TENNESSEE, "Here is a pic of me and 'Tardy Slip', our surprise filly. She was supposed to go to the colt trainer for two weeks, but this weekend's forecast was not promising, so Harry picked her up Friday. I forced son Adam to do a photo shoot Saturday morning & you can see some of the results at Pinefolly Farm on www.walking-horse.com/twhheritagesociety."



THANKS TO THE HORSE BOARDERS! by Natalie Speckmaier

I have yet to see an article regarding all those dedicated people who look after our 4 legged friends - in other words, the boarding barn. I thought I just might start something here by giving a testimonial to my particular dedicated people who so lovingly look after my valuable (to me) Trigger.

I first met Debbie Smith through my daughter, Nicole, who had answered an ad in the Prairie Horse Journal about a palomino gelding Debbie had for sale. As Nicole had recently purchased an acreage set up for horses, and had acquired horses of her own, it was time for me to realize my dream of being Roy Rogers. The horse about which she called had already been sold, and we were both disappointed as he fit the "Trigger" criteria. Not too long after, Debbie called Nicole to say the horse had returned as the purchasers wanted a schooling horse and "Pal" hated ring work. To make a long story a bit shorter, after a couple of years, my Pal Trigger was replaced by my Gal Trigger. If anyone remembers, Trigger (Uphill Dusty Gold) was featured in a History & Heritage article awhile back.

Trigger lived at Nicole's Golden Gait Acres until the day Nicole needed a break from horse related responsibilities, which overwhelms anyone who has a full time job outside the home. It was my good fortune to be able to move Trigger to Debbie & Dave Smith's Tower Ridge Farm in Maple Ridge. By this time we were fast friends with the Smiths, and the transition was not traumatic, although Trigger spent the first few days looking for Diamond (Go Boy's Diamond Sun), her herd mate and boyfriend. *(Photo)*

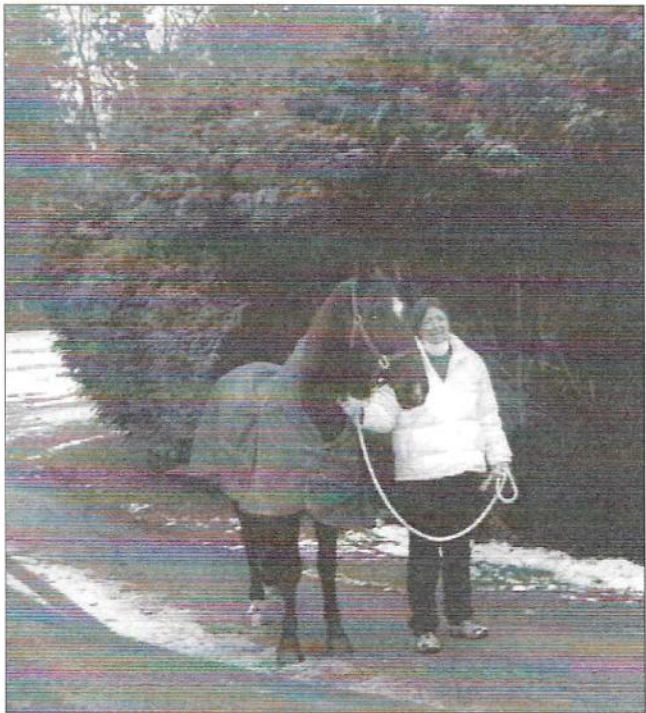
Trigger has been at Tower Ridge for the past 3 years and is one happy horse. Thanks to Debbie and Dave, the care she receives there is even better than I would be able to provide even if I lived with her in her stall! She is turned out daily (unless it's really ugly out), fly sheet & fly mask on, off, on...on with the rain sheet, off with the rain sheet... Winter coming? On with the warm blankie, tail braided and in a sock, and then there are all the treats in the feed bucket, along with the pellets and supplements. Hay buffet, beet pulp to slurp, mucked out stalls and picked paddocks. A choice of pastures, and a buddy to share with. Night falls and she gets tucked in to her dry, cozy stall until the routine starts all over again come morning.

The "StarBarn" is a happy place for all as we have our regular coffee klatches, the occasional

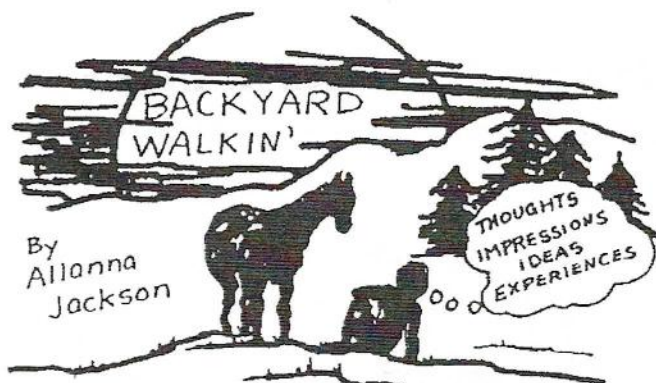
birthday party, complete with cake, and lots of lively conversation with whoever happens to stop by. There is always someone to ride with, either Debbie and/or Dave, or some of the others who board their horses there. Even our farrier likes to hang out there long after the shoeing is done. There are friendly dogs, puppies, cats, and kittens, to fuss over and add to the fun.

We who keep our horses with Debbie & Dave often congratulate ourselves on how fortunate we are to have our horses so well looked after. We often tell Debbie & Dave how much we appreciate the good care our trail buddies receive, but I thought it would be nice if the rest of our horse world knew just how good a job these totally dedicated and committed people do on our behalf. Thank you, Debbie & Dave... and you're never allowed to move unless you take us all with you!"

Now I'd like to read of others who board their horses, and the kind of care their four legged friends receive. If it's half as good as Trigger receives at Tower Ridge Farm, then they are very lucky horses indeed.



Here is a photo of Go Boy's Diamond Sun, Trigger's erstwhile herd mate and boyfriend, with his new owner, Gina Myhill-Jones.



THE SPEED OF THE RUNNING WALK

Copyright Dec/ 2006 by Allanna Jackson, Lakeside, AZ

I saw Stan Potter's question in the December *WHN* about the speed of the running walk. People who claim the running walk is a 20 mph gait are either ignorant of or ignoring the very real physical differences between running walk and rack.

Weight support is one of the factors that scientists use in defining gaits. All the credible sources I have found, in all disciplines, agree that the horse's walk has 2 or 3 hooves on the ground at all times.

The oldest definitions of the running walk describe it as a speeded up flat walk. These same historical sources very plainly state that the running walk is a different gait from the rack. The record indicates Tennessee horsemen made a distinction between running walk and rack for at least 75 years in both the 19th and 20th centuries. An honest assessment of the obvious meaning of the running WALK name implies the gait has the same 2 and 3 leg support of the ordinary flat-foot walk, which it does. The speed of the running walk comes from the race-walking transfer.

There are real physical, neurological, and biological limits on how fast a horse can move while maintaining the continuously grounded 2 and 3 leg support. Once those limits are exceeded the horse WILL break to any of several other gaits: Trot, canter, pace, gallop, flying pace, pace-gallop, vallop, or rack. The exact speed at which the horse breaks from the grounded 2 and 3 leg support of the walk to other gaits can be anywhere from 3 - 8 mph, depending on the individual animal's conformation, muscling, neurological function, size, inherited gaits and more.

Most dictionaries define rack as synonymous with single-foot. As the single-foot name suggests, not only does the horse move each foot separately but the horse also has only one or two feet on the ground at all

times. The significance of this difference is more obvious when we realize that while the 2-leg support phases of each stride are the same in both gaits, the single-foot support of the rack replaces the 3-leg support of the running walk. This single-foot support makes it possible for some horses to stay continuously grounded at greatly increased speeds. The accurately documented top speed of the rack is just over 20 mph.

However, the use of a single-foot support does not guarantee speed. The shift to the single-foot support of the rack may occur at a speed as slow as 6-7 mph. A horse may break out of the single-foot/rack into a trot, pace, canter or gallop at only 8 mph. Back Yard Cinnamon, a mare by a very strongly running walk gaited foundation Walking Horse stallion out of a natural Speed Racking mare, does a perfectly natural extremely slow single-foot that is not a running walk.

Truly natural Walking Horses achieve a 6-8 mph speed range while maintaining the continuously grounded 2 and 3-footed support of the walk, and may break to trot, pace, canter or gallop without using a single-foot support. Sacia's Pride and Lucky's Koko Prince, who broke from running walk to canter at 8 mph, were examples.

Horses that can both running walk and rack move into the single-foot support when exceeding their own physical limit on the 3-footed support. This transition generally occurs somewhere between 7-9 mph.

When the timing of running walk and rack are both even, as they should be, many riders do not perceive the change in support so they mistakenly presume that the horse is doing a running walk at 12, 15 or 20 mph. This erroneous perception is reinforced by the too-clever show trainers who have figured out how to put a big head nod on the rack, using wonder bits and other tricks to manufacture a very fast, false running walk. Sam's Blue Blaze is a perfect example of this type of deception and the negative consequences resulting from it. We also need to be aware that most people drastically over estimate how fast a gaited horse is going. Very few bother to accurately clock the horse's speed.

Imposing a head nod on the rack deceives riders, trainers, breeders, judges and observers but does not change the physics of three-leg support versus single-foot support. The rack or single-foot is a legitimate natural gait, but it is not the running walk. If the horse is truly going faster than around 8 mph in an evenly timed 4-beat gait it's a safe bet the horse is racking.





**Meredith
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careers in horsemanship

THE TRAINING TREE: 10.COLLECTION

by Ron Meredith, President, Meredith Manor International Equestrian Centre

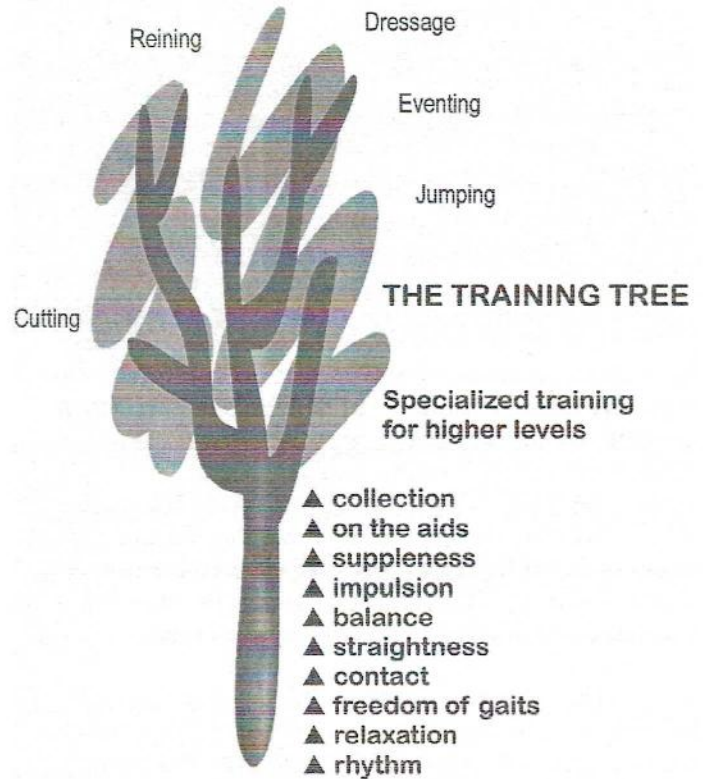
Collection is at the top of our training tree and it is another one of those mythunderstood words out in the horse industry.

A lot of people look at a horse and say he's collected when he's really just all bunched up in front. Maybe he's got a lot of activity drive and the rider is hanging on his mouth so he can't move forward and spend it as freely as he'd like. So he curls up his neck and prances around and people who don't know any better say he's collected. Or maybe the rider doesn't really know what it means to have an independent seat and put her horse on the aids. She just fusses with the reins and the horse, being an obliging sort, bends at the poll, tucks his nose, slows down so she thinks her horse is "on the bit" and that she's got collection.

True collection only comes at the end of a long road when the horse has done the necessary body building to be able to respond correctly to a complete circle of correct aids. We had a lady who brought a 2-year-old horse here for training and after just a few months, she wanted to know if her horse was doing collected work yet. Collection is at the top of the training tree for a reason. It takes a great deal of both physical and mental conditioning before any horse is ready to attempt true collection, much less achieve it for more than a stride or two.

In order to achieve collection, a horse has to develop a lot of muscle in his hindquarters. He has to be able to shift his center of gravity more over his hind feet by increasing the bend in his hocks and stifles. That lowers his hindquarters, shortens his strides, and means that when he thrusts off the ground, his impulsion now becomes more "up" than "forward."

When people try to describe what collection looks like, they talk about the horse shortening his frame. If you draw an imaginary line around a horse when he's standing still, you can describe where his body is relative to the sides of that box as he begins to work. When people talk about a horse lengthening or shortening his frame, they mean how he looks in that imaginary box relative to where he was when he was standing still. He may have stretched out and lengthened his spine so his nose may now be sticking out the front of the box or maybe he's gathered himself up so that now there's some space between his nose and the front of the box.



In true collection, that frame shortening comes about because the horse shifts his weight to the rear so that his hind feet are closer to his center of gravity. He does this by increasing the bend in his hocks which lowers his hindquarters. Now if you look at the horse relative to the sides of the imaginary box, it looks like he's traveling uphill in a shorter frame even though he's standing on level ground.

There's one more thing that's got to be there for true collection. When a young horse or a horse that's lower down on the training tree moves with impulsion, his stride becomes bigger and longer, more forward. When a collected horse shortens his frame and lowers his hindquarters, however, his impulsion or thrust off the ground becomes more up than forward. Now the horse that's framed in that box is the picture of coiled power.

Some people pull their horse together in a shorter frame, slow down the rhythm so he's taking shorter strides and think they've achieved collection. But it isn't collection because the impulsion, the way he pushes off the ground, stays the same. In true collection, the horse must lower his hindquarters and push off the ground so that he moves his body more

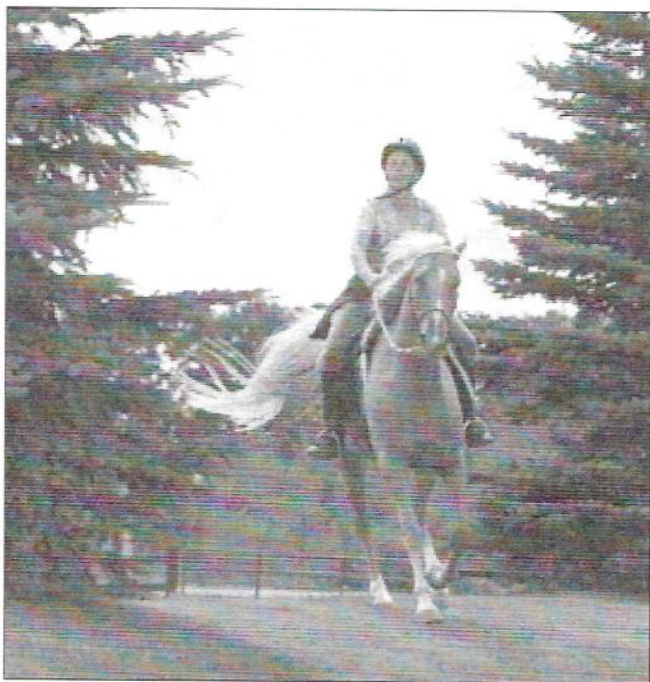
up than forward.

It takes a lot of muscle to do collected work. It's extremely difficult. It's not intended to be something simple and you can't take shortcuts. A really talented, athletic young horse may be able to achieve collection in two years of training. Many horses may need as long as four or five years of working four or five times a week before they have the proper muscling to compete as a grand prix dressage horse. Different horses will take more or less time. And not every horse is going to have the physical potential to reach the top levels in whatever game their rider has decided to play.

The horse needs to go methodically through every step in the training tree in order to develop the muscles he needs to play at the upper levels. Whether it's a dressage horse or a reiner or a cutter or an event horse, you can look at the horse's muscle development as he goes into the arena and predict whether he's going to be able to give a good performance or not. If he doesn't have the muscle, you know it's not going to be a good performance because the horse hasn't been conditioned to do the job.

Instructor & 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.*



FRED LLOYD-SMITH, VANESSA, ON writes, "This is the palomino, Raining Gold Queen, from Alberta. She is now 4 and we were doing Parelli levels this summer.

TWHBEA MEMOS

DNA PARENTAGE VERIFICATION

DNA parentage verification for new foals to be TWHBEA registered came into effect on January 1, 2007. The cost of registration will remain at \$40 for members, \$100 for non-members.

To parentage verify the foal you will no longer need to send blood. Cost of parentage verification for the foal will be \$40 for members, \$100 for non-members.

However, the parents' blood that is already on record for each sire and dam will have to be DNA profiled, at a conversion fee of \$25 for each horse for members, \$85 for non-members.

If you want to register a foal whose parents' records have not been converted from blood typing to DNA, it will cost the regular \$40 member fee for DNA profiling, plus a charge of \$25 for dual parentage verification. This applies if either sire or dam have not been converted. Then blood typing and DNA have to be done. This dual parentage verification gets only the foal converted. Neither the sire nor the dam has been converted and the next foal from either parent will have to pay the same dual parentage verification fee until the dam or sire is converted.

Replacement registration papers with the DNA information printed on it will cost \$20 for members, \$85 each for non-members, with the return of the old papers.

Upon the request of the Breeders' Committee, the Kentucky Lab will also offer a '3 for 1' in color testing. Current price for each test is \$35. However for the basic tests of red, cream & agouti they will charge \$70 and results will be sent directly to TWHBEA to be put in the horse's records. These tests must be requested at the time of registration, and will then appear on the registration papers.

The Gluck Equine Center's Parent Verification Laboratory at the University of Kentucky was awarded the exclusive contract by TWHBEA. They will be using the 17 microsatellite markers (short tandem repeats or STRs) process. The KY lab was awarded the contract after the Breeders' Subcommittee had interviewed all who had bid on the contract, which included Maxxam Analytics Ltd, Shelterwood Labs & U of C at Davis.

For more info call TWHBEA at 1-800-359-1574.

From *The Voice*, December 2006, page 18.



The Canadian Walker

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CRTWH Board Welcomes New & Re-elected Directors for 2007

We are pleased to welcome three newly elected directors to the board of CRTWH. All will serve a three year term from 2007 through 2009. Bill Roy of Grindrod and Maureen Hummel of Rose Prairie are the BC directors. Ernie Wall of Saskatoon is our new director from Saskatchewan. All were elected by acclamation. There was no one nominated or elected from Manitoba.

Ullu Zurbruggen of Mara, BC is retiring as Director after many years. Thank you, Ullu, for your work on behalf of the Canadian Registry. Lexie Cole, Cabri, SK will continue to serve as an appointed Director.



Bill Roy, new Director for BC with 'Smoky'.



Ernie Wall, new Director for SK, with 'Jack'.

CHECK THE WEBSITE!

The most recent information on the two July BLESS clinics will be found on the website, along with an entry form. See our ad in this issue, and send your cheque to book your spot if you plan to attend!

Mike Mueller, the CRTWH webmaster is also setting up a 'Past Presidents' slide show along with stories of you and your Walkers in the 'History and Heritage' section. We continue to receive information from those who would like their farm contact information featured on the Members Map. This feature is on-going, but be sure to renew your membership for 2007.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This is an early notice that we are planning an exciting AGM, tentatively set for April 28, depending on the availability of a suitable location. We will be honoring those horses that attained their Bronze, Silver or Gold Awards last fall, and will have further info on other new programs that are in the works. Don't miss it! More information will follow.

PROGRAM FOR EXCELLENCE

The videos submitted for the PFE last fall are due back from the evaluator soon. We are eagerly anticipating the results and working on just the right way to put the Awards of Excellence on the registration papers.

The PROGRAM FOR EXCELLENCE is an on-going program, and you can work on it with your horse all year; then make your video when you are both ready. You do not need to wait until October to send it in. For more info contact Dianne Little, 619 Lake Linnet Cres. S.E., Calgary, AB T2J 2J3 403-271-7391

Nancy and Bucky Return to Canada!

CRTWH sponsored the first international B.L.E.S.S. clinic in 2006.

BLESS is the acronym for **B**alance, **L**ooseness, **E**ngagement, **S**oftness and **S**oundness.

Through these principles you and your horse attain the desired gait. The exercises are easy to replicate at home, giving riders the ability to follow through to get their horses *WALKING*.

The clinic format gives each rider one and one half hours of individual instruction each day.

Nancy's gentle manner and Bucky's sense of humor put riders at ease.

Nancy and Bucky were a hit in April of 2006. We promised they would return.

Now, in honor of its 25th Anniversary,



The Canadian Registry of the Tennessee Walking Horse



is proud to offer

TWO B.L.E.S.S. CLINICS for 2007.

Although auditors are unlimited, horse & rider combinations are limited to 12 at each clinic. The clinics are expected to fill quickly. Prompt payment of clinic fees insures you a space.

Northern Alberta B.L.E.S.S. Clinic

- St Paul Agriculture Corral, St. Paul, Alberta
- St Paul is a large town with all the amenities. There are several hotels and motels, lots of restaurants, camping with showers right across from the arena and ample parking for your rig.
- By bringing the clinic to Northern Alberta, CRTWH offers a unique opportunity for residents of Northern Alberta and Saskatchewan to participate closer to home.
- Because clinics are so rare in this area, we are going to be flexible with the date. Participants have the opportunity to pick the date that works best - a mid-week clinic (July 12/13) or a weekend (July 14/15). The date with the most bookings will be chosen. The arena will be open the night before for riding and stabling.
- Contact: **Fran Kerik** at 780-768-2250 or fkerik@digitalweb.net

Southern Alberta B.L.E.S.S. Clinic

- July 7 and 8
- Cloudwalker Stables, Strathmore, Alberta
- Contact: **Dianne Little**, 403-271-7391 or ddlittle@telusplanet.net

FEES: * Horse/rider combination \$160* for the two days (CRTWH members receive a 25% discount)
Auditors \$60 for the two days (CRTWH members receive a 25% discount)
Stabling \$15 per night

Make payment to: CRTWH, Dianne Little, 619 Lake Linnet Cres. S.E., Calgary, AB T2J 2J3

(NOTE: If either clinic is not fully subscribed, the location will be changed to accommodate interested participants.)

Sponsored by Canadian Registry of the Tennessee Walking Horse

FROM FOUNDATIONS TO THE FUTURE by Franne Brandon

DREAM BARNs : PAST AND PRESENT

Since the domestication of the horse to serve the needs of mankind, those privileged to own them have needed places to house them. From humble sheds to elaborate stables, equine residences continue to serve both animals and owners. In any given era, special barns or stables have sparked interest and spawned memories in those who work or visit them. In the Tennessee Walking Horse world, utility structures were followed by equine shelters designed to impress as well as to function. Special facilities from the 1940's to the 21st century reward their owners with pleasure while giving visitors the visions to dream on.

A Barn of the 21st Century



Located about five miles northwest of Lewisburg, Tennessee, on Highway 431-N is Rising Glory Farm. Completed in January of 2001, the farm's elegant show barn was originally envisioned by owner Ida Marie Panella as the perfect setting for the development of TWHBEA Versatility competitors. Ida Marie conceived the setting as the ideal place to achieve her "original intent...to breed and raise horses that you could have fun with on the trail, participating in versatility events, and in the show ring."

The farm consists of eighty-four acres, fenced and cross-fenced with areas for broodmares, hayfields, turnout for stalled horses, as well as a one-acre lake. The showpiece of the estate is the training barn. Designed to facilitate training in all but the most inclement of Tennessee's fickle weather conditions, the barn revolves around its spacious central arena. Measuring 230 feet in length with a width of sixty feet, the arena easily holds a round pen with plenty of room around it for working on the rail. Twelve foot concrete alleyways run the length of the arena. Facing the alleyways are the barn's thirty-two stalls. Each of the thirty-two is a ten by twelve box

stall, with exterior window, and interior window facing into the alleyway. Happy horses hang their heads out these interior stall door windows, checking out the barn activities and hoping for attention from barn visitors.

In addition to the spacious box stalls, the barn has a laundry room, a feed room, a large tack room, four crossties in the grooming area, and hot and cold running water, a veritable equine spa, in the wash bay area. For humans, it features a spacious and welcoming office, two restrooms, and an upstairs guest apartment. A stallion barn and an equipment barn complete the facility's amenities, along with groomed trails for riding through hayfields and woods.

When Mac's Rising Rebel achieved his Supreme Versatility title, Ida Marie's original vision was verified in the big tobiano's crowning achievement. In 2005, however, the focus of Rising Glory shifted from training facility to boarding barn. In an area where each five acre farm seems to have a pair of horses on it, what is the function of a boarding barn? Quite multidimensional, in fact. Farm manager Chris Carlough sums it up succinctly:

"Our mission here is to enhance the relationship between horse and owner, to create an environment where people can enjoy their horses." He continues, "They can ride horses inside the arena, or on the forty acres devoted to riders. They can picnic by the barn or pond. They can fish in the one acre pond loaded with blue gill and bass. Rising Glory aims to be a facility that the entire family can enjoy, whether they ride a lot, only a little, or not at all."



Rising Glory is a complete boarding farm offering self-care or full-care board by the week, month, overnight, or weekend. Arena rental time is also available. In addition, Chris offers lessons on basic natural horsemanship, horse safety, and handling horses. A Riding Club service is also available to make the farm's facility "a workout center for your horse", according to Chris. A monthly fee includes use of the arena, access to the farm's trails, and the horse spa.

Tuesday night becomes a horse playground as various learning obstacles are set up for owners who want to challenge their mounts with something outside their normal venue. Still in the development stage is Friday Night Versatility, where owners will have the opportunity to practice on a different versatility challenge each week. In addition to these individualized services, Rising Glory has been available for various clinics, and in the past has featured clinics on dressage, biting, and horseshoeing.

Boarders at Rising Glory are happy with their choice. Rhonda Hatch, newly returned to the south from Arizona with her Generator's Pure County, says, "I like it here because it's friendly and the horses are happy." Mike Henson, who boards his red dun foundation Quarter Horse mare, Jimnez Peppy, smiled that, "It's Club Med for my horse." He went on to comment that, "Chris cares for your horse like it was his."

Chris and Ida Marie have a multi-purpose facility with well-outlined plans for its future. In their dream barn, on its well-defined acreage, many equine training dreams can truly become reality.



Another view of the Rising Glory Farm's arena & barn.

The HORSE'S NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

I will NOT roll in streams or try to roll when my human is on my back.

I will NOT leap over large nonexistent obstacles when the whim strikes.

I will NOT walk faster on the way home than I did on the way out.

I will NOT leave when my rider falls off.

I will NOT pull my new shoes off the very next day just to prove that I can.

I will NOT shy at familiar objects just for fun.

I will NOT jump in the air and turn 180 degrees every time I see a bicycle.

I will NOT bite the butt of the horse in front of me during the trail ride just to say "Hi".

I WILL put my ears forward and cooperate when it comes to photos.

I promise NEVER to dump over the wheelbarrow of manure while a human is mucking my stall.

I promise NOT to swish my tail while my human is cleaning my back feet.

I promise also NOT to choose that particular time to answer nature's call.

I will NOT bite the farrier's butt just because it is there.

I will NOT blow my nose on my human.

I will NOT try to mooch goodies off every human within a one mile radius.

I WILL accept that not *every* carrot is for me.

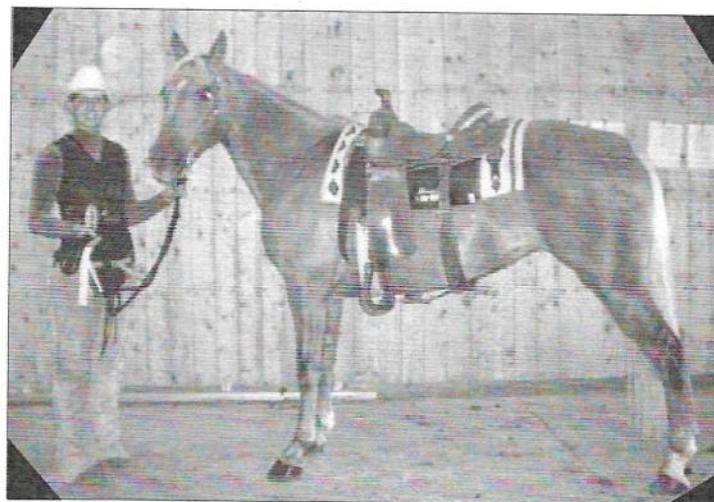
I will NOT grab my lead rope in my mouth and attempt to lead myself.

I will NOT chase the ponies into the electric fence just to see if it is on.

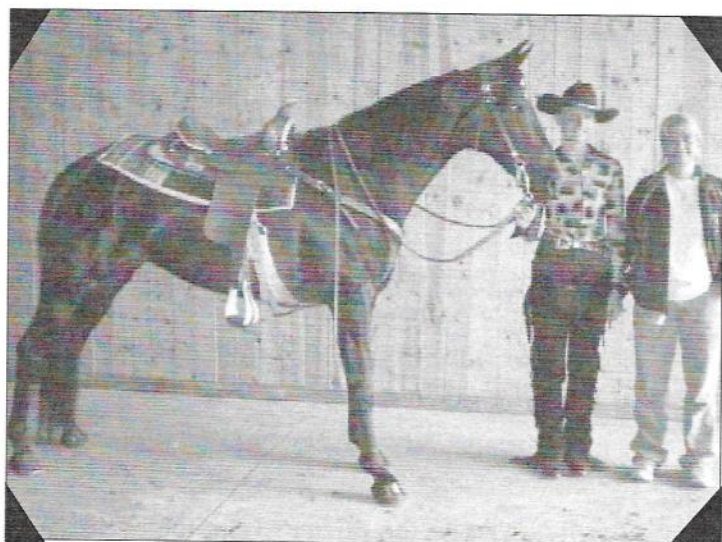
I will NOT lie totally flat in my stall or my pasture with my legs straight out and my eyes glazed over and pretend I can't hear my human frantically screaming, "Are you asleep?"

(I WILL keep these resolutions until at least Jan.3.)

What do YOU do with your Walkers?



*These folks
showed their TWH
at the 2006
Alberta Celebration.*



*Above, Katie King,
who works for Dawn Hanson,
showed **La Nina**, owned by
the estate of Hanne Christersson.
La Nina is by Summertime Decision
out of 9-Mile Southern Comfort.*

*Above, **Comets Total Eclipse**
(Royal Dictator x Jest'a Caramel)
was shown by Nicole Hirsekorn for
Shannon McNeill*

*(Right) Robyn Bagby showed her
'big guy' by Dixie's Hot Chocolate.
Dixie's Lucky Spark is 17.2 hh.*

*These three photos are by
Jo Kingsland, Alix, AB*



THE EVOLUTION OF TRAINING TECHNIQUES

by Dr. Bob Womack

The plantation horse of the early 20th century represented the ideal toward which pioneer breeders of saddle horses had moved. Those men who looked upon the plantation horse as an ideal had reasons for such a perspective. The horse was gentle in temperament, rugged in stamina, and highly adaptable to the varied tasks of the day. The plantation horse had been fashioned from a variety of ingredients which blended into a dream-come-true for men who had sought an easy riding, dependable mount. Future generations of Walking Horse breeders would never need go through the frustrations experienced by the pioneers who fused together bits and pieces of bloodlines to produce the plantation horse. Future breeders would have only to select particular animals through which these established characteristics could be strengthened.

The old plantation horse was not "trained;" he was bred. Other than having a bit in its mouth and a rider on its back, this horse was as near to nature as a domesticated animal could be. The tributes he inspired centered around loyalty and dependability, not around his flashy looks or his ability to thrill people as he swept by in an awesome display of speed and animation. The plantation horse was a steady, uncomplicated animal which blended well into the tempo of life during its time, but like that life, he was destined for change, for it was he who would become the Tennessee Walking Horse.

Since the plantation horse was a product of nature and was kept close to its original design, no formal training of consequence was attempted. Training techniques came later as the horse progressed toward new ideals. The complexity of those techniques was in direct proportion to the sophistication of the ideal.

It is impossible to point to a specific year as the beginning of the modern Walking Horse. The Walking Horse has evolved, and since the process of evolution is gradual in nature, it is impossible to point to a dramatic moment in history as the exact time at which a radical departure from the old gave birth to something entirely new. At some unidentified point in time, the farmers of Middle Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi realized that something important and significant had happened as a result of their breeding programs, but the intensified activities of line-breeding which followed did not eliminate the necessity of the evolutionary process; they only hurried its tempo. It could be argued that the grey

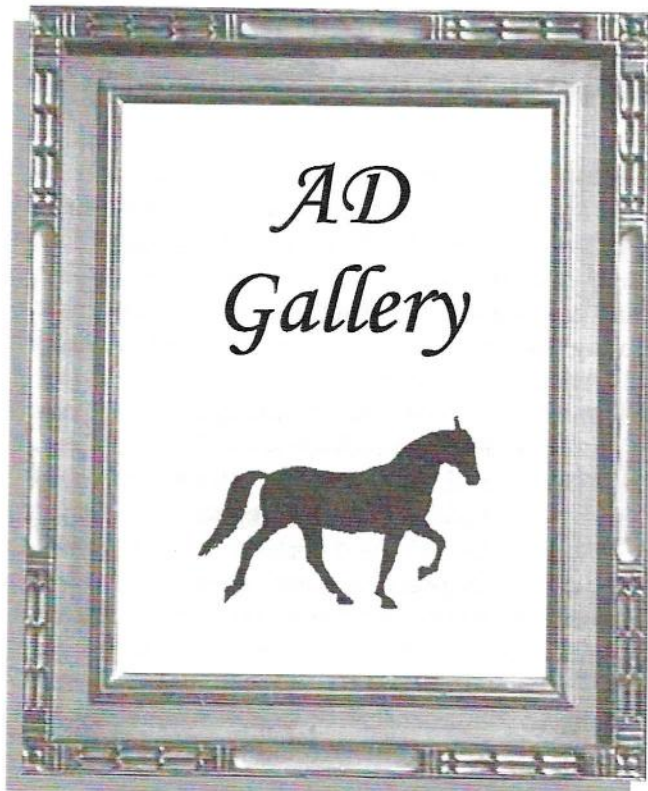
zone of transition from which the modern Walking Horse emerged ended when breeders realized their efforts had produced a riding animal whose gaits were truly unique and that these gaits could be passed on through selective breeding. The first formal efforts toward training the Walking Horse were aimed at capturing its natural gaits rather than manipulating them. All that was attempted by the rider was the development of the gait exhibited by the colt following its mother in the pasture.

Both the techniques and equipment employed in training the Walking Horse during its early history were simple in nature. The equipment was that which the owner already possessed, and varied in terms of the owner's affluence and personal tastes. Since the early Walker doubled as a utility animal it was treated exactly like other farm animals; no fanfare accompanied its existence. The chief purposes of early equipment were to make the horse manageable and comfortable; in no way was it designed to tamper with the animal's natural way of moving. The goal of all training was to firmly establish the four-cornered running walk, the potential for which had been infused into the horse's bloodline through selective breeding.

It is not to be assumed that all Walking Horses did the running walk without some training. The very act of putting the animal under saddle removed it far enough from nature that on some occasions special techniques were demanded to develop the running walk. Since Walkers were either trotters or pacers, they might reflect either of these gaits during the early stages of their training. If the young colt paced, he was ridden over a row of fence rails placed horizontally in its path. Such a technique required the animal to lift its front feet higher than usual, which in effect took out some of the lost motion of the pace. If the colt trotted, it was ridden in a flat walk for a longer period of time, then gradually pushed up into the running walk. The trotting horse was often taken for long rides over rural gravel roads; during such journeys it tended to relax, and as a result its gaits loosened up. Many of the most modern techniques used in training Walking Horses are merely refinements of the basic principles developed by those who first rode the animals for pleasure.

(To be continued in the April WHN.)

Excerpted from The Echo of Hoofbeats, A History of the Tennessee Walking Horse, 2nd Edition, 1984.



Prides Noble Walkers
 Tom Noble & Lisa Lambert
 P.O. Box 109, Perryvale AB, T0G 1T0
 Email: pride@pridesnoblewalkers.com

AGOLDEN MASTPIECE EDITION
 Tango is our new kid on the block
 ~ Ebony Masterpiece Grandson!
 ~ Final Edition and Sun's Delight D gr. grandson
 ~and color
 all this and the kid can move! anyone care to dance?

MG'S JOHNNY DANCER
 Johnny is making a name for himself
 ~winning model stallion 2006 at the WCR
 ~first foals to arrive summer 2007
 ~Prides Genius and Gold Coin bred
 Stud Fees are Private Treaty.

PRIDE'S UNDERTAKER
 For those of you who are now kicking your bums, dont worry, If you call early enough you can get your "Pride" babies but dont hesitate they dont last long!

PRIDE'S NOBLE WALKERS
 780-698-2148

Mare Owner Alert!

TOPAZ MERRY GO

Champagne sire of 35 + foals throughout Canada & as far away as Europe will be standing at stud near Stony Plain, AB for 45 +/- days in spring 2007.

To book your mares contact

Bill Howes

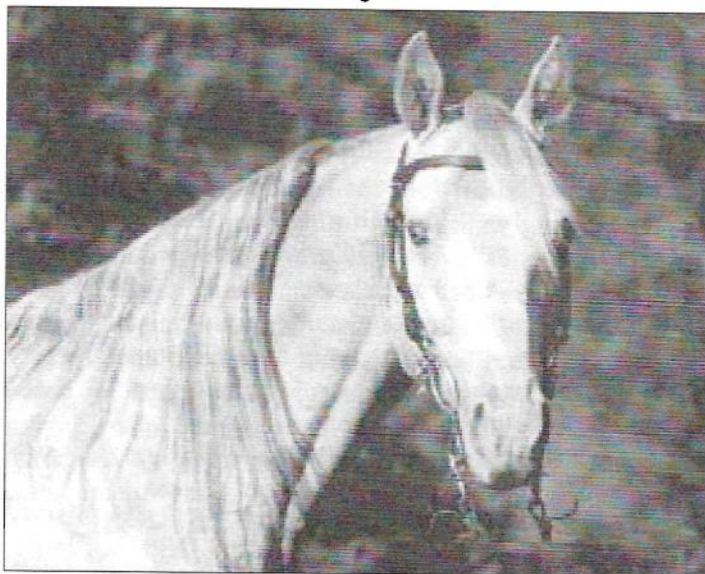
at jackspad@telus.net
 or (780) 968-8103.

Pasture breeding only with return service following year.

8 Mares booked to date.

(\$350.00 Cdn Registered only)!

I cannot say that TOPAZ foals are *always* quiet but I WILL SAY that they are *almost always* sensible, reliable, & well gaited, with sometimes unique colors.



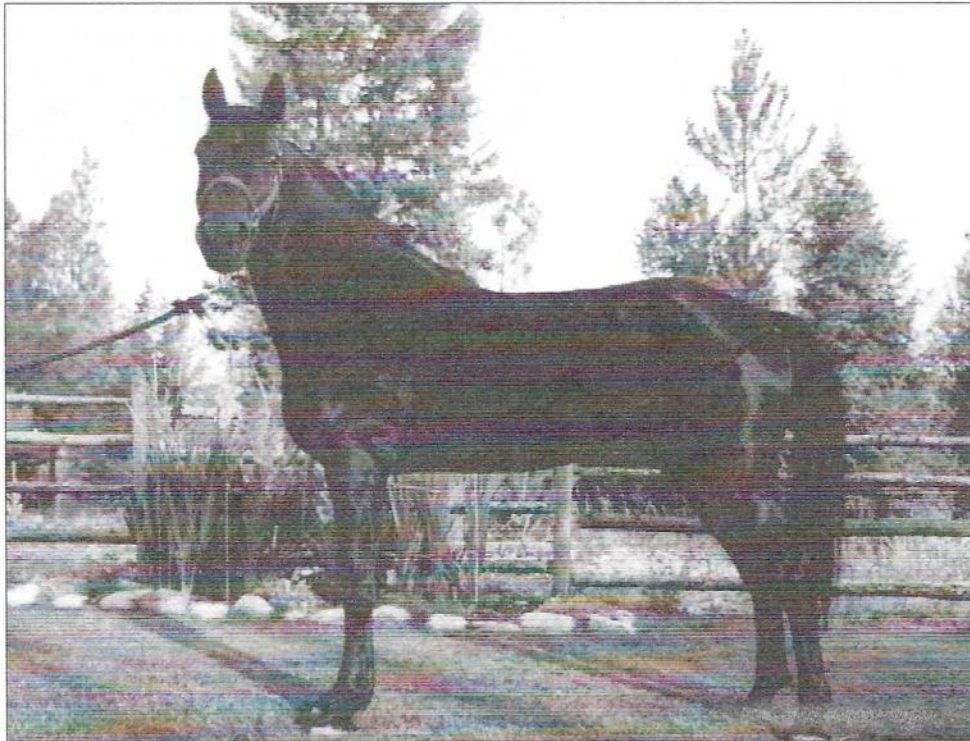
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APRIL'S ARTIC STORM

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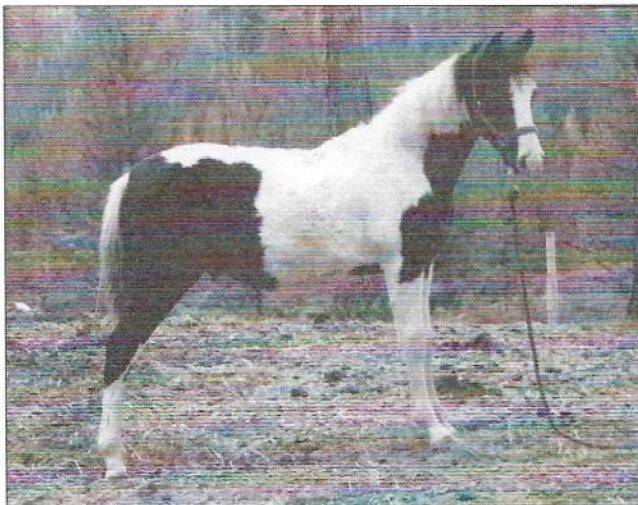


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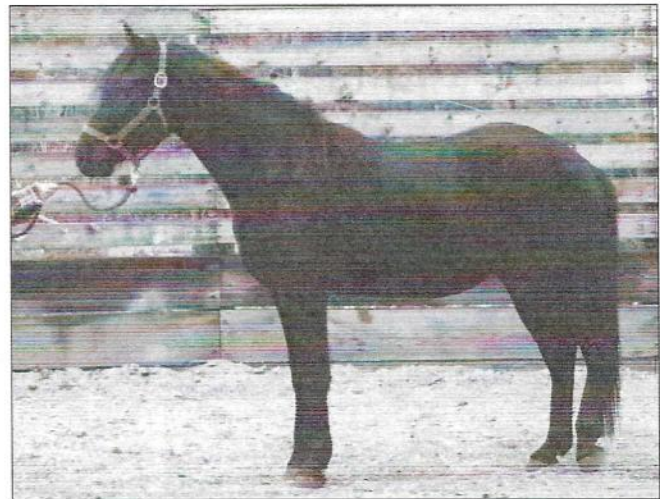
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Storm is for lease as we are going to breed our mares to outside stallions this year. Storm is an easy keeper with great manners. He pasture or hand breeds. His foals are friendly and naturally gaited. They have outstanding minds, feet and good looks. Storm is green broke and easy to catch. His riding career has been limited due to lack of time.

FOR SALE: *(By above stallion)*



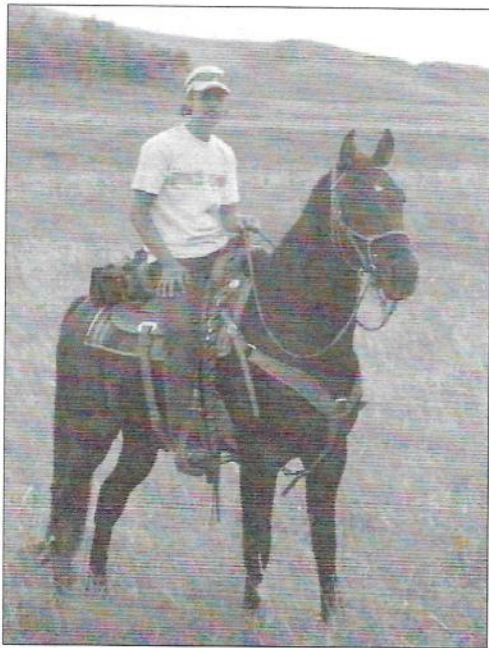
STORM'S ARTIC FUN US #20600303 Mar/06 Colt.
'Arnie' is easy to catch, good with his feet and hops into the trailer. He shows a great walk and canter at liberty. Get noticed with this flashy show or trail partner!
Mature 15 hh. Can be gelded prior to delivery.



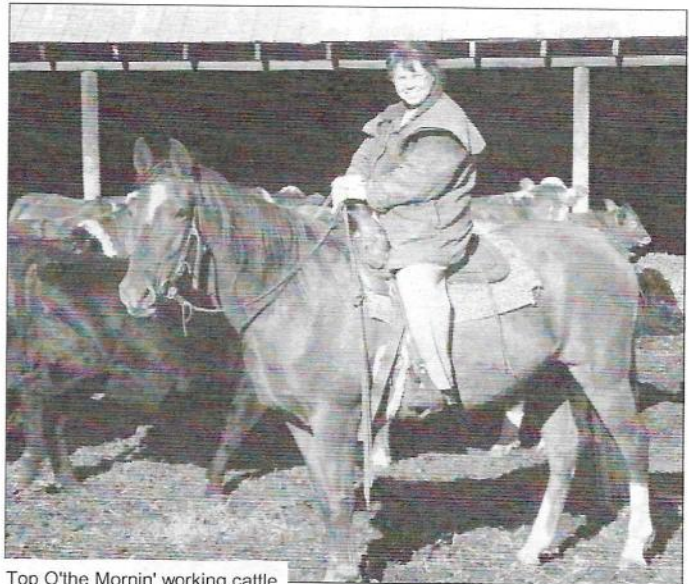
STORM'S MIDNIGHT ROLLER US #20406491
June/04 Black Gelding.
'Rollie' is easy to work with and willing to learn. Great walk and canter. He will be started spring of 2007.
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Allen's Midnight Rascal

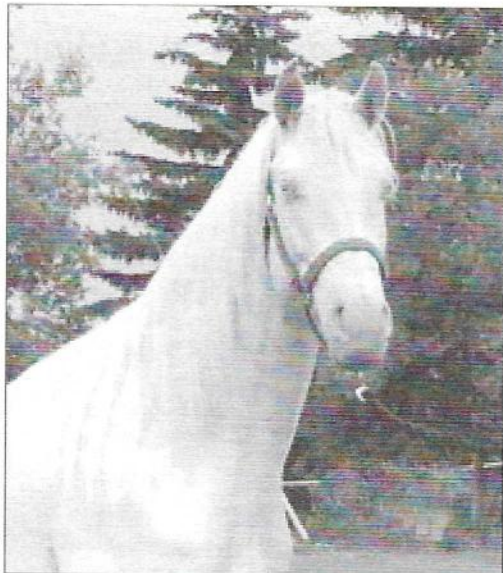
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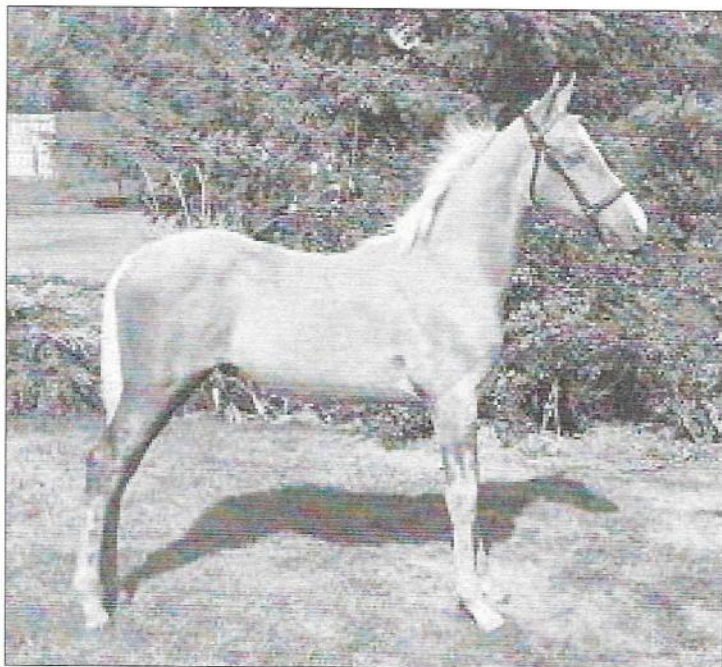
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403 803-7767 Email judith@cdisolutions.ca

WILD ROSE CLUB - EDMONTON AREA (AWHA) Lorrie Black
E-mail walkers1@airsurfer.ca (780) 929-2151

Would the above contact persons get in touch with me by March 7 to renew and/or up-date these listings? whn@telus.net or 1-780-723-2547.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CRTWH AGM - Tentatively set for Saturday, April 28. Notices will be sent out - plan to attend! Exciting things are happening during this 25th Anniversary Year. Contact Secretary: Joyce Rogers 780-363-2470 secretary@crtwh.ca

JENNIE JACKSON CLINIC IN ONTARIO - The Fundamentals Of Dressage For Training Your Tennessee Walking Horse. May 19, 20, 21, 2007 Kim Pringle 613-335-3896 or kimstwh@can.rogers.com

B.L.E.S.S. CLINICS - Two clinics with Nancy & Bucky Sparks will be held in early July. See the CRTWH ad on page 13, then mail your application & cheque to Dianne Little, 619 Lake Linnet Cres. S.E., Calgary, AB T2J 2J3

PARELLI CLINICS - Contact leslie@parellicanada.com or 1-877-PARELLI

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FOR the NEXT ISSUE

March 7, 2007

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