

APRIL 2007
VOLUME XXXI No. 2



Walking

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On Our Cover

On Top of the World

Pat Freeman
enjoys the view
while his TWH, Windy,
takes a rest
in this photo taken in the
Ram River Falls area
of western Alberta in
2005.

Photo by Karla Freeman

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JANUARY 7

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MARCH 7

for May/June issue MAY 7

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JULY 7

for Sept/Oct issue
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Volume XXXI, # 2 March/April, 2007

Dear Subscribers,

According to Ian Tyson's song, "We've made it through another on the Northern Range..." At least, I hope so. It's been a very long winter but next week spring is due, according to the calendar. Let's hope it's true!

There are big changes for people registering foals in the US, now that TWHBEA is changing over from blood typing to DNA for parentage verification. It will be a great advantage in that you won't need to have a veterinarian draw blood or have to ship blood samples across the border, with all the risks of delay and spoilage. However, it will take some time to get the records of all the breeding stock converted to DNA so that you'll simply be able to send a hair sample from the foal. Be sure to get your breeding animals done before you have to register the foals of 2007, and even if YOU don't have foals to register, send in the DNA records you already have for your broodmares and stallions, even deceased ones. There is very important information on page 17. There was some misinformation in the TWHBEA Memos item in the Jan. issue so be sure to read this memo carefully.

Horse Week 2007 is coming up from June 2nd to 10th. Why not take part in it *and* promote your Walkers with an Open House (Open Barn? Open Pasture?) at your place? Or how about a special trail ride or sponsoring a Program For Excellence Gathering? Any time we can bring folks out to meet our Walkers, the horses will usually do the rest, enchanting people with their friendly, gentle natures, to say nothing of their smooth gaits. As Anne Fitzsimmons wrote last year, "We would love to see the Tennessee Walking Horse represented in conjunction with a Ride & Drive Day activity." See page 11.

This issue completes a full 30 years of *Walking Horse News*. It seems a long time in some respects but sometimes I look back and wonder where all the years have gone. Special greetings to those of you who were there at the beginning and who continue to support the magazine now. It's been quite a journey.

Enjoy the issue and since it's your magazine, I hope to hear from you - new foals? ads? horses bought or sold? opinions? information? - for next time.

Happy Spring!

Marjorie

Walking Horse News

April, 2007

“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

"CANADIAN TIMES OF THE TWH"

How We got Started with Walkers by Susan Lellman and Bill Roy

In 1988, Bill was looking for another horse. We were down to one, an Appy gelding primarily used for hunting. During a trip to the Okanagan, Bill met John Agar. Bill was looking up a friend and John was buying a swather motor.

Bill and John got to talking. (Something they are both very good at.) The conversation, beginning with the swather motor, just naturally got around to horses. Upon visiting John in Silver Creek, we were introduced to every one of his horses. His stallion Boothills, all the mares, and their offspring. I had only ever seen one Tennessee Walking Horse and had never seen her being ridden. What stayed in my mind from that introduction was the ease with which we were able to walk through the herd and up to every horse. What stayed with Bill was Woody, a 7 year old bay stallion. Here was a horse to go over the mountain with. Not knowing anything about Walkers, we were just looking - "horse wise".

Woody commanded your attention. "Look at me" just radiated from him. It was obvious John knew what he was about. His horses could have sold themselves.

We didn't come back until the next spring. By that time John had decided that we were going to become Walking Horse breeders one way or another. We went home with Woody: Sundowns Woodstock 812913 out of Aces Sky Blazer by Boothills Sundown, and Boothills Miss Kitty 765622 out of Velvet Harris Allen by Polo S.C., a box full of Walking Horse magazines, some tack and John's phone number.

Bill asked John how he got his horses to walk. His reply ran along the lines of "You just sit back, take up the reins and squeeze them up." He said they would be fast and smooth. Well, they were. You wouldn't *believe* how fast Woody could rack; Kitty too. We were amazed and delighted. We discovered what we later learned was "The Walk" on the way home from our rides.

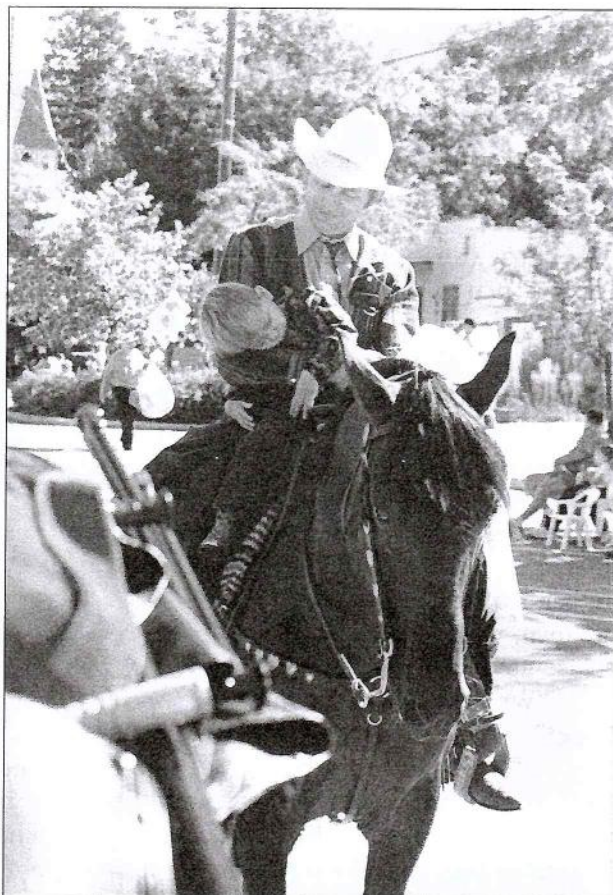
We planned holidays around our horses, visiting other Walker farms. With Woody, Bill introduced Walkers to people everywhere he went. Stallion Auctions, Horse Shows, Parades,

Demonstrations, Fun Days, Races, Endurance Rides, Trail Rides and just Rides, lots of them.

We stayed in Walkers because we loved our horses and we liked the people. With Walkers there is always something to learn. It became a challenge. The challenge became a journey. With every new horse and every new horse associate, the challenge was answered.

Bill loves to talk horses. His goal is to have everyone learn about these wonderful animals, learn to recognise the gaits, and how to get them naturally.

Below are Woody (Sundowns Woodstock), & Bill with his grandson Brandon, who obviously has total confidence in grandpa & his horse despite being in the middle of the huge IPE Fair Parade in Armstrong, September 1997, with marching bands and little Shriners cars zooming all around them.



NEWS - NEWS - NEWS

BRITISH COLUMBIA NEWS

PETER SYMONS, DAWSON CREEK, writes, "The horses are doing well and are in better shape than when going into the winter. The pastures were pretty bare, but I had to start feeding in early November, at which time we already had 2 feet of snow. Hay is scarce due to an extreme drought last summer and little snow last winter."

"I've had to take steps to limit the hay intake and waste and have found that mini bulk bags help a lot. When the bale is still suspended on the loader stabber I pull the bag over the bale like a sock. Then I take it out to the feeding area and raise it in the air, tilt the stabber at 90 degrees letting the bale (in the bag) drop to the ground. Then I use some of the twine to tie the loop handles of the bag together. Thus the horses can only eat from the top of the bale working their way to the bottom. This is with the smaller 4X5 bale and would not work with larger ones as the bags would be too small. I have found this has practically eliminated waste and spoilage and reduced intake. 5 X 600 lb. bales are lasting my 8 head 9 to 10 days. I supplement that with grain."

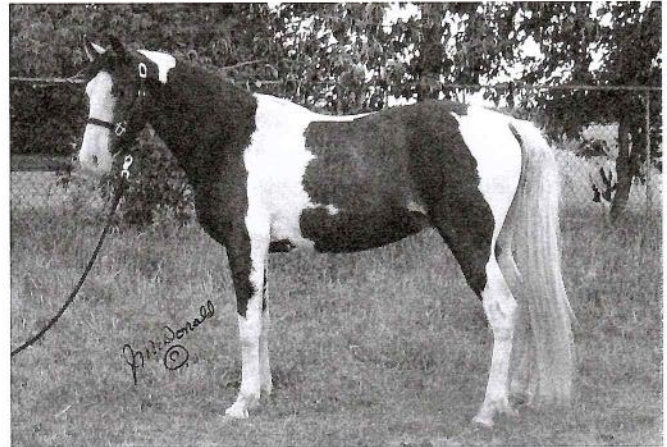
"We must have had a total of 5-6 feet of snow so far along with a couple of thaws. I'll write again and send some pics (but not of the winter - that's too depressing.)"

JO-ANNE MCDONALD, MCDONALD FARMS, POUCE COUPE, writes, "It has been a long cold winter here in the Peace with lots and lots *and lots* of snow. As much of a nuisance as it is, it should help replenish the ground moisture and fill all the dry dugouts; drought was becoming serious in this part of the country."

"This area is having a terrible problem with wildlife this winter as the snow is so deep that they are making any available hay stocks their diner. There are herds of moose and deer and they are frequenting the town, which is quite unusual. Everyone is getting a close-up of nature - to their chagrin."

"We are *Eagerly Awaiting Spring* in the Peace!"

"There seems to be lots of interest in your "Heir Trigger" stallion, Marjorie, so it is possible he will be a busy boy this season. We are really looking forward to the foals from his first season at public stud."



"We have sold the 5 year old black and white tobiano gelding, "Successful Jester", (above) to Grant Kihn of Hinton, Alberta. Grant is a Provincial Park Ranger so Jester will be seeing some of the most gorgeous scenery in Canada. Good Luck to both, and please extend Grant's subscription with our compliments."

NATALIE SPECKMAIER, VANCOUVER, writes, "Thanks for printing my ode to Tower Ridge Farm. I think I'll write a country & western song next..."

"I love those colour covers, and that picture of my Trigger's half brother, Heir Trigger, was, for want of a better word, awesome! As for the picture of Bill Roy... I almost didn't recognize him without his beloved, beat-up old cowboy hat. (I guess Sue finally had her way with it, and buried it deep in the garbage can.) I see he now has caught up to this century and has an email address. I'll have to send an email to him and tease him about his fancy new hat."

"Having returned from Ixtapa on Sunday, I almost got out for a ride on Monday. Debbie and I got all tacked up - and her horse, Ernie, comes up lame. I took Trigger in the ring and we did a few circuits, but neither one of us was having fun. Is it possible for a horse to give its rider dirty looks? Trigger kept craning her neck to glare at me, as if to say, "Why are we *here*? You *know* I hate this!"

"That was it until next week as I seem to have brought home a mild flu bug and have stuck close to home the rest of the week. I think I'm finally caught up on the 114 e-mails waiting for me, dealt with laundry and stashing holiday stuff, and am on a roll in cleaning up a mountain of paperwork. So back to the chore. Happy trails."

ONTARIO NEWS

FRED LLOYD-SMITH, VANESSA, writes, "In term of news here, my mare had a colt last April 30 (Trackin' On Heir x Hallelujah's Doll) and he is gaiting up a storm freely in the paddock. Friendly, bold and good-looking, he likes to play with the exercise ball. He pushes it, jumps on it, bucks and prances around it and sometimes pushes it to me so I can push it back. Great fun."

"Last year saw great progress with Queen, my 'Barbie Horse' (*Below*). She attended the Jennie Jackson clinic in May that Kim Pringle organised, even though she was not very far along in her training. We also did a Level 2 and several days of Level 3 Parelli Natural Horsemanship clinics with two different instructors, and made great strides. I had such fun in the summer, jumping and doing obstacles as part of her confidence-building, plus we did a gaited horse trail ride in June and several less formal ones. One ride saw us on the shores of Lake Erie - sand as far as you could see - and we gaited and cantered up a storm. Closest I have come so far to feeling like that painting on the *WHN* last year with the palomino running near water, mountains, etc and the woman riding bareback... What a high it was!"

"This year I hope to submit for scrutiny parts of Level 3, do more trail rides, maybe learn hunter jumping stuff (like TWH over fences) and who knows - she might even get to some field trials (though with a mane down to her elbows, it may be impractical unless I braid it). I am adding a couple of obstacles to play with, such as see-saw and pedestal. Doll has already been on the see-saw and it didn't faze her a bit! More horses to train and never enough time. . . Should be a good year."

"I greatly look forward to receiving *WHN* and admire the effort you put into it. Thank you so much for all of that. Photos will follow and you can use them now, later, whenever or if you want." *Below are 'Fred and Raining Gold Queen building confidence last summer.*



ALBERTA NEWS

ROSINA WIDMER, OKOTOKS, writes, "We have our new place in BC but are still between the two places. We do not have to be out of our Okotoks home until March, 2008 so that makes for a long drawn out move!"

From RHONDA LEMMON, NOISY HOLLOW ACRES, LACOMBE, "Well, things have been very hectic for us this past year. We finally took the plunge and built ourselves an indoor riding arena. It is absolutely beautiful, and to be able to ride all year long is definitely a dream come true. We have a few trainers working out of the facility with each one specializing in something different. I keep thinking that if I stand and watch long enough maybe some of their ability will pour into me through osmosis, but so far no luck."

"As busy as we were, getting the building done, I did manage to get a lot of horse camping and competitive trail riding in last summer. What a blast! I thought I was just a show addict but as it turns out I have been bitten by the horse camping bug too. I keep thinking of that country song, "I am going to miss her when I get home" but in my case it will be, "I am going to miss him when I get home" because I am sure my husband won't be too pleased with me gone almost every weekend. (Of course he is welcome to come but he really hasn't been into riding the last couple of years and so I look at it like a trade-off. I don't see him all winter because of hockey so he won't see me all summer because of horses.) Whatever keeps people happy, right?"

"We are starting to get ready for our spring foal crop (like it is a lot) but there are only three (hopefully) that we are expecting. That's enough with full time jobs and the arena on the go. I also would like to remind everyone to start getting their horses ready for the show season. It is a hoot, and we have classes that appeal to everyone. We have classes for the show familiar types as well as the backyard trail buddies. Please attend to show off the hard work and time you invest in your horse, even if you think it isn't for you. You'll have a great time."

"If anyone is interested in horse camping there is a whole bunch of Walking Horse people that get together May long weekend at the Kootenay Plains. Great trails, scenery and people."

VAL LORINCZY, SAVANAH L WALKERS, LEDUC, writes, "My horses are all fine. My Gypsy girl (Uphill Gypsy Bay) is still going *strong*, had her last foal when she was 25, and is still cycling, though her 'baby time' is stopped. Oddly, she produces a bag with milk every spring when she cycles. What a brood mare! I ride her annually, every Christmas, just once a year."

From LES YOUNG, Wetaskiwin, "Sorry to hear Tennessee Treasure died. She was a good horse, the last of the original Walkers we bought when we got into horses in the '80s. We lost Calta Onyx Beauty last year."

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ALBERTA NEWS

STAN POTTER, ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE, writes, "Could you thank Allanna for writing such an informative article on the speed of the running walk. It really helps new people to the breed understand what is going on as they train their horses."

"I bought a green gelding three summers back and he does all the walking horse gaits and the rack. Top speed of the rack is 20 mph which I timed with a stop watch. I've also noticed that at about 8 mph he gets just a slight bounce, which continues on up to 20 mph. I can hold him back out of the rack and stay in a running walk, or if I want more speed, without a full-blown gallop, he'll stay in a rack for me. It's been a lot of fun and better still to know now *why* it gets bouncy as he accelerates in the running walk and begins to go into a rack. The only gaits he does are the flat walk, running walk, rack and canter/gallop. Is there a way to know if he is doing a canter or a gallop? Is either acceptable for the gold award? That might be a question for someone else."

"I'm going to have to really know what I'm doing now as I just bought 3 registered TWH mares, two of which are bred! The two black bred mares each have 10 old-line WGCs in their pedigree. The two year old mare is a sorrel with blond mane, and she has 19 old-line WGCs in her pedigree. They appear to be wintering well."

From KARLA FREEMAN, KARLA'S KLASSY WALKERS, BENTLEY, "Hope this finds everyone enjoying the longer days. I have done a lot of riding this fall and winter. I have been caught in a couple of snow squalls, but just keep my back to the wind."

"I have started a bunch of horses under saddle this winter. The snow is Great! I find it a very useful aid in many riding situations. I like to drive the horses first, so having them pull the calf sled behind them first is *much easier* with snow!"

"I always enjoy the *Walking Horse News* - the articles, pictures, upcoming events. It is a valued magazine. I enjoyed the article "The Speed Of The Running Walk", and probably will photocopy it and carry it in my pocket. I'm with Allanna Jackson on looking at an honest assessment! And Ron Smith has the right idea - to video your horse for evaluation. I *do* care what gait my horse is doing. Call it a moon walk if you want! But just be consistent with the name of the gait and if you don't really know, then say you don't."

"I also wanted to say 'Thanks' to whoever made up the Horse's New Years Resolutions. They were good for a few chuckles, and another great part of the *WHN*. Humor is appreciated!"

"My daughter and I have been enjoying the longer days, and we went to a Poker Rally last weekend. It was for cutters and saddle horses, so we had some fun, and saw some very nice outfits. It's always good for the

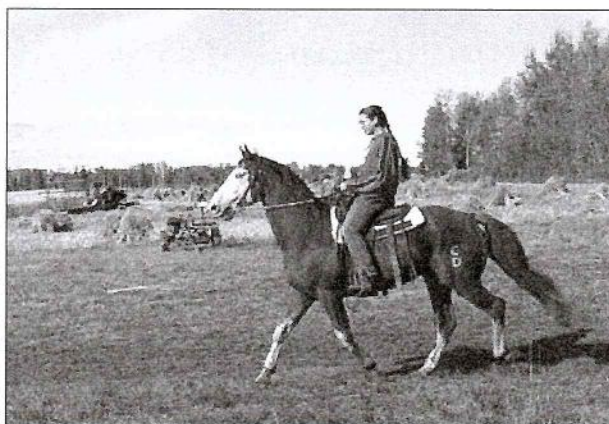
horses to see new things. On Family Day we had 5 horses out together, and although the wind was brisk, we had fun in the sun."

"Oh, and a tip for all the women out there - the best way to avoid housework I've found is to stay outside with my horses! I will do **Horse** work all day, and don't mind at all. (So that will explain a lot around here.) Speaking of which, I'd better get outside!"

BRENDA BAKER, TRINGLE B TWH, CALGARY, writes, "Well, the winter is slowly becoming spring and I am ready for it. After a fun weekend with Karla Freeman and her family during the Horse Breeders and Owners Conference, I felt inspired to ride even though I hate struggling with saddles in the winter. Riding everyday bareback with a rope halter is solving that problem and since I ride bareback better than I do with a saddle, my project horse is learning to sidle up to just about anything for me to get a leg over his back and squirm on."

From DONNA CURTIS, WINFIELD, "I have many draft horses for sale, mares in foal and broke teams, but as luck would have it, I also sold two Tennessee Walkers to a young couple from Florida that came to Canada to buy a Percheron gelding. The two Tennessee Walkers are Cee Dee Echo's Max, a flashy chestnut colt sired by Evening Strolling Thunder and a black 2005 filly that Bill Howes returned, Cee Dee Flora's Topaz Lily, sired by Topaz Merry Go. They are going to a wonderful new home and won't have to face Canadian winters any more."

"I have had some bad luck this past year. My stallion, Yvening Strolling Thunder, got kicked in the jaw last spring. I doctored him for nine months but because of the movement from chewing I couldn't keep the infection from returning over and over again. Finally I had to make the very difficult decision to put him down. I loved that stallion. He passed his beautiful conformation, superb temperament, and his wonderful ability to move in that floating motion the TWH is known for. But I have some pictures of him being ridden and that keeps the memories alive. *Below is Colleen riding Eagle (Yvening Strolling Thunder) in the fall of 2005.*"



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HEALTH, HARMONY & HORSES CLINIC *(In A Nut Shell)* by Delina Gratzfeld

I attended the 2nd Annual Health, Harmony and Horses clinic this past weekend at Esprix Stables near Stony Plain, AB. There were quite a variety of speakers with a little bit of overlap, so I was able to attend most of the sessions I wanted to.

The first I attended was Equine Dentistry - Keeping Your Right To Choose, hosted by Shannon Johnson, an equine dentist, & Dr. Ileana Wenger, a vet. This session had two main parts. The first was on the importance of looking after your horse's teeth and the enormous and long-term consequences of not doing so. Discussed were the power float, the hand float, and the pros and cons for both.

The second part of Equine Dentistry was on the changes to the Veterinary Professions Act. Currently you can choose which dentistry your horse can receive, but soon you may not. I did not know about this act, but I am not involved with any equine groups. However I will assume there are more people like me who don't know about it. I don't know about everyone but I feel we should all have the right to choose and we should all stand up for that right.

The second session was A Look At Why Horses Are One Sided, Including Saddle Fitting Problems by Janis Cook. Again this was an interesting and informative session. Janis is an educator and practitioner of equine massage, recovery exercise, and saddle fitting. I spoke with her afterwards and she told me she felt it was important to give the information on that one-sided horse. So to all, this is what she had to say. A horse is a grazing animal. In the wild it grazes constantly, eating and moving. Through domestication, our horses often are fed in a way whereby they stand for hours in the same position, unmoving. This is always a diagonal, whichever diagonal the horse favours. After time the muscles supporting the horse's shoulders and buttocks form to this position, creating an unbalanced or crooked horse. This feeding issue can be helped with a special type of feeder. The approximate size would be about 2-3 feet tall, wide at the top, narrow at the bottom with holes in the bottom. When hung, the bottom of the feeder would be at the level of the horse's knees and flat against the fence, kind of like a half triangle shape. This allows the horse to stand close to the feeder with feet planted square and the natural bend of neck to ground. As I understand it, someone is making these feeders. Anyone interested in finding out more about the feeder, to fit their horse for a saddle, or to get better information on this feeder can look on www.janiscook.com.

The next session was Chris Irwin with Horse Sense For Human Potential. What can one say? It was Chris Irwin, immensely entertaining and informative. After Chris came his wife, Katherin, and she was just as entertaining as he. What a truly inspirational team they make.

To end day one was Dr Laura Taylor. Laura has a 100% holistic veterinary practice in Calgary. It was interesting and very clinical. She had 'way too much information for me to relate in understandable terms here.

Day Two began with Dr Sean Archibald presenting Equine Podiatry: An International Perspective – and what a charming person he is. Sean began with an overview of the hoof, its parts, their functions, and what happens when a horse founders. From there it went into an in-depth look at how he treats a large variety of hoof problems and foundered horses with an assortment of shoes, silicone and other vet stuff. Again 'way too much info to relate. One of the most interesting parts of this session was when a vet in the audience brought up 'bleeding' a horse in the very early stages of founder to slow or stop the process. There is a medical term for this procedure, but I don't recall it. I think some found this distasteful.

Chris Irwin came next to finish what he had started the previous day. Again, fabulous.

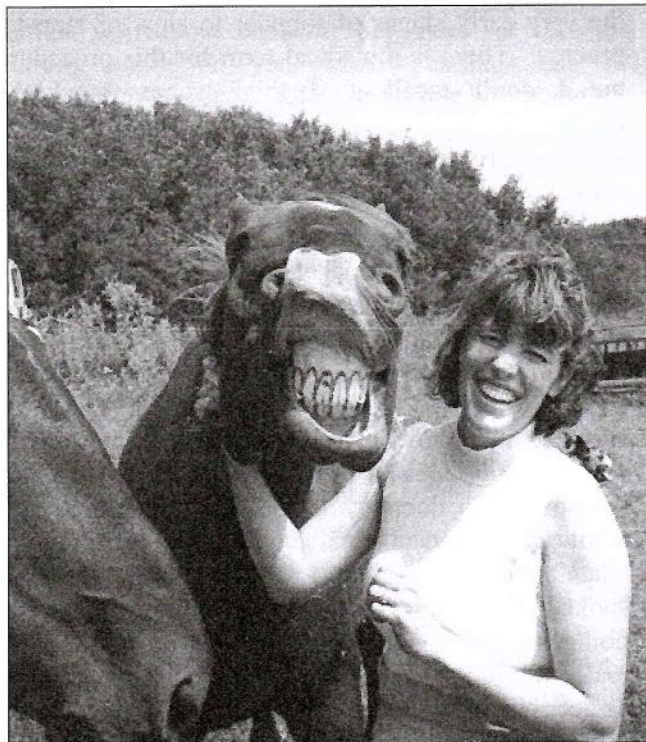
This next portion with Dr Janek Vluggen and Dr. Laura and Don Mackenzie, a natural farrier was so complicated I am just going to explain a very, very small part of fixing. A horse with a great many physical problems was brought in. Dr Janek, an equine osteopath, began by looking at the horse standing, then moving, to see the range of motion, the type of motion and what was not moving. An osteopath is a doctor who looks at the animal as a whole entity and takes all of this into consideration when attempting healing. I have to tell you, Dr Janek spoke in depth the whole time explaining what he was doing. I am not going to try to tell you all he did. I really would not do it justice and I'd probably not be as accurate as I should be. Instead let's move to the end and what he did to help alleviate some of this horse's pain. He explained that the horse would have to see a vet, but his part of the natural healing was to put his arm up the horse's sheath to find and manipulate the semen cord. The cord had become twisted and the organs pressed together, creating a vacuum of the organs with little or no fluid in

between them. Through his manipulation of the cord and organs it created space, so fluid could again surround the organs. You would not believe the change in the horse within minutes of this procedure. It was amazing. Not all of the horse's problems were because of the semen cord, but many were.

Here is what I found shocking. After Dr. Janek had finished he told us that they have found 1 out of every 4 geldings has this condition. Those that were gelded standing are more prone to it than those that were laid down. His opinion is that all geldings should be tested. It is a one-time procedure just as I explained it. It is a proactive decision that could save your horse a lot of discomfort, pain, and the problems this condition can cause. Your choice, again.

Don Mackenzie next trimmed this horse's feet according to the way he was now placing them. Don explained that he would most likely have to come back multiple times to trim. As the horse gets better and the way he moves and places his body changes, so too will the way he places his feet. Cool!

It was a long two days, full of information, entertainment, and inspiration. I would recommend next year's conference to anyone



Here is a picture to go with the Feedback article. I think it is rather appropriate! The horse is Stilt B. Star, aged 25 at the time of the photo, and his owner, Pamela Heinrichs, (my sister). Photo credit to Paul Yanko (brother-in-law). Star is now 29 years old and in good health. Brenda L. Baker

FEEDBACK!

In recent years the squabbles between equine massage therapists, equine physiotherapists, equine dental technicians/dentists, equine chiropractors, equine naturopaths, equine acupuncturists, equine osteopaths, (have I left out anyone?) and veterinarians have been made annoyingly public.

Having been a horse owner for over 40 years I indeed want to access the services of a qualified caregiver for the job, be it hoof care, surgery or dentistry.

As a long term horse breeder I am interested in advances in horse health issues. I am excited about the new Veterinary College planned for Calgary, and I am intrigued by the new technology planned for the campus of the Veterinary College at the U. of Saskatchewan.

Every time I attend a lecture at the Horse Owners and Breeders Conference in Red Deer, AB., I am impressed by the quality of speakers and material presented. The courtesy with which these speakers and special guests are treated is outstanding not only by the organizers but also by each delegate in attendance.

Unfortunately even though I want to be informed of the newest and the latest in the horse world, I do not want to be involved in the equine health care providers' growing pains. I doubt if I'm alone in saying all I want to hear is that these groups of equine health practitioners are working together to set standards to improve total equine health. This must be done with dignity and with respect for each other. It will reflect the professional and ethical manner in which equine health care should be delivered.

This is not a new idea. The Health Professions Act (HPA) of Alberta is being revamped to accommodate advances in human health and dental care with the resulting education that has become standard in, for example, the Dental Hygiene Program at the U of A. The scope of practice for a Registered Dental Hygienist, (RDH), has been redefined in the HPA to make it legal for an RDH to carry out expanded duties such as local anesthesia. It is a way to ensure that the paying public is getting a standard of care, legally and safely. During the time when the legal wrangling was taking place, few dental patients were aware of, or cared that many career groups were at work on this tedious task.

Most dental patients do notice, however, that the RDH that is cleaning their teeth has appropriate certificates on display to indicate that she/he is indeed qualified for the job.

Since I belong to a group of health care professionals that has gone through the process required of the HPA without making it a big issue with the public, I find it a stressful experience to hear a lecture about what a bad job other equine practitioners are doing in an effort to promote the speaker's own career choice. It is unprofessional and unethical to do so. My advice is to get together, get along, and get it done.

Brenda L. Baker, Millarville, AB.

HORSEMAN'S DIGEST

Mark Your Calendars for HORSE WEEK 2007

Equine Canada's Recreation Division and the Provincial Equestrian Federations are delighted to announce that the dates for Horse Week 2007 have been set.

"I am happy to announce the date for the sixth annual Horse Week is June 2-10," stated Jack De Wit, Chair of the Horse Week 2007 Committee, and Equine Canada board member. "After the phenomenal success of Horse Week 2006, I challenge equine enthusiast from all disciplines to top last year's performance. Let's show everyone Canadians are in love with the horse."

Held annually to promote and celebrate Canada's thriving horse industry, Horse Week appeals to both horse enthusiasts and the public alike. Featuring a wide range of activities held across the country, including trail rides, equine showcases, charity events, RCMP musical rides and competitions of all kinds, Horse Week has been growing steadily since its inception in 2002. For Horse Week 2006, hundreds of school children were treated to live demonstrations, classroom presentations and creative arts classes, as teachers in a number of Canadian cities incorporated Horse Week into their lesson plans.

Horse lovers of all kinds, from competitors and recreational riders, to teachers and breeders, are invited to participate in Horse Week 2007 by creating, organizing and registering their own Horse Week event, or by keeping their eye on Equine Canada's website, www.equinecanada.ca for a list of registered events in their area. Be sure to bring a camera along to the events, and snap pictures for the Horse Week 2007 Photo Gallery!

The Horse Week Committee encourages horse lovers 17 years of age and under to enter the Horse Week 2007 'Kids Contest' for the chance to win great prizes. With three different age groups, and four different categories to choose from, participants are encouraged to get together and let their creative sides shine! Featuring the categories of Poems, Essays, Artwork and Miscellaneous (which can include anything from illustrated stories to sculptures), this is the chance to create something special around the theme of 'A Horse of Course'.

Watch www.equinecanada.ca for more Horse Week information and updates.

MANE EVENT Ap. 27 - 29, Red Deer, AB

Mark your calendars for April 27 to 29, 2007 - The Mane Event, Equine Education & Trade Fair is coming to Western Park in Red Deer, Alberta. The Mane Event is the only event of its kind in Western Canada - offering multi-discipline rider clinics, demonstrations and education as well as an equine trade show! The Mane Event will be offering 2 ½ days of equine clinics, demos and presentations.

Among the many clinicians will be Jonathan Field, who will present a session on Horsemanship. He has studied under some great horsemen; his greatest mentor, however, is Pat Parelli. A natural presenter, Jonathan has honed his skills as a clinician and proven himself a gifted teacher.

Also present will be Lani Sollenberger on Gaited Horses. A certified riding instructor & licensed judge with TWHBEA, from West Alexandria, Ohio, Lani has worked on TWHBEA's Walk This Way Tour and has exhibited in all divisions of TWH from performance to pleasure. She has also worked for the Oster Grooming Company.

INTERIOR GAITED HORSE SHOW

June 16-17, 2007 celebrates the 10th Anniversary of the annual Interior Gaited Horse Show, held in the Agriplex at the Armstrong, BC Fairgrounds. Tennessee Walkers, Icelandic Horses, Peruvian Pasos and Kentucky and Rocky Mountain Horses measure their skills and smooth ride in a variety of fun and competition classes. This event has grown in popularity with exhibitors and is reknowned as #1 For Fun! To make the 10th Anniversary special each pre-entered horse will be presented with a top quality, engraved, commemorative leather halter. This year's judge Dianne Little of Calgary, AB, is well known and respected among gaited horse riders. Hosting over 40 classes this event is promoted as a FUN show and is open to any gaited horse or pony, registration papers not required. The 2 day show features specific breed as well as open performance classes, games and team competitions. Fancy show gear is not required. The show starts at 9:00 am Saturday and 8:30 am Sunday. Entry deadline is June 4th, an important date not to miss if you would like a free leather halter. Post entries will be accepted. For entry forms email Cathie Taggart at ctaggart@capri.ca, or call 546 3704. The show is under new management this year. We hope to see you there.

SHOW TRAINING AND THE TRAIL HORSE IN TENNESSEE

Tennessee Walking Horse breed historian Margaret Linsley Warden, in an article written in 1950 in the Tennessee Walking Horse magazine, listed the traits required of the Tennessee Plantation Horse in the show ring. For intermediate gait, “a rapid, comfortable foxtrot was generally as accepted as a running walk.” (Biography of the Tennessee Walking Horse. rev. ed. p. 105). Though this native Tennessee horse had been dubbed “plantation horse” for its appeal to plantation owners in the deep South, Middle Tennessee itself was far from the flat countryside that comprised the large plantations. In areas where the breed was developed and nurtured into a breed type, the countryside is rugged, punctuated by steep hills, narrow valleys, and ample rocks in both large and small varieties. The farmers who raised and used these horses needed an animal that was strong, tough, and reliable. The gait selected for the horse that they both used and sold to the plantations to the south was the running walk gaited horse.

Billy Taylor, who grew up in Franklin County, home to a number of top horses who made significant contributions to the foundation genetics of the breed, has made the effort to talk to as many older breeders in his area as he can. These individuals included Clay Ervin, George Henson, and Reagor Byrom. Everyone involved in a discussion of the old horses from the pivotal period of the twenties to the early forties insists that the goal was to breed running walk horses. The horse with the smooth, timed walk and cadenced head nod was the goal of every breeder. Reagor Byrom, whose family bred and stood the Merry Boy son, Byrom’s Allen, remembers riding the sabino stallion from the family farm to Awalt, to the farm of Fount Ray. The farm had a huge, flat river bottom, where the stallion could be ridden in a fast running walk with no obstacles requiring him to slow down. Reagor recalled that the horse had a smooth, bold-moving gait and a big head nod.

The horses bred by the farm families in the ‘hills and hollers’ of Middle Tennessee could handle any chore put to them, both in harness and under saddle. The same horse that put in a full week’s saddle time from Monday through Friday could then take its proud owner to the county fair or community horse show on Saturday and win a bag of flour, or some other prize. The same horse could perhaps go to the first Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration in 1939 and win a prize there.

During the latter years of the forties, however, things changed. Stallions like Midnight Sun and the speedy Merry Go Boy projected a new image of what the Tennessee Walking Horse was supposed to do in the show ring. This style of horse needed the assistance of a professional trainer. As the fifties began, the sales venues for the country walking horse ceased to exist. The market remaining was that of the show ring. Many old and walky bloodlines died out. Colts bred for the marketplace were increasingly bred for paciness by more and more breeders. Pleasure horse prices plummeted. By the mid-sixties, Middle Tennessee walking horse shows no longer had classes for flat shod registered walkers. Some had Open Pleasure classes, which were open to all breeds, and generally accepted contenders with pads. Those who wanted to show only with other flat shod horses had the option of competing in country boy shows and saddle club shows. The faster the better was often what won in these competitions though, where speed, style, and smoothness were what attracted the judges’ eyes. During this period, the prices for a well-broke pleasure walker ranged from \$250-\$500, nothing to encourage people to take their mares to the courts of the natural walking stallions that still remained out in the countryside.

When the old-fashioned Ride-A-Thon of yesterday was reintroduced to Middle Tennesseans as the organized trail ride, a new market opened for the flat shod walking horse in its native state. By this time, however, a generation gap existed between those who had ridden their relaxed, nodding pleasure walkers over fields and down country lanes on the Ride-A-Thons, and those now interested in “hittin’ the trails” on a fine looking, smooth gaited horse. The newer generation had seen nothing but speed in the ring, whether it was at the flat shod shows in the country or the Saturday night walking horse shows in the towns.

Visits to the many training barns throughout the area revealed a training style that also relied on speed, as trainers paced green colts “to shake ‘em loose”, then added weighted shoes and pads to break up the gait into a smooth and nodding show gait. This sort of training with a flatshod youngster could result in a trotting ride if the colt tended toward the diagonal. Even those who knew that the oldtimers rode many a mile down country lanes at a flatwalk with these trottier colts would have trouble finding

unpaved roads for riding them! Pushing for early speed with a lateral-moving youngster could result in a hard pace if the colt inclined toward paciness, or one of several four-beat gaits if the colt had more even timing. Due to the biomechanical speed limits of the running walk, this “goose ‘em and go” means of starting colts did not result in trail horses that walked. Depending on what source a person reads on the upper speed limits of the running walk, it is between seven and ten miles an hour, and young horses were being asked for the upper limits and sometimes even more speed when they were barely bridle wise.

Jimmie Gray, successful trainer of early Celebration World Champions, once stated that

“You can’t make a flatshod show horse in a barn”.

(Walking Horse News, Jan/Feb 2000, p. 22)

The same could be said about training a trail horse.

Techniques used in the barn aisles of Tennessee Walking Horse trainers do not make successful trail horses. Neither do they develop trail horses with the signature running walk gait that led to the creation of a new breed of light horse in the decades of the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Tennessee abounds with trail horses of all ages, sizes, and colors. Most of the registered ones are Tennessee Walking Horses, but few of them perform the gait which gave the breed its name. Many a trail rider is perfectly happy with a gelding that does any easy saddling gait as long as it's fast and smooth. Unless those who start and ride young pleasure walkers change to more relaxed and natural training styles, however, most of the trail horses that the state produces will continue to be walking horses only on paper.



Billy Taylor riding Echo's Bonbon on an unpaved TVA road near his farm. Unpaved roads like this, the perfect training ground for some young Walkers, are now almost nonexistent in Middle Tennessee.

THE EASY GAITS - NOT SO EASY!

With so many people training their own Walkers, it is important that owners recognize the various saddling gaits. After all, how can you train a horse to do a particular gait if *you* don't know what it is? And it is a myth that all TWH simply run-walk. Maybe once upon a time, but not now - No indeedy - these rascals can rack, single-foot, amble, step-pace, fox trot, and more. I've had several conversations along these lines with various people lately.

One person said, “Why insist that a TWH do a running walk? If it already does a smooth, easy gait that you like to ride, isn't that fine? Why try to change it? Why not change the breed standard instead?”

Another felt that breeding and bloodlines don't matter. He thought that just about every TWH can be trained to do a running walk if you take enough time with it. And he said he's seen a lot more TWH *ridden out of gait* by the rider than *ridden into gait*.

Someone else was strong on certain bloodlines, feeling that if you select parents that are very natural run-walkers, you'll be raising easier-to-train TWH.

All of these folks have valid points.

Does it matter what gait the horse is doing? No, not if it's smooth and pleasing to the rider, and easy on the horse, *and* just as long as you are not in a show where the gait called for is the running walk.

Does it matter if the rider knows what gait her horse is doing? Yes, I think so. Swearing that your horse is run-walking when it is actually step pacing or racking just helps spread confusion among those who don't know gaits.

Why wouldn't you breed the strongest gaited & truest gaited horses together to see if like comes from like? Why not, indeed? But you would have to recognize the gaits first.

Why insist on trying to breed for the running walk when other gaits are just as smooth and often faster? Maybe because the breed is the Tennessee WALKING Horse, after all?

I am reprinting excerpts from Dr. Bob Womack's book, *The Echo of Hoofbeats* (pages 16 & 17) to illustrate something of the changes the Tennessee Walker has undergone in the past half century or more. This sheds light on why so many of us have such different expectations of the breed.

What do *You* think?

Marjorie Lacy



CANADIAN REGISTRY OF THE TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE

SCHEDULE OF FEES Effective April 16, 2006

1. MEMBERSHIP	FEES	
a. Full Membership (Individual, Family, Corporation, Partnership: All Canadian Resident). Voting, member fee schedule applies		\$25.00/yr
b. Individual Life Membership (Individual). Voting, member fee schedule applies		\$200.00
c. Youth Membership (Individual, under 18 years of age). Non-voting, member fee schedule applies		\$10.00/yr.
d. Associate Membership (Individuals, organization, groups, All Canadian Resident). Non-voting, non-member fee schedule applies		\$15.00/yr.
e. Non-Canadian Resident Membership. Non-voting, member fee schedule applies		\$35.00/yr.
f. Non-Canadian Resident Lifetime Membership. Non-voting, member fee schedule applies		\$250.00
2. REGISTRATION OF FOALS or HORSES NOT ALREADY REGISTERED	Member Fees	Non-Member Fees
a. Within 12 months of foaling (PLUS add DNA fee - see 6a below)	\$40.00	\$80.00
b. After 12 but less than 18 months of foaling (PLUS add DNA fee - see 6a below)	\$60.00	\$120.00
c. After 18 but less than 24 months of foaling (PLUS add DNA fee - see 6a below)	\$125.00	\$250.00
d. After 24 months of foaling: (PLUS add DNA fee - see 6a below) <i>Non-refundable fee of \$125.00 if application is rejected.</i>	\$300.00	\$500.00
If the sire and/or dam of the unregistered foal (or horse) is not registered with CRTWH, submit a photocopy of both sides of the parent's TWHBEA registration certificate along with the foal's registration application.		
3. REGISTRATION OF HORSES ALREADY REGISTERED with TWHBEA	Member Fees	Non-Member Fees
<i>Applications must be accompanied by a photocopy of both sides of the TWHBEA certificate</i>	\$45.00	\$90.00
4. TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP	Member Fees	Non-Member Fees
a. Within 1 month of date of sale	\$20.00	\$40.00
b. After 1, but before 3 months of date of sale	\$30.00	\$60.00
c. After 3 months of date of sale	\$50.00	\$100.00
5. ALTERATION OF CERTIFICATES ISSUED	Member Fees	Non-Member Fees
a. Change of colour	\$20.00	\$40.00
b. Change of gender (gelded)	\$15.00	\$15.00
c. Death of a registered horse (<i>certificate will be returned</i>)	\$5.00 credit	No charge
d. Change of Name: <i>Provided animal is no more than five (5) years of age and has no registered offspring. Subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. Submitted fees are non refundable if application is rejected.</i>	\$50.00	\$100.00
6. OTHER SERVICES	Member Fees	Non-Member Fees
a. DNA Hair Analysis Profiling for an unregistered foal. DNA kits are available from CLRC. Pay CLRC for DNA kit when registration application is submitted.	\$75.00	\$100.00
b. DNA Hair Analysis Profiling for a Registered animal: CLRC Request form for DNA kit is required. Pay CLRC when application for DNA kit is submitted to CLRC.	\$75.00	\$100.00
c. Blood-typing/DNA updated certificate for mature horse.	\$10.00	\$25.00
d. Registration of Breeder's Prefix	\$45.00	\$90.00
e. Registration of Lease	\$20.00	\$40.00
f. List of Progeny of Individual Breeding Stock	\$20.00	\$40.00
g. Surcharge on incomplete or incorrect applications	\$20.00	\$40.00
h. Duplicate Certificate: <i>Shall be issued upon application by the registered owner accompanied by satisfactory proof of loss accompanied by a witnessed Statutory Declaration.</i>	\$40.00	\$80.00
i. Rush Fee	\$15.00	\$30.00

Fees are in Canadian currency, based upon postmark of the application and membership status of the applicant.

ALL REMITTANCES ARE PAYABLE TO CANADIAN LIVESTOCK RECORDS CORPORATION. (Visa is accepted.)

Please submit to: CLRC, 2417 Holly Lane, Ottawa, ON K1V 0M7 Telephone 613-731-7110, Fax 613-731-0704.

The CRTWH accepts either Blood Typing or DNA Hair Analysis Profiling for parentage verification.

CRTWH Home Page: <http://www.crtwh.ca> e-mail: secretary@crtwh.ca



The Canadian Walker

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CRTWH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Registry of the Tennessee Walking Horse will be held on Saturday, April 28 at the Holiday Inn 67 Street Hotel in Red Deer, in the "Cascade-East" room. This is our twenty-fifth anniversary, and we invite all members to come and celebrate this milestone in our association's history.

The business meeting will be from 10:30 to 11:45, when we will have lunch. Members will choose and pay for their own lunches at the Smitty's restaurant on site. (We do need to know how many of you plan to attend so we can notify the restaurant and (we hope!) get quicker service. Please contact Marjorie or Jean, by phone or email, before April 26.)

After lunch we will reconvene for presentation of the Awards For Excellence, and to hear a very special guest, Franne Brandon of Petersburg, Tennessee. Franne was raised in a small town in Middle Tennessee, the cradle of the Walking Horse breed. She inherited a passion for horses from both sides of the family. Her talk will be entitled, "A Tennessee Tapestry: Tracing the Pleasure Threads Through the Decades" and will follow the fortunes of the pleasure Walking Horse in Tennessee. Bred for generations to be a sensible, intelligent and smooth-walking horse of all work, it was almost lost in its home state during the difficult decades following the end of World War II. Franne's talk will trace the historic threads that intertwined to weave the pleasure Walker back into the tapestry of the breed, beginning in the early 70s, building into the 80s, and diversifying in the nineties beyond the narrow scope of the Saturday night show ring.

SPARKS CLINICS

The two July Clinics - Balance, Looseness, Engagement, Softness & Soundness - with Nancy & Bucky Sparks of Cortez, Colorado, are filling up fast, but a few spaces remain. The maximum number of riders accepted is twelve per clinic. Cost of participating in each two day clinic is \$160 with a 25% discount for current CRTWH members. To audit the clinic is \$60 for the two days, with a 25% discount for members.

To book your space send a cheque to Dianne Little at 619 Lake Linnet Cres. S.E., Calgary, AB T2J 2J3



MEMBERS' MAP

If you have not taken advantage of having your name and farm listed on the Members' Map on the CRTWH website, I invite you submit your name and contact information to me so it can be put up there. We continue to have people asking, "Where can I find a Walker near me?" They might be your neighbours!

Marjorie Lacy

REGISTRATIONS

The foals of 2006 will soon be a year old! To register them at the lowest cost, get their registration applications sent in, postmarked before their first birthdays. The application form is on the website, or you can contact CLRC or a director to have one mailed to you. (I keep a current application form on hand in my pedigrees book so I always have one to photocopy.) CLRC address, phone number & fee schedule are opposite. And check the website for the Guide to Colours if you're *still* not sure of your coming yearling's color!

THE EVOLUTION OF TRAINING TECHNIQUES

by Dr. Bob Womack

Never in the early days were horses pushed into a gait beyond that established by nature. The main point of comparison between horses was form, not speed, and this means of evaluation held until the mid 1940s.

The simplicity of training and riding a Walking Horse was explained by the Breeders' Association in 1941. According to this explanation, "The running walk is natural, and the flat walk and canter are easy to perfect with but little work on the part of the handler or trainer... One prominent breeder has expressed the matter in these words, 'Teach the young horse to do everything you want it to do and nothing you don't want it to do - then your worries are over, for the gaits come naturally.' Basically that is the whole story of training the Tennessee Walking Horse."

In the initial stages of the Walking Horse's history training techniques were dictated by practicality. There were no trucks. What shipping was done was by rail, an expensive and sometimes impossible method since many shows were held in localities not served by railroads. This meant that more often than not horses had to be ridden from their homes stations to where the show was being held, sometimes a distance of many miles. In order for the horse to negotiate the demands placed upon him he had to be kept as natural as possible, a condition that insured a maximum of endurance.

The original breeders of Walking Horses were unhurried individuals. For the most part they were farmers who set the tempo of their individual activities. When they established the counties of Middle Tennessee they made sure the farmer who lived the greatest distance from the county seat could ride his horse leisurely from his home to town and back the same day. His horse was one of the farmer's most prized possessions and he had no intention of deliberately doing anything that would damage it. Such an attitude dominated the thoughts and actions of the first men who trained Walking Horses.

The stories of HUNTER'S ALLEN and MERRY LEGS vividly illustrate the approach taken by trainers during the first two decades of the present century. MERRY LEGS was not broken to the bridle when she started the trip to her first show. In a matter of two or three days she was trained well enough to win first in the two year old class. HUNTER'S ALLEN was ridden dozens of miles during the day on his way to win a blue ribbon that night. Such horses not only developed endurance but exhibited an extraordinary longevity as showhorses. HAYNES PEACOCK was never trained for show purposes until he was twelve years of age, and then he responded by winning the World Grand Championship on two occasions. HUNTER'S ALLEN won the Tennessee State Fair when he was sixteen. It

must be emphasized that these horses were doing a natural gait, and no great strain was placed on their feet or legs. Throughout the first thirty years of horse shows in which Walking Horses competed, the sweepstakes class was the last class of the night, and to be eligible a horse had to have qualified in a preliminary class. To enter competition twice the same night the entry had to be going as natural as possible.

As late as 1946 an article in the TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE magazine stated, "MIDNIGHT SUN, the Champion Tennessee Walking Horse of the World, exemplifies the vital importance of a well shod Tennessee Walking Horse. His front shoes are on a fifty degree angle, with the length of each toe three and one-quarter inches. He wears No. 4 keg shoes, fore and rear, with light caulks front and rear... The Tennessee Walking Horse, if properly bred, inherits the fast running walk. This gait is never man made by trainer or blacksmith, regardless of their prowess... Generally front and rear shoes should be even in weight. It is estimated that ninety percent of the breed is shod with factory-made keg shoes."

It seems safe to assume that the show horses of the 30's and 40's were ridden much more during training than their recent descendants. The colt was usually started in a slow flat walk, and only after miles of such riding was he pushed into a running walk. Actually, the running walk was a speeded up flat walk. (There would come a day when the flat walk was a slowed-down running walk.) Two year olds were taught to canter after the first two gaits had been well established. Gradual sloping hills were utilized in teaching the canter since such terrain seemed to bring out the cantering instinct naturally. Light grass or high weeds were also utilized in teaching the canter. Regardless of what gait was being developed, the emphasis remained on developing what the colt had bred into him. The idea was to develop from within, not to impose from without. In an article of those times it was stated, "There is only one way to ride a Tennessee Walking Horse: Just mount him and relax... Ride with a medium loose rein."

Warning against, of all things, overwork, one authority writes, "During his regular training period, teach him how to have speed when necessary; but do not let him go fast or 'push', especially if you intend to show him. When he seems too playful - after he has been thoroughly broken - put him on the road for 10 to 12 miles, and use him enough to keep the enthusiasm subsided." The question naturally arises as to the lick such Walking Horses were actually hitting. Unfortunately, there are almost no pictures of the earliest horses in action, but from the late thirties on

such pictures are available. From comments of men who were familiar with the first show horses, and the few pictures available, some generalizations seem justified. Early Walking Horses were not show horses in the modern meaning of the word. They did not carry a high head since they were usually ridden with a loose rein, and the bit was not an instrument used in manipulating gaits. Since the emphasis was on ease, it is also safe to assume that the speed of such horses was relatively slow. In the 1941 BLUE RIBBON it is estimated the speed of the running walk was "from six to eight" miles per hour and the overstride of the running walk "from a few to as much as eighteen inches."

Those early horses certainly did not possess the high-breaking action in their front legs that developed later. The gaits exhibited by such horses in the show ring varied only slightly from those exhibited by the same horse as it strolled leisurely across the pasture. The modern-day Walking Horse enthusiast must remind himself that these were the days before trotting balls and other mechanical devices were employed to produce a high rolling action in front. *(To be continued in the June WHN.)*

Excerpted from The Echo of Hoofbeats,
2nd Ed. 1984. Pages 228 - 230

TENNESSEE TREASURE

June 1983 - Jan. 2007



Tennessee Treasure was sired by Uphill Golden Laddy out of Revery's Frosty (by Shadow's Brantley). Bred by Ben & Darlene Herback of Berwyn, AB, she was sold to Les & Judy Young of Fort McMurray as a yearling. She became a valued broodmare at their farm at Lac La Biche, AB. I traced 13 registered foals from her. In 2002 she was sold to Sheldon Schroeder of Watson, SK, who then sold her to N.J. Gale Allan of Stoughton, SK in 2003. Tennessee Treasure came to Uphill Farm at Edson, AB (the birthplace of her sire), in March of 2006 with her last filly, A & B's Treasure's Gold. Everyone I talked to who'd owned or handled her spoke well of her.

by Marjorie Lacy Photo by Jo-Anne McDonald

TWHBEA MEMOS

TWHBEA DNA CONVERSION FEES

The **2007** conversion fee will be **\$25** for *anyone*, TWHBEA members and non-members alike where the blood sample was sent to the U.S. There is a form to fill out for this on www.twhbea.com or you can request it by phone and pay by credit card.

The following are proposed fees for 2008 & 2009 at this time, but they may be subject to change:

The **2008** conversion fee = \$35.

The **2009** conversion fee = \$50.

2006 foals registered and parentage verified by blood typing with TWHBEA in 2006 can have their records converted to DNA at no charge. You must send in the names of these youngsters, however, and request that it be done free of charge.

Phone TWHBEA at **1-800-359-1574**. Their mailing address is Box 286, Lewisburg, TN 37091-0286 USA.

Important information on DNA conversion for TWHBEA registered horses owned by Canadians!

On the question of **horses that were DNAd or blood typed in Canada at Maxxam Analytics, Inc.**, here is the information I've gathered with the help of Elsie Darrah & Kathy Zeis of the TWHBEA Breeders Sub-Committee on DNA, Sharon Brandon at TWHBEA, Sharon Zamin of Maxxam, and Ron Black & Mavis MacDonald at CLRC:

1. TWHBEA reg'd horses, owned by Canadians and already parentage verified by blood typing, that are *already* DNA'd in Canada, are acceptable to TWHBEA. You simply forward a copy of the DNA results on the lab or CLRC letterhead to TWHBEA along with a copy of the horse's TWHBEA registration papers, and it will be recorded. No additional charges by TWHBEA.

2. TWHBEA reg'd horses that were blood typed in Canada can be DNA profiled by Maxxam from the blood sample they have stored and the results sent to TWHBEA on CLRC letterhead along with a copy of the horse's TWHBEA registration papers. No additional charges by TWHBEA.

Regarding getting the DNA profile done from the stored blood samples, all those sent to Maxxam in Canada after May of 1996 (Case # 0115000 & higher) are available. Samples that were blood typed before that date were not retained by Maxxam. The available samples can have DNA profiles done. Send a letter requesting this to CLRC with the horse's name & registration number plus a cheque for \$57.00 total made out to CLRC. They send the request to Maxxam electronically and Maxxam will do the DNA profile from the stored blood sample. CLRC will get the results back electronically and send a DNA certificate to the owner. CLRC is at 2417 Holly Lane, Ottawa, ON K1V 0M7. Phone **613-731-7110**

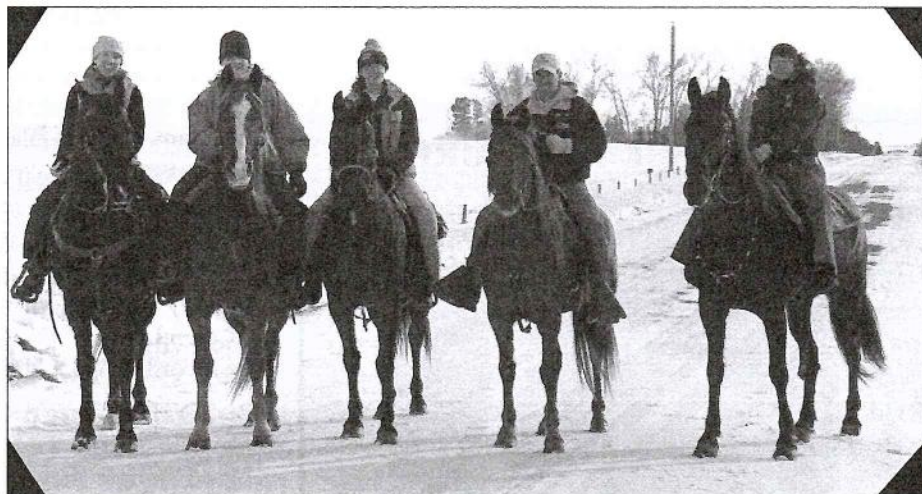
MCL.

What do YOU do with your Walkers - In Winter?



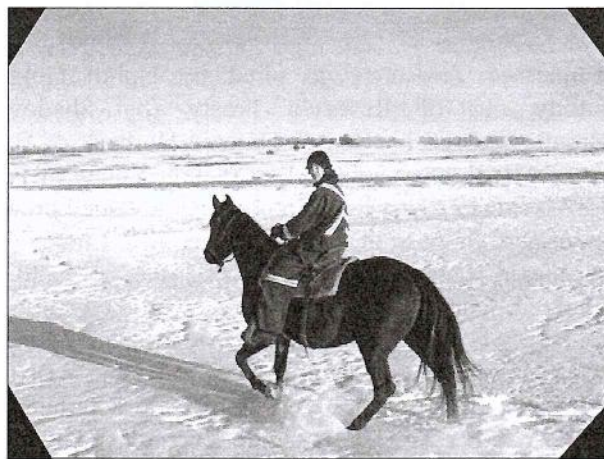
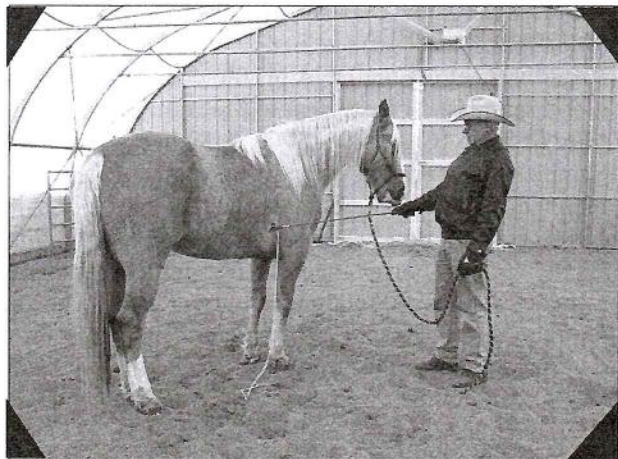
Above:
Brenda Baker says, "Here is a picture of the kind of winter riding that is safest in the Calgary area if you hate riding indoors like I do but don't like the footing outside! The horse I am 'riding' is Lil Snappy."

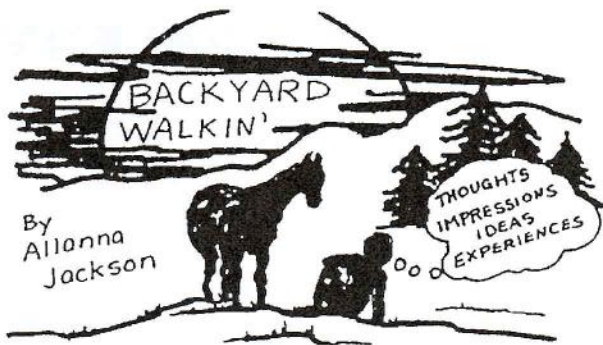
Right: From Karla Freeman, "The 5 February Amigos, out riding on Family Day (even though it's 4 different families). From left are Sharon on Summer Shadow, Alexandra on Kadet, her friend Christine on Sweet Silver Sioux, Don Nelson on Red Rebel, & Karla on Special Knight."



Below, left: Ernie Wall took advantage of the bright 'greenhouse fabric' covered building to ground school Jack (Shelen Golden Elusion) despite the January chill.

Below, right: Patrick Freeman is dressed for the cold as he rides Sioux through the snowy wastes.





EDUCATING TRAIL HORSES

by Allanna Jackson copyright January 2007

Good trail horses are not lucky accidents like weeds in a pasture. A safe, reliable, trail horse is a combination of **breeding** horses that work well on the trail and good **training** specifically for trail purposes. When a good trail mare produces a foal sired by a proven trail stallion it takes 5 to 6 years of kindly care and good training to turn that foal into the reliable trail horse that most people want.

Where to begin?

Gentling the foal can begin the day it is born. Imprint training within the first hour is one option but don't worry if the foal is several hours old before you see it. There are several other horse friendly methods for gentling foals that are just as effective. Research has determined that the frequency, quality and consistency of the handling a foal receives is more important than when it begins.

The gentling process includes teaching the foal to accept having all parts of its body handled, including hoof handling and grooming. Teaching to foal to allow itself to be caught and wear a halter can be done within the first week of life. This easily progresses into basic lessons about leading and yielding to pressure. All of these lessons should be done in proximity to the mare.

Separating a mare from her suckling foal will traumatize both of them, making it impossible for the foal to learn and endangering everyone involved. If the mare stands tied well she can be tied, or distract her with some hay, but do not try to separate the mare and foal. If you've got a helper to handle the mare that's better yet.

Letting the foal follow the mare when it is learning to lead is a good beginning for both, but requires two people. When you are working alone a foal can be led beside the mare and will feel most secure when it is between the mare and the handler. Suckling foals can be taken on short walks with the mare. As the foal approaches weaning it can learn to be ponied from its mother, assuming she is trained well enough to do it safely.

A suckling foal needs to learn to lead from either side, plus stop and stand quietly. The suckling can be introduced to turning on the forehand, turning in the hindquarters, backing up in a straight line and even sidepassing in both directions.

You'll want to be sure the foal thoroughly understands how to relieve pressure on the halter by yielding before you try to teach the foal to stand tied. Lessons in tying should probably wait until the foal is at least 6 weeks old. At first the foal should be tied next to the mare for only 5 minutes or so at a time and never left unsupervised. When the foal has learned to enjoy grooming, tying it next to the mare while you groom it gives the foal a positive introduction to standing tied, especially if you turn it loose before it becomes bored and antsy. You might get only one side of the foal groomed the first few times, but that's okay. The purpose is to give the foal positive experiences with tying and grooming, not create a show ring perfect coiffure.

If the mare is a good trail horse she can pony the foal for short trips around a safe, familiar area. A suckling foal can be introduced to loading and riding in a trailer with its mother, IF she loads and trailers well. If the mare does not load and trailer perfectly, trailer lessons may be postponed until the foal is a weanling or yearling – unless you're in danger of having to evacuate.

Foals can be introduced to saddle blankets, log walkover, tarps and other objects within the security of the home corral, always being sure that everything is safe and harmless to the foal. Desensitizing must be done carefully to avoid upsetting the mare or scaring and injuring the foal. Logs and other totally safe obstacles may be left in the corral or pasture where the foal can explore them on its own. Just be sure that everything left in the corral really is totally safe for the foal.

Foals learn how to be horses first from their mother so there's no need to wean foals before 6 months of age unless the mare's health requires it. Some mares and foals begin self-weaning when the foal is between 6 and 7 months old. Don't worry about the natural decline in quality of the mare's milk after 3 months. If you provide mare and foal with good quality feed the foal will attain its full genetic growth potential while staying sound and healthy. Recent research indicates that early weaning and feeding to push the foal's growth can cause abnormal bone development that may permanently cripple the horse.

Training for a weanling consists of practicing and refining the gentling and halter training process. Weanlings can begin going for walks with the handler, like walking a dog. When done carefully this can provide a safe introduction to trails and working alone.

A weanling can be introduced to loading in a trailer if it has not already been trained to load.

All of this work continues with the yearling. Yearlings can practice standing tied, not just for grooming but for short periods of time before or afterwards. The yearling can be left to stand tied while you do something else while still keeping one eye on the youngster. Yearlings should always be supervised. As the yearling learns patience about tying it can be introduced to a high line or picket line set up in the security of the home area. Yearlings can be introduced to hobbles. You are teaching the young horse to accept restraint. This is contrary to the horse's instincts so you must always be extremely careful to keep the lessons safe and positive for both horse and trainer. This means keeping each lesson short. You will accomplish more, faster, with several 10 minute lessons per week than you will with one marathon session on the weekend.

Yearlings can learn more about obstacles, including doing simple trail courses in-hand. They can also be taught to stand up, park and pose. Teaching the horse to let you dictate precise hoof placement is a useful discipline even if the horse never gets within 50 miles of a show ring.

Careful desensitizing should continue. A yearling can be ponied out on short trail rides, or take the yearling along on your hike. Yearlings can be introduced to wearing a saddle and bridle but should not be ridden. The yearling should be taught to load and trailer if it has not learned this already or practice trailering skills if it has.

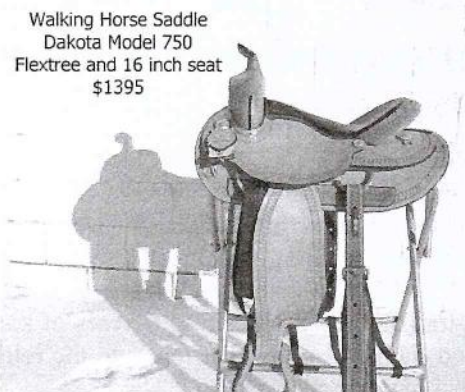
At around 18 months of age, when the juvenile horse is consistently obedient about all of this halter work, it can be introduced to the round pen or lunge line. For Walking Horses halter work is more or less limited to the walking speed the handler can maintain, which is generally a plod walk for the horse. You can jog or run when leading a Walking horse, but this tends to encourage the horse to trot or pace because the horse wants to imitate your movement.

Working in a round pen or lunge line allows the trainer to develop control and obedience at the faster gaits. Work in the round pen or on the lunge line should be limited to 20 or 30 minutes only 3 times a week to protect the horse's legs. The juvenile horse should be worked equally in both directions, mostly at a walk with only a few minutes of trot, gait or canter in each direction. The juvenile horse may need bell boots and/or splint boots when lunging to protect it from its own missteps. Boots are for protection only! Boots or shoes should never be used to change a trail horse's movement.

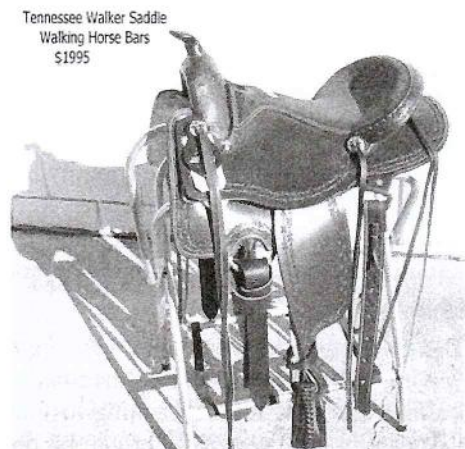
EDUCATING TRAIL HORSES will continue next month.

GRAND SADDLERY

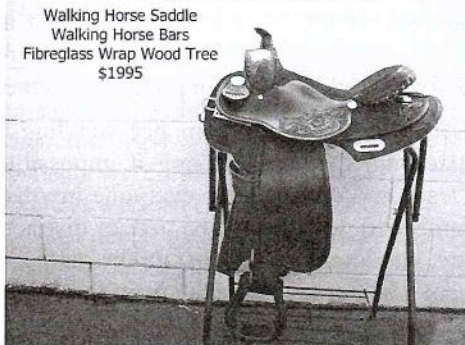
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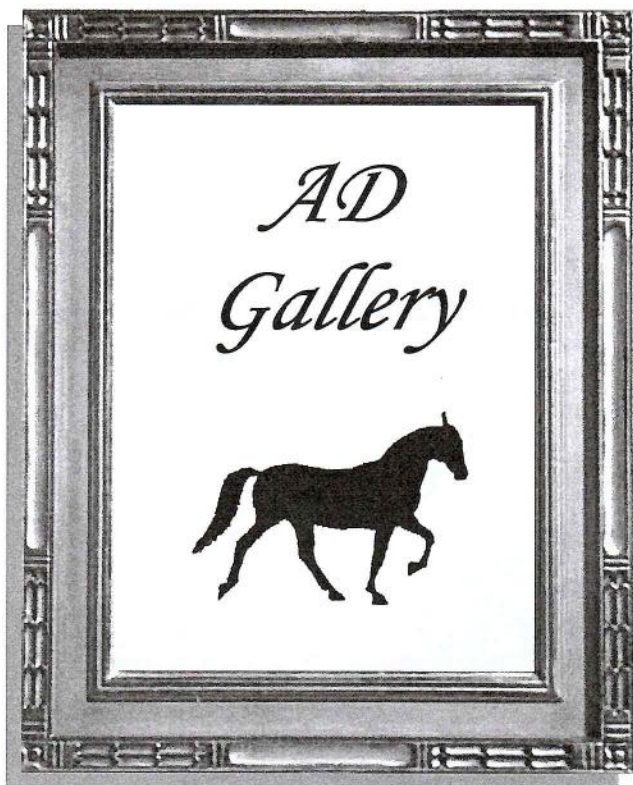
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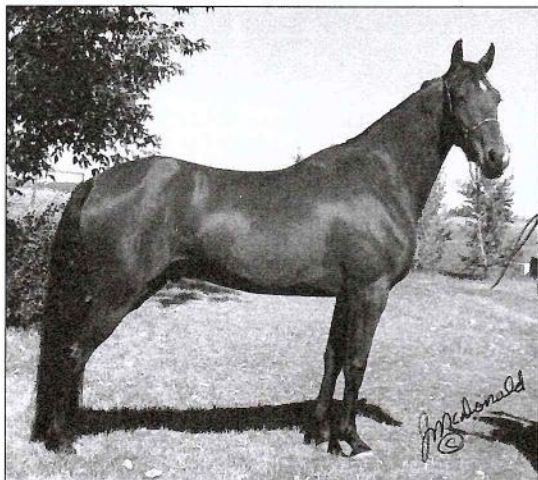
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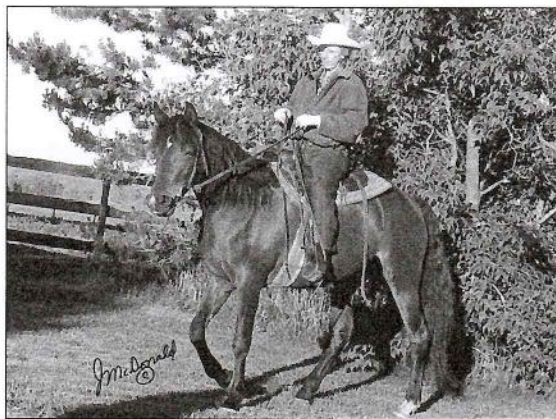
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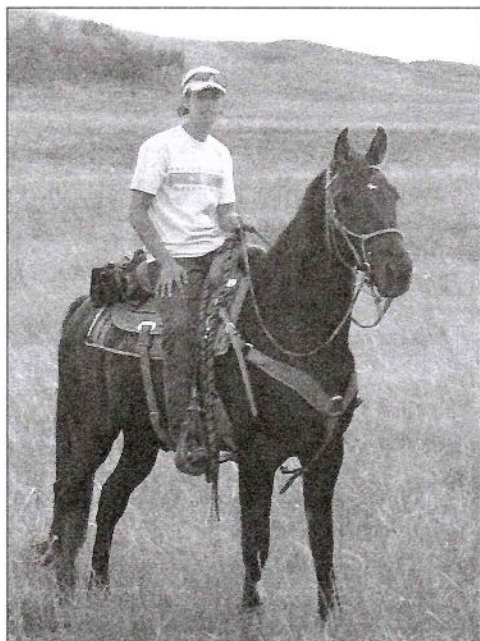
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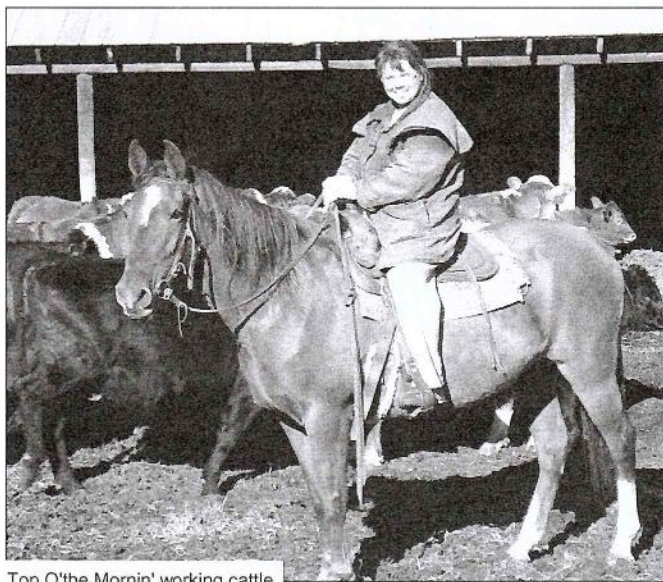
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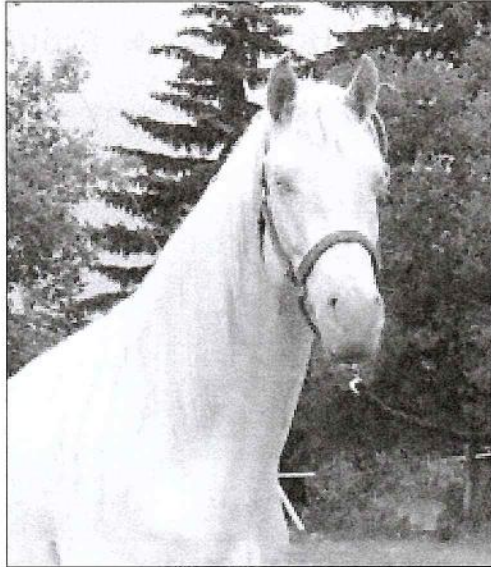
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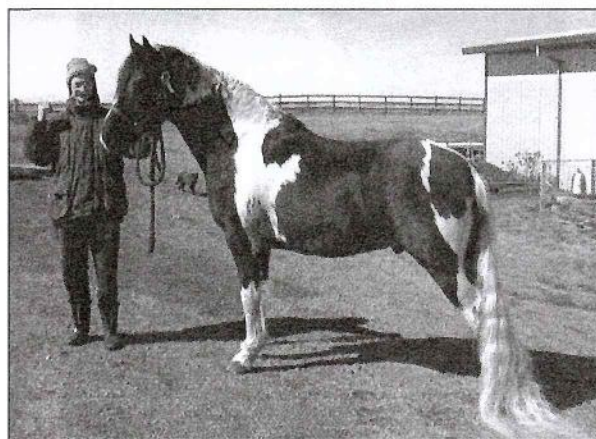
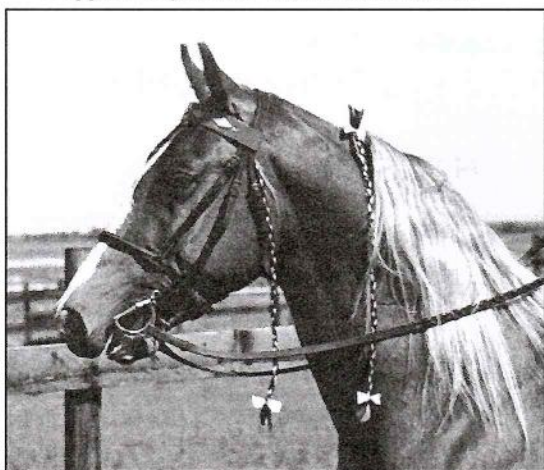
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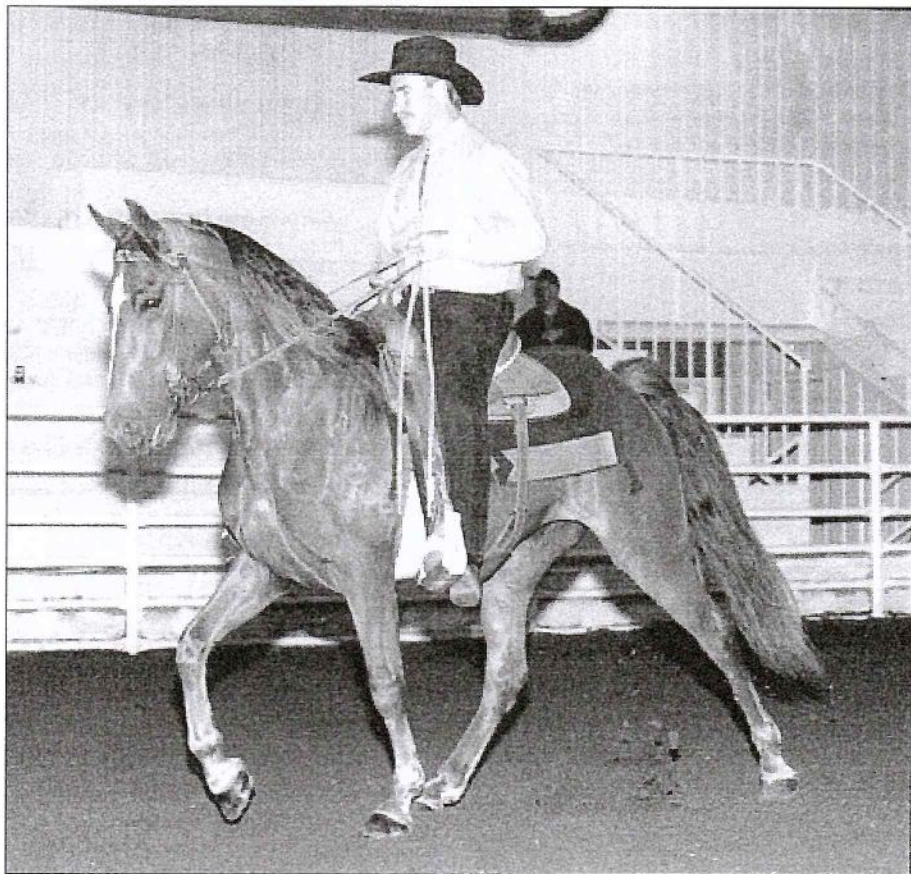
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15 Yrs - Chestnut- 14:2 HH - Very Well Broke
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TOPPER'S STAR - 851
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- CAN 1290**
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TWO YEAR OLDS Quiet, Broke to lead and trim

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GEN'S SHADOW GIRL - US 20509174
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GEN'S MORNING MIST - 2005-3146
(Gen's Terminator x Topper's Star)
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GEN'S PRIDE AND JOY - 2005-3147
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Lorrie Black at (780) 929-2151 E-mail walkers1@airsurfer.ca

UPCOMING EVENTS

CRTWH AGM - Saturday, April 28 at the Holiday Inn in Red Deer, AB. Special guest speaker Franne Brandon, Petersburg, TN. Contact Marjorie Lacy 780-723-2547, president@crtwh.ca

THE MANE EVENT - April 27 to 29, 2007 Equine Education & Trade Fair. Westerner Park, Red Deer, See www.maneeventexpo.com. (250) 578-7518.

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

INTERIOR GAITED HORSE SHOW - June 16-17/07 in the Agriplex, Armstrong Fairgrounds. Judge Dianne Little. Entry deadline is June 4th. Post entries will be accepted. For entry forms email Cathie Taggart at ctaggart@capri.ca or 250-546 3704.

KNEEHILL CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW! June 23 - 24, 2007 at the Olds College Arena. Contact show secretary Wanda Malsbury for a prize list: Malsbury@telus.net (403) 546-4320

B.L.E.S.S. CLINICS - Two clinics with Nancy & Bucky Sparks will be held in early July, one in St. Paul, one in Calgary area. Be sure of a spot - 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

DEADLINE

for the **NEXT ISSUE**

May 7, 2007

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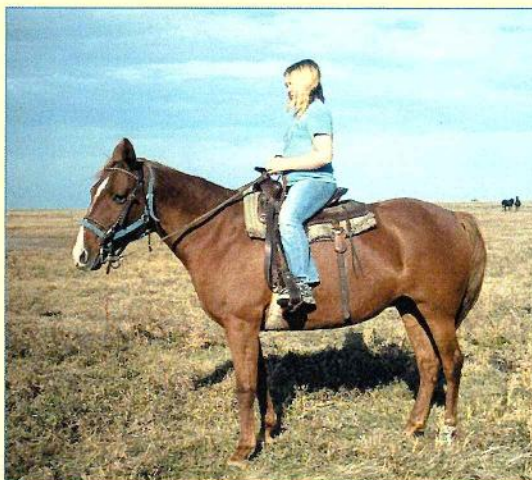
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