

DECEMBER 2007  
VOLUME XXXI No. 6



# Walking Horse

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# NEWS



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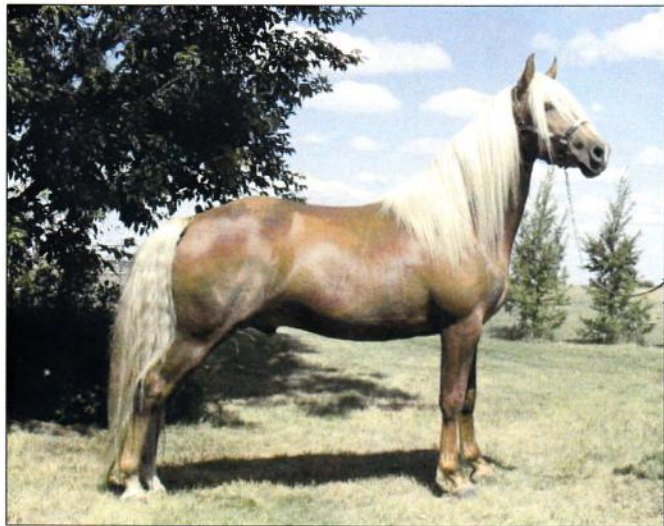


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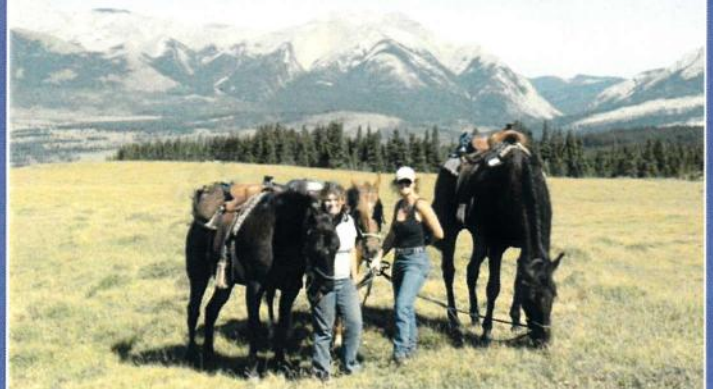
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## On Our Cover

It was a warm sunny day  
in February  
for the wedding  
in Arizona  
of an Alberta couple  
who rode their  
Tennessee Walkers  
to the altar.  
See Nicole Harris's  
story on pages 3 & 4.

*Photo courtesy AZ Photos*

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Volume XXXI, # 6 November/December, 2007

Dear Subscribers,

Greetings of the Season to you all! I'd like to thank all our subscribers who keep the magazine going, because without you there'd be no reason to carry on - *and* your subscription fees almost cover the printing and mailing bills. Thank you as well to all those who advertise in *WHN* because your advertising covers the rest of the costs. Thanks to those who advertise on the covers because that pays for our colour covers. Magazines are in a real struggle for survival now, with internet advertising becoming the norm. So I appreciate each and every one of you, and thank you again for your support. Now... if each of you could find *another* subscriber to *WHN*...

Speaking of advertising, a special 'thank-you' to those who have continued their cover ads. Subscribers, I hope you will all remember to check with these folks (and *all* our *WHN* advertisers) when looking for your next *TWH*. It's been a lean year for many in the horse sales department, but that is the nature of horse breeding and selling. You have to keep your chin up and think 'Next year will be better'! We have such a lovely docile and gentle breed of horses, with the added bonus of smooth gaits, that in time people will realize it and appreciate them. Keep your name out there in front of people.

The gaited breeds *are* growing in popularity. In fact, one of the presentations at the Horse Breeders & Owners Conference in Red Deer, Alberta this year is on that very topic. See the ad on page 6 and plan to attend. It is always worthwhile.

Thank you too to all those who sent photos, and wrote with opinions, comments, stories and news. There is a great variety which makes for an interesting issue. So I'd better let you get to all the 'good stuff'.

*Merry Christmas and  
A Happy New Year!*

*Marjorie*





# Walking Horse News

December, 2007

**“DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN-SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE IN CANADA”**

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*Your advertising supports Walking Horse News. Thank you!*



# HISTORY & HERITAGE PROJECT

“CANADIAN TIMES OF THE TWH”

## An Arizona Wedding on Tennessee Walkers by Nicole Harris

It's just over thirteen years since I purchased my first Walking Horse - and who would have thought that at the young age of forty I would be riding my horse to the altar in Phoenix, Arizona and getting married!

Here is my story of how I ended up with a man who knew nothing about horses before I married him, and our two Walking Horses, Little Guy and Nixon.

In the spring of 2003 I lost my first Walking Horse, a mare named Sky (Dee J's Lady Delight - 1988 CAN 193) tragically to a barbed wire fence. I was devastated. To help cheer me up, my future husband, Fred, took me on a surprise long weekend to Tucson, Arizona. It was amazing to go riding in the desert at the base of the Catalina Mountain Range.

After experiencing the desert, the blooming cacti flowers, the heat and the openness we both felt that Arizona might be a good place to find a second home/retreat. After much searching, in early 2004 we purchased 4½ acres on the east side of Phoenix in a place called Gold Canyon. We selected this location because the neighborhood of Gold Canyon is surrounded on three sides by either State or Federal National Park lands and offers numerous recreational opportunities such as biking, quadding, hiking, and yes, horse back riding.

After getting title to the property I asked Fred, “Wouldn't it be nice to bring ‘the boys’ up from Calgary so they would not have to spend the winter in the cold and snow... and we could go riding all year long?” At the time, Fred, who knew very little about horses (from his perspective, all they did was eat and - - -), said, “Okay, we can try it”.

Now that I realized that I could settle down with Fred (as he fully accepted my horses) I thought he needed to broaden his outlook on the equine species. However, knowing enough about relationships and wanting to keep the one I was developing, I elected not to be the person to teach him. Instead I immediately introduced Fred to Rick Hemmett of Hemmett Stables to give him riding lessons and teach him the basics such as how to properly tack the horse. After the first few lessons I

recall Rick stating, as Fred was going around in the round pen without stirrups, “Fred, you are a natural!” That comment was all Fred needed to get hooked on riding. Some weekends I think he enjoys getting out camping and riding more than I do!

So this is how it started. In the summer we camp and ride throughout Alberta and in October we load up Little Guy and Nixon and drive four days south so the horses can spend the winter in the desert. To make things interesting we try not to take the same highway twice. We stay off the major freeways, electing to take the smaller roadways and see the countryside, stopping along the way to camp and ride when we feel like it. When it starts to get really hot, sometime in late April we fly back to Phoenix and make the drive home with the horses.



*A stop along the way on a mountain side in Death Valley, California.*

On February 17, 2007 Fred and I were married on the Gold Canyon property. Little Guy and Nixon took us to the altar. It was a beautiful day with our transportation co-operating as well as the weather. The day was magical.

I have to thank Laurie Innocent of Laurindale Stables who generously lent me her sidesaddle for the winter. Without her I could not have realized my dream to include the horses on my special day.

By looking at the picture on the front cover most of you can tell that “Little Guy” is a Coin's

Double Play decedent. His registered name is Shadow's Double Play (1997 CDN 2092). His mother, Cruise's Sunday Blessing (1990 CAN 2389) came from Tennessee and is a gentle, kind mare. She now lives with Dr. Anne Dick in Chilliwack, BC.

What I enjoy most about our horses is the amount of distance we can travel in a day. Because of their gait we can cover a lot more ground... *in comfort*. Typically our weekend camping trips start with a leisurely breakfast with us leaving the campsite after 10:00 am. We do the trail and are back for cocktails, well before the Quarter Horses who left early in the morning.

What I also find interesting is the naivety of people about the Tennessee Walking breed. When traveling with the horses throughout the United States and even in our own parks, we find most people don't realize that Walking Horses can get so big. By this I mean *tall*. Little Guy, at over 17 hands, and Nixon at a good 16.2 hands, are both solidly built and when they come out of the trailer or when we are stabled at one of the park camping stalls people are amazed that they are registered Walkers. We are known at the campsites as the people with the "big" horses.

Nixon (Nixon's T-Bone Delight – 2001 CDN 4045) is out of Dee J's Lady Delight, my mare that died, by Tramp's T-Bone Walker. Thanks to the help of Randy Widmer of Big Rock Walker Ranch a couple years ago, Nixon has mastered the running walk and can easily keep up with his "big" buddy. Like his mother he has a beautiful rocking chair canter.

The horses have adapted well to living in the desert. They live with a mule named Virginia and a beautiful Paint mare named Poppy. When it gets too hot they have fans and misters to keep them cool. Otherwise the prickly cacti do not bother them anymore because they have learnt not to stick their muzzles in it!



*Fred checking out the sights with Nixon at Ya-Ha Tinda Ranch just west of Sundre, Alberta.*



## THE GIFT LABS

The dog in the picture is named Meg. There is an interesting story of how we came by her.

I had a wonderful, sweet & gentle Sheltie called Spencer. He'd lost his leg as a puppy and went around on 3. He ran everywhere and you could not even tell he had only 3 legs. Mostly, he just lived for the horses. He watched over them all day long. We lost Spencer this year and my dad took it really hard. He buried Spencer next to the riding arena so he could continue to watch over the horses. My dad even changed the "F" dressage letter to an "S" for Spencer's Corner, so no one would forget him when we ride. We were all heartbroken.

Then Dad saw an ad in the paper for a Lab that needed to be adopted. The people brought the dog out but they had another "old timer" Lab with them. The husband and wife had to give the dogs away because the wife had cancer and they needed to move to Toronto. A lot of people had called about Meg, but they wanted her to go to a farm where she would be happy. They were so upset about having to give the dogs up, and no one wanted to take the 'old timer' who was covered with gray hair and lumps and bumps.

So, to make a long story short, my dad said to leave both dogs here at Pringle Farm and they could live out their lives with us on 300 acres. So now the two adopted "city" Labs who are basically "Farm Stupid" live with us and we lovingly call them 'THE END OF THE LINE GANG'. Neither dog is what I would call the sharpest knife in the drawer but they are loveable and low maintenance.

*by Kim Pringle, with Santa, Meg, Elf, & MJ*

# HISTORY & HERITAGE PROJECT

“CANADIAN TIMES OF THE TWH”

## A NEW START WITH WALKERS by Elaine Lipka, Eckville, AB

I very much enjoy reading about other people's adventures with horses and the excitement of new owners. Unfortunately, there are also a few whose partners wonder *why* they keep horses, so they sell the horses and put that life behind them. Others (like me!) keep the horses. We feed and water them, vaccinate them, trim their feet, spray and wipe them for insects, fix fences, and look at them, keeping the eternal hope that somehow, some day, we will again go out to poker rallies and other rides, and have friends over to go riding.

This year, we had a whole summer's supply of rain by July, now 26" and counting. It just wouldn't stop. It did dry up a bit for three weeks allowing for some haying, but generally there was no place to ride and the ground wasn't fit to work horses.

We are involved with our three darling granddaughters, summer visitors, square dancing and calling, along with the unstructured farm lifestyle that we live. We did have an unplanned mini-holiday in the Panther area – but no, not with the horses! It was when our son's truck broke down and Mom & Dad went to the rescue!

I have also been wanting a chance to raise and handle another baby so when I saw that people that I know and trust, Neil and Joan Adams, were selling broodmares, I phoned them. I soon became the proud and happy owner of 23-year-old 'Shaker' (Chapie's Shadow Girl #1290) and her new filly by Gen's Terminator. Shaker is a half-sister to my 21 year old unregistered mare, Lady (Babe) also a Chapman horse by King's Stormy Mist. That was one of the reasons I was so excited about having them. The other reason was that Shaker and GT and the whole herd at Adams' place are so friendly and sweet natured, as are Neil and Joan. They treat you like a friend, not just a client. We wish them well in the sale of their other horses.

The prospect of choosing a registered name for the filly is overwhelming for me. I wanted to give her a color-based name, but she keeps changing, from the 'sunny' color she had at birth to an undetermined shade of chestnut. At present (in desperation) we are calling her Suzy Q. – and it just might stick!



*Neil & Joan Adams say 'Farewell' to good old Shaker (Chapie's Shadow Girl) and her three week old filly by Gen's Terminator.*

I didn't bring her home until she was three weeks old. Until she was six and half weeks old she was untouchable, and that *wasn't* how I'd planned the program! I finally told Rudolph, "Come on, this is THE day. You have to help me show her that we can brush mosquitoes off her, rub her, and make her feel good." So we went out to the yard and put Shaker in the stock trailer. The dog got in the middle of all this and Suzy went crazy looking for Mommy. She ran around the trailer and the yard, took out the electric fence and got in with the other horses. I took Shaker back out of the trailer and Suzy finally came back to her. She loaded like a pro once she figured out where Mom went!

So, with someone else in the trailer to block her escape around Mom, I was able to scratch and rub her, touch her everywhere, and lift all four feet – no kicking or resistance. After a couple more aloof days, she decided people were okay, and we are fast friends now.

That training came just in time for the horrific hail and lightning storm we had on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Luckily I came home from church that afternoon just in time to quickly halter Shaker and take them into the horse shed. (We have no barn here.)

I held them there for twenty minutes so they wouldn't get pounded. The noise was unbearable and the hailstones that came at our legs really hurt! I don't want to repeat that experience! Shaker was very worried but she is manageable. After that we immediately moved the fence back into the trees so they can take shelter if there's a bad hailstorm again.

A trip to the vet/dentist for Mom and six-year-old cousin Gem set the stage for her first halter training. Again this was in the stock trailer, this time at Red Deer. We didn't need Suzy tearing around the parking lot or the vet's working area! She doesn't really volunteer to lead, but she doesn't mind the halter and she yields to it, so we'll work it out together.

Since I originally wrote this we have given the horses West Nile shots and she blames the halter. Oh well, I must spend some more time with her. My plans for Suzy Q. are the same as for the weanling I acquired when our sons were small. She was trained to saddle and a small rider as I led her around the yard. Our granddaughters will be four years, two years and one year old next year. I was able to pick up two child's saddles, which we'll try on very soon, so we are set for more adventures next year.



*Above: Elaine Lipka at home in the wet summer of 2007 with 23 year old Chapie's Shadow Girl and her now eight week old filly.*

By that time I hope Shaker will change her career from broodmare back to riding horse as well. And just maybe, Jolene, the daughter-in-law who won ribbons and trophies in 4-H, will impart some of her knowledge to the daughters, sister-in-law, niece and Grandma - so we can have a new riding group for years to come.

**26<sup>th</sup> Annual**

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# NEWS - NEWS - NEWS

## ALBERTA NEWS



BRENDA BAKER, TRIANGLE B TENNESSEE WALKERS, CALGARY, emailed, "Here is a picture of Dave Baker on Holy Smokes, our champagne mare, after a wonderful afternoon this fall at Sandy McNabb, west of Turner Valley, AB. If you look closely you can see that we had to do a little mud-flinging along the trail! A quick ride through the river will get the mud off the horse and it's all fun - until we have to go home and clean our tack. Harold & Lil Stewart keep their Tennessee Walkers with us and come for a ride out in "the hills" when our collective schedules permit."

STAN POTTER, ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE, "That was a great article by Allanna Jackson in the previous issue! (page 18, Oct. '07) One of the most difficult things for someone looking to get their first Walking Horse is to buy a horse that actually does a running walk. You wouldn't think that should be hard to do when the breed calls itself a Walking Horse. When I started looking around four years ago it was next to impossible at first. Several of the breeders I saw initially either didn't have a horse that did a running walk or only had one in their whole herd. That wasn't all that bad because I did get to

experience what a horse that paces feels like and also what it looks like from the ground, and I learned what to watch out for."

"It took a long time for me to know what a running walk gait looks like from the ground and even longer to know it when in the saddle. Once I thought I understood it well enough I bought my first one. He has a good running walk. A few years later I tried buying some mares and now with foals on the ground I only have horses that do a running walk and they also have a wonderful temperament. It's a delight when they come in from the pasture and pick up the speed into a running walk. Then you get to see them all in that gait except the foals who have to canter to keep up, but they also do the running walk when momma slows down. I don't see any pacing or trotting at all. So if you buy right you won't have to train an otherwise pacey horse to do a running walk. If you've never bought a Walking Horse I suggest you take the time to educate yourself first about the running walk. It will be well worth it. There's no better feeling than riding a Walking Horse that actually does a running walk!"

ARIANNE BAKER, MEDICINE HAT, writes, "I have been on the sidelines for quite a while, but this year I decided to get everything caught up and be 'up and running' next year. Physically, I have to take the training slowly and find new ways to accomplish the same results, but the girls and I are both learning."

From CINDY TROTTIER, HYTHE, "Ahhh! We have snow this morning. It's only a skiff at my house, but ten miles from here they got about four inches."

"I worked at the horse sale last Saturday and ended up buying a Canadian mare, heavy in foal, out of the meat pen. She is broke to drive and ride, but the people who had her didn't know she'd got bred, and they have no barn. I have a nice barn she can foal in, and I'll take her and her foal back to the sale in the spring. She's 'way too nice to end up where she was headed."



KARLA FREEMAN, RIDE EASY RANCH, BENTLEY, writes, "Hope everyone enjoyed the beautiful fall with their equine friends. For the Thanksgiving weekend we went to the Ya Ha Tinda, and rode around a couple of places, showed Eagle Lake to Alexa, and then went up to the Big Horn Falls. It was so nice I wanted to stay! I love this extended fall, and of course Alexandra and I have been riding lots for 'THE CANADIAN' RIDE YOUR WALKER PROGRAM. It is hard to believe that snow is already on the way again, and it's weaning time. But I am looking forward to snow, so I can get the sled behind some of these 3-year-olds."

"I was happy to get videos of some of my fillies for the Program For Excellence this year and am eagerly awaiting their new registration papers showing the levels achieved. I was at the CATW meeting in October and took my neighbor, Donna Robak who bought a Walker from me a while ago. It was a nice day, and we had a good meeting, as well as lunch together at Shirley Wesslen's place."

"I have had the opportunity to present the Walkers to a number of potential Walking Horse owners, and I always enjoy showing off this wonderful breed of horses."

"Well, I see the wind is down and there is a Chinook arch, so I'd better get out to the horses! Have a great festive season, and if anyone wants rhythm beads, I will make some for Christmas presents. (Check them out on my web site [www.karlastennesseeewalkers.com](http://www.karlastennesseeewalkers.com).) Happy Trails, Everyone!"



From LESLIE HUNCHUK, CALGARY, "Above is a picture of Glo (Glorious Emblem). We are up on the Volcano Ridge Trail taking a breather after a long steep climb."



MARIANNE WRAY, CAROLINE, emailed, "Up until this time, I've felt too ill to have any desire to ride, but now that I'm feeling better... I have shingles on my butt! Well, as you see in the picture, I patched the rash with a bandage and went for a ride regardless. Luckily, I got on medication so early that the pain isn't as bad as I had expected. It was so exhilarating to be back in the saddle that I didn't even think about it the entire ride! I hope we'll be getting more nice weather so I can get out and do some of the trails out west."

"I'm very pleased with our last filly out of Sadie (Future's GGD X Coulee) by Takin' Care of Business - it's difficult to know which mare to keep. Have three and have decided I only need one. Want to keep the best of the three. Hmmmm. I'm sending Sadie out to be trained just north of Rocky. Kibby is excellent with horses - I really like what I've seen at her stables and she works for a very reasonable price. I'm planning to do more riding. Have put our horse trailer up for sale and want to purchase a lighter one - maybe a tall stock trailer. I don't trailer often - just out west to ride."

"Have to run now - need to get the yard ready for winter. Keep well, and *beware of shingles*"

### *Speaking of Horses*

*There are more than 850,000 horses in Canada. Half of them live in Alberta.*

*It is not clear exactly how many riders there are, but 470,000 people are employed exclusively in the equestrian industry.*

## THE FAMOUS FIXIE

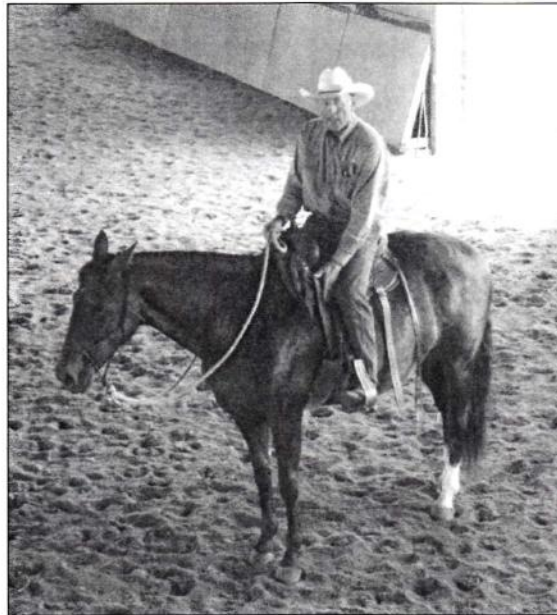
A Luckys Koko Prince granddaughter  
by Sue Gamble

We have been having quite a discussion on Luckys Koko Prince over the past few issues of *WHN* so I thought I would send in a picture of my Luckys Koko Prince granddaughter, Dixie's Chocolate Fix (Dixie's Hot Chocolate x Inver Brass). Fixie is the spitting image of her grandfather! She was bred by Dixie Ball of Blackfalds, Alberta. I bought her from Dixie in 2004 when she was three.

When I received the CD set of the History and Heritage of Tennessee Walking Horses in Canada, I set about looking up Fixie's ancestors and when I opened the picture of Lucky's Koko Prince - there she was! That same facial expression I have seen a hundred times on Fixie! Talk about inheritance.

After reading Allanna Jackson's comments at the end of the write up about Koko Cowboy I emailed Marjorie to see if she had a copy of the June 2001 *WHN*. I was delighted to read the article "The Thirty Years of Luckys Koko Prince" by Allanna Jackson and to see the pictures of Koko! There was Fixie again in Koko's 30<sup>th</sup> birthday portrait! That facial expression is identical! The shape of the body, the head, and the big upper lip is a duplicate of Koko. The light brown nose, the dark bay body is a clone as well. Fixie however has two even white socks on the hind instead of one. Fixie also has a thicker mane and tail than Koko, and a few white hairs in a "snake bite" remnant of a barely visible star.

As for personality - Fixie is a people loving, kind, gentle clown who also has a sassy, pushy, dominant side. She is spirited, but kind, with a good mind and willingness to please. Sensitive and over reactive to pressure, she has more than some life to her if you ask for it, and sometimes when you don't ask for it! She has also been called 'cranky' by a better horseman than I can even dream of becoming! I have also been told I have an 'odd' horse. Fixie can contort her body around to the side to show you, with her nose, exactly where she wants to be scratched on the back flank by her tail, or she can bend her body around and scratch her snake bite star with a back hoof! Talk about flexibility! Every one agrees though, that 'there is not a mean bone in her body'. She is usually cool headed and brave. Quite a character, she has provided more than a few challenges for her middle aged owners.



I discovered her sense of humour the first week she arrived from Alberta. To my horror she pinned my foot by very obviously placing one of her hoofs on my running shoe when I asked her to park out, causing gales of laughter to erupt from those present - apart from myself, that is! Unbelievably, there was not even a scratch or the slightest bruise on my foot, so you tell me she did not know exactly how much pressure she was putting on! That mental picture caused some family members to wake up laughing in the night! She will occasionally give you a raspberry in the face for forgetting the oat bucket or forgetting to bring her a carrot when she expects one. She doesn't untie knots because she is rarely tied up. She had lots of trouble standing still (tied or untied) when she was younger, so we taught her to ground tie, which she finds to her liking, and which she usually accomplishes with ease. Her weakness is being ground tied where she can see an

oat bucket to check out! She always likes to be munching on something.

We love her, and she in turn, is strongly bonded to us. She always comes to the gate and waits for us when she sees our truck arrive at the farm where we keep her. We can call her with a whistle from a quarter of a mile away. Her head pops up, and she will leave the herd and come to us doing any combination of gaits - from a gallop, canter, trot, pace, run walk, or steady flat walk depending on the day, the weather, and her mood. But she always, always comes. It's fun to watch her shifting gears through any

number of gaits and then trying to figure out what exactly she was doing.

We discovered Parelli Natural Horsemanship through Fixie and have been studying PNH diligently for the past three years. Don Halladay (Parelli Professional and Three Star Parelli Instructor) has provided guidance and help in our training. *I've included a picture of Don Halladay on Fixie at a Parelli clinic we attended in Northern Ontario in the summer of 2007. See above.* This is the clinic where Don's wife, Randee, dubbed Fixie "the Famous Fixie".

If all goes according to plan, our Luckys Koko Prince granddaughter will be moving home with us on our small acreage in time for Christmas. The Famous Fixie will be with us every day, and then the sky is the limit of where our journey will take us.

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## ONTARIO NEWS

RACHEL HILL, FORT FRANCES, writes "I got your little stickie on renewing my subscription and thought to myself, "I should send her an update!"

"Things have been great with me and my horses. I got into competitive distance riding a few years ago and just love it. I mainly stick with the Manitoba clubs but have done a few in the U.S. as well. Last year I mostly did the Manitoba Competitive Trail events with my 7-year-old gelding, Dakota's Ransom. We didn't make it to all the rides but we had enough points to take 6th place over all."

"This year I thought I would try the Endurance club and see how that would suit us. As life would have it, we only made it to four rides but took a 1st, a 2nd and a 3rd. On the last race at Spruce Woods he ran the course wonderfully and we were the second team to come into camp, only minutes behind the first little Arab. But he lost a shoe two miles from the finish and got pulled during the trot out. But what a ride he gave me! Spruce Woods is not an easy course and he just powered up those sand dunes with energy to spare. Ransom is quite simply a great horse."

"Committing to fewer competitions this year allowed me more time to work with my young foundation mare NFF My Echo's Foxy Lady. Foxy is just 14 hands, a little butter ball, and as a 3 year old was very laid back. This year I got her out on a lot of trails, with and without her herd-mates, took her camping and rode her to town in heavy traffic. She takes everything in stride and is very smart. This fall she has surprised me with her speed. I had previously written her off as an endurance prospect but this little girl can *move!* She has no problem keeping up with Ransom and that is a feat."

"On one of the endurance rides this spring, I met a veterinarian who did not compete with a Walker but was familiar with working with Walkers in the US. She cautioned me on the fact that Walkers and Standardbreds are the two breeds that have an amazing tolerance to pain. It is easy to miss the severity of their symptoms because they don't always express how much they are hurting. This is especially important for endurance riders to know, but is something for us all to keep in mind."

"Without a doubt the Arabian is king of the sport of Endurance. They are amazing little athletes with incredible stamina. But I could not trade the heart and the willingness of my loyal Walker partners for anything. The Tennessee Walking Horse is and will always be, the horse for me."



From KIM PRINGLE & FAMILY, ARDEN, "Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from Ontario & everyone at PRINGLE FARMS! We wish you a safe and happy New Year. The filly in the photo is Tracker's Molly Joy, "MJ", at one year old. She is by Trackin' On Heir out of Maid of Motown (by Motown Magic). She is my next 'Reining Prospect'."

## SASKATCHEWAN NEWS

I phoned MELVA KING of SASKATOON, and we had an interesting chat. Melva has one small Walker that she rides and a gaited pony that she drives. It isn't a part Walker however. It's a Welsh / Paint cross! She says it tends to pace when it speeds up. We also got onto the subject of the school ponies of several generations ago, and Melva was telling me about a book of stories from that era. She later e-mailed, "Last night I dug up my book, "When The School Horse Was King" by author John C. Charyk, published in 1988 by Western Producer Prairie books. ISBN 0888332718. Hope you can find it."

### SOME INTERESTING WEBSITES

Dr. Deb Bennett's 'Ranger' article  
on a 2 1/2 year old TWH  
[www.equinestudies.org/knowledge\\_base/ranger.html](http://www.equinestudies.org/knowledge_base/ranger.html)

Jessica Jahiel's HORSE-SENSE Newsletter  
[www.horse-sense.org/](http://www.horse-sense.org/)

EUROPE - Natural Walking Horses Forum  
[www.naturalwalkinghorses.eu/forum.](http://www.naturalwalkinghorses.eu/forum.)

## MANITOBA NEWS

DARLENE MOORE, BOISSEVAIN, writes, "I had a great visit with Keith Doll at Douglas. He has an impressive herd of well-gaited, well-built, quiet and good looking registered Tennessee Walking Horses. They come to the fence to greet you with their ears forward and full of anticipation for petting and attention. They are loose-moving, free-gaited beauties!"

"Keith has put a lot of work and planning into his TWH herd over the past thirty years. He is well-versed in the bloodlines and histories of each and every horse. If you are looking for a well-gaited, well-bred, friendly TWH, a visit to Keith's farm would be worthwhile. And don't forget to take your cheque book and horse trailer as you are sure to want to take at least one horse home with you!"

"I have had TWH since 1970. I've been receiving the *Walking Horse News* since 1977. I met Nick and Bonnie Brown, then of Invermay, SK, in September of 1978. I would probably never have met my beloved stallion, Majestic's Streaker, (then owned by the Browns) if it weren't for *WHN!*"

I had a phone call from KEITH DOLL of DOUGLAS recently. He has sold two big black geldings (Black Kat's Smoke 'N' Fire out of Percheron dams) to Ken Dunn of Alonsa, MB. Congratulations! They should make an excellent driving team.



### CANADIAN RAINBOW 1976 - 2007

(Canadian Shadow x A Lady Masterpiece).

We bought Rainbow as a bred 4 year old in 1980 from the Lundgrens in Lethbridge. Some of Rainbow's offspring were Uphill Redwing by Mack's Shadow; Uphill Twilight by He'za Walker; Uphill Jasper by Kary's Jeepers; Uphill Rambler, Uphill Miss Rainbow Two & Uphill Tonquin by Honey Boy's Rebel. She was also my saddle horse for many years and we traveled a lot of mountain trails together. Rainbow died this year at nearly 31 years of age. I miss her. *Marjorie Lacy*

## READERS WRITE

### On Registration

ALLANNA JACKSON, LAKESIDE, AZ :

Ralph Livingston in the last issue of *WHN* just gave us one of the best reasons there is for registering geldings. The registration papers give Ralph and his friends some clues about where to look for more horses like Hank... but it also shows the limitations of *just* the certificates. The registry certificate only told Ralph I was writing about his horse's great-grandpa, but it was my story about Koko's character, not the registration, that tells all of us which line on Hank's certificate is the family that consistently produces horses with the mentality Ralph and his friends enjoy. On the other side of the coin, Hank's registration coupled with the information about his character is an important part of the evidence about the traits that Koko's line produces. (Granted, I don't know of anybody that is looking to breed horses that untie themselves and pull pranks on their owners.) It *is* useful to know that in this particular line the clowning around is usually packaged with an amiable, gentle, tractable, self-confident temperament suitable for novices and children, which is something many people *do* want.

It's definitely easier to register them as foals (except for the problem of accurate color identification) and keep the papers up to date. Too many people think about the \$\$ cost now, not the benefits in the future.

ARIANNE BAKER, MEDICINE HAT, AB:

In the last issue of *WHN* you asked for opinions about registering geldings and registering horses in general. Considering my experiences with TWHBEA and CLRC the past few months, I just had to give my opinion and share experiences.

First let me say that I truly believe a registry is important for any breeding stock. But my experiences over the years are that the majority of my customers only want a Walking Horse and don't want papers, or to pay a 'little extra' on the price of the horse for papers. The only people concerned with papers are breeders or someone committed to showing in Canada. For several years I have paid the registration fees in Tennessee and left it up to the new owners whether they carried through for papers – transfer slips were sent in when the horses were sold.

In the cases of some of my already registered horses that were sold, the new owners wanted no part of either registry. (I still have the papers.) The majority of people who have bought horses for breeding purposes only wanted the U.S. papers.



## MEETING THE COLOR CHALLENGE by Franne Brandon

### A Review of

## ***HORSE COLOR EXPLAINED: A BREEDER'S PERSPECTIVE***

by Jeanette Gower

Trafalgar Square Publishing 1999

In 1994, the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders and Exhibitors Association instituted bloodtyping parentage verification for registration of all foals. In 2000, CRTWH put its DNA parentage verification requirements in place. Since that date, parentages of Tennessee Walking Horses, no matter which registry, have become the most accurate in the breed's history.

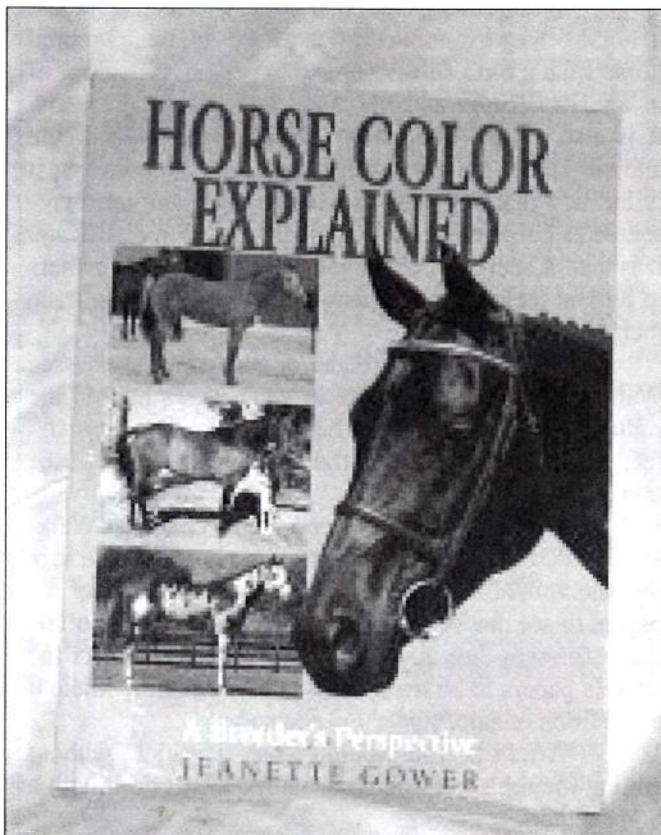
One unfortunate glitch in this process, however, has been repeated year after year by numbers of breeders recording the data for their annual foal crops. In spite of insistence from both TWHBEA and CRTWH that foal owners should take care to be accurate with the colors of said foals, registration papers and IPEDS indicate impossible choices, based on the recorded colors of the parents. One book that could ease the pain in determining what is possible and what is unlikely is also an interesting read for anyone looking for a color manual written in a language that laymen can understand.

**HORSE COLOR EXPLAINED** is as logically organized as any basic article that summarizes the rules of horse color genetics. Following the preface, in which the author writes of her 25 years of research in horse color genetics, and in which she insists "...I can honestly inform you that you don't need to be a genius to acquire the knowledge that I have gained over these years."(p.6), Gower presents a chapter on the basic principles of Mendelian genetics.

From there, she introduces the base colors, starting with chestnut, then black, followed by bay and brown. A "Quick Guide" under each chapter heading presents the basic rules for inheritance of each color. The text that follows includes genetics charts as well as photos. The photographs, "with few exceptions, have been professionally taken ...The horses have been photographed in top coat condition so as to reflect the correctness of color." (p. 4) Part 3 of the book treats the dilute colors, in which she first separates the cream gene into cremello, palomino, and buckskin sections, then proceeds with duns.

Dun coloration being almost non-existent in the walking horse population, this chapter is of less value, although it does finish up with an interesting summary of the variations found in the Norwegian Fjord breed. Also interesting but of lesser value to the walking horse breeder is the chapter on 'taffy', the Australian term for the silver dapple gene. No mention of the champagne gene is included in this section on dilutes, although it is discussed later in the text.

Gower devotes Part 4 of the book to color patterns, which she defines as grey and roan. Part 5 discusses broken colors, which by her definition are the tobiano gene, the sabino gene, the overo gene, and the splash white gene. Part 6, titled "Spotted Horses", actually describes the leopard pattern with its many variations found in the Appaloosa, Colorado Rangerbred, Australian Palouse Pony, Danish Knabstrup, and other colorful breeds. Gower's definitions of grey, roan, and sabino are accompanied by over twenty photos, which should help eliminate confusion as to the appearance of each and the correct terminology to use, based on a horse's appearance as well as the genetics of its parents.



**Horse Color Explained** reads well, but it also has features making it useful as a reference tool. An appendix follows the text, beginning with

**Table A** which lists the various alleles involved in horse colors, their loci, the allele's symbol, and its effect.

**Table B**, Trihybrid crosses, and

**Table C**, Color Dictionary of Genotypes, are followed by

**Table D**, Color Effects, showing lethal crosses along with colors which breed true and ones which never breed true.

**Table E**, Color Families, summarizes chapters 2-5.

**Table F**, Alternative Color Names, shows the current correct terminology for localized alternative names.

A Glossary for those who want quick answers is followed by a list of recommended reading materials, including both articles and books. Like all good reference sources, the book finishes with an index, this one three pages long and including the names of horses referenced in the text as well as breed names, color terms, and various ailments and defects associated with some colors and patterns.

For breeders of Tennessee Walking Horses, the one disappointing facet of **Horse Color Explained** is its treatment of the champagne gene. Less than three pages are devoted to this dilute, much of it being a case study of the Champagne Lady Diane family. Gower writes "...Bea Kincade is to be congratulated for her efforts to preserve this color in the Tennessee Walking Horse..."(p. 114) when at the time of the writing, the champagne gene had been found in hundreds of Tennessee Walkers from a variety of bloodlines throughout the United States as well as some old and authentic lines in Canada.

Several pages further, a photo caption reads "Amber eye of a pink-skinned palomino Saddlebred" (p. 118). The horse featured in the picture is, of course, a gold champagne. Perhaps the absence of the chestnut variety of champagne in Australia resulted in this confusion in an otherwise clearly written and beautifully illustrated text.

**Horse Color Explained: A Breeder's Perspective** is an attractive book with a wealth of information that even seasoned breeders can read and appreciate. The photographs are excellent, and the reference tools well-organized. Reasonably priced in the paperback edition, it should be a useful addition to anyone's equine library as well as a welcome Christmas gift for the serious and perhaps not-so-serious horse lover.

## CRTWH

### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Lately I have had a surprising number of inquiries about registering older horses, getting a horse's papers transferred to the new owner's name, registering a foal from a mare whose papers are not in order, and more. It seems that many people feel that registration papers are just an extra expense, totally unnecessary for anyone who simply wants a nice pleasure horse.

Now we all know that a registration certificate won't make a bad horse good... but it *will* enhance the value of the good horse. The person who buys the horse and says, "Nah, I don't want the papers" is deciding that, for him, at that time, papers are unnecessary.

But what about when circumstances change? When the owner of the horse (who didn't want to be bothered with papers) gets sick or dies or divorces and loses the farm? Will a buyer pay what the horse is worth if all he has to go on is the owner's word that yes, it *IS* a Walking Horse, it *IS* only ten years old, it *DOES* come from a well known, gentle, smooth moving family?

Or what if the buyer decides a few years down the road that he or she would like to breed this nice mare they own? It's just another horse without its papers. Its offspring can never be registered Tennessee Walking Horses without a great deal of catching up. And that can be both frustrating and expensive, if it's possible at all.

Without its papers that horse is effectively 'just a horse'. Registration certificates are to the purebred horse what a birth certificate is to a person. It is proof of its age, its heritage and who has owned it over the years. It is also a legal document showing ownership of the animal. Under the Canadian Livestock Pedigree Act, it is the law that any person who buys an animal represented as purebred is entitled to a registration certificate. It is also a source of pride and interest to many owners to look at their horses' registration certificates and trace their bloodlines.

So if you are a breeder or are selling Tennessee Walking Horses, show pride in your horses and do the right thing. Register your foals early at the minimum fees. Transfer the papers to the new owner as part of the transaction.

If you are buying a purebred Tennessee Walking Horse, ask to see the registration papers. Make sure that the animal *is* registered and look at the back of the papers to see that it is indeed owned by the person offering it for sale. Let the seller know that you expect the horse's papers to be transferred into your name. Make it a condition of sale.

After all, you wouldn't buy a vehicle without getting the registration in your name. Don't do it with a horse either!

Marjorie C. Lacy





# The Canadian Walker

Volume 6, Issue 5

www.crtwh.ca

December, 2007

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*Seasons Greetings & Best Wishes  
to All of You in the New Year!  
From the Board of the  
Canadian Registry of the Tennessee Walking Horse*

## 2008 CLINICS

CRTWH invites *YOU* to apply for one of the 2008 outreach clinics planned for various parts of the country. 'The Canadian' Triple Challenge Clinics are intended to take the programs comprising the Challenge to our members and spread the word about this unique program.

CRTWH will supply the clinicians. If you would like to hold a clinic in your area, please contact Dianne Little asap, (619 Lake Linnet Cres. S.E., Calgary, AB T2J 2J3) since there are only a limited number of slots. Details of all 'The Canadian' Triple Challenge Programs and Tests may be found at [crtwh.ca](http://crtwh.ca)



## 2008 MEMBERSHIPS

Annual 2008 memberships are \$25, due January 1/08, and made out to **CLRC, at**

**2417 Holly Lane,  
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## FEE SCHEDULE

There are two new additions to the fee schedule. For your convenience, CRTWH will now be accepting MasterCard as well as Visa for transactions through CLRC.

We have also added the fee for DNA tests done from blood stored at Maxxam. There will be a cost recovery fee for this service which will be \$57, for both members and non-members.



## PROGRAM FOR EXCELLENCE

The deadline has come and gone for entries in the PFE. The evaluator this year will be Debbie Rash, an IJA accredited judge from California.

There are horses entered in all 3 levels: Bronze, Silver & Gold.

## RIDE YOUR WALKER

Would those of you who enrolled in this program please send a record of hours ridden to Maureen Hummel, Box 52, ROSE PRAIRIE, BC V0C 2H0 or phone or email her? You can continue to accumulate hours until December 31. Records must be sent in by January 31.

## VISIT THE WEBSITE!

Please visit our website ([www.crtwh.ca](http://www.crtwh.ca)) to see 'The Canadian' Triple Challenge summary with two of the programs, and check the amended Schedule of Fees.

We also invite members to submit up to two photos for a slide show on the web. "Walkers in a Winter Wonderland" will be our theme to start, and we'll change it as the seasons roll by. Submit photos to Jean Rempel at [vice-president@crtwh.ca](mailto:vice-president@crtwh.ca) along with your name, membership number and address.

They may be sent e-mail as a jpg or mailed to Site 3, RR1, Box 9, Winfield, AB T0C 2X0 until Jan. 15.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA NEWS



VICKI McNAUGHTON, KAMLOOPS, writes, "Winter is almost here, and riding is almost over. I am a 'fair weather rider', and as soon as my feet get cold, I quit for the winter. We did get in a real nice 4 hour ride on Thanksgiving weekend, and there was some sunshine."

"I have had my new Walking Horse for 7 months now, and we have really bonded and have had a great riding season. (*Photo of us above.*) I would like to thank Karen MacGregor of Langley for selling me this wonderful gelding, "Wizard" (Kanakas Ebony Success TR). He is 6 years old and was born on my birthday, April 10, 2001. When I heard his birthday, I knew that he was *the one*. He was born to Debbie Smith, and she let me know that he was for sale. (Thanks, Debbie). When he was delivered and walked off the trailer, he just looked so gorgeous, freshly washed and brushed. The climate in Kamloops is different for him, but he has adjusted very well, and is now very fluffy with his winter hair. I had to retire my 24 year old Walking Horse mare, and I found it very hard to think about getting another horse, but Wizard has filled my heart and we are looking forward to many more years of riding."



ANDY & PAT  
PEEBLES,  
FALKLAND,

write,

"We were able to find a great mare, so we won't need to run the ad again. We ended up buying her, and hope to use her for riding and raising the odd foal."



NATALIE SPECKMAIER, VANCOUVER, writes, "The autumn leaves trail picture was absolutely gorgeous on the cover of the October issue. Trigger and I are flushed with pride to be poster girls once again. Thank you."

"No riding today as the rain wasn't about to quit. Instead, we had a belated birthday party for Debbie Smith and a housewarming for Mike Barker. Coffee and cake wasn't as much fun as riding, but it helped."

"That was a great History & Heritage article by Franne Brandon, which gave me a whole lot more information about the "herd" and how it came to be. Also, learning more of your history in the horse world was an added bonus. Now I'm going to go read my favourite magazine from cover to cover, as usual. Happy trails!"

From DEBBIE SMITH, TOWER RIDGE FARM, MAPLE RIDGE, "The Magnificent Seven Ride Again! Haney Horsemen members headed out from Tower Ridge Farm and rode the afternoon to Amanda's Horse Camp. All were on gaited horses: (*See below*) Genevieve and Sandy Amy on their Tennessee Walkers, Dark Star Delite and Finally, Natalie Speckmaier on her TWH Uphill Dusty Gold, Deb Smith on the Peruvian, Norteno Estrello, Chris Rhodes on her gaited Arab, Jericho Bay, Dave Smith on TW/MFT TR's All Decked Out and Mike Barker on his single footer, Kaliha. They were a well matched bunch of horses that went great together."

"Bear Ridge and the Georges Way Trails are in fantastic shape. It was a very enjoyable day, with gorgeous scenery, wonderful trails, no bear sightings and a lively group to ride with! A delicious barbeque was held afterwards with more fun and laughter. Camp organizer, owner and supervisor was Manon Laviotte-St. Onge."

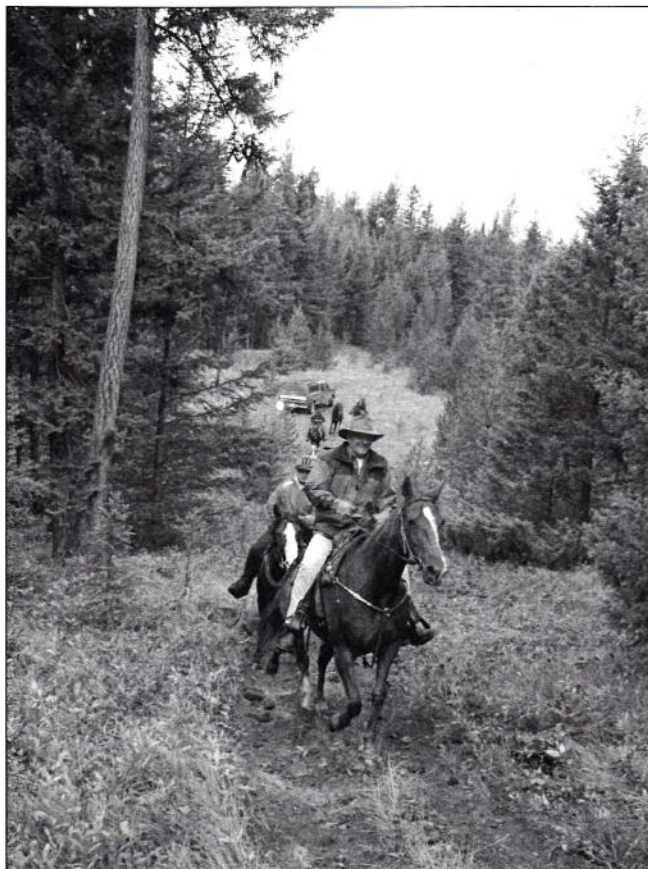
From GENEVIEVE & SANDY AMY, PORT COQUITLAM, "It has been a very busy summer for us. To continue our story: we went to the Armstrong Gaited Show in the middle of June as spectators. Sandy ended up riding Brenda Bettles' mare, Silene in the novice class, first thing in the morning. He had never ridden in a show, never ridden in an arena with a bunch of other horses, never ridden Silene before, and had about 7 minutes from mounting her to entering his class! I had spent the evening before briefing him on show ring etiquette, and Brenda muttered a few do's and don't's about riding her horse as he rode through the fairgrounds to the arena. The old mare took care of him, and he enjoyed the experience so much he looked as happy as a child, and the judge, Dianne Little, gave him 2nd place in a class of nine. "Thrilled" barely covers it."

"After the show, we toured up through Kelowna, and visited Summer's home place, Easy Breeze Acres. It was fascinating to see Colleen Snellson's horses. I had never 'met' champagnes before. With their green to gold eyes, glowing coats and ample manes and tails, they looked like unicorns or flying horses on their days off. There was a filly named Bailey..."

"We toured up to Highway 24, Lone Butte area, to look at the ranch where we would be attending a club ride in the fall, and enjoyed the hospitality of the folks at Fawn Lake for an afternoon. We fell even more deeply into the thrall of the Cariboo. By the time we were hauling the horses, Finally and Delite, up for the ride on Labour Day weekend, we were taking possession of ten acres of bare land 15 km. north of Interlakes on Highway 24."

"The details of the club ride were covered by Natalie previously, but I'd like to add from my experience. Although Sandy and I did not go on most of the organized rides, because we were distracted by our new property, we stayed several extra days, and Lisa and Ziggy took us out on exclusively Walking Horse

rides. *Smokin'*. It was the first place I've had enough space to get Finally into gait properly, and oh my goodness! What a rush! And Delite, at 17 years old, would like to be an endurance horse - she can walk so fast that Finally has to canter to keep up. Delite is like the Energizer bunny - she keeps going and going and going....."



"We can't even ride on the dikes after the Cariboo, so totally spoiled are we. So we are moving our two old girls up to Tower Ridge, where Summer is, so we can ride the Kanaka Creek trails until we get "home" to the Cariboo. That may be a few years, as there is a lot to do before anything but bears, deer, and range cattle can live at SkyKeep. But we will be too busy to get old while we build our 'retirement' home."

Wishing everyone a Good Winter!

*Above is a picture of Sandy on Delite going up a 200 foot hill, smile firmly in place, with me on Finally behind. (This was taken at Fawn Lake by Natalie Speckmaier).*

DON & JO-ANNE, McDONALD FARMS, POUCE COUPE, are pleased to congratulate Bobbi & Mel Terry of Bassano, AB on their purchase of the 6 year old bay gelding, Countin Shakes. We wish them all the best with Count. Please send them an extension to their *WHN* subscription with our compliments."

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# What do YOU do with your Walkers ?



*These folks all look pleased  
with the ribbons their mounts won:*

Above: Laurie Innocent with her Shootist colt.

Left: Sandy Amy with Brenda Bettles' mare,  
Silene.

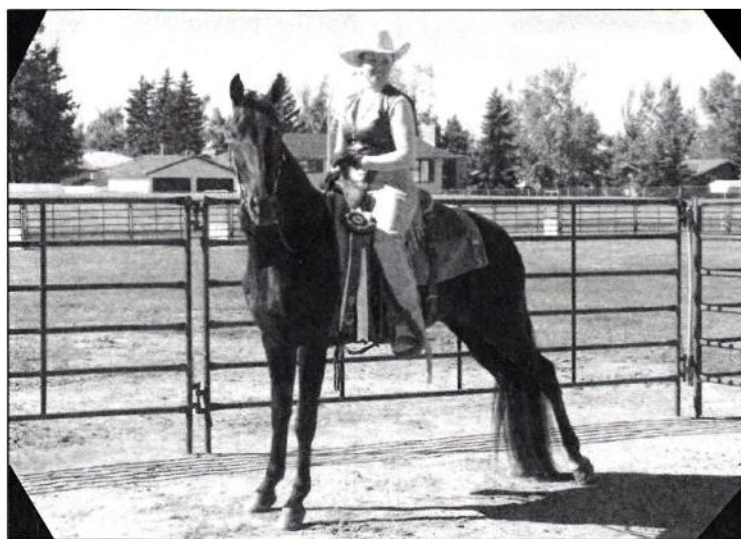
Below: Dawn Hanson with her  
young black mare.

*Top & bottom photos courtesy Marianne Wray, Caroline, AB.  
Middle photo submitted by Genevieve Amy, Coquitlam, B.C.*



What do *YOU* do with your Walkers?

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



From MAUREEN HUMMEL, ROUGH DIAMOND FARM, ROSE PRAIRIE, "It's been an insanely busy summer and fall in the North Peace country. After last year's terrible drought we were pretty happy to see some rain. That is - until we started haying and it didn't quit raining. We didn't have a single week without rain during all of August. There was very little hay put up in our area without at least some rain on it. It has been a very strange year weather-wise. Our October was much nicer than August."

"This October was pretty special. Every year in October local area cattlemen bring their herds home from the community pasture. Usually I go on the cattle drives with my friend Gail and her husband Gerald. My hubby, Rick, is usually busy working or hasn't got a horse to use. He's not particularly 'horsey' and as for riding - he can take it or leave it. I'm fortunate that he supports my riding habit even though it isn't *his* favourite thing to do. But this year, for the first time ever, Rick was able to come on the cattle drive riding his own horse. Rick's gelding, Dark Threat Delite, purchased from Don and Jo-Anne McDonald, is a lovely black gelding with an incredible temperament and substantial bone. We haven't done anywhere near enough work with him, but he takes most things in stride. I didn't feel that I was a good enough trainer to give him the kind of start he needed to be a good mount for a novice rider, so I sent him to Glenn Stewart (an ex-Parelli professional). Glenn did an amazing job on him and that, combined with Threat's sensible attitude, gave us a 'using' horse."

"Rick gets too busy on the farm to take time off to ride so when we headed out on the cattle drive it was only the second time Rick had ever been on Threat. (The first time was the day before, for about an hour). Threat hadn't been ridden much out of the arena or in a flat field so what met his wondering eyes on that cattle drive must have just about fried his brain. He was surrounded by hundreds of cows, trucks and horse trailers, cattle liners, people, other horses - you name it. The first part of the drive started out pretty simple over flat pastures. When we got into the bush it was another matter. There we had to contend with downed timber, beaver ponds up to the horses' stomachs, deep mud, and steep/slick hills. Threat went through it all. He got a little concerned if his pasture mate got too far from him, but that was understandable. Once out of the bush we had to deal with a busy gravel road, oil patch traffic, more cattle liners, etc. Again, it was no big deal for Threat."

"People were amazed when we told them

how little work he'd had. Threat did the Walking Horse breed proud."

"But he wasn't the only Walking Horse present. We actually had four on the drive. Both Gerald and Gail were riding Walkers and I was riding my mare, Shadow (the Amnesty Mare)."

"After the 20 mile drive the horses were pretty tired, but I guess they get more exercise in their pasture than I give them credit for, because the next day you couldn't even tell they'd put in a long day previously."

"Now, if I can just steal Rick away from farming for long enough to ride his horse, and have both of them get more miles they'll be an unbeatable team!"

"Hope everyone has enough feed for the winter and has everything done before the snow starts flying."

SHEILA COBURN, KREEK SIDE WALKERS, PRINCE GEORGE, writes, "Please renew our subscription for two years. Then at least next year I won't be late!"

"Tsuniah's Sunny Delight sired a beautiful stud colt from Leah Berge's mare, Barker's Greater Glory. He's a full brother to Don & Jo-Anne McDonald's new young stallion, and looks to be just as good."

"Our weather has been weirder than usual. We've had only two real hot spells of about a week at a time. Enough for most people to get their hay done, but not all. Now it seems it wants to rain on us once a day at least, even when it's a *nice* day!"

From LEONARD DAHLE, CLEARWATER, "Just a few lines to let you know we are still kicking. We are both getting over colds - lots of wet weather here this fall. We have sold the black Morgan gelding. He went to a drill team in Kamloops. We still have some more hay to haul, and a few more loads of wood to cut, and we will be ready for winter."

"Did some local rides and I went on the Cariboo Ride. It was their 25th Anniversary, well organized with 69 riders."

"Not much other news here. The horses are fat and sassy and are mostly on holidays. Until next time, keep up the good work. We couldn't be without the *Walking Horse News!*"

GALE LEQUIRE, VERNON, writes, "I would like to send a subscription to Gretta Green of Squamish with my compliments. Gretta has purchased our fine mare, Ebony's Merry Midnight. She is Gretta's first Walking Horse. I could not have chosen a better home for her, and I know Gretta will love and enjoy her as much as we have."

## CHOOSE THE RIGHT HAY FOR YOUR HORSES

*You invest a lot of care and appreciation on your horses, so it is wise to spend some time considering their primary diet - forages.*

The horse evolved over time to be efficient as a grazing animal thriving on forages. As we adapted the horse for colder climates, the horse was well-suited to thrive on hay and other conserved forages. Currently in Alberta, we have many pleasure horses on small acreages that subsist on hay 365 days a year.

What are the principles of feeding hay to horses? Compared to other non-ruminant animals, the horse has a relatively small stomach, a normal-sized small intestine and a large hind gut. This digestive arrangement makes the horse better suited to grazing continuously than to having one or two large meals a day. Entire textbooks are written on this topic, but the basics are:

***Hay and other roughages provide nutrients and satiety for your horse.***

***On average, a horse must consume about two percent of its bodyweight per day.***

***Different ages, classes and workloads of horses require different levels of nutrients from hay.***

***All hay is not the same.***

### How should you choose hay?

The nutrient needs for your horse can be met in a number of ways.

For example, if you have late-maturity grass hay, no matter if it is timothy, orchard grass, or brome, it will be deficient in protein. You can supply protein and energy in the form of concentrate, which can be grain or a processed feed. Problems with this diet include low forage intake - the late maturity grass hay is consumed at a low level, and horses may develop colic or other disorders from consuming high levels of high-starch grains. At the other extreme, full access to early bloom alfalfa hay can lead to weight problems in lightly-used pleasure horses, due to the high intake potential of the alfalfa. In both of these examples, it may be difficult to meet the horse's daily nutrient demands consistently, and behavioral problems associated with boredom can occur. The compromise for most horses is a good quality grass-alfalfa mix hay.

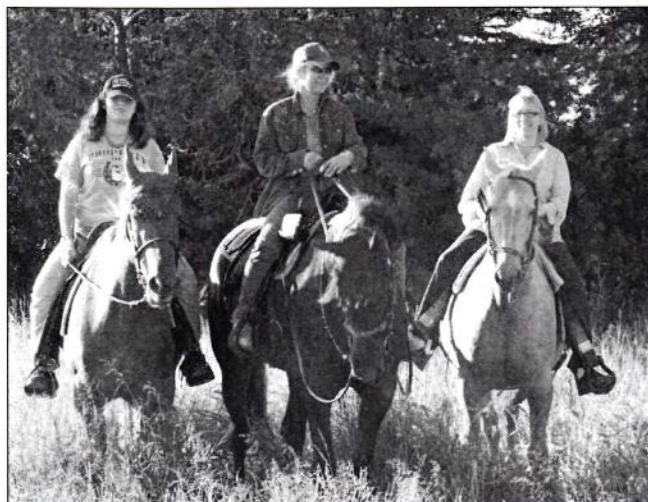
An inexpensive hay analysis will tell you the level of crude protein, total digestible nutrients, calcium, phosphorus, magnesium and potassium in the

hay. Another characteristic to consider when you view hay is color. (Horses are color blind, but bright green hay usually indicates proper curing conditions without nutrient loss). Others are leafiness (particularly of alfalfa - you need to see intact leaves not leaf fragments or dust), and absence of foreign material (mold, dust, weeds, rocks, dirt, wire, rodents, etc.).

Get to know your hay producer and stick with a good one. A lot of horse hay is sold as small square bales (60 -75 pounds), and many commercial producers provide a hay test and bale weights. Hay in small rectangular bales sells for more per ton than large bales, because the hay producer goes through the effort of handling, stacking, covering (many do), hauling and dealing with small lots of hay and many diverse customers. Good hay buyer-seller relationships will provide trust, respect, prompt payments and consistent hay supplies. Once the hay is home, place it under a shed or tarp it to preserve its quality.

Horse owners also ask whether first or second-cut hay is better. There is more variation within a cutting than between cuttings. First-cut hay is often discriminated against for several reasons - rain damage or rain delays make hay harvest occur at advanced maturity, and there may be more weeds present. One problem with late first-cut mixed hays in Alberta is coarse stemminess of both alfalfa and grasses, and reduced intake of the grass. Second-cutting hay can generally be put up without rain delays. However, overly-mature second-cut hay can still be less palatable and nutritious. The best bet is to view the hay, see its condition and ask for a hay analysis.

Alberta Equestrian Federation



*Alexandra & Karla Freeman and Donna Robak riding their therapeutic Tennessee Walkers! See Donna and Karla's comments about this on the opposite page.*

## ARE WALKING HORSES THERAPEUTIC?

**SHERRY ANDERSON, WESTEROSE, AB** writes,

It was really nice to know about the Tennessee Walker. A girlfriend doesn't think they are a great animal. She's into Quarter Horses. I told her that a Tennessee Walker is good for people with back problems or any physical problem because they are not as rough as a Quarter Horse. They circulate muscles more, I think. Because I have a bad back and leg problems from past injuries, to me a gaited horse can help more than a QH, plus they have a better personality to match. They seem to understand more of what a person is saying and doing than any other that I've known. But then again, I'm still learning. Can you tell me if the Tennessee Walker is therapeutic?

**Editor's Note:** Any horse that allows you to get out and ride, despite physical problems, is definitely therapeutic for you. But the two people below can answer you about TWH much more eloquently than I!

**KARLA FREEMAN, RIDE EASY RANCH, BENTLEY,** answers:

To people who ask me, "Why a Walker?" I ask if they have time to go for a ride! When my herniated disks no longer allowed me to ride my beautiful, fast and perfect Quarterhorse/Arab gelding, I was devastated. We grew up together! I was 14 when he was born and I trained and *LOVED* that horse. When I (at 28, 29, 30 years old) couldn't ride him anymore and was told by physio that surgery was the only thing that would help me, I really started to get depressed. I could sit on him and walk slowly, but anything faster and I ached with sciatica for days. Believe me, I loved my horse, Karla's Komet, but I just couldn't ride him any longer.

When some acquaintances kept telling my husband about Walking Horses, and how we should go and try them out, I truly didn't believe that another horse would make a difference. But *WOW!* One ride on Shadow's Ginger May and I was *In love*. As I say on my web site "It was *LOVE AT FIRST RIDE!*" I almost felt guilty for not staying with my fellow, Karla's Komet, but physically I simply could not ride him. After riding the TWH mare day after day and not hurting, I had to have more.

Ask anyone who knows me: I have a 'horse riding' habit. My neighbors see me ride year 'round, and if I go without riding for longer than 2 days I get stiff and grouchy!

I recommend the Walking Horse to anyone who has a bad back. Just think for a minute- on an ungaited horse I got the pounding compression of a trot, the up and down movement of a post. *BAD, Bad, bad* for my back! I avoid any compression, such as

lifting over my head, pushing with my back, anything that compresses my spinal cord. Skiing, skidoing, quading - I can not do anything like that without major painful consequences, and I have spent more than my fair share on massage therapy, chiropractors, acupuncture, and physiotherapy.

I know that the Walking Horse saved my quality of life. They continue to do so, with their fun, wonderful temperament, and fabulous movement, and maybe that's one reason why I am so passionate about them. You know, swimming is also good exercise for a sore back, and walking is too, but I prefer to ride my Walkers.

I appreciate horses of all kinds, but for me to ride, the only way to go is a Canadian registered Walking Horse! And that's just the way it is for me here at Ride Easy Ranch.

If people aren't bothered by compressing their spine in a trot, or by sharp jolting turns, then that's their choice. It's a free country. Most importantly of all, do what is good for *YOU*, and have fun!

**DONNA ROBAK, BENTLEY,** replies:

Is a Walking Horse therapeutic? Take it from a person with arthritis and restless leg syndrome. *YES! They Are!*

My legs and lower back are racked with arthritis. I can't walk more than a kilometer without pain, but I *can* ride my Walker without pain. Because of my weak legs I don't have the strength to use leg commands so I had to train her to totally different commands. To get her to go I use a voice command, "Let's go". When my restless leg starts up, no matter where we are, she stops and stays still until my leg stops. One day I was riding with Karla Freeman. We were going across deep mud and my leg started 'jumping'. The mare stopped dead in the mud. Karla thought that I was in trouble with my horse. She came back to see what had happened and saw my leg slamming against my horse, and my horse just standing there until it stopped, and then she started out again.

My Tennessee Walker is a lifeline. Because of her I can do what other people can do. Granted, I ride more slowly than most, but that is because I was 46 before I even touched a horse, and my balance isn't that good either. One thing I am sure of - I needed the smooth gait and the patience of a Tennessee Walker .

So, to get back to the question 'is a Walking Horse therapeutic?' I say they are therapeutic in many ways! They are smooth so we can ride without pain, they are kind and seem to sense when there is something wrong with their rider, and they want to learn and to please.

# THE EVOLUTION OF TRAINING TECHNIQUES V

by Dr. Bob Womack

From The Echo of Hoofbeats, 2nd Ed., 1984.

By 1945 the gap between the traditional show horse and the new ideal was significant. Those horses which crossed this gap represented a definite departure from the old standards. Although there were cries of protest from the elder members of the industry, it soon became quite apparent that the fans liked the new look. They liked the new style, the added speed, and the increased motion they saw exhibited at Saturday night horse shows. Most of all, they liked speed. Speed in horses has always been more exciting to spectators than form, and as crowds at horse shows grew in number they let their wishes be known.

If the people attending horse shows were ready for speed, there were indications the horse was not. When pushed beyond its natural way of going unforeseen things began happening to the Walking Horse. The race horse blood in its veins gave the Walking Horse the potential for speed, but that very blood eliminated the possibility that it could stay in form. One thing became obvious: if the Walking Horse were to add speed, it had to break higher in front to regain form. Fence rails, soft leather curb straps, loose reins, keg shoes, and pleasure riders had to go and be replaced by equipment and attitudes appropriate to the new ideal of the Walking Horse industry.

Very early in the experimental era it was learned that added weight in the front feet would produce a higher action. At first such weight was added through a home-made shoe very similar to the old keg shoe. The home-made shoe with its added weight did not produce the desired effect, and immediately two further adjustments followed. It was found that a higher heel plus a chunk of lead gave more of the desired action. At first the lead was placed under a leather pad next to the sole of the horse's foot, but later such lead was moved to the outside of the leather pad. The pad itself acted not only as a catapult to more front action but also served as a needed shock absorber.

Trainers found that when the Walking Horse was changed in one place, other changes had to follow. The leather chin strap was replaced by a chain which made it easier to tuck the horse's nose. This adjustment gave the animal more style and also increased the effectiveness of the added weight in its front feet. Riders no longer exhibited their mounts with loose reins but instead took hold of the animal's mouth and spurred it up into the bridle.

The Walking Horse changed its style and way of going. Further experimentation revealed that lead placed in the toe of the shoe would not only get the

horse's feet higher, but would prompt the animal to reach further instead of merely breaking high and placing the feet directly under itself. The old country blacksmith was no longer adequate for the industry, and professional farriers became expert in the art and science of shoeing a Walking Horse properly. The further the farriers made the horse reach in front the further it reached behind to compensate for weight distribution. The "big lick" was aborning.

The new look in Walking Horses met opposition. As early as 1945, Gilbert Orr, Director of the Celebration, wrote in the BLUE RIBBON:

*"While the horse of today is a far superior individual in looks to that which our forefathers rode along the rough roads and at the country fairs of Middle Tennessee seventy-five years ago, is he a better walking individual at the present time than he was in days gone by?"*

*His gaits...are more polished and refined, but in the show arena he is being pushed by many exhibitors until he is fast departing from the ways of going the oldsters of yesteryears knew under saddle.*

*Let us be fair and honest about the matter of speed in the Tennessee Walking Horse. It's there. It should not be there. It is lamentable that it exists...The Tennessee Walking Horse was not originated for speed. He was not bred for speed... keep the Tennessee Walking Horse as he should be, a mount of free and easy gaits...*

*Any knowing horseman who is honest in his speech will tell you that Tennessee Walking Horses cannot go in true form when they are pushed in show arenas as some of them are today."*

The new look in Walking Horses did not find complete approval among the fans. One disgusted gentleman wrote to the editor of the TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE magazine saying, "Walking Horses have gone down in my estimation since they have been making playboys of them. The last show I saw...there were about a dozen entries. The winner was a stallion very hard to handle; in fact no one but a professional could ride him. Second place went to a steamy roan that pulled every second and would not flatwalk a step; third place went to a beautiful roan with front feet so heavily weighted and with such long toes that he looked like a clown. It does seem as though the original commendable qualities of the REAL walker are being sacrificed for artificial and superficial beauty that is only skin deep."

From the perspective of time accessible to the current viewer, it would seem that very little had



happened to the Walking Horse. His head was higher, but he was still not a high-headed show horse. MERRY GO BOY was far from being a high-headed horse when compared to the Walker of 1980. Horses were breaking further off the ground, but only a portion of the distance they would be breaking a decade later. Perhaps the greatest change was in the amount of speed being exhibited. But even in this category there were limitations since trainers had not fully devised techniques to eliminate the lost motion which accompanied added speed. The fact that the show horse went around the ring wide awake and up in the bridle, instead of half asleep, gave the illusion of a much-changed animal to those who had grown up with the Walking Horse. Most spectators liked the change.

By 1950 the trend toward the new ideal was firmly established and horses that could not execute the new way of going looked out of place in the show ring. Celebration winners represented a radical departure from the old-time show horse. The show horse of 1950 came in the ring with its head up, its front feet lifting and reaching, and moving at a speed that seemed unreal to people who remembered STROLLING JIM. While trainers sought to refine the new lick, they faced severe criticism from the outside. Dr. P.W. Ramer, writing in 1950, noted that historically the Walking Horse had been one mount on which the rider could relax and let the horse go its free and easy gait. But, said Dr. Ramer, *'When you watch a class either from the outside of the ring, or perhaps you are in the middle of the ring judging, you so seldom see this. You see oftentimes severe biting, chains, even wires; the action of the head is sometimes not the true and normal nodding motion, rather it looks like the fellow in the saddle is pulling the horse's head back and forth like a man at an old fashioned pump. This is not the free and easy gait. This is artificial in every sense of the word.'*

The debate continued throughout the early fifties as to whether the new lick was natural or man-made. The old-timers argued it was man-made and that nobody who really knew Walking Horses would have any part of it. Those who disagreed argued that the new lick was a further development of the natural way of going that had been bred into the horse. The fans didn't argue; they yelled for the new look, and even though the problems accompanying the new lick finally necessitated doing away with the canter in Two-Year-Old classes, the trend had long since passed the point of no return; the immediate future of the Walking Horse was set.

*To be continued*

Excerpted from The Echo of Hoofbeats, 1984.  
2nd Edition, Pages 235 - 238

## HORSE OWNER'S PRAYER

Our Creator in Heaven, give me strength to guide my horse. Make my hands soft and my head clear. Let my horse understand me and I him. My heart you have blessed with a special love of these animals; let me never lose sight of it. My soul you have gifted with a deep need for them, and let that need never lessen.

Always let my breath catch as the sun gleams on his elegant head. Always may my throat tighten at the sound of his gentle nicker. Let the scent of fresh hay and a new bag of grain be sweet to me. Let the touch of a warm nose on my hand always bring a smile.

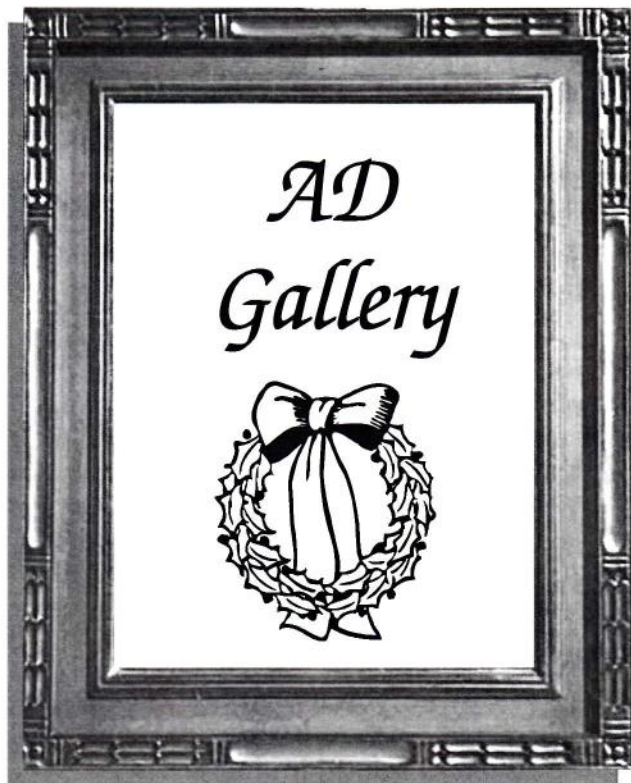
I adore the joy of a warm day on the farm. The grace and splendor of a running horse, the thunder of its hooves, makes my eyes burn and my heart soar. Let it always be so.

Creator of all life, grant me patience, for horses are harnessed wind - and wind can be flighty. Let me not frighten or harm them; instead show me ways to understand them.

Above all, dear Creator, fill my life with them. When I pass from this world, send my soul to no heaven without them. For this love you have given me graces my existence and I shall cherish it and praise you for it for all time.

Author Unknown





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**DAKOTA HI-HAT** CDN 2537 - 7 year old Sorrel gelding, 15:3 hh. Star, snip, left fore pastern. Halter trained. \$2000.

**DUSTY'S TOUCH 'N' GO** CDN 2874 - Sorrel gelding, 5 years. 15:2 hh. Star, snip, right fore, left hind coronet. Halter trained. \$2000.

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**REBEL'S MIDNIGHT BUDDY** - 7 year old black gelding, a few white hairs on forehead, both hind socks. 14:3 hh. Buddy is by Honey Boy's Rebel x Flash Of Diamonds (by Go Boy's Crown Royal) Has been lightly started. \$1800.

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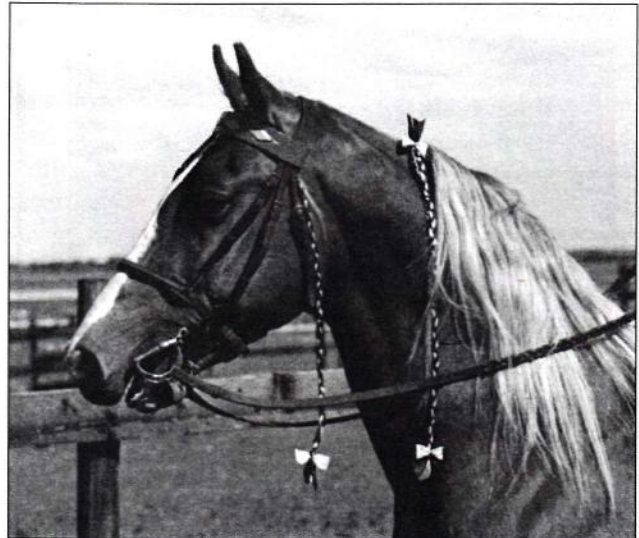
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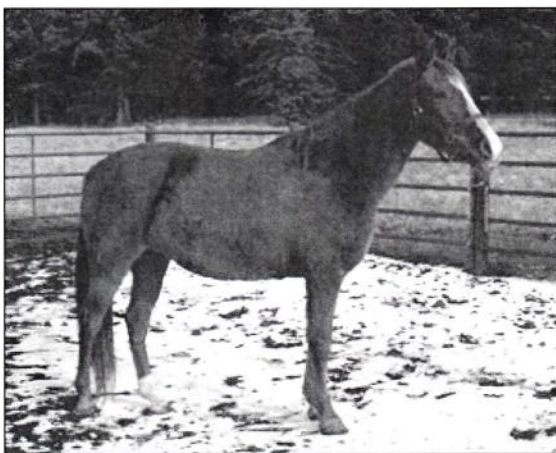


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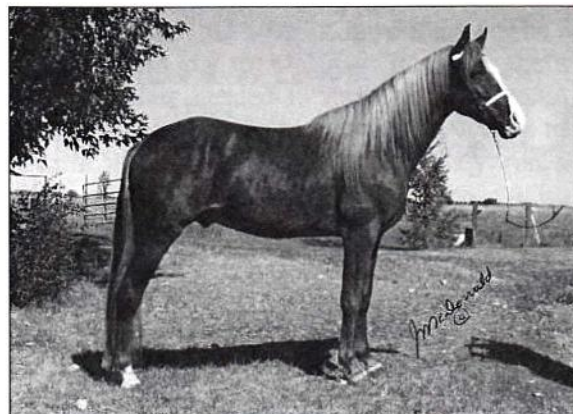
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Secretary Maureen Hummel 1-250-827-3386 [secretary@crtwh.ca](mailto:secretary@crtwh.ca)

## CLUBS & ASSOCIATIONS

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Sec'y by January 31/08. Box 52, ROSE PRAIRIE, BC V0C 2H0

**HORSE BREEDERS & OWNERS CONFERENCE** -Red Deer,  
AB on Jan 11 - 13/08. Check [www.albertahorseindustry.ca](http://www.albertahorseindustry.ca) or call  
(403) 948-8521 (See the ad on page 6 for more info.)

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for the **NEXT ISSUE** is

**JANUARY 7, 2008**

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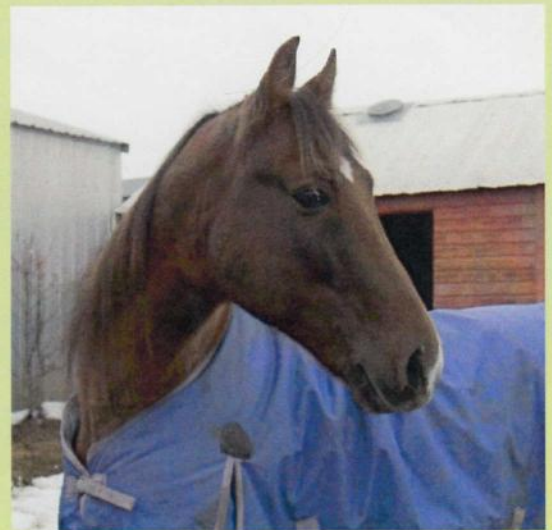


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