OCTOBER 2007 VOLUME XXXI No. 5



# Walking Horse

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NEWS



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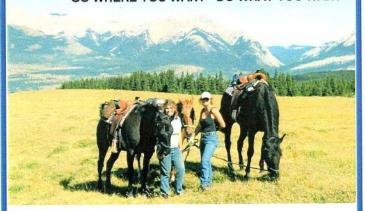
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The opinions expressed in the pages of Walking Horse News are not necessarily those of the editor / publisher.

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#### On Our Cover

Natalie Speckmaier & her 'Trigger' riding the beautiful & aptly named Bear Ridge Trail on a fine fall day in 2006. See why Bear Ridge Trail got its name in Natalie's news on page 9.

Photo by Debbie Smith

#### **Deadline Dates**

for Jan/Feb issue JANUARY 7

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for May/June issue MAY 7

for July/Aug issue JULY 7

for Sept/Oct issue SEPTEMBER 7

for Nov/Dec issue NOVEMBER 7

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#### Volume XXXI, #5 September/October, 2007

Dear Subscribers,

Fall has arrived and it's time to get everything shipshape for winter. I hope we have a nice long autumn with time to enjoy the fall colours and the shorter but cooler, bugfree evenings. I look at our beautiful cover this issue and think - how wonderful to have great trails, smooth horses, and good friends to ride with. May we all be so lucky!

Most of the 'organized' horse activities are over now. See the report on Spruce Meadows on page 12. I've requested a write-up on the AWHA Alberta Celebration, so watch for that in an up-coming issue. However, those who want an evaluation of their horse's conformation and gait in the CRTWH Program For Excellence need to *hurry* - the deadline is October 15 for the DVDs / videos for 2007. Evaluations are done by a judge accredited and trained by FOSH (Friends of Sound Horses). Think what a great tool this program will be for serious and committed breeders of TWH! See page 13 for more information.

Also the first of the new registration certificates showing the 2006 PFE Awards have been sent out or are in the mail now. These Awards will be part of history! Congratulations to all Award winning horses & their owners.

Speaking of registration papers, what is your opinion about 'registering a gelding' - or any purebred horse for that matter? Is it important to register a horse? Are these documents of any value? I've heard some discussion about this recently. What do YOU think? Let's hear from you.

Cover ads! It's the October issue so I am again looking for subscribers who would like to advertise on the covers of *WHN* for 2008. This is the place to let everyone know about your good horses with our full colour ads for the entire year in the magazine and on the web. Please check page 22 for details and get in touch with me as soon as possible. After all, there are only three pages available, and it's firstcome, first served.

Enjoy the fall and your horses. Take great pictures and send some in to share with the rest of us. Don't forget to slip a note in with your renewal about what you and horses have been doing, or hey, write to me anyway, just because!

Marjorie

October '07

# Walking Horse News

#### "DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN-SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE IN CANADA" A One Year (6 issue) Subscription costs \$18 in Canada. To the U.S.A it's \$36 CDN or \$32 in US Funds.

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Thank you for advertising in Walking Horse News

#### CANADIAN TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE

#### **HISTORY & HERITAGE PROJECT**

"CANADIAN TIMES OF THE TWH"

**Uphill Farm** by Franne Brandon

Charles and Marjorie Lacy moved to Edmonton, Alberta, in 1966. The following year, Charles took a pack trip in the Rocky Mountains. He enjoyed the trip - but not the rough horses he'd been given to ride, and decided that the Lacy family needed horses of their own for this purpose. They acquired an Appendix Quarter Horse mare of mostly Thoroughbred lines, next an Arab-Quarter Horse cross, and then two Morgans, which they boarded outside the city. Marjorie had never been a horse owner until after the pivotal pack trip. Devouring book after book on horses at the Edmonton public library, she read again and again about the smooth gaits and great disposition of an American breed called the Tennessee Walking Horse. Intrigued by the idea of riding an easy gait rather than the trot of her otherwise very good Morgan, Marjorie began to peruse the ads.

Seeing regular ads in *Western Horseman* from Calvin Miller's Double Diamond Ranch of Rhame, North Dakota, she ordered the ranch's catalogs. They became her Walking Horse wish books. Finally, responding to an ad in *The Western Producer*, she found two registered Walking mares available in Alberta. Ironically, both mares had been bred at the Double Diamond and imported to Canada.

In June of 1974, fourteen year old Major's Gold Lady 602461 (Merry Boys Major 462820 x Flash's Golden Lady 551224) and her filly Lady's Merry Mist 713370, by Sun's Merry Man became Marjorie and Charles Lacy's first Tennessee Walking Horses. Both were big palomino mares tracing their golden color back to Allen's Gold Zephyr 431975, better known to some as Trigger Jr., and to a mare named Palomino Polly.

When they purchased the two mares, the Lacys were living in Hinton, Alberta, with no farm or land of their own. Marjorie located one of the few Walking stallions in Alberta at the time and made arrangements for his owners, Bob & Edna Lamport, to board the mares on a foal share basis until a farm could be purchased. This stallion, named Prince Radar 602068 (Snow Prince Allen 501452 x Chilowee No. II 560862), bred by the late Ethna M. "Blondy" Friesen of Polson, Montana, was referred to as a strawberry roan at the time. He was actually a flax sorrel sabino whose color traced in an uninterrupted line back to Roan Allen F-38 through his white maximal sabino sire. For two years, the Lamports' farm along the Battle

River was home to the Lacy mares, both of which produced foals to confirm the bargain. The Lacys received the foals from the younger mare. The first, Radar's Roan Prince, they sold back to the Lamports. The second was a palomino filly foaled, as Marjorie remembers, "When the heart leafed arnica was in bloom; she was yellow and so was the arnica flower."

By this time, Charles and Marjorie were building a log home on their new property, which they had named Uphill Farm, so the filly's registered name became Uphill Arnica (Prince Radar x Lady's Merry Mist). A year later, she received her barn name. The curious yearling was fascinated by everything involved in the construction of the Lacy's hilltop log home west of Edson, Alberta. She was always investigating, and with her color the same as the fresh sawdust from the trimming needed to fit the logs together, she earned the nickname "Sawdust."

Sawdust's formal saddle training began when she was three. That summer she worked in a pack string in the mountains. She was supposed to be a pack mare, but her gentle nature prompted the crew to let dudes ride her. Later she received professional training from Diane Sept at Helen Williamson's Westridge Farm in Calgary. Fully trained, Sawdust continued in service as a pack mare and saddle mount on mountain pack and hunting trips. Her owners appreciated her solid, quiet attitude which permitted them to get her through situations that would panic many other horses.

Sawdust (below) as 'demo horse' at a field day at Uphill Farm, 1981. L-R: Bill Howes, Diane Sept, Elwood Smith, & Marjorie & Charles Lacy.



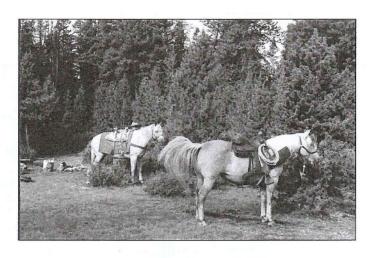
Marjorie did not realize when she purchased those first mares what rare and unique pedigrees they had. In Uphill Arnica, the first mare with their names on the breeders' line, they have unusual foundation lines and the palomino color tracing back almost one hundred years. Lady's Merry Mist, Sawdust's dam and the Uphill Farm foundation mare, was by the Double Diamond's Sun's Merry Man, a stallion with the distinction of being the only breeding stallion to carry on the blood of the many time World Champion show gelding, Hill's Perfection. (Named Reyclif Mid-Merry 561395 on registration papers). The palomino enters on the bottom side of Misty's pedigree, tracing in an unbroken line back through Zephyrs Flash O Gold to Allens Gold Zephyr, his sire Barker's Moonbeam, and the golden foundation stallion Golden Sunshine F-44, a son of Hunter's Allen F-10 and Golden Lady 350031.

Sawdust's sire, Prince Radar, linebred to Brantley's Roan Allen Jr. on the top of the papers, blends that old line with the linebred Last Chance of SilvertipRickey and one cross back to the Thoroughbred running walk stallion, Jack La Marr.

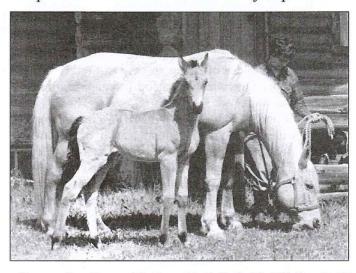
Uphill Arnica raised most of her foals after the age of fifteen, not the typical pattern for most mares. Her first foal was a palomino named Uphill Gold Chip by Zepher's Monte Ray. Her next six offspring were sired by Uphill Farm's late black stallion, Honey Boy's Rebel, a great-grandson of the 1943 WGC Black Angel. The foals by Rebel include a palomino filly named Uphill Dusty Gold, now owned by Natalie Speckmaier in Vancouver British Columbia; a chestnut filly, Uphill Call Me Kate, now the property of Maureen Hummel of Rough Diamond Farm in Rose Prairie, BC; another chestnut filly named Uphill Christie Allen that was sold to Harry Hallett, Blackfalds, AB; two bay colts, Uphill Sunrise and Uphill Bay Bob, both owned by Leonard and Jean Dahle at Clearwater, BC; and Uphill Sand 'N Sable, fondly known as Betty Buckskin, and still at Uphill Farm.

After losing a chestnut filly by Darkie's Last Chance 897395 (Tim's Blue Canadian 811579 x Shadow's Lyrical 695790), Sawdust produced a chestnut colt registered as Uphill Chestnut Chance, now owned by Ernie & Mavis Wall of Saskatoon, SK. Her final foal, a palomino colt by the same sire, was produced when she was 25. Named Uphill Heir Trigger (aka Smokey), he is owned by the Lacys.

Uphill Arnica died on August 22 of this year at the age of 30 years and a little over three months.



Sawdust, saddled & ready to go, while Charles packs her sister, Uphill Lucy Belle. Taken at Eagle's Nest camp in the Willmore Wilderness north of Jasper Park.



Above: Sawdust with her third foal, Uphill Sand 'N Sable, in front of Lacy's log house in 1993. Her second foal, Uphill Dusty Gold (aka 'Trigger') is on the cover.



At Uphill Farm, August 4, 2007. Marjorie & Sawdust with Sawdust's great niece, granddaughter & nephew.

# **NEWS - NEWS - NEWS**

#### ALBERTA NEWS

KEITH OBERLE, SKYLINE AT HORSE CREEK, COCHRANE, writes, "Enclosed is my renewal for the next year. It has been some time since I have contributed anything to the *News*, so here goes."

have been traveling in Europe occasionally, visiting the horses my daughter, Elise Harlick (Windwalker Farm), and I have sent there. We have forged good friendships through these connections. This last spring I was asked to do a seminar on "Getting your TWH to Walk" at the European Tennessee Walking Horse Association (ETWHA) annual meeting, and to judge their annual championships. Now, I am not a judge, but it was decided that I was the best qualified of those Other than someone from their own available. membership, the only other available choice apparently was Russ Keyser. Mr. Keyser is now living in Germany with a woman whose father has built a huge elaborate indoor and outdoor facility and has imported around 40 horses from Tennessee. They are of course heavily promoting the Tennessee vision of the TWH and have the financial support of ETWHA members mostly are firm TWHBEA. supporters of the natural walking horse.

So I accepted the task on the basis that since no judge is ever liked, it is better that they dislike a foreigner (me) than one of their own neighbors! The championships include only one or two rail classes, a trail ride with obstacles where judging takes place, and one or two other events. I only had to judge the rail classes and the water glass. In fact, I was given the use of a horse for the trail ride and took the first place ribbon. The whole event is very informal, lasting for 4 days. Two days of seminars, two days for meetings, trail ride and show. No one took it too seriously."

"Kathy and I were hosts to a German couple for two weeks in July. They own two Skyline progeny and are very happy with them. They are standing Skyline's Mira at stud, a beautiful palomino colt out of Toddy's Rambling Rose, and have shown Classy's Cassiopia, a mare out of my wonderful mare, Royal's Last Class Act (CRTWH Program For Excellence Gold Award winner) and Kit's Royal Pride. We did a lot of trail riding while they were here as well as attending the Sparks' Clinic.

While riding the Panther River, we ran into the Germscheids of Evansburg and had a short trail visit with them."

"A couple of chaps from Easy Riders and I did a 5 day pack trip in July. We went to the headwaters of the Panther River in Banff Park and then followed the Cascade fire road south almost to Lake Minnewanka. We camped one night beside the old elk trap. This trap is very old, mostly falling down now. I don't know its history, but it is designated as an historical resource and has protected status."

"Some of the most beautiful scenery around is to be found in the parks, but riding there is expensive and there are a few rules and restrictions to be aware of. Permits for four adults and six horses for 4 nights cost \$168. Camping is in designated spots and these have to be reserved in advance. The weather cooperated (too hot if anything) and we put on quite a distance. The first three days we averaged 20 km/day but came home the same distance in two days."

"I have my last foal on the ground. Royal's Last Class Act has produced a palomino colt by Trouble's Gold Sun (AKA Peanut). I have a 2 year old gelding, a yearling black colt (that has already achieved Bronze in the CRTWH's Program For Excellence) and this year's colt to bring along before I can retire completely!"

LISA LAMBERT, PRIDES NOBLE WALKERS, PERRYVALE, writes, "Well, here it is August 1st. I finally got my two new horses home June 25th, just the evening before I was to head in for surgery."

"While I was in the hospital my new black and white filly (Gen's Karma) was injured but hubby said it was not bad. I was released from the hospital on June 28<sup>th</sup>. On the night of the 29th I was looking out the window where Devil was just standing, gazing at those good-looking mares over yonder. After a couple of hours Tom heard a noise and saw our new stallion tangled and hung up on the girls' pen. We later learned that he had gotten under the round pen he was in (portable panels), then went over to check out those lil hotties. Tom got him out of the mess he'd gotten himself in and I called the vet. She met Tom at the clinic, (I couldn't go; the rough gravel road just

didn't appeal to me, though I hated not being there). My vet called me later to let me know her findings: no ligament or tendon damage, hosing with exercise, some Green Wound Cream, Uniprim and bute for the next 5 days."

"One day I went out with Tom while he was hosing Devil's wounds. I looked over at Karma and she was lifting her leg like a chicken so I asked him to check her out again for me. He went over and said, "This does not look good." I said, "Well, let's get her out and hose her leg." so we hosed her leg, wrapped it, gave her a shot of bute, and next day she was walking very well so we continued on with what we were doing with her. Then one day her hock and pastern were swollen. We changed how we were wrapping her leg and this seemed to help somewhat."

"With Devil, several days had passed and he wasn't getting better. We changed the care of his leg slightly, adding Epsom salts to the water and adding a poultice wrap. This seemed to help him somewhat but he was still very lame. I couldn't figure it out so I called Edmonton Equine Vet. We got Devil in right away, and it turned out he had an infection in his tendon sheath, with only 30% chance of survival with surgery. Devil had made a very good impression with me, and he even had Tom thinking he was pretty all right. I told the vet that any chance at all was all he needed; he wasn't ready to quit and neither was I, so she then gave me a price. I looked at Tom and said, "I can't let him go" - he looked at me and said, "I know", so it was done. The surgeon did the surgery on Thursday July 26th. They told me if he didn't show signs of improving within the first three days we would have to consider euthanasia but I wouldn't hear of it. I knew in my heart that Devil only needed to be touched and that his heart and will was very strong."

"Today we took Karma to the vet. My local vet suggested it; I think she was scared it was the same thing as Devil. We got there and they were so busy, that while Karma waited in the trailer I got to spend some time with Devil. He was walking with full weight on that leg now and he even stood on three legs while lifting the other back leg. I think he was showing off. He would bring it up like he was going to kick the wall and I would look at him and say, "Hey", and he would put his leg down and pace a bit more. Then he backed up into the corner and reared up. The vet came over and said, "I've not seen him so hyped. It must be that he is showing off to you." I'm not sure he was showing off but he was sure showing me he was feeling better. I was so happy to see him today and to see how well he is doing."

"As for Karma we are to keep an eye on her. The vet thinks she will be just fine but there's a chance that she might have some dead bone and may need it scraped. She ended up with a very deep cut on her cannon bone. There isn't a lot of meat there so for a cut to go to the bone doesn't take much."

"I've attached a picture of Devil's wounds to show that you don't need a massive cut to end up fighting for your horse's life. It doesn't take much for a horse to get an infection in the tendon sheath one little pin prick can take the life of your horse in a blink of an eye."

" D e v i l's wound is often hosed by my oldest daughter Tiffani, while my



youngest daughter feeds him some grass and offers her love to him. He is such a sweet stallion, so gentle, he loves all attention and is very respectful. We are truly blessed to have such an amazing stallion grace our farm, with our Senior stallion, Pride, the fella that started it all to our youngster, Tango. All our boys are just amazing and I am so lucky to have these fine specimens of this amazing breed we call The Tennessee Walker."

STAN POTTER, ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE, writes, "Remember that bay colt I put in the foal call last month? He is turning all black! I talked to a retired TWH breeder from TN who told me the way to tell what color a foal will be at birth is to run your finger down over its eye until you clear its eyelashes and then lift them. You can then see them clearly and whatever color they are is the color the foal will really be. So it was no surprise that my bay colt had black eyelashes and my champagne foal had champagne eyelashes. Even my sorrel filly had sorrel eyelashes. That's all the colors I have around here but it appears the old-timer got it exactly right. I thought others might like to check it out and comment in a subsequent issue."

"The foals are doing well and the mares are bred back. Lots of green pasture here so I'll have plenty of winter pasture to take the herd through winter again."



BRENDA L. BAKER, TRIANGLE B WALK-ERS, CALGARY, writes, "Above is a picture of Absaroka Dani, a nice chestnut 3 year old mare I was fortunate enough to buy from Lexie Cole this spring. She is a granddaughter of Silver Design out of a daughter of The Allen Black Gold. She came with a black 2 year old half sister, Kodiak's Jinx CF by William's Kodiak. I visit with Lexie and her horses when I go visit my Mom in Swift Current, as Cole farms is almost on the way. I'm sure that Lexie's horses have started to recognize me. Old Breese and certainly Kodiak act like they remember me each time I am in their pasture."

"By sheer coinicidence, about 2 weeks later I bought yet another young mare, Canadian Major's Angel, by Ultra's Major Threat out of another daughter of The Allen Black Gold! These three young mares are all nice but each one is a different type and has a different temperament even though they have common roots."

"Meanwhile we took Chicklette back to Kit's Royal Pride to get another great foal in 2008. This magical combination has resulted in two CRTWH Futurity winners so if we could only get a filly... we'd have a great replacement for Chicklette as she gets older."

"Canadian Major's Angel and Dee J's Star Fire both made the trip over the hills to Gar Beacom's Northfork Patch O'Gold, a golden palomino stallion with a super disposition. So much for cutting back on the breeding!"

"I am still very pleased with the service from my webmaster and the quality of the website (www.triangleb.com). It sure was worth it to get the right person to get my website up and running. The black geldings in my classified ad are getting bigger all the time. Even though they all look like their dams, their sire's size, feet and legs are something they've all inherited, (wonderfully)."

"This summer one of my neighbors has taken her TWH to Rick Hemmett so she can learn some extra horsemanship from him and she is thrilled with Rick's program. He has run a horsemanship program tailored for each individual horse and rider pair for many years. I have heard nothing but good things about it."

From SHARON NIELSON, NEITAK EQUESTRIAN LTD, STONY PLAIN, "Please get us going on a subscription to *WHN* again. We have been busy with our five children and their extra curricular activities, along with taking care of horses."

"If possible I'd like a copy of the issue with Laurie Ryall's memorial to Cool's Show Me Mo' Money, their mare that passed away. She was an offspring of our stallion, A Cool Million."

FRAN KERIK, CHRYSTAL STAR RANCH, TWO HILLS, writes, "Hi everybody, hope you had a good summer with lots of riding. Weatherwise, it was so strange with +30 all July and then wet and cold for August. We had a pretty busy summer. It started with going to the CRTWH Annual Meeting and listening to Franne Brandon speak. Then we took in the Mane Event in Red Deer. If you ever have a chance to go to something like this, then GO! There was just so much horsy stuff going on: clinics, trainers' challenge, the Saturday evening show, and of course lots of things to buy."

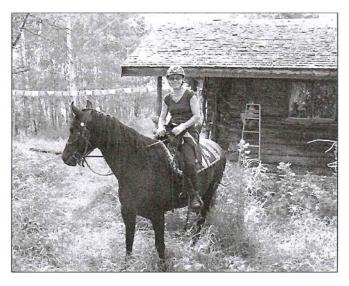
"I went to the Bless Clinic in July and just had an amazing time. Came home with lots of things to work on with my mares. In August we had our 4-H exchange member from Nova Scotia arrive. We had many activities planned including the chuckwagon races in Lloydminster, rodeo in Two Hills and a trip to WEM. But I think his favorite thing was to ride our gelding Banjo. Tyler and I went riding with friends at the Blackfoot trails and then north of St Paul. We also rode lots around home."

"I had a visitor from Ontario come for a visit. She has a full sister to my stallion Rascal that she is just starting to train. We had a great visit with a long trail ride around the farm. She was truly impressed with Mira, often exclaiming "I just LOVE this horse", but she didn't fit in her suitcase."

"So now it's back to work driving the school bus, attending 4-H meetings and training a few horses."

"I also sold two horses. Top O' the Mornin' went to live with Debbie Rae of St. Lina. I think they are a perfect match and Mornin' seems very happy there. We've gone riding a few times since Debbie got Mornin' and she just always has a big smile on her face. The second horse to find a new home was CSR Shooting Star, otherwise known as Banjo. Everybody who rode Banjo this year is going to miss him, but his new owners, Alfie and Marlise Kessler are sure to enjoy him. Please send them a subscription to the WHN compliments of Chrystal Star Ranch."

Riding is simple... it's just not easy. Anonymous



From KARLA FREEMAN, RIDE EASY RANCH, BENTLEY, "Above is a picture of Leslie Hunchuk, Calgary, on Karlas Regal Escort. We were just down by the Blindman River, at a cabin that Pat's uncle built in the late '70s. It's only 1 mile west of me and a half mile south."

"Today we went to the top of Mount Baldy, by Nordegg, and took a photo of the rock at the very top. It was pretty wet - we were right in the clouds! We didn't get poured on, so that was good. It smelled so wonderful, and wasn't too long a drive. The guy at the top said that we were the second group of horses to come up in 11 years! It was a road, but very steep, with lots of switchbacks. I will try to get there again this fall. I can take just Alexandra and go for an afternoon. The fellow said you can see the lights of Rocky Mtn House to the east, but can see only 90 miles north. It was a tame ride for the old cowboy, Pat, but good for Alexandra & friend Christine (on Sioux)."

"Sorry to hear that your old girl passed on to greener pastures. I wish there was an easier way for them to leave us. I guess we learn to accept it, but it still pains the heart. I can't say I would rather not have them, but it sure makes me sad when they die. One of my yearling fillies (Allegro x Karlas Golden Amber) died yesterday, so it is fresh in my mind."

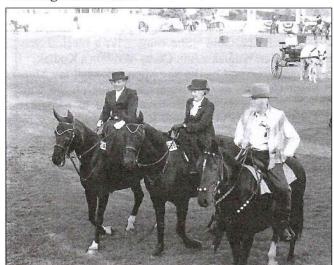
From CARLA AMONSON, EVANSBURG, "We packed into the Willmore Wilderness for 7 days and the 9 year old gelding, Yvening Dusty Mac, was used as a pack horse or saddle horse everyday - and excels at both. I have ridden Walkers in the past, but really had to appreciate the smooth ride and versatility of the breed after this, my first visit to the Willmore. My boyfriend, Thad Buckler of Evansburg, still laughs when he thinks of my face when I turned to him while riding Dusty and said, "I have to get me one of these!" So, we are now looking for an addition

to our very diverse herd!" (Check the BC News to see who Carla and Thad have added to their herd.)

CHARIS COOPER, TURNER VALLEY, writes, "Please extend my subscription for another year. I've been riding many miles on our mountain trails and also on our ranch and neighbouring ranches. Peppi and I went in the Black Diamond Parade and Peppi won Best Parade Horse again. She is 21 and looks great."

"We are now getting ready for the Spruce Meadows demonstrations. Below is a photo from last year's demos, with left to right, Lynn Donaldson riding Dee Jay's Peppi Two, me on Dee Jay's Fire and Lace, and Keith Oberle on his lovely mare, Royal's Last Class Act (Classy)."

"Keep up the good work, as we all enjoy Walking Horse News."



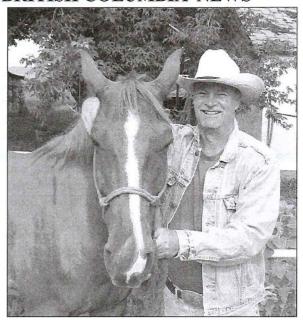
#### SASKATCHEWAN NEWS

SHELDON SCHROEDER, LONE ROCK, writes, "Our mountain trip was great. When I am in the mountains with my horses and friends there is never a bad trip. Next year my uncle is taking me on my first pack trip so that will be great. I am looking to buy a pack saddle and boxes, so if you know of any for sale, please let me know."

"I bought Chapie's Moon Shadow 2001-(CAN) 2735, a good looking 6 year old mare from Jack Chapman. She's black, and around 15 HH. I've bred her to Billy (Uphill Chasing Gold)."

From CLAUDIA DUNCAN, RANCHO TRES ESTRELLAS, REGINA, "It sure is time I subscribed to the *Walking Horse News*. I do breed Tennessee Walking Horses and have had Topaz Merry Go standing at stud here in SK for the past 2 years. I'd love to advertise in *WHN* too."

#### BRITISH COLUMBIA NEWS



RALPH LIVINGSTON, KELOWNA, writes, "This is "Koko Cowboy" a Great grandson of Lucky Koko's Prince, who sired Koko's Smokey who sired Koko's Rocky, who sired KC Koko Cowboy (aka barn name "Hank"). Hank is out of a mare called Chapie's Daisy May. He was born in 2000, bred by Mark Steenbergen. I got him 2 years ago and the antics that Allanna tells of Lucky's Koko Prince in her article "Inheritance of Behavior" in the Aug. WHN describe him exactly. He's a barn yard clown, a goof who's constantly injuring himself in his pursuit of food."

"He is the kindest horse you could wish for. I put my kids on him with complete confidence. He is very tall, 16 hands plus. I am new to Walkers and "Hank" and I are learning the running walk together."

"I couldn't get over the irony of your article about inherited behaviour, and here we have a horse 3 generations removed who sounds like he is *just like* his great-grand-pappy. Talk about inheritance! If you have any information on the line or history of these horses, I would be very interested to learn more about them. People ask me where they can get one like Hank."

ALLANNA JACKSON replies, "Fascinating! I wrote "Thirty Years of Luckys Koko Prince", published in the June 2001 issue of WHN. Koko lived 32 years, 3 1/2 months. I owned him the last 7 1/2 years of his life and he's buried in my front yard. Hank's size and color resemble his mother, but it does sound like he's got the Koko mentality. By the time I got him Koko had figured out how to pull his pranks without hurting himself, but he did have a few scars!"

From JOYCE PATTERSON, CAWSTON, "August came in *HOT*. Our gardens need to be watered a lot. Our ponies don't do anything while it's this hot, and I'm no good in the heat."

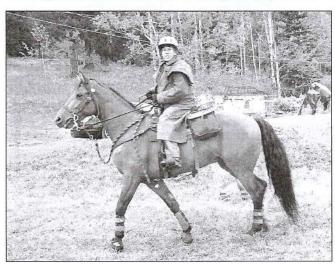
"On June 24<sup>th</sup> a few of us took a nice two hour ride for my birthday. I enjoyed it very much. Our last year's colt has really grown. I think he'll a be good 15:2 hh at maturity. Hopefully he'll go or maybe I'll trade him for a shorter type horse."

"Happy trails, from Joyce & Critters."

NATALIE SPECKMAIER, VANCOUVER, writes, "We attended the 2007 Haney Horsemen Cariboo Ride on the Sept. long weekend. Lisa and Harry Riedler's Fawn Lake Ranch hosted the fund raising event, and my husband, Norman, and I attended, horseless (Trigger isn't a party girl, and hates crowds), and had a wonderful time. The effort that Lisa and Harry put into this fun event was nothing short of mind boggling. There were games, with and without horses, and prizes for one and all, trail rides, a pub lunch, nightly campfires, and just non stop activities."

"Lisa's Ziggy was not the only TWH in attendance as Genevieve and Sandy Amy brought their two, Delite and Finally. The rest were Arabs, Quarter Horses, a Paint and a Percheron cross. We all enjoyed watching horses running free across the meadows, flags flying, so we know the horses enjoyed the weekend as much as the riders. Perhaps next year Trigger will want to participate, especially since one of her boyfriends lives there. I'm attaching a picture of Ziggy (below) with Lisa on board."

"Trigger got new shoes today and we had a very nice ride with Debbie and Ernie. We encountered a couple of black bears; one ran into the bush and the other stood up and had a good look. So did the horses, and then Trigger was sure he was going to come after her since she was bringing up the rear. She kept looking over her shoulder and wanting to hurry home!"



#### **FABRO'S**

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#### IR I Walkers

Jana & Roger Jacobsen, Cranbrook, B.C (250)489-3267 jrjwalkers@telus.net

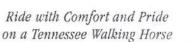
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True Black, 16 hh, 1997 Stallion, U.S. & Canadian Registered. We have solid colours plus different pinto patterns.

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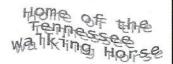
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CATHY MARTINOFF, ROCK CREEK, writes, "Greetings all. It's been a busy summer here in the beautiful Boundary region of BC. I tore my left rotator cuff in July of 2005 and I am *still waiting* to get that repaired. It only took 11 months to get an MRI done! Had many discussions with my vet about having the MRI performed at the Veterinary Hospital after hours. We finally decided that the medical system probably would not accept the results so here I wait, and wait. With any luck the surgery will take place this winter. Last winter hauling a ton of hay each week became unbearable. I can still lift waist high but not any higher, so I have decided to put up all but two horses for sale."

"Unfortunately, I made an error when I sent Walking Horse News my ad. I am so used to being in a dot. com world that I forgot my website address is www.libertywalkers.ca. I apologize to anyone trying to find my website only to find that that address exists for someone else now."

"I am happy to report that I have six horses sold to great homes! Congratulations to Colleen Snelson of Kelowna, BC on her acquisition of my favourite mare, Success' Fannie Flag and her daughter, Liberty's Heart N' Soul. Fannie always gives 100% and she has blessed us with many fine foals. Heart N' Soul will be an awesome addition to Colleen's broodmare band as she has great colour and is very pretty. Marilyn Doucette purchased the big palomino gelding, Rock Mountain Gold. I think 'Linus' and Marilyn will work very well together as Marilyn is very talented with horses that require lots of attention. Brenda Compton of Grand Forks, BC purchased Liberty's Sinatra, our

first foal from our stallion,



Chance's Liberty Spirit. Frankie will be seen next year performing in the Drill Team in Grand Forks. can't wait to see that! Thad Buckler of Evansburg, Alberta purchased two horses, Liberty's Bold Chance, a 4 year old gelding, and Liberty's Miss Cleo, a 3 year old filly, full brother and sister. I have been getting pictures from Thad's girlfriend Carla

Amonson, and both horses are under saddle now. Just goes to show the temperament and willingness of Walking Horses. Cleo had next to no work done as she was just a yearling when I had my accident. Please send complimentary copies with my regards to the new owners!"

"If all goes well I will get back to training and riding next spring. I sure miss working with the horses. However, I think they really enjoy seeing me now as all I do is groom and play with them without halters and lead lines. Friends in the Okanagan give me several hundred pounds of apples each fall so the horses now think of me as the 'apple lady'!"

From MARION TAYLOR, VICTORIA, "I am fairly new to the Walking Horse world and couldn't resist the opportunity to tell everyone how enthusiastic I am about the breed. I bought Image, a lovely bay mare, from the McDonalds at Pouce Coupe three years ago, and I'm having so much fun with her!"

"I went for a ride with a couple of friends on Peruvian horses along some logging roads up island from where I live. Image and I had a lovely time but the two Peruvians were lathered up by the time we got home. I know my friends were thinking "dumb Walker, can't even keep up to a Peruvian" but I was thinking "dumb Peruvians, have to gait to keep up to my Walker!" Image was as cool as a cucumber and ready to go again."

"Last weekend we went out along the Trans Canada Trail with a friend and her Kentucky Mountain horse. I had either to hold Image back or wait for him to catch up; he could not match my horse's wonderful walk! The only thing I might have to worry about — maybe they won't want to go with me any more! I guess I might just have to buy another Walker if I want someone to ride with."

"Keep up the good work with your wonderful magazine, Marjorie. I enjoy every page."

JO-ANNE McDONALD, McDONALD FARMS, POUCE COUPE, writes, "Maxine Gordon has sold her gelding Monteray Captain (Laddie's Monty Ray x Cap's Candy Striper) to Dave Chenier of Fort St. John. I am sure that Cap will have a wonderful new home."

"We had a nice visit with Kirk and Sheila Coburn who came and stayed for a few days. (Rained the whole time of course but is sure nice here now.)"

"Today I had a surprise as Kelly Thompson rode her horse into the yard. She bought the black gelding Shaker's Ebony (Canadian Shaker x Sage King's Black Beauty) from us a year ago. He has turned out really nice, 16.1 hands and gentle as a kitten. Nice to see the horses you sell please the new owners. Kelly has done a wonderful job with him."

#### REPORT ON SPRUCE MEADOWS DEMOS, EQUIFAIR/MASTERS



Keith Oberle writes, "I was once again the coordinator for the TWH demos at Spruce Meadows. The format was a little different this year. In the past, there were breed demos for 10 minutes a day, sometimes twice, and additionally an All-Breed Showtime where each breed had about 2 minutes and a script that was professionally read while the horses were performing. This year the two were combined into a 5 minute demo with a script professionally read and a jumbotron showing still photos while the demo was ongoing. Demos this year were held once on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and twice on Saturday and Sunday. Since the participants are different every day (due to their own commitments, not any rule), we do not do any fancy maneuvering. We just try to show the TWH at its best, doing a flat walk, running walk and canter/lope. If we have a jumper (Michelle did two days) and/or a buggy (none this year), that is a bonus. We do dress and groom as for a show or parade."

"Joining me (Far left) in the demo ring this year were (Above L-R) Michelle Pulak, Alexandra & Karla Freeman, Lynn Donaldson & Charis Cooper. Teri Green is missing from the photo. Charis has been coming to Spruce Meadows ever since its inception 26 years ago, doing demos and competing in Battle of the Breeds when the Walkers were entered. This is the third year that Karla and Alexandra have come down from the Bentley area."

"The demo team is open to any member of the Alberta Walking Horse Association or Canadian Registry of the Tennessee Walking Horse. Next year the Germscheids from the Evansburg area are determined to bring horses and participate. So, mark the first week following the September long weekend on your calendar and come and join us!"

Photos by Pat Freeman

Below left: Karla & Karlas Special Knight (Ken) & Alexandra on Blaze. (They did fabulous.) It was Ken's first time to the city. He was a good boy, but certainly questioned the authenticity of the miniatures! Below right: Leslie Hunchuk & Karla 'man' the booth.





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#### CANADIAN REGISTRY NEWS & NOTES

#### The Canadian Triple Challenge

For those of you intending to enter your horse in the **Program For Excellence** for 2007, videotapes or DVDs are due to be submitted by October 15. Send them to Dianne Little for this year's evaluations. Details & forms are on www.crtwh.ca or contact Dianne at 1-403-271-7391 or 1-403-678-4452.

For the Training Levels Challenge, videotapes or DVDs may be sent in now as well, although they can be sent in at any time.

#### Did You Know?

CRTWH members, if you notify CLRC and send them the registration certificate of a horse that has died, you will be granted a \$5.00 credit against future transactions. The certificate will be marked "Deceased" and returned to you.

#### AEF EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

The deadline for the AEF Educational Scholarship is November 15. Don't miss out on this opportunity.

The AEF Educational Scholarship is funded by the AEF Scholarship Fund, established and maintained through generous support donations. Two awards of \$500.00 each will be given out yearly to active AEF members who exemplify the objectives of the AEF, if there are suitable applications. The scholarships will be applied towards an Equine Related Program at a Canadian Educational Institute, either full or part time studies.

Candidates will be selected on the basis of information contained in their application form and letters of reference.

A candidate may receive this scholarship only once in their lifetime. However, an unsuccessful candidate may re-apply the following year.

The complete application package must be received at the AEF office by November 15 of each year. Only complete applications will be considered; late applications will not be considered.

For complete application details, visit http://www.albertaequestrian.com/grants.asp

#### TWHBEA MEMOS

**STALLION OWNERS!** Don't forget the Oct 15 deadline for TWHBEA stallion reports, to be able to U.S. register foals by your horse without penalty the following year. Call TWHBEA at **1-800-359-1574** 

#### **BITS 'N BYTES**

#### **World Animal Day**

October 4 is World Animal Day, a day dedicated to honoring, blessing, and protecting animals all over the world. World Animal Day was founded at an ecologist's convention in Florence, Italy in 1931 as a way of highlighting the plight of endangered species. October 4th was chosen as World Animal Day because it is also the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, a Catholic Church holiday which is often celebrated with an annual "blessing of the pets". Since then, it has grown to encompass all kinds of animal life and has been widely celebrated around the world.

All over the world, on the very same day, the well-being of animals will be on the minds of millions of people. Interfaith Chaplain Nancy Cronk feels a day honoring animals is very important at a time when the headlines speak of animal cruelty. Animal Chaplains would like everyone to know that every major faith endorses the responsible stewardship of the earth and all of its creatures.

"Deliberate harming of animals is in direct opposition to teachings in all of the major world faiths. Caring for animals is our global spiritual responsibility. If we can teach this ethic to all of our children, animal abuse and suffering will someday become a distant memory". For more about World Animal Day, go to www.WorldAnimalDay.org.uk.

Nancy J. Cronk, Founder, Chair and Chaplain Interfaith Association of Animal Chaplains

#### **EUROPE - Natural Walking Horses Forum**

Another interesting site to visit is www.naturalwalkinghorses.eu/forum. This European group supports barefoot and regular shod horses with regular length of hooves. The Natural Walking Horses forum is moderated by people selected for their expertise to give this forum a professional way of answering visitors' questions. The language used is mainly English and N. American visitors are welcome.

From The Walking Horse Journal, Sept. 2007

#### FOAL CALL 2007

**BLACK COLT** (Sippin Champagne x Doubly Delightful). 'Sid' was born June 21, 2007. Bakers Triangle B Tennessee Walkers, Calgary, AB

CHESTNUT COLT (Northfork Top Traveller x Summer Velvet). Susan Banks, Balzac, AB



#### CANADIAN REGISTRY OF THE TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE

#### SCHEDULE OF FEES Effective April 16, 2006

1. MEMBERSHIP				
a. Full Membership (Individual, Family, Corporation, Partnership: All Canadian Resident). Voting, member fee schedule applies				
b. Individual Life Membership (Individual). Voting, member fee schedule applies				
c. Youth Membership (Individual, under 18 years of age). Non-voting, member fee schedule applies				
d. Associate Membership (Individuals, organization, groups, All Canadian Resident). Non-voting, non-member fee schedule applies				
e. Non-Canadian Resident Membership. Non-voting, member fee schedule applies				
f. Non-Canadian Resident Lifetime Membership. Non-voting, member fee schedule applies		\$35.00/yr. \$250.00		
2. REGISTRATION OF FOALS or HORSES NOT ALREADY REGISTERED		Non-Member Fees		
a. Within 12 months of foaling (PLUS add DNA fee - see 6a below)	Fees \$40.00	\$80.00		
b. After 12 but less than 18 months of foaling (PLUS add DNA fee - see 6a below)		\$120.00		
c. After 18 but less than 24 months of foaling (PLUS add DNA fee - see 6a below)		\$250.00		
d. After 24 months of foaling: (PLUS add DNA fee - see 6a below)  Non-refundable fee of \$125.00 if application is rejected.		\$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		Non-Member Fees		
Applications must be accompanied by a photocopy of both sides of the TWHBEA certificate	Fees \$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		\$60.00		
c. After 3 months of date of sale		\$100.00		
5. ALTERATION OF CERTIFICATES ISSUED		Non-Member Fees		
a. Change of colour		\$40.00		
		\$15.00		
Lb. Change of gender (gelded)	1 \$15.00			
b. Change of gender (gelded) c. Death of a registered horse (certificate will be returned)	\$15.00 \$5.00 credit	No charge		
c. Death of a registered horse (certificate will be returned)  d. Change of Name: 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	\$5.00 credit	No charge		
c. Death of a registered horse (certificate will be returned)  d. Change of Name: 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.	\$5.00 credit \$50.00 Member	No charge \$100.00 <b>Non-Member</b>		
<ul> <li>c. Death of a registered horse (certificate will be returned)</li> <li>d. Change of Name: 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.</li> <li>6. OTHER SERVICES</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	\$5.00 credit \$50.00  Member Fees \$75.00  \$75.00	No charge \$100.00 Non-Member Fees		
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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.

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# The Canadian Walker

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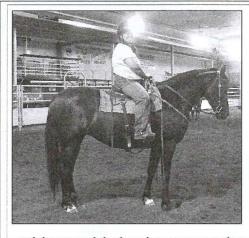
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#### St. Paul B.L.E.S.S CLINIC

The Canadian Registry of Tennessee Walking Horses sponsored a BLESS clinic up here in North-Eastern Alberta at the town of St Paul. Although some of the registered participants couldn't come, the clinic was a resounding success. We had participants from all over Western Canada - two from B.C., one from WAY up north (Grand Prairie), and four of us local gals. One of our auditors came all the way from Prince Albert, Sask.

With only 8 horses, our clinician was able to spend extra time with each of us. He told us that the clinic held at his ranch only has eight

participants and the learning curve was that much greater. Usually the BLESS clinic is given by Bucky Sparks and his lovely wife Nancy. Unfortunately responsibilities at home kept Nancy there, so Bucky enlisted the more than capable Dianne Little to fill in for Nancy. When we gathered Saturday morning, Bucky gave us a talk on the philosophy of BLESS, what Bless stood for, and what we can achieve at the clinic.

The Sparks philosophy in a nutshell is to train TWH in a safe, sound manner to do what they are meant to do - walk. This is accomplished with nothing more than a snaffle bit and training in a way that promotes life-long soundness for the horse. The acronym BLESS stands for Balance, Looseness, Engagement, Softness and Soundness. A lot of Bucky's training methods are from the discipline of dressage with some slight modifications for our gaited horses. Bucky promised us all that we would see a significant improvement in all our horses and that they could all gait. I brought one mare that I didn't think had much gait in her. But I had attended the BLESS clinic last year and thought Bucky could help her. (Angel & Fran (with halo!) above.) I also brought Mira, whom I'd taken to last year's clinic, so we could advance.

A BLESS clinic is set up a little differently from other clinics in that Nancy (or in this case Dianne) would work with one or two riders for an hour and then pass one rider on to Bucky for another half to one hour. I rode 2 horses at the clinic - don't think I'll do that again! It is very intense with a lot of knowledge being passed on. Bucky worked with a mike and those not riding listened in the stands and even participated with questions. The way it worked out, Dianne would work with us as riders and Bucky would work on the horse. It was like getting two clinics in one. Hats off to Dianne as well; she was determined to bring a clinic up to this part of the province and worked with her foot in an air cast from recent surgery. (Her doctor would have had a heart attack if he'd known how she spent her weekend.)

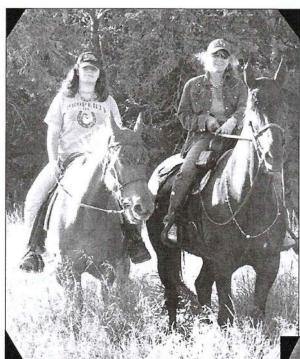
The end result? We all saw so much improvement in our horses! For me, Angel gaited and Mira cantered, both looking absolutely gorgeous while doing it, I might add. But that wasn't the only thing the clinic did. It inspired all of us to keep learning and educating ourselves to help our horses become the best horses they can be. It gave us focus on how we can achieve this and, best of all, we all left the clinic with a few more friends than when we started. Everyone truly helped and encouraged one another, cheered when someone GOT IT, and shared in our love of horses. We all met for supper on Saturday night and shared lunches together.

The consensus? We want another clinic! For many it was the first clinic they had gone to and for most it was the first gaited clinic ever attended. The facility was wonderful, not too hot even in the +34 C temps outside. So we are going to see what we can do for next year and what kind of response we get.

by Fran Kerik

# What do YOU do with your Walkers?





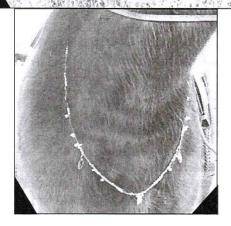
Above: Modern horse, "Storm's Missin' Link" is listening to tunes on his IPod. His favorite groove is "Keep on Ridin" by Champion. He also likes Nelly Furtado.

Link is a 4-year-young Tennessee Walking Horse owned by Karin Bauer of Kelowna.

Picture taken June 6, 2007 by Karin Bauer.

Right: All dressed up in fly masks and rhythm beads, Ken (Karlas Special Knight) and Blaze (Karlas Blaze of Lightning) take riders Karla & Alexandra Freeman for a walk on the 'fashion side'. Below left: A close-up of the rhythm beads.

Below right: I've heard of soccer moms, but horse soccer moms? 'Fred Lloyd-Smith writes, "My foal (Ace) out of Hallelujah's Doll by Kim Pringle's Trackin' On Heir, born 30 April, 2006, likes playing with this exercise ball. He and I can just about have a soccer game together!"





#### WHEN GOOD GAITS DETERIORATE

by Faith Meredith

riders to buy a horse that is already winning at higher levels of competition with the intention of showing it at a lower level. These riders admire the horse's good gaits. They appreciate its smooth extension and collection in every gait or the effortless quality of its slides and rollbacks. So they buy the horse, expecting that it will carry them successfully to the next level in competition.

Once the horse is in their own barn, however, they are disappointed. The horse's gaits don't seem quite as good as they remembered. Its transitions no longer flow smoothly or its ability to rhythmically collect and extend seems to be gone.

The problem is that in any riding sport the horse is only half of the equation. The rider assumes, falsely, that the horse's training and performance level will remain a constant while he or she works to improve skills. If a horse were a superior brand of golf club or tennis racket, that might be true. However, the horse's athletic performance will always be enabled, enhanced or limited by the athletic skills of its human partner.

A rider must be able to **influence** the horse if the horse is to work at its highest level of training. Less experienced riders have not developed this ability yet. They lack the body control, the coordination of their aids or the understanding of how to time their aids correctly that are essential if they are to get the best from the horse. In order for an athletic horse to use its muscles correctly and stay fit enough to execute upper level maneuvers correctly, its rider must be able to keep the horse moving forward with impulsion and balance.

To turn in a winning performance, an athletic horse needs to feel free to move every joint and muscle as fully as it can. The rider must allow the horse to move forward freely to the extent its conformation and fitness enable it to do. This means the rider has to be relaxed, balanced over the horse's center of gravity at all times, able to follow the horse's motion at every gait, and able to correctly coordinate a full set of independent aids. In other words, the rider must have an independent seat.

Without an independent seat, rider error inevitably restricts the horse's ability to move freely in some way and its gaits will deteriorate. Even riders with an independent seat may be intimidated by the powerful movement of a truly athletic horse's gaits. The result is

often that the rider winds up restricting the horse's motion to what they are able to sit comfortably.

A rider may buy a young prospect for its good gaits only to find that once the horse is in training, those gaits deteriorate. Again, the problem usually occurs when the rider is unable to send the horse forward freely because he or she lacks that independent seat. If the rider is apprehensive about a young horse's exuberant forward motion, she should avoid riding in open fields or large arenas until she is comfortable with the horse. Work in an arena whose size limits what the horse can do rather than limiting its forward motion with your aids.

Misunderstanding the sequence of skills the horse must master as it progresses up the training tree can also be a factor when gaits deteriorate. Many dressage riders become fixated on "getting the head down." They crank the horse's head down with the reins which restricts its ability to move forward from behind. Instead, the rider should strive to create energy that moves from the hind end forward into a softly accepting rein. A correct "frame" develops after free, forward gaits.

The goal of every rider should be to take the horse's natural gaits and make them better. The rider who cannot completely relax on her horse or who interferes with her horse's free, rhythmic, forward movement by gripping, grabbing or bouncing needs to develop a good seat if she wants her horse to have good gaits. Working on a longe line with a competent instructor is one of the best ways to do this. The rider should develop her seat on horses with smooth or minimal motion first. Then she can move up to horses with bigger motion to gain additional experience.

I do not believe that once good gaits have deteriorated, they will never come back. However, the horse needs to be ridden by someone who will allow that essential free, forward movement. To be a good athlete, it also needs to be ridden regularly in order to stay fit. Many amateur riders do not work their horses on a regular schedule so there is no way their horse can work like a top athlete.

Buying a "made" horse may be a shortcut to success in the short term. Despite its less experienced rider, the horse may be able to maintain its training level if ridden regularly by a competent trainer. However, becoming a better rider is no different than becoming a

better athlete of any sort. While athletes in every sport constantly look for equipment or dietary aids or new techniques that will give them a winning edge, the bottom line is that they cannot go far without consistently honing their basic skills and developing physical fitness. Buying a better set of clubs does not necessarily improve a golfer's game. Buying the latest running shoe technology does not necessarily shave time off of a runner's personal best effort. It is even truer that buying a horse with advanced training will not necessarily improve a rider's skills or consistently put her in the ribbons at shows. There is no substitute for time in the saddle and hard work. Just keep riding.

Faith Meredith coaches riders in dressage, reining, and eventing and has successfully trained and competed horses through EEI levels of dressage.

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an ACCET accredited equestrian educational institution.

#### IN MY OPINION

After reading in a past issue of WHN the remark that "more Walking Horses are ridden out of gait than into gait" I couldn't help wondering, "Why does the rider get blamed when a TWH inherits multiple gaits with a preference for something other than running walk?"

We don't blame riders for the lack of color on solid-colored Appaloosas or Paints. We don't blame riders or trainers for Miniature Horses and various Pony breeds that are too tall for their breed standard. It is the breeders who chose the traits that horse has, whether the breeders got what they wanted or not. Some breeders do better than others at selecting stock and producing specific traits. Regardless of whether the breeding program succeeds or fails, the breeder is the only person who has any influence at all over what the horse inherits.

Once a foal is conceived its inheritance is whatever it is. The handler, trainer and rider who work with and use the horse after it is born have absolutely no control over whether the horse inherited the distinctive traits of its breed or not. The rider has to ride what the horse IS, not what some piece of paper, breeder, judge or armchair critic says it ought to be. It's not the riders' fault when breeders don't get what they claim they are breeding for. Even if the rider IS the breeder, the breeder/rider cannot change what the horse inherited. It's not the riders' fault when a registry accepts horses that do not fit the breed standard. It's not the riders' fault when a registry has a meaningless or impossible breed standard. So why is it the riders' fault that it's easier to ride TWH out of gait than it is to get the running walk they supposedly inherited?

When was the last time anybody accused riders of riding trotting horses out of a trot?

Of course, riders can influence the quality of the gait by how well or poorly they ride. Good riding will realize the horse's full potential while bad riding will make the best horses look bad, but even the most perfect riding in the world can't go beyond the horse's inherited capabilities. The TWH world's demand that the rider "make the horse" is arrogant, foolish and impossible. It also reveals a very disrespectful and contemptuous attitude towards the horse, other people and the God who created all.

If breeders can't breed a preference for running walk into the horses the breed name should be changed. But TWH breeders, in general, have never seriously tried to breed horses with a strong preference for running walk. TWHBEA threw 13 gaits into one pot, so it's no surprise that we get potluck for gait. TWH breeders have been breeding for cute ears, tail style, big back ends, high front action, color, speed, and almost everything except running walk for so long that it's a wonder the running walk still exists at all!

It occurs to me that the fact that running walk does still exist in spite of breeding for everything but hints that it would be possible to make that gait genetically predominant in a population of horses IF it were consistently selected for by a large number of There have been and still are individual breeders who select running walk, and from what I can tell, those who do get it more consistently than the folks who are selecting for pretty heads, big back ends or pedigree. There are individual horses like Chief, Koko, Kentucky Rainbow, Mary Mels White Sage, and a few others who put themselves back into a running walk whenever the rider is not actively forcing them out of it. That fact demonstrates that it is genetically possible to have running walk as the default middle gait. Getting it once proves it's possible. Getting it multiple times demonstrates it probably could be a truly hereditary breed trait. Then there's also the evidence of the Peruvian Paso breed, in which the paso llano is the predominant middle gait in a majority of the purebred horses. It's not pure or perfect in all of them, but in all the Peruvians I've seen paso llano was fairly easy for the average rider to find. The only difference between paso llano and running walk is termino instead of head nod. Termino is the genetic anomaly that ought to be harder to make breed true than head nod. The same goes for Paso Finos with their toe-first set-down and extremely fast leg speed.

Temperament is much more important than gait, but there's no evidence that the TWH traded gait for temperament. The quality of temperament isn't any more consistent than the running walk. The horses listed above had/have both walk and good temperament so we don't really have to settle for one or the other, in spite of what it appears with Merry Boy, Merry Wilson and Hunter's Allen. Allanna Jackson, Lakeside, AZ

#### THE EVOLUTION OF TRAINING TECHNIQUES IV

by Dr. Bob Womack

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

The Walking Horse of the early forties represented an ideal, but the men who had produced that ideal had grown old in its pursuit; a new generation was ready to pick up the gauntlet. Appreciative of what the older men had accomplished, but restless in their own enthusiasm for improvement, the younger men envisioned change in the Walking Horse. The motivation for change was dictated, at least in part, by major developments within the industry that focused new attention on the Walking Horse.

Although the establishment of the Breeders' Association in 1935 and the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration in 1939 brought new fame and fortune to the Walking Horse, they also brought new pressures. The Walking Horse was no longer a localized attraction whose appeal was limited to the South. The popularity of the breed spread rapidly throughout the nation, and the horse itself became a potent commodity in regions where other breeds had historically dominated the market. In no other period of its history has the Walking Horse made the explosive progress it made between 1935 and 1948. But as the industry probed its new potential, circumstances developed which indicated change was necessary.

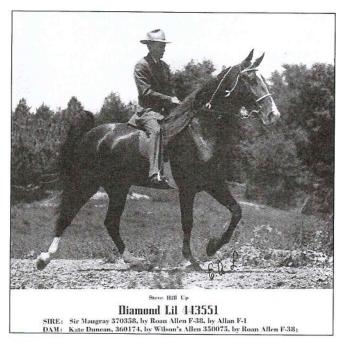
In the mid 1940s, the Walking Horse entered an era in which training techniques became increasingly more sophisticated and experimental. Those men at the helm of the industry could not be certain where the road of experimentation would lead, but of one thing they could be sure: they were building on a firm foundation.

The burden for improving the Walking Horse fell on the professional trainer. Even during the early days of the Walking Horse it was the full time trainer who set the style and action of the show horse. Such trainers now faced their greatest challenge. Fortunately for the industry it had a small corps of professional trainers who were more than capable of meeting the challenge. Since this group of men played important roles in the development of the Walking Horse, they deserve special attention.

One of the first professional trainers to appear on the scene was Floyd Carothers of Wartrace, Tennessee. He was brought up under the careful and critical eyes of such pioneers of the breed as Henry Davis and Albert Dement. Carothers knew horses from the ground up. It was he who in the thirties and early forties developed a potential in his horses that no other trainer had found. His presence at a show was an

unwelcomed sight for owners and riders alike who recognized his ability to move a horse into a way of going which left the competition wishing he had stayed at home. Carothers developed such horses as WHITE CLOUD, LITTLE MERRY STROLLING JIM, MERRY WILSON, and NELLIE GRAY. The presence of this remarkable trainer at shows became so important that at Manchester one of his chief competitors switched a gelding to the mare class to avoid Carothers and STROLLING JIM. The unsuspecting judge did not catch the switch and placed the gelding first, a fact that remained embarrassing to him the rest of his life. In fact, this judge invariably checked the sex of every horse he judged thereafter. Carother's participation in shows became a problem to show sponsors, and on at least one occasion it was publicly advertized that he would not compete.

Subsequently four trainers emerged as the dominant riders of the Walking Horse breed. These were Steve Hill of Beech Grove, Tennessee; Urban Small of Mulberry, Tennessee; Toby Green of Shelbyville, Tennessee; and Winston Wiser of Wartrace, Tennessee.



Hill (above), Green and Small became associated chiefly with the WILSON'S ALLEN lick, while Wiser was the foremost trainer of the Merry Boy family. Each rider of course developed horses from both families, but their preferences were obvious.

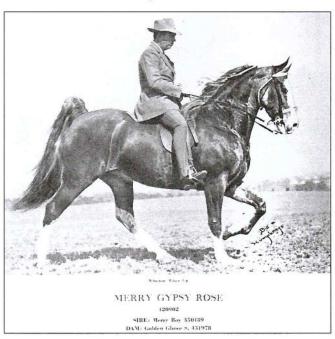
Small trained MELODY MAID (although Floyd

Carothers rode her to the World Championship), CITY GIRL, HOT TODDY, GRAVEL GERTIE, COUNTRY CHARLIE, and MELODY'S HEIR. Green handled such horses as SPUR'S SUMMER DREAM, SUN'S GUNSMOKE, ROYAL HEIR, MIDNIGHT MIST, DIAMOND JIM, FANCY LOVE, GO BOY'S ROCKET, and GUNSMOKE'S SON.

Steve Hill has handled as many or more great Walking Horses than perhaps any trainer who ever lived. Among the outstanding stock he has handled are SOCIETY MAN, HILL'S WILSON ALLEN. MYSTERY MAID, DIAMOND LIL, (See photo on preceding page) MIDNIGHT MERRY, TALK OF WILSON. HILL'S THE TOWN. MERRY PERFECTION, MR. SENSATION, ROYAL HEIR, SPIRIT OF MIDNIGHT, and so many more it is impractical to list them.

Hill, Green and Small are associated with a way of going which represents a gradual extension of the fundamental four-cornered lick of the early Walkers. Their horses reflected the demand for additional speed but never departed from the basic lick of the breed. All were superb trainers and keen competitors. Green is still considered by many the most knowledgeable "ground man" the breed has ever produced.

It was Wiser *(below)* who brought something new to the gaits of the Walking Horse, and it is he who, in all probability, began the movement toward the new ideal of the experimental era. He took more



hold of his horses than his predecessors and added an element of speed, especially in the flat walk, that had not been present previously. As Wiser was difficult to beat in the show ring, what he did to a horse became extremely important to the breed. The versatility of this man's ability is attested to by the fact that while he was the foremost developer of the MERRY BOY family, it was he who took MIDNIGHT SUN as a gangling colt and developed him into a prospect demanding the admiration of Walking Horse enthusiasts throughout the industry. ... Whatever techniques would be devised to move the Walking Horse forward would, of necessity, be built on the foundation laid by trainers such as Carothers, Hill, Green, Small, and Wiser. The foundation would prove itself more than adequate to meet the challenge.

Immediately following World War II an avalanche of new trainers came into the industry to meet the challenges of the expanded market for Walking Horses. Such young men were uniquely fitted to make a contribution to the new ideal being sought by the breed. Almost none of them had an inclination to stay with the old-fashioned gaits that had so pleased their elders; they wanted a horse more in keeping with the times, and the times were moving fast.

The keys to the the new ideal Walking Horse were motion and style, and both were dependent upon getting the horse lifted in front. His head needed to be higher, and his feet needed to get further off the ground. Both these adjustments needed more speed to make them acceptable.

The groundwork for the new ideal had been laid before World War II ended. The transition from the old, established Walking Horse lick was gradual, but by 1945 it was apparent the movement was underway. Both motion and style, accompanied by speed, reached a new dimension in MERRY GO BOY, one of the breed's most sensational show horses.

It was appropriate that MERRY GO BOY led the way toward the new ideal since he was from a mare whose sire, GIOVANNI, was a Saddle-bred stallion. GO BOY'S dam had been shown as a gaited mare in her younger days, and she passed on to her son the fineness and airy ways of a gaited horse. The same observation might be made of BLACK ANGEL, the World Grand Champion of 1943. She, like MERRY GO BOY, had a liberal sprinkling of gaited blood up close, and exhibited a much showier lick than Melody Maid, who preceded her as a champion, or CITY GIRL, who followed her. MERRY GO BOY and BLACK ANGEL shared two other factors in common: both were sired by MERRY BOY, and both were trained by Winston Wiser.

To be continued

Excerpted from <u>The Echo of Hoofbeats</u>, 2nd Edition, 1984. Pages 232 - 235.

Photos from

The Tennessee Walking Horse, April 1946 pp. 6 & 22.

#### FROM FOUNDATIONS TO THE FUTURE by Franne Brandon

#### **EXCEPTIONAL!??**

The adjective "exceptional" is normally a word associated with superlatives. "That gelding has an exceptional flat walk." "His mare produces an exceptional foal no matter what stallion is the sire." "This stallion has a strong pedigree with exceptional maternal lines."

If "exceptional" is used by American meteorologists, however, it assumes a dismal connotation which most horsemen and horsewomen would prefer not to experience.

When horse owners are also land owners, they appreciate the value of rainfall. Ample precipitation in the form of rain and also snow in northern locations, assures that pastures will produce ample grazing for spring, summer, and early autumn, and that hayfields will yield abundant forage for the winter months. A certain amount of precipitation is considered normal by both farmers and weathermen, with variations from year to year.

Occasionally, though, areas like Middle Tennessee which are generally drenched by thunderstorms in the summer fail to receive adequate precipitation. A dry summer month is not that unusual. However, when the spring begins on a dry note and the summer continues in the same pattern, the dirty word "drought" lingers on everyone's lips. For the year 2007, though, the drought was even more intensive than those of recent memory in 1980 and again in 1988. Nashville meteorologists marked the counties where the Tennessee Walker had been bred for over a century as being plagued with exceptional drought.

The month of March began with flooding on the first day. Rising waters caused schools to be dismissed before lunchtime so that buses could return all students in safety. For the rest of March, normally a very wet month, no rain fell. "April showers bring May flowers" in an ordinary year, and they did in 2007, although a hard freeze Easter weekend killed the flowers on fruit trees and strawberry plants. May brought extraordinarily dry weather. By the end of the month, the black leaves killed by the April freeze were beginning to drift off the trees, and they were in bud again, but the grass was not growing as fast as it generally did due to the low moisture in the soil.

May and June are traditionally months for the first hay cuttings in Middle Tennessee. After all the dire reports in various media about the dry weather in May, some hay producers who would generally sell the first cutting rolls and bales with plans to keep the

second, better, cutting, were not offering any hay at all. They were already stockpiling hay from the first cutting in anticipation of more dry weeks to come. It turned out that many of them used good judgment in this. June proved to be very dry indeed, and the meteorologists in Nashville, which cover the weather conditions in Middle Tennessee, on the Cumberland Plateau, and in western Kentucky, were indicating that northern Middle Tennessee was in severe drought, southern Middle Tennessee was in extreme drought, and the southeast corner of the area was even drier, having reached that state termed "exceptional drought" which occurs only once every fifty years.

The month of July brought some relief for the farmers and ranchers in the southern part of the area. Normal rainfall in July is three inches. Areas south of Nashville were blessed with several strong storm systems which drenched fields and towns at two week intervals. Lawns and pastures responded with regreening and growth, although not enough growth for a second hay cutting. The exceptional drought report was downgraded to extreme, which is still drastic, but at least the landscape was greener.

The first week of August, however, brought a double disaster in terms of both lack of rain and a punishing heat wave. Day after day, temperatures soared above 100 degrees Fahrenheit, while skies remained blue and cloudless. Humidity was low, as a dome of high pressure settled over all of Tennessee. Most horse shows were over for the season, but the Pleasure Walking Horse Association had its major fundraiser, the TWHBEA affiliated Flatshod Celebration, scheduled for August 18<sup>th</sup>. When the heat showed no signs of relenting as the show date approached, the August date was cancelled out of consideration for horses, riders, and those who would come to watch.

The late Beulah Vernon Brock, whose husband Dwight trained show walkers in the thirties, once recalled how they had come back home to Lawrence County, Tennessee, after being absent during the war, hoping to train horses again. The couple found that the prices of good walkers had skyrocketed and costs were prohibitive to the re-establishment of a training string.

Veteran breeder Leon Oliver of Cornersville, although not old enough to remember any details, marks 1948 as the year that the market for the flatshod show walkers peaked . After that, demand began falling, and by the early fifties, two droughts similar to this one of 2007 had farmers moving both mares and

stallions of the country 'using' bloodlines to the local stockyard auctions. From Leon's own Cornersville / Petersburg area, once the nursery for many walking horse bloodlines, many breeders simply cut back or gave up. Oldtimer Jules Phillips remembers men like Andy Arthur, Stanley Brooks, and the Talley brothers giving up horses from bloodlines like Rattler Brooks, Rhett Butler, and Pride of Dixie. Leon Oliver's own father sold a stallion named Dan Allen and another called Rambling at the stockyards in Pulaski, Tennessee, because farmers no longer brought any mares to them.

The Nashville Tennessean reported the year 1952 as being especially bad. The weather summary on WKRN-Nashville local TV, the American Broadcasting affiliate, indicated on August 31<sup>st</sup> that Nashville had received only 5.22 inches of rain in June, July, and August of 2007, making it the "driest summer since 1954." Although other rain gauges recorded differing amounts, hay was being fed, more hay being trucked in, and beef cattle were being sent to market all through the summer months. Surprisingly, prices for the cattle remained steady. Unfortunately, prices for horses did not. During the recent Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration auctions, bids were at their lowest in over twenty years, while parking areas at various sale venues had plenty of spaces.

Will the *exceptional* drought of the summer of 2007 have a lasting overall impact on the Tennessee Walker in its native state, as did other droughts over fifty years ago? Only time will tell. Quality riding horses, especially colorful ones, continue to sell, hopefully presaging better times in a few more years. An oversupply of broodmares and young stock coupled with exceptional drought is a dreaded combination. Perhaps more plentiful rains in summers to come and an emphasis on quality rather than quantity will result in a strong market for the Tennessee Walker in the Middle Tennessee basin once again.



Dry, sparse grasses are the rule rather than the exception in most pastures in Middle Tennessee such as this one where the buckskin TWH mare grazes. Free choice hay has kept her and others like her in good shape through the drought.



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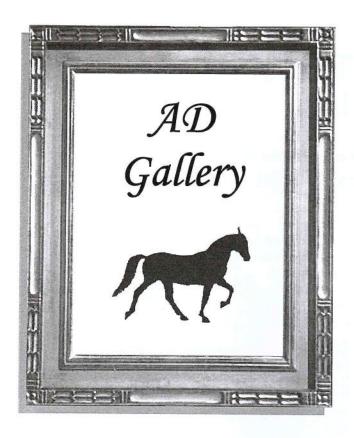
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(Photo left.)

**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.

Above 3 are by Black Kat's Smoke 'N' Fire x Dakota Dusty Doll.

**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.

Canadian & US Reg'd; Blood typed & DNAd.

Keith Doll, Box 315, DOUGLAS, MB R0K 0R0 Phone 204-725-3740 Cell 204-724-6471

Check the complete listing on www.walkinghorsenews.ca.

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#### STANDING AT STUD:

#### THE POWER IS ON

(The Gold Rush Is On x a Pride's Generator mare)

#### **POWER**

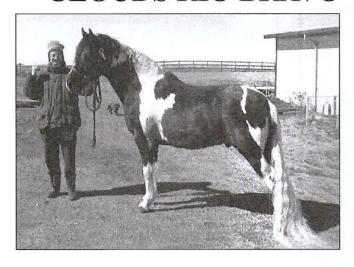
has sired many
Canadian Futurity winners.
Copper body colour with a flaxen mane.



#### At Cloudwalker Stables

#### **CLOUDS RIO BRAVO**

has been sold.



#### **BRAVO**

is going on to a new career as a gymkhana horse.

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Phone Helen at 780-675-9196, Athabasca, AB View at

### www.telusplanet.net/public/hpawluk

Prices Are Negotiable. All horses are DNAed, or are eligible to be DNAd

I BELIEVE IN MIRACLES #921780 Black Stallion Son of Prides Generator, out of Delight Bumin Around daughter. Great reach and overstride, very loose moving, well mannered. \$3500.00

DICTATORS DREAM CATCHER #20100378 Black broodmare, rebred Royal Dictator, out of Merry Boy's F-88 daughter Gentle, square gaited, Allen F-1 twice just off of pedigree. \$3000.00

WIND AT MY BACK #20008709 Chestnut broodmare, rebred Pride's Night Wind, out of Prides Gold Coin daughter High energy, huge overstride, big moving mare. \$3000.00

CG'S GOLD 88 DELIGHT #20602634 Gold champagne yearling filly Champion's Gold, out of Dictators Dream Catcher Moves great, could be shown, \$1500.00

GEN'S FANTASTIC PUSHER #20602632 Black yearling filly Gen's Phantom Pusher, out of Delight Of Pride daughter Moves excellent, should be shown \$1500.00

PERLINO TOBIANO Weanling filly 2007
Champion's Gold X Chance Of A Rainbow LS
Guaranteed color producer, excellent show prospect \$2000.00

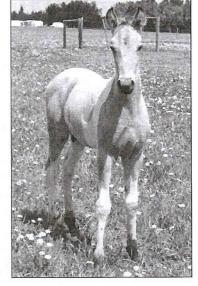
BUCKSKIN TOBIANO Colt 2007 (right)
Champion's Gold X Dictators Golden Echo
Big and colourful, good trail riding prospect \$2000.00

**GREY** Filly 2007

Generator 101 X Design's Black Pearl Good moving filly, could show or trail \$1000.00

**CHESTNUT** Colt 2007

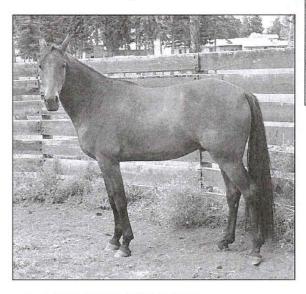
Champion's Gold X Delight's Pride Fantastic Gentle with good gait for trail or rail \$900.00

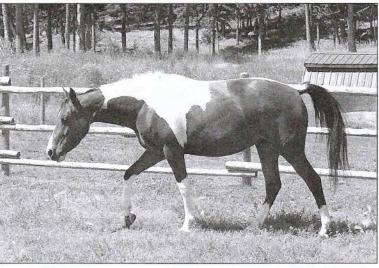


## **Liberty Stables Sales List**

# Liberty's Bold Chance (Below) SOLD

2003 Tall bay gelding. Ready to go to work. Very easy to get along with. Reg. CRTWH.





# Liberty's Heart N' Soul - (Above) SOLD

2002 Bay tobiano mare. Shelby is almost symmetrically marked on both sides with 50% colour. She was injured by a wire fence and is being sold as a broodmare only. She will be an exceptional addition to any broodmare

band. Reg. CRTWH.

#### MARES AND FILLIES:

**Royal Bay Quest** – 1987 15 hh bay mare. She's 'Been there - done that'. She has raised many fine foals. Needs a home where she will be cared for now that she is approaching her sunset years. **\$1500.00** 

Liberty's Swept Away - 2001 Smoky black mare. Stands 15 hh. Very sweet disposition. \$1500.00

Liberty's Miss Cleo SOLD 3 year old bay filly. Very quiet and gentle.

**Liberty's Rose Wilder Lane**— 3 year old chestnut filly. Intelligent and easy going. \$ 1200.00

Liberty's Chances Are - Long yearling bay filly. Very elegant. \$ 750.00

Liberty's Daisy Fay - Yearling filly. Chestnut with flaxen mane and tail. \$750.00

#### **GELDINGS:**

Liberty's Black Flag - 2005 bay gelding with star. Very elegant.

\$ 1000.00

**Rock Mountain Gold -** *SOLD* 6 year old palomino gelding. 15.3 hh. Suitable for competitive trail/endurance. Not for green minds or hands.

**Liberty's Sinatra -** *SOLD* 5 year old bay tobiano gelding with 2 blue eyes. Very easy going and a good attititude. Has played Parelli's 7 games.

All of our horses are ranch raised and used to much stimulation, deer, elk, moose and lots of gunfire.

All are registered, some with multiple registries.

To Good Homes only. Prices do not include 6% GST.

Cathy Martinoff at Liberty Stables, Rock Creek, BC (250) 446-2836 e-mail: martinoff@direct.ca

Please note corrected web address!

www.libertywalkers.ca

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HANDSOME BAY TOBIANO GELDING: 15 hh. Foaled 6/13/2002. IPWHR reg'd. Honest & willing to please. Exceptionally well trained & well gaited, very smooth. Lunges, voice trained, canters with a kiss. Bold, brave, good on trails. Has been ridden all summer. Excellent health; up to date on all vaccinations, hard black hooves trimmed every six to eight weeks. No vices good home a must! New job forces sale. burchill@airsurfer.ca SPRUCE GROVE, AB 780-962-2643

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**TRIANGLE B TWH:** 14 yr old broke 15.1 hh red chestnut mare, with black/brown colt at side; 7 yr old liver chestnut mare, 14.3 hh, a very eager mount; 2 high quality black geldings, green broke and over 16 hh. 403) 931-3575 or dwbaker@platinum.ca or better yet, check out the website at www.triangleb.com CALGARY, AB s/o

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GELDINGS: One 4 year old & two 2 year old Geldings. 2 Yearling fillies. 2 Proven Brood mares – (Dixie's Hot Chocolate x Caliente) 8 years, & (Double Play's Tradition x Double Luck RMW) 6 years. Colours from black to golden palomino with lots of chrome. Loose moving and nice dispositions. Norm, MIRROR, AB 403 788-2046

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CHAMPION RAINBOW WALKERS offers a good selection of TWH for sale, from a Pride's Generator stallion to brood mares and colourful young stock. Call Helen 780-696-9196, or view at www.telusplanet.net/public/hpawluk ATHABASCA, AB

DOWNSIZING – Registered mares, fillies, yearlings and 2 year old gelding. Cathy Martinoff, Liberty Stables, ROCK CREEK, BC (250) 446-2836 e-mail: martinoff@direct.ca Sales List on www.walkinghorse news.ca or view on www.libertywalkers.ca

CHAPIE'S DARK ANGEL 2002-2881 – 15:2 hh mare, five years, black with 4 socks, star and snip. By Chapie's Shadow King x Chapie's Shadow Darkie. Quiet, easy to catch & handle. Started under saddle. STETTLER, AB 403-742-4139

REGISTERED BLACK WALKER/QH CROSS, 1½ years, Well fed, deep bodied, very agile, kind eye. Will mature 15:2 hh. \$1000 or trade for 13:3 to 14:1 hh animal. 18-year-old Paso mare, good for an older person for pleasure riding. 1918 Army saddle, good shape. \$425. CAWSTON, B.C. 250-499-5861

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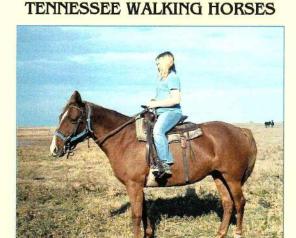
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