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Walking Horse

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DIANNE LITTLE
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News



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Walking Horse News

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« « « «

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On Our Cover

This photo was taken at a
local show for weanlings to
2 year olds. My Aunt Peggy
holds the black filly, Storm's
Whispering Gypsy (April's
Artic Storm x Major's Whis-
pering Willow) while I have
the black & white colt,
Storm's Artic Fun (April's
Artic Storm x Mz. Funny).

Photo submitted by
Jana Jacobsen, Cranbrook, BC.

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MARCH 7**

for May/June issue
MAY 7

for July/Aug issue
JULY 7

for Sept/Oct issue
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Volume XXXII, # 1 January/February, 2008

Dear Subscribers,

2008 already seems to be away on a runaway gal-
lop! It's going to be a busy year. May it be a good one for
all the Walkers and their people.

I'd like to thank all our cover advertisers for their
ads. Thank you for making these bright covers possible! I
really noticed the difference it makes while going back
through the J/F issues. 1978 was a folded four page news-
letter with no cover at all, while 1988 and 1998 both had
the green covers with a grey masthead and a white maple
leaf in the centre holding a black & white photograph.
Darlene Moore made the suggestion that I go back
through the old *Walking Horse News* files (page 22) and
reprint items from ten, twenty and thirty years ago, so
that's what I have done in this issue. Let me know what
you think - or items *you'd* like to see reprinted.

Have you ever seen ads for horses that use words
like 'a push-button' horse' or 'he's broke to death'? How
about 'Wanted: Bomb-proof horse'? I saw one like that in
a paper recently. I think that's dangerous. It seems to me
that he won't ever find what he's looking for - because
horses are living beings and ANY horse can be spooked
or wasp-stung or... *Learn to ride* on a quiet, kind, experi-
enced animal by all means, but never put all the responsi-
bility for safety on the horse. So I was very happy to once
again reprint Dan Aadland's article from the J/F 1988
WHN, entitled Toward a Minimum Level of Horsemanship.
See pages 11 & 12.

Thank you to all our contributors, whether you sent
news, stories, photos or ads. Without you there's no
News! Once again there are great stories, TWH history,
and photos showing subscribers doing all sorts of interest-
ing things with their Walkers. Sometimes the stories be-
hind those photos are more intriguing than you'd think.

We'll look forward to hearing from *You* next time,

Marjorie

Walking Horse News

February, 2008

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

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Thank you for advertising in Walking Horse News!

HISTORY & HERITAGE PROJECT

"CANADIAN TIMES OF THE TWH"

WHAT WE DO WITH OUR WALKERS by Keith Doll, Douglas, MB



Over the years we've done many things with our Walkers but this story is mainly about what we did with my stallion, Black Kat's Smoke 'N Fire last summer.

I bought 'Smoky' from the late Marlene Sams of Stoughton, Saskatchewan. Marlene's breeding stock was all from the bloodlines of Ben Kuske's herd in New Rockford, North Dakota, and Calvin Miller's horses at The Double Diamond Ranch near Rhame, North Dakota. Smoky goes back to old time horses such as Merry Go Rambler; Beauty's Cheyenne, full sister to Beauty's Sage King; Zephyr's Thunder; Dapper Dan L and Wilson's Merry Boy, to name a few. *(Below Smoky, Dusty Doll and their foal.)*



John Gardner, the bird dog trainer from Madison, Mississippi who trained dogs in the

Stoughton area for 51 consecutive years, once commented to Marlene, "I don't know how you got those horses. We don't sell good horses like that to Canada."

Smoky has always been a very easy-going, personable fellow, never ever showing any aggression. He's given me many super offspring. However, after the big PMU shutdown, horses on the Prairies were give-aways. Consequently nobody was buying. I stopped breeding until the herd was reduced, which left Smoky... standing in his corral. Feeling sorry for him I got a fifty-foot tether and he became my 'lawn boy' (with fertilizer attachment).



Above photo shows Smoky with Celine - babysitters par excellence!

My stepdaughter, Celine, is horse-crazy so when a bunch of her equally horse-crazy friends came over to celebrate her 14th birthday, they wanted to ride a horse. And Smoky, being tethered in the yard, was the first one they encountered and the one they decided to ride. Riding bareback with a halter shank on each side of the halter is fairly normal here, so that's what they did. All afternoon! It's hard to say who enjoyed it most, but it sure was excellent birthday entertainment! *(Photo at top, left)*

After this experience, Celine decided that Smoky needed daily exercise. She saddled and bridled him; then it was only fair that her little sister and our two foster children should ride too. Needless to say, Smoky got lots of exercise for the rest of the summer.

A better entertainer and baby-sitter you couldn't ask for!

NEWS - NEWS - NEWS

ALBERTA NEWS

From CARLA AMONSON, EVANSBURG, "Our new Walkers from Liberty Stables, Cleo and Wyatt, are fabulous. Thad threw the saddle on Wyatt the first night and rode him with no problem. (Remember he had a little ground work 2 years ago) Thad has about 8 rides on him now (busy fall) with two out in the pasture. Cleo was not even halter broke when we got her. I taught her to lead in about 10 minutes. I sacked her out the day after she arrived, and she didn't care in the least, so that afternoon I put the saddle on her and she did nothing, so I rode her, and again, nothing! It was like she was broke. I have ridden her about 7 times, and nothing fazes that horse; she is so laid back and relaxed! Even if she is scared, she settles in about a minute and is again walking head down and totally relaxed. She has a great personality and is very independent (much like her owner). Maybe a little too bossy like her owner too..."

"They are very alike in some ways as they are full siblings. In looks they are spitting images of each other, though she is more feminine of course and smaller, but they are very different as well. For instance, she is pacey and he is trotty. But one thing for sure, they are both so naturally gaited, it is ridiculous, and NOTHING will be able to keep up to them on the trail as they can cover ground!"

From STAN POTTER, ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE, "I enjoyed the article by Elaine Lipka in the last issue. She mentioned the hail storm on June 10th that hit her area about ten minutes east of me. The same hail storm hit my ranch as well. However, about ten minutes after it ended I was out birthing a beautiful bay colt, Potters Carbon Ace, while kneeling on remnants of the hailstones. How a mare has the sense and ability to hold off the process until the storm passes I don't know, but I was definitely impressed with her incredible motherly instincts!"

"Our two black mares were both bred to Sippin' Champagne in '06 and we did have one champagne filly, Potters Evenin Champagne, out of a Gen's Terminator daughter. This year they are both bred to Trouble's Gold Sun who is palomino and we hope for palomino and/or buckskin babies."

"Please send a complimentary issue of *Walking Horse News* to Aimee McGregor, Dixonville, who just bought her first registered TWH, Potters Carbon Ace."

"I was also glad to read a note from Arianne Baker last month, as my first Walking Horse came from her."



LILLIAN BURCHILL, SPRUCE GROVE, phoned to thank *WHN* for the classified ad which she is now cancelling as she has sold her tobiano gelding, Chance's Sundance Kid (*above with Lillian's daughter*). He went to a gentleman from Evansburg, and Lillian wishes him all the best with this well trained, handsome horse!

ARLENE BOLES, THREE HILLS, writes, "I hope everyone had a good Christmas with family and friends. Our children came home with their young families and enjoyed turkey with all those extras." "I've a new digital camera with its own printer, but sorry - I'm not into e-mailing photos or letters. Maybe someday... I'd rather be outside in our barn working with the horses and doing a little gardening in the summer."

"We halter trained our two 2007 fillies and trained the yearling to be tethered on grass for pasture last summer. My stallion is content to keep the two mares happy."

"I am new to this breed. I read the interesting story about the different gaits the Walker breed can perform. Does their extended walk perform better in the show ring on flat ground rather than on rough and hilly trails? Are they bred for performance? Would other people have questions about saddles, harness, carts and training advice?"

"With horses there is always more to learn. Thank you, Marjorie, for printing a great magazine with stories of people and horses. People need to keep active and keep learning. Please renew my subscription for another year. Happy trails to everyone out there, whether you are square dancing, trail riding or driving horses! Happy New Year and all the best in 2008."

KARLA FREEMAN, BENTLEY, writes, "Hello from RideEasy Ranch. I hope everyone enjoyed excellent festivities. My daughter Alexandra insisted on getting the game HORSEOPOLY for Christmas, so I would play a boardgame with her, and as silly as it seems, I definitely like playing it better than monopoly! (More proof that I am addicted to horses.)"

"We have a new addition to the farm. Alexandra got an 8 month old British Lab. He is a smart boy, making some waves in the herd. My Pal Roy literally stuck his head up in the air, and walked away from him... like "I'm not talking to *him*!" What a Jealous horse!"

"It's been a little cold for riding, but I have some army-issue, extreme cold weather pants that keep me in the saddle, so as long as it's not too windy, I like to ride, and now have to tally up the hours I've ridden this year for the "RIDE YOUR WALKER" program."

"I've started driving some of the 3 year olds, and I am always just amazed and pleased at how smart and willing they are. They look forward to coming out and playing and seeing what's outside of the pasture - of course with some reservations about leaving the herd."

Speaking of the herd, I've decided I have to cut down on the number of horses here... so stay tuned. (Unless of course I win the lottery, in which case *I Will Keep Them All!*)"

"I am also planning a 'Gathering' with a few of my horses for the Program for Excellence. I have an arena close by and I want to do it early in the spring so I have plenty of time to get them transferred to DVD for evaluation. So contact me if you want to join in. I will have more info by the end of January."

"Now that the days are getting longer, I can look forward to more riding! So Happy Trails, Everybody."

"P.S. I am sending a picture of Roy the Reindeer - with Alexandra's gloves on his ears!"



Wild Rose Walking Horse

Is pleased to announce the winner of the 2007 weanling Colt -

Kirstin Taylor of Lethbridge, Alberta.

We would also like to thank

Randy and Lorraine Johnson, Jus' Fine Tennessee Walking Horses, for their donation

of this handsome, well-bred young colt.

Kirstin's mom bought her the ticket, so when Kirstin won, it really was a huge surprise.

Kirstin has ridden but was never able to own a horse so she was elated to win such a beautiful little guy -

and to top it off, he's a Tennessee Walking Horse.

Kirstin's husband, on the sly, found a place to board their new arrival... just in case.

We couldn't be happier for Kirstin. She has a new horse, a place for him and will be learning a lot about their new partnership.

Funds from the Colt Raffle Tickets, made possible by the generous donation from Jus' Fine Tennessee Walking Horses, will be used for cash prizes at our 2008 Wild Rose Versatility Show.

The show will be held on the 14th and 15th of June, 2008 at the Thorsby Arena in Thorsby, Alberta.

For further information regarding the show

call or e-mail Lorrie Black

walkers1@airsurfer.ca or (780) 929-2151

LISA LAMBERT, PRIDE'S NOBLE WALKERS, PERRYVALE, writes, "Well those two horses of ours that were injured in June are perfect. Devil has healed 100%, so we are just so thrilled with that. Our vet is amazed. The filly still has scarring so hopefully that will go away. I was hoping to show her but it looks like she may not make it in the ring if that doesn't go away."

"Since August things have been rough. One of the foals reared up on me the end of August and I still have a lot of issues. I can't even carry anything with my arm wrapped around it, not even a pillow. She really did some damage though nothing broke. I have a lump there so am going to get that rechecked here one day soon. It really hurts."

"September 5th we lost our dog Missy from some kind of virus, and our two cats had to have surgery, so it's been rough. Then I took Smokey Joe our smokey black colt to the vet. He had this thing that kept draining which turned out to be a dermatoid cyst, so we had that removed. Then Tom got home one December night and found Tango our young colt out running around and asked me to go catch my horse, so I went out and got him put away. I don't know what all went on but Pride had busted three fence posts. This is a stallion that is so respectful of fencing that I know something spooked them. Anyway it wasn't long until I noticed my filly was missing, and around an hour later we found her in the back bush with a large chunk taken out of her hip, so now we are cleaning that and waiting for it to heal..."

"I can't wait for the New Year. It just **has** to be better than this last year."

HUGH ASHWELL, EDSON, brought me this wonderful photo of two grizzlies, taken by a Minnesota hunter. They came to check out the moose meat at a camp near Cadomin, AB. Keep your eyes OPEN if you are out riding in that area next summer!



BRENDA BAKER, TRIANGLE B TENNESSEE WALKERS, CALGARY, writes, "Above is a picture of Harold Stewart and his wife's TWH mare, 'Sami' during an afternoon ride at Mesa Butte, an equestrian riding area in Kananaskis, just west of Millarville AB. Harold & his wife Lil keep their Tennessee Walkers with us and come with us for a ride out in "the hills" when our collective schedules permit."

ROSEMARY JORDAN, LEDUC, e-mailed, "I have a minute so I thought I would bring you up to date. Cem had an aneurism on the first Thursday in October. He is now in the Glenrose Hospital. He is in a wheel chair but he is recovering, so I don't know what's going to happen for sure. I just keep going from day to day. Some young people are helping me and we are getting horses ridden."

Best wishes to Cem in his recovery.

JOAN PENNER, EVANSBURG, phoned to tell me about sales she's made. Christine Ruthardt of Evansburg is the proud new owner of Gold Stars Secret, a 21 year old palomino mare. This is Christine's first Walking Horse and she and her children are looking forward to trying out Goldie's smooth gait and gentle nature. Santarra, Joan's lovely young buckskin mare, went to Jo-Anne Washington of Tofield. Congratulations and best of luck to you both with your new Walking Horses.

From CHARIS COOPER, TURNER VALLEY, "Christmas is finished and now we can look forward to the end of winter and more trail riding. We have been having sleigh rides in the area and today I will help my young neighbour give sleigh rides in the Turner Valley area."

"Would you please put my ad for Dec-Jay's Fire & Lace in the classifieds? Thanks!"

ONTARIO NEWS

From 'FRED LLOYD-SMITH, VANESSA, "2007 was fairly eventful. Bob and I rode two of our horses in our first distance ride: 25 miles in Mansfield Forest, Ontario with the Ontario Competitive Trail Riding Association which we had joined. A beautiful and bug-less day, we had a wonderful time even with our ignorance regarding times and checks and all the things that go with endurance rides. We did not compete but did the mileage option, passed all the vet checks as they laughed and marveled at our strange gaits, and enjoyed ourselves a lot as we completed the distance. Bob rode Daisy, the mare in his ad last year and I rode my palomino, Queen."

"Not long after, someone approached us to buy Daisy and lo' and behold, she was a very experienced endurance rider who has ridden at provincial levels. Now, with a bad back, she still wants to keep riding. Her Arabians are now too hard on her. She tried out Daisy on a mini trail ride here, then when I went on the Eastern Canada Paso Fino Club trail ride, I took Daisy with me for her to ride as I again rode Queen. A friend with a Paso has introduced me to this event. We again had a marvelous day... and Daisy was sold. Not long after we got this email (where Daisy has now been renamed Tenas): 'I'm just having so much fun with Tenas. She is a great horse for me. We have had a wild turkey go right under her feet and she just keeps trucking like nothing is happening. Wow! I really love this horse. Thank you so much.'"

"They continued to train and develop their relationship and entered their first competitive event in August whereupon we received this terrific email: 'OK, 'Fred, I have to brag once more. Tenas and I had a great day yesterday at the competitive ride: a 3rd in our division, high point Gaited Horse award, and out of over 80 horses, we got the *horsemanship award!* Oh yes and an A card.' Incidentally, her back has been fine and no knee issues either, so more kudos for TWH. It is always wonderful to get such a good home for one's animal."

"Queen and I attended a Training Clinic for endurance riding after our first 25 mile ride so I learned some of what I was clueless about previously and in my dreams I will do more endurance events, but that was all I managed for the year. We did Level 3 clinics with 3 different Parelli instructors including Carol Coppinger who was brilliant - because she's excellent anyway - but especially because she knows gaited horses. Her demo horse is a Walking Horse!"

"For the first time, I didn't feel like an oddity and that was great. We're booked to return in 2008. We did a Gaited Horse Fun Show put on by the same Paso group who did the trail ride and my daughter, Alana, looked ravishing in the costume class - I'll send along a photo - *below.*"



"We sold another horse to a happy family who had just lost a dear equine friend, and we bought another horse who obviously has serious issues around things happening behind his head. As everyone says, 'Well, 'Fred, sounds like you've got yourself a PROJECT.' Yes indeed."

"My yearling grew a lot and is very handsome, our 2 four-year olds are under saddle and coming along, and Bob continues to build the stalls in the barn end of the arena. Kids are growing, still very leery of riding, though I am hoping to gentle my daughter along a bit by doing a Ride 'n Tie, perhaps in April."

"So that's it for news. I will send along some photos you may use or not as you like, separately so the file sizes are not too big. Also would you send the magazine to Nancy Blake, Loretto, ON with our compliments. Thanks and all the best for 2008."

Speaking of Horses...

I don't help people with horse problems. I help horses with people problems.

Nicholas Evans, *The Horse Whisperer*

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walking Horse

SASKATCHEWAN NEWS

SHELDON SCHROEDER, LONE ROCK, phoned one afternoon. Sheldon is recovering from a badly broken foot suffered in a farm accident, and wasn't even in a walking cast when I talked to him. But he is hoping to be mobile again by spring, and in the meantime he's had time to 'surf the web'. He said, "I found a very interesting web site on color genetics and thought you would find it interesting: www.horsetesting.com."

Sheldon is still looking for pack saddles, etc. so he'd appreciate it if you'd give him a call if you know of some good equipment.

MANITOBA NEWS

DARLENE MOORE, BOISSEVAIN, writes, "I've enjoyed *The Walking Horse News* for nearly thirty years now. Could you print some 'old' news items from the 1978, 1988 and 1998 newsletters in the 2008 *WHN* issues?"

"Also would you please mail a complimentary copy of the November/December *WHN* to the following three ladies who have all expressed interest in purchasing a Tennessee Walking Horse? They are Sharon Bavereiss of Inglis, and Marg Kroeger and Elizabeth Cain of Brandon."

"It looks like we are in for an 'old-fashioned' winter here in southern Manitoba. We got a foot of snow, minus-30-degree nights and 30 kilometre an hour winds practically overnight. It is December 10th and it is still really cold! Pretty cold for doing chores.

But good weather for reading horse magazines ..."

Thank you, Darlene, for the suggestion about reprinting past items. I will look back and see what I can find in the Jan-Feb issues of those years. It would be fun to see what was happening back then! And many of the articles are definitely worth another look.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA NEWS

JUDY TAYLOR, PRITCHARD, writes, "Thanks so much for the subscription reminder. I think this is the second one. I don't want to miss any issues. I keep wanting to write and comment on some topics – such as a registered gelding. I'm so grateful for what I've learned on my 26 year old. I bought him without papers and renewed them later thanks to Leonard Dahle and my horse's original owner."

From NATALIE SPECKMAIER, VANCOUVER, "I thoroughly enjoyed this issue, as usual. Even my non-horsey husband (not a stranger to mucking out and picking) has taken to reading parts of the magazine. We both loved the cover, both for the setting (Norman went to the university in Tucson) amid the stately saguaro cacti, and for the subject matter. Every horsewoman's dream of the perfect wedding, and riding sidesaddle. Beautiful!"

TWHBEA AMNESTY PROGRAM

The Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders' and Exhibitors' Association (TWHBEA) is pleased to announce an amnesty program that eliminates the late penalties associated with registrations and transfers of Tennessee Walking Horses for the period of **December 15, 2007 through March 1, 2008**. As with all registrations and transfers at the TWHBEA, post mark date is the determining factor for applicability.

The newly elected executive committee met by conference call on the evening of December 4, 2007 to consider this idea that came from the membership meeting on Saturday. After discussion and consideration of the potential financial impact, the motion to offer this amnesty period as an immediate benefit to the industry was unanimously adopted.

"This executive committee wants those that have avoided properly registering or transferring their horses to understand the importance of maintaining the integrity of the Registry and the value of proper papers, and thus encourages all Tennessee Walking Horse consumers to come forward during this time period and avoid the normal penalty structure", said David Pruett, President.

TWHBEA may be reached toll free at

1-800-359-1574.

Dec 5, 2007

From Laurie Innocent, AB Director
TWHBEA

Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders' and Exhibitors' Association

What do YOU do with your Walkers ?



Above: Peter Symons listens for the 1-2-3-4 beat as he rides Wainwright's Rainbow down the fence line at his Rafternines Ranch, Dawson Creek, BC.



Left: Karla Freeman gives 3 year old Black Betty her first driving lesson around the yard at home with the calf sled dallied to her saddle. Ride Easy Ranch, Bentley, Alberta.



Left: Kadet doesn't seem very concerned about getting his first set of new shoes as Kelly Ogilvie, the farrier, nails them on.

Can you see Mimzie the Cat supervising?
Ride Easy Ranch, Bentley, Alberta.

What do YOU do with your Walkers?

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

Toward A Minimum Level of HORSEMANSHIP by Dan Aadland

It's a great tribute to our gentle gaited breeds that many of the owners of these horses seem to also be new owners of horses in general. What praise for the disposition of these breeds, that people in the know in the horse world recommend them to those just getting started in horses. Certainly none of us who make portions of our livings working with these breeds will ever be caught complaining about this state of affairs.

But we should be honest too, and admit that there is a flip side. If I pool my own experience with that of many others with whom I communicate frequently, the unavoidable impression is that there is much room for improvement in the level of horsemanship of many gaited-horse enthusiasts. One associate attended a clinic which taught some pretty advanced classes and techniques, and remarked that most of the people present needed conventional classes in beginning horsemanship more than the excellent specialized seminars

We live in a fast-paced society, a mechanized society, in which few of us have the time to develop skills, skills in anything, even our most treasured hobbies. How good are we really, at handling the tools in our basement workshops (compared to Dad or Grandpa or a professional)? How good are we at playing the musical instruments to which we were introduced as youngsters? Horsemanship is a series of skills, bound together with knowledge, and most of us are better off admitting that we could be a whole lot better.

The truth is we rely on machines to do what we don't do too well. Over a hundred years ago Emerson said we had built a railway, but we'd lost the use of our feet. I rely on my type-writer or computer and my handwriting skill is non-existent. Most of us use pocket calculators to make up for math skills that get increasingly lousy.

Now here's the rub. Horses are not machines. That's a difficult concept for most beginners to accept. Sure, they know it intellectually but they still 'operate' a horse the way they would an automobile, a snowmobile or the controls on their V.C.R. Push a button, and the engine starts. Kick the horse and it goes. Turn the wheel and the machine turns. Pull a rein or neck rein the horse and it turns.

But I've never had a car try to run away because a bee stung it. I've never had my V.C.R. panic because three other V.C.R.s ran madly by on the other side of a fence, and it wanted to join them.

And I've never ridden a horse so well trained that I could sit there like a block of wood, cold, hard, and unfeeling, and have it do exactly what I wanted.

And so, though as editor of this journal I've strongly avoided the soapbox, I'm going to get on it for a minute. I think all who are short of expert classification in this complicated equine world should accept a precept or two, then pledge themselves to acquiring a minimum skill level in handling these lovely but powerful beasts.

First, accept that horses are not machines; that they are living, breathing creatures of flesh and blood. That makes them both wonderful and complicated. Second, accept that they, in their magnificent strength, are potentially dangerous no matter how unintentionally so. Third, accept that riding horses is not the world's safest activity. It's a whole lot safer than sky diving or hang gliding (activities which make you uninsurable) but riding these creatures is not as safe as knitting.

Fourth, accept that a certain minimal level of physical conditioning and ability is necessary to be a good horse person. Certainly the level we're discussing is within the reach of virtually all of us, but it does exist. At the very least, some minimum in the way of physical ability makes the activity a whole lot more enjoyable.

Fifth, accept that horsemanship in total is to be respected as both art and science, that while within our reach, it is not developed overnight. Here again, that's rough. Ever notice an advertisement for guitar lessons that says, "Dedicate yourself like Segovia to a lifetime of many hours of practice each day, and you too can entertain your friends with the sublime sounds of the classical guitar"? We're told we can do it in ten minutes per day, and that the same time each day will let us build a physique like the incredible hulk's or lose the fifty extra pounds that are bothering us. But we're adults, after all, and we know it's not true. Good horsemanship will require time, lots of it.

Okay, if you're not angry with me yet, if you can handle the above, let's get to specifics. I won't try to give a comprehensive list of things one should know or areas at which one should work but here are some starters.

1. Horsemanship is an activity that involves your whole body. Driving a car is not (unless you're at Indy). Most horses are trained to respond to body language, to leg and seat cues, not just to your hands and your heels. Unfortunately, such training varies among different traditions and areas of the country. If you're buying a horse, find out what *he* expects from *you*.

2. Ropes and knots may not be as important to the horseman as to the sailor, but they're awfully important. Know at least one of the quick-release tie-up knots, along with the square knot, plus the only safe knot with which to restrain a horse, the bowline.

3. Know enough about the body of the horse to be able to recognize rudimentary problems, unsoundness, or illness.

4. When buying a horse, if you don't trust your dealer enough to be honest with him about your abilities, find one you do trust. (Referrals from satisfied customers are probably the best way to do this.) Why? How can the dealer fix you up with the correct horse for you if you don't come clean with him? Besides, dealers handle so many customers that they'll see through you if you aren't honest. Incidentally, in my rather limited horse-selling experience, the best horse people often turn out to be the ones most modest about their abilities.

5. If you don't know the difference between a snaffle bit and a curb you don't know enough to be using either. Learn a thing or two about tack.

6. Forget about acquiring foolproof horses. They don't exist, and people who run want ads like the one I saw recently - "Three-year-old half Arab mare for sale, foolproof kids' horse" are to be avoided like poisoned oats. Concentrate instead on acquiring well trained animals from reliable dealers whose horses have a reputation for level dispositions. Then improve your skills enough that you no longer need a 'foolproof' horse. Incidentally, I really believe a spirited but gentle, well-trained animal, will do more to improve your horsemanship than all the plugs in the West.

7. A simple but crucial survival technique that should be taught a rider before he steps on his first horse, but that for some weird reason many people don't know, is that if something goes wrong in the horse's behavior, if he tries to buck or run away, you don't correct the situation by simply hauling back on both reins. A determined bit-biter can still run away. Instead you pull back on one rein, pulling his head around, with just the force necessary to do so and no more. That pull-around reflex should be honed to a hair-trigger if you deal with a lot of green or semi-trained animals.

8. Get rid of macho if any exists. Good horsemanship is far closer to good violin playing than it is to Friday Night Wrestling. Macho attitudes hurt horses, too. An ordinary curb bit becomes a tool of torture in the hands of a show-off jerk.

This could become a long editorial, and it is already longer than intended, so I'll stop the list at this point. It's only intended to suggest, not be comprehensive. Hopefully I've chased no one away from his or her dreams at this point. Horseback riding

on our mellow breeds is truly wonderful, pleasurable, and relatively safe (when compared with other outdoor activities). So it's time for the good news.

If you're unsure of your horsemanship the situation is dirt easy to remedy. The most obvious place to start is where you start when you want to learn more about any new activity - books. Horsemen have been writing good ones since Greek times, and your local library and bookstore are loaded. Your problem will be choosing, not finding.

Teachers are the other way we've always learned, and a friend who's a really good horse person is certainly hard to beat. Even better is a program of training if one is available near you and you can bear the cost. Riding lessons from a reputable teacher are likely to be organized and thorough. More colleges seem to be offering equestrian studies programs, and a night class or two could do worlds to improve your knowledge and confidence.

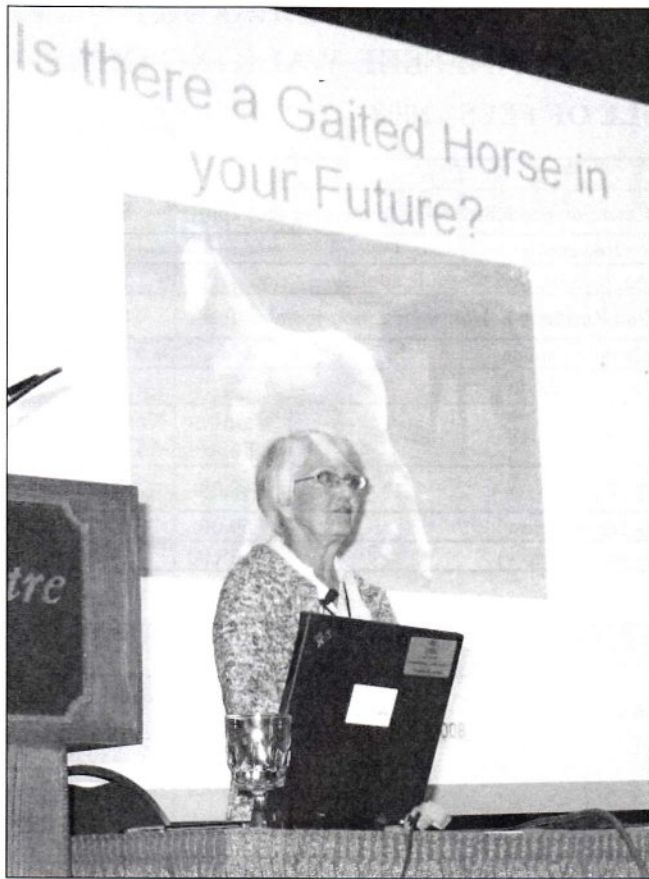
Next is a whole new world of instructional tools that didn't exist ten years ago for all practical purposes - videos. The horse magazines are full of advertisements for all kinds of skill-oriented videos dealing with subjects from calf roping to dressage, and many now review these videos just as they do books. Some are available for rent at local retail stores, and clubs often buy them for member use.

Last is for the rider what Tex recommends in this month's training column for the colt -long rides and wet saddle blankets - but that just means the best training tool of all is also the most fun!

Reprinted in the Jan/Feb 1988 issue of WHN from Easy Rider, The Journal for Lovers of Smooth-Gaited Horses, Fall 1988, with the permission of the author, Dan Aadland in 1988.



"Horses being horses" at 'Fred Lloyd-Smith and Bob Showers Kennel & Stable, Vanessa, Ontario. This was the first big snowfall of the winter and Queen and her sabino companion had just had a good run.



Horse Breeders & Owners Conference

I again attended the Horse Breeders and Owners Conference, held this year at the Capri Centre, Red Deer, Alberta the weekend of January 11 to 13. I immersed myself in as much horse information as I could. Many informative topics were covered. Sessions such as such as Pre-purchase Vet Checks, Ground Manners, Wise Use of Antibacterial Drugs, and Ride and Drive When You're 90, Preserving Ethics in the Horse Industry, Marketing Horses on the Internet, News in Nutrition... it was really hard to decide which ones to attend!

But, the Highlight of the weekend for me was hearing Dianne Little speak on the Gaited Horse. *(Photo above.)* I was pleased to see so many people attend this session, and Dianne enlightened the audience about the history of the gaited horse, the variety of gaited breeds, and their many wonderful traits and diverse attributes and abilities. It was a great pleasure to hear Dianne speak of the gaited horse as the 'Cadillac of Horses'; and in fact, the term 'saddle horse' historically referred to a horse that was soft gaited. I really enjoyed meeting new people, and visiting with friends from out of town. Of course a horse filled weekend is the best weekend!

Karla Freeman, Bentley, AB

FOSH to Present Gaited Horse Judging Clinic in EUROPE

History will be made when Dianne Little, Friends of Sound Horses (FOSH) Director of Judging, presents an Independent Judges Association (IJA) judging clinic in South Germany, prior to the European Championships for Tennessee Walking Horses. At this time, Natural Walking Horses (NWH) promotes horses that are barefoot or plain shod, that can perform a true four-beat walking gait.

Little was recently contacted by Carolin Klaus, European Tennessee Walking Horse Association (ETWHA) Executive Director, to present a two-day judging clinic July 30-31. It would be held in preparation for the European Championship Aug. 1-3. The hope is to have three TWH judges for that show. "I had expected such a request a year from now," Little said. "I was surprised but pleased that they want the clinic this year. I think the acceleration of the sound horse movement in Europe is significant." The European Championship will feature Tennessee Walkers, Peruvian Pasos and Paso Finos. Mary Donald, Rupert, Idaho, is the IJA judge selected to officiate over the Peruvian Pasos at this show.

The request for a sound horse clinic came after many European Walking Horse owners wanted sound rules to identify sound horses. They formed The Natural Walking Horse Association to protect their horses and honor a natural way of going. "It would be more than wonderful if we could have a two-day judging clinic before the show," Klaus said. "All the NWH founders would be very honored to have Ms. Little and a FOSH IJA Judge's Clinic in Europe. I believe a FOSH Judges' clinic will be like a big bang in the European Walking Horse scene."

Little suggested that the annual IJA judging clinic be held in Germany this year. The FOSH Board of Directors enthusiastically agreed. "I felt the promotional value of FOSH/IJA representing the sound horse in Europe was huge, and would outweigh any adverse effects of the lack of a judging clinic in Florida this year." Little said. "Being the first organization asked to provide a sound, natural gaited horse judging clinic in Europe is a tremendous opportunity."

December 19, 2007 PRESS RELEASE

Contact Person: Teresa Bippen
tbippen@fosh.info



CANADIAN REGISTRY OF THE TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE

SCHEDULE OF FEES 2008

1. MEMBERSHIP	Fees	
a. Full Membership (Individual, Family, Corporation, Partnership - Canadian residents.) Voting, member fees apply	\$25.00/yr	
b. Individual Life Membership (Individual). Voting, member fee schedule applies	\$200.00	
c. Youth Membership (Individual, under 18 years of age). Non-voting, member fee schedule applies	\$10.00/yr.	
d. Associate Membership (Individuals, organization, groups - Canadian Residents). Non-voting, non-member fees	\$15.00/yr.	
e. Non-Canadian Resident Membership. Non-voting, member fee schedule applies	\$35.00/yr.	
f. Non-Canadian Resident Lifetime Membership. Non-voting, member fee schedule applies	\$250.00	
2. REGISTRATION OF FOALS or HORSES NOT ALREADY REGISTERED	Member Fees	Non-Member Fees
a. Within 12 months of foaling (PLUS add DNA fee - see 6a below)	\$40.00	\$80.00
b. After 12 but less than 18 months of foaling (PLUS add DNA fee - see 6a below)	\$60.00	\$120.00
c. After 18 but less than 24 months of foaling (PLUS add DNA fee - see 6a below)	\$125.00	\$250.00
d. After 24 months of foaling: (PLUS add DNA fee - see 6a below) <i>Non-refundable fee of \$125.00 if application is rejected.</i>	\$300.00	\$500.00
If the sire and/or dam of the unregistered foal (or horse) is not registered with CRTWH, submit a photocopy of both sides of the parent's U.S. registration certificate along with the foal's registration application.		
3. REGISTRATION OF HORSES ALREADY REGISTERED in U.S.	Member Fees	Non-Member Fees
<i>Applications must be accompanied by a photocopy of both sides of the U.S. certificate</i>	\$45.00	\$90.00
4. TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP	Member Fees	Non-Member Fees
a. Within 1 month of date of sale	\$20.00	\$40.00
b. After 1, but before 3 months of date of sale	\$30.00	\$60.00
c. After 3 months of date of sale	\$50.00	\$100.00
5. ALTERATION OF CERTIFICATES ISSUED	Member Fees	Non-Member Fees
a. Change of colour	\$20.00	\$40.00
b. Change of gender (gelded)	\$15.00	\$15.00
c. Death of a registered horse (<i>certificate will be returned</i>)	\$5.00 credit	No charge
d. Change of Name: <i>Provided animal is no more than five (5) years of age and has no registered offspring. Subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. Submitted fees are non refundable if application is rejected.</i>	\$50.00	\$100.00
6. OTHER SERVICES	Member Fees	Non-Member Fees
a. DNA Hair Analysis Profiling for an unregistered foal. DNA kits are available from CLRC. Pay CLRC for DNA kit when registration application is submitted.	\$75.00	\$100.00
b. DNA Hair Analysis Profiling for a Registered animal: CLRC Request form for DNA kit is required. Pay CLRC when application for DNA kit is submitted to CLRC.	\$75.00	\$100.00
c. DNA Profiling for a Registered animal from blood stored at Maxxam Analytics . Submit fee to CLRC with a letter of request stating the name & number of the animal to be DNAed, & the Blood Case # (where known).	\$57.00	\$57.00
d. Blood-typing/DNA updated certificate for mature horse.	\$10.00	\$25.00
e. Registration of Breeder's Prefix	\$45.00	\$90.00
f. Registration of Lease	\$20.00	\$40.00
g. List of Progeny of Individual Breeding Stock	\$20.00	\$40.00
h. Surcharge on incomplete or incorrect applications	\$20.00	\$40.00
i. Duplicate Certificate: <i>Shall be issued upon application by the registered owner accompanied by satisfactory proof of loss accompanied by a witnessed Statutory Declaration.</i>	\$40.00	\$80.00
j. Rush Fee	\$15.00	\$30.00

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

ALL REMITTANCES ARE PAYABLE TO CANADIAN LIVESTOCK RECORDS CORPORATION. (Visa & **Master Card** accepted.)

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

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

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



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CRTWH will be at the
Mane Event in Red Deer,
April 25 to 27th.

Stop in at our booth and say 'Hello!'



NEW DIRECTOR

We are pleased to introduce our new Director, Fran Kerik. Fran and husband, Gord, farm near Two Hills, Alberta. Fran's interest in TWH began over ten years ago with the purchase of a young bred mare from Rocky Slopes Walkers (above). Fran has since become a breeder of these wonderful horses, and this year is standing 3 stallions at the Chrystal Star Ranch.

Welcome on Board, Fran!

RETIRING DIRECTOR

Jodi Loughheed's term as director ended December 31/07. Thank you, Jodi. We appreciate your representing Ontario on the Board of Directors for the past 3 years.

FEE SCHEDULE

Please note the amendments to the Fee Schedule opposite. The \$57 fee for profiling DNA from a blood sample stored at the Maxxam lab in Ontario is new. All inquiries and requests must go through CLRC. (Contact info at bottom of Fee Schedule.)

The other change is that Master Card may now be used as well as Visa.

Keep the Fee Schedule handy so you'll have the info you require when registering those 2007 foals before they turn a year old, or getting the DNA done on an older horse that was blood typed in Canada.

MEMBERSHIPS

Annual memberships are \$25, due Jan1/08, and made out to **CLRC,** at **2417 Holly Lane,** **OTTAWA, ON** - **K1V 0M7**



2008 CLINICS

There are still openings for Triple Challenge Clinics.

CRTWH will supply the clinicians if you would like to organize a gathering in your area.

Learn about entering the Program For Excellence to have your stock assessed by a qualified judge of TWH, or find out more about basic riding & training of a Walker through the Training Levels Challenge for your young horses.

Contact Dianne Little at 619 Lake Linnet Cres. S.E., Calgary, AB T2J 2J3 or email or phone her - numbers at left.

Details of all 'The Canadian' Triple Challenge Programs and Tests may be found at crtwh.ca

TRADITION ACROSS THE CENTURIES



Growing up in a loving family with grandparents close by is the ideal for any young girl. Ada lived on the family farm as a toddler, then moved to the small and pleasant town of Manchester when she was four years old, to be joined by her grandfather, his wife, daughter, and grandson when she was eight after lightning struck and burned the family home at the Coffee County farm. Because her grandfather James did not give up his agricultural first love, however, and went to Lewisburg, Tennessee, one day in April of 1935 to form a breeder's association for the horses that were the mainstay of the family farm, granddaughter Ada Graham Brantley's childhood was marked by experiences that were unique and not shared by most Middle Tennessee small town girls. (Above: James Brantley with granddaughter Ada on Brantley's Roan Allen.)

Ada Brantley was not yet a teenager when the town of Shelbyville held its first show to promote the horses that were such an important agricultural force in the Middle

Tennessee area. Intended as a festival to draw tourists to the area from other parts of the state, this first show in 1939 was scheduled to run for three days. In addition to the classes held at the football field of the local high school, a downtown parade and other daytime pageantry assured that people would find plenty to do once they came to Shelbyville. For the first parade, Ada's grandfather James and Dr. W.D. Boyd were the Grand Marshalls, leading the parade on horseback. Ada remembers that "I was so proud of my grandfather as he came riding by on Brantley's Roan Allen, Jr." Later, the spotted sabino stallion competed in the Get-of-Sire class with five of his 1939 get and won the Celebration's first blue ribbon for Get-of-Sire, a feat that he repeated for the next four years. (See photo below.)

Those attending the first edition of the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration were mostly Tennesseans, according to Ada's memory of the event. Being held on the football field, the show's facility used the stadium bleachers for seating. The ends of the ring, however, had no bleachers, and people could drive cars and trucks right up to the rail and sit in comfort as they enjoy the competition. Ada recalls sitting in her grandfather's truck and watching horses like Strolling Jim and Lilly White vie for the first World Grand Championship, then later seeing the victories of Haynes Peacock, Melody Maid, Midnight Sun, Merry Go Boy, White Star, and Go Boy's Shadow. A colt named Trouble and the important show gelding The G-Man also stand out in her memories of those early years at railside.

While Ada has attended every Celebration since its inception, she did not attend college in Middle Tennessee. Before finishing her degree at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, she attended Stephens College in Missouri. There, she was a member of a horse club called The Prince of Wales Club. The riding coach, Mrs. Drew, taught her to



ride American Saddle Horses, and Ada competed with this breed in campus shows both in saddle and in driving classes. Ada has never shown a Tennessee Walking Horse. She insists "...the family farm was a breeding operation and there were no show horses on the farm." Both Ada and her two brothers maintained ties with the breed after their grandfather's and father's deaths, but the brothers primary interest was in raising colts.

Ada's links with the breed intensified when her daughter Kitty developed a strong interest in horses. When Kitty first started riding, Ada and husband John Wright put a show mare in training with a professional walking horse trainer. He did all the training and they only went to his barn when Kitty needed to practice with the mare. Kitty made only one show on her new show horse. After watching the trainer and his assistants prepare the mare for competition, Kitty told her father that she did not believe that this was the type of horse that her great-grandfather was working to develop when he stood the old black stallion Allan F-1. Kitty's belief was that her great-grandfather was trying to develop a breed of pleasure horses that people could ride all day long.

Kitty wanted to have a greater voice in how her horses were trained and ridden. At first, while she was majoring in Horse Science in college, she helped her father train and show halter colts. After her graduation, when she had more time, Ada and John kept one of these colts for her to start training as a flatshod horse. Kitty competed in flat shod classes at the NHSC one night padded shows until she learned that there were all-flatshod shows in the Middle Tennessee area. At these flatshod shows, Kitty was introduced to versatility competition. She began to prepare her gelding Honey Bear to perform in versatility classes as well as rail classes. Honey Bear excelled in these as well as in the rail classes, and Kitty applauded the versatility challenge because it helped her and her horse to work together as a team.

Ada is always the proud mother at any show where Kitty and Honey Bear compete. She is a familiar face at the entry office of all Pleasure Walking Horse Association of Tennessee and Walking Horse Owners Association shows that Kitty attends. Also still active in the local Manchester community, she works the entry office of the Lions Club horse show, except for three years, when she helped in center ring at this show.

Ada's family was deeply involved with Tennessee Walking Horses when the breed was still a type of horse, the plantation horse, developed in the Middle Tennessee basin at the end of the nineteenth century. She was a young girl when her grandfather James Brantley met with other concerned individuals in Lewisburg, Tennessee, to form a registry to record and preserve the pedigrees of the plantation walking horse. She has watched from the sidelines as the elegant walking horses of her father's era became the padded show ring performers of the twenty-first century. Today, she has very strong opinions about the bloodlines and uses of the breed, based on her observations from childhood until the present.

Ada Brantley Wright insists that "In my opinion, the gait of the 'performance horse' is man-made as a result of the pads and chains. The Tennessee Walking Horse is bred to be a three gaited horse: The flatfoot walk, the running walk, and the canter. The old rocking chair canter is gone in the performance horse. You have to go to a flatshod show in order to see these three gaits including a good, easy riding canter. In most cases, champion performance horses do not produce natural, loose walking colts. Many people who have bought built-up horses that did not make it to the 'big time', and tried them as flat shod horses, have been disappointed in their gaits. In fairness to breeders of Tennessee Walking Horses, if a breeder is to stay in business, they have to sell their colts for a good profit. Colts bred for the performance ring bring a lot more money than colts for the flat shod or pleasure arena."

"The original Tennessee Walking Horse was not bred for the show ring. They were horses that were used on the farms and by the entire family. My preference for a Tennessee Walking Horse is one that the entire family can enjoy. They can be ridden all day on a trail ride, shown in rail classes, and compete in versatility shows. I really enjoy the fun days when competition is just for ribbons and not money. There, you are showing your horse for the pleasure and fun of riding with friends. I am very encouraged to see the number and quality of flat shod horses that we are having at our shows."

Ada Wright is a familiar face for all those who show at the sound flatshod shows in the Middle Tennessee basin. She brings patience and a sense of humor to the entry office as well as family pride in the accomplishments of daughter Kitty and Honey Bear. She also brings a sense of the history and purpose of the breed, as it was developed by her grandfather and other breeders, to be a horse that you would own tomorrow, if only you would take the time to ride one today and truly appreciate it. ♡



Ada's daughter, Kitty Keen, with Honey Bear and the National Championship Awards they won this year.

THE EVOLUTION OF TRAINING TECHNIQUES VI

by Dr. Bob Womack *From The Echo of Hoofbeats, 2nd Ed., 1984.*

The Walking Horse of the mid-fifties represented an almost complete departure from the horse which prompted the organization of the Breeders' Association in 1935. **Just how far the horse had developed beyond what had been envisioned by the founders of the Association, can be seen by reading Article XV of the original By-Laws.** There we read:

[The Association records] the prevailing opinion of its membership to the effect that the Tennessee Walking Horse is primarily a utility horse and should be judged as a utility horse rather than as an ornamental toy. While it is natural and proper that the exhibitor of a horse in the show ring wishes his entry to show to the best advantage, there is no occasion to cut or set tails, ginger, fire or otherwise primp the Walking Horse. Many of the finest horses are exhibited by owners who make daily practical use of them. The horse with cut and set tail is a positive disadvantage on the plantation or farm. This Association would consider it unfair to penalize the owner who wished to keep his horse in the most useful condition, and it hopes that in every case, where two competitors are in every other respect equal in merit, the horse in natural condition will be awarded the prize over that which is artificially primped. It is the belief of this Association that tail carriage and other points of style and beauty should be improved by careful breeding rather than by surgery.

The relaxed times in which the above was written had been shattered by World War II, and those which followed moved faster than the founders of the Association could have imagined. The new generation that took charge following the war was geared to the fast pace of a mobile society and they wished for their horses to keep in tempo with the times. And so it was.

Slowly but surely the Walking Horse had cut away at the edge his gaited-horse cousins had held over him, at least in the eyes of the fans. The people who had mockingly referred to the Walking Horse as "cold-blooded," suddenly realized that horse show crowds were becoming more excited during Walking classes than during other classes. In conformation such mares as HONEY GOLD had come on the scene to set a standard for any breed, and the general development of conformation in the Walking Horse had advanced to such a degree that his homelier ancestor was forgotten. Together the breeder and trainer had produced an animal that asked no quarter from any breed in looks or performance.

The Walking Horse was, at the end of the

experimental era, a more satisfying product than he had ever been before. If he represented a departure from what nature had intended, it was no greater than the case with other breeds. With the refinement of training techniques and equipment the horse could perform his gaits with no discomfort to himself or his rider. There were few secrets regarding his training. Whatever was done to make him walk was a constant thing, not something done temporarily for one show. The horse responded with a degree of consistency which made him easily predictable as a show ring performer. This horse brought crowds to their feet as did HONEY GOLD and MELODY'S HEIR during the Junior Stake in 1947. It amazed people with its power as did OLD GLORY'S BIG MAN. At no time in the Walking Horse's history had man combined his talents with the product of nature to bring about a more pleasing result.



Honey Gold 451147, one of the top walking mares of the country. This picture shows the sequence of the hoofbeats at the running walk. Photograph by Tom Hill, courtesy Mr. Wood.

Above photo from The Horse by John M. Kays

From the beginning of its history the Walking Horse had met and conquered its foes. To those who said it was cold-blooded, the Walking Horse pointed to illustrious ancestors dating back to the beginning of the country. In answer to those who accused it of looking like a plow horse, the Walking Horse responded to the careful breeding patterns of knowledgeable men and became as handsome as any horse. To those who said its gaits were unexciting the Walking Horse responded to the talents and imagination of his trainers and showed himself proudly with any breed. He shamed his detractors into silence by the very dignity of his presence, and while the Walking Horse claimed no monopoly on excellence, it could rest assured that in any system of evaluation designed to establish quality, he could compete on even terms. *Continued next issue.*



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Establishing Rhythm - Don't Interrupt Me

By Faith Meredith, Director of Riding, Meredith Manor International Equestrian Centre

*Executed and linked together
in a flowing rhythm,*

*the individual movements in a dressage test or
reining pattern become an expressive dance
between horse and rider. Without rhythm, that
same sequence of movements becomes a
mechanical sequence of gymnastic exercises.*

It can be as uncomfortable to watch.

Just to review, **rhythm** means the beat, the regularity of the horse's footfalls. Think of it as the cadence set by the signature in a piece of music. We want to hear and feel four even, steady beats at the walk, two at the trot or jog, and three at the canter. **Tempo** is the measure of the time between the beats while a **stride** is the distance covered by all four feet within a given gait before the pattern of footfalls repeats. The tempo may vary as the length of the horse's stride changes from normal to extended (longer stride) or to collected (shorter stride) but the rhythm should remain regular and consistent.

In our program at Meredith Manor, the rhythmic relationship between horse and rider begins on the ground. It starts as the handler catches the horse then continues while she grooms it then leads it to the arena. If she does anything that startles the horse such as jerking on the lead rope or letting the hoof she cleaned just drop to the floor, she interrupts the rhythmic feeling she wants to create from the moment she arrives in the horse's pasture or stall. When we do ground work with our horses or longe them, we continue working in rhythmic patterns. The horse mirrors the rhythm we present to him. Rhythm is the bottom rung in our training tree because it is the essential tool we use to establish relaxation, the second rung.

Rhythm not only helps the horse remain relaxed at all gaits. It is also essential if the horse is to become balanced and able to execute smooth up or down transitions. Without rhythm, the horse will be unable to advance in its training. Those even, regular footfalls create a ride that, to an observer, flows smoothly from movement to movement with seamless transitions regardless of changes in tempo or gait.

The rider carries the responsibility for establishing rhythm into the horse's saddle work. It takes a good rider with a truly independent seat to help a green horse learn to use its body rhythmically.

Anything that the rider does to interrupt the evenness of the horse's footfalls interrupts the horse's rhythm. If the rider momentarily gets out of balance and grabs at the reins for support, she interrupts the horse's rhythm. If the rider is unable to follow the horse's motion, she interrupts the horse's rhythm whenever she falls forward or gets left behind.

An independent seat is critical to helping a horse establish rhythm because it is the seat that is the primary aid a rider uses to establish rhythm. If a horse becomes nervous or excited, inexperienced riders often try to correct the problem with stronger rein aids or they instinctively grip with their legs. From the horse's standpoint, these things only raise the excitement level and interrupt the rhythm even more. The rider with an independent seat can use her seat to reestablish rhythm without necessarily changing whatever she was doing with her rein and leg aids when the horse became excited. In doing so, she helps the horse relax.

A rider with an independent seat can show a green youngster what rhythm feels like. In the beginning, the horse may have difficulty finding its balance while carrying a rider. Or uneven muscling may mean it has uneven gaits. The rider who can set a steady rhythm with her seat can help the green horse through these awkward stages.

Sometimes horses lose their rhythm because their riders confuse "forward" with "faster." The rider interrupts the natural flow of the horse's footfalls with leg aids that are too strong and the horse leaps forward into a faster tempo instead of smoothly transitioning into it. A careful observer notes that the interruption of the strong aid has created tension in the horse and his muscles look tight and hard. When a horse is moving rhythmically, its muscles not only look strong but also relaxed and soft.

The green rider can begin to get a feel for rhythm by counting the beats in the gait out loud. Humming or singing a song that matches the horse's rhythm also helps. If an insecure seat interrupts the horse's rhythm, longing exercises can help develop balance and the ability to follow the horse's motion.

Once the rider has a basic feel for rhythm, she can begin to work on walk-trot transitions and half halts in all kinds of combinations. This is an excellent way for the novice rider to learn to use her seat rhythmically and to get her horse paying attention to her seat as an aid. Once horse and rider are working

rhythmically on the flat, they can repeat these transition exercises on uneven ground or while working up and down hills. Working over ground poles or cavaletti is a classic training technique to teach the horse a sense of rhythm and to teach the rider to allow the horse to move forward freely.

Establishing good rhythm is a difficult without the help of an experienced observer. Setting and changing the distances between ground poles or cavaletti, for instance, must be done with careful consideration of the individual horse's normal stride and current level of training. When the rider does something that interrupts the rhythm, an experienced instructor can pinpoint whether the cause was a lack of balance, an inability to follow the horse's motion, an incorrectly applied rein or leg aid, or a problem with coordinating the aids. Then he or she can find an exercise prescription that addresses the rider's specific problem.

While rhythm may be a simple concept to describe, it is a complicated goal to achieve. Good rhythm depends on the ability of the rider to fully coordinate all the aids and to use them to influence the horse. It also requires that the horse's muscles be gymnastically developed so that he can carry himself in a steady rhythm over a period of time. In order for a horse and rider to flow rhythmically through a dressage test or reining pattern, they must first put in a lot of hours of hard work. Just keep riding.

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

She is the Director of Meredith Manor International Equestrian Centre (Route 1, Box 66, Waverly, WV 26184; 1-304-679-3128; <http://www.meredithmanor.com>), An ACCET accredited equestrian educational institution.



Today (Jan.4th) Alexandra thought I should ride a young horse, and she should drive a horse and have some fun. It was Alexa's first time driving from the sled. Windy has pulled the sled before. We made it up to Donna's in a short while, had a quick visit, and then Alexandra and I made our way home on the east side of the road. It was a bit nippy, but pleasant. Karla Freeman



Thunder's War Eagle was one of the stallions advertised on the cover of the Jan/Feb. 1988 issue of WHN. He & F88s Masterpiece were standing at Cole Farms.

Things I will NOT say to the FARRIER...

I forgot you were coming! I just turned the horses out.

I'm sure glad you don't mind working on muddy feet.

Does it mean my horses have some sort of deficiency when they chew the paint off your truck like that?

You don't mind if I feed the other horses while you work, do you?

That's not the way they did it on that horse shoeing show I saw on TV...

If you'd just give each of the dogs a piece of hoof they'd get out from under the horse and quit fighting.

My weanling colt needs a trim so I figured you could halter train him at the same time.

I don't understand why the shoes didn't stay on. I just had them done twelve weeks ago.

I know I said just a trim, but can we shoe him as well?

Can you shoe him so that he doesn't paw?

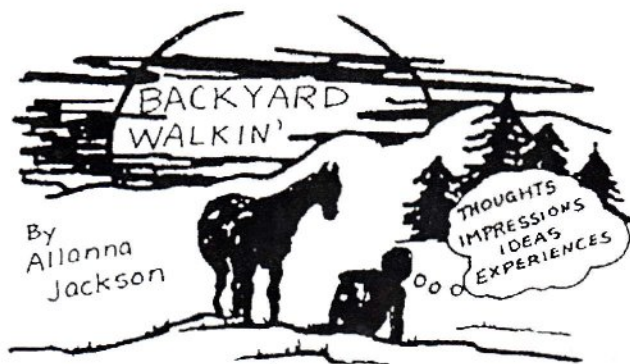
Are you sure you put them on the correct foot?

I know it has been a long day for you; that's why I left the worst one for last.

I left the cheque book in the car and my husband just left.

Can you bill me?





copyright Jan 1, 2008

TRAIL RIDING IN THE ARIZONA ARCTIC

In the White Mountains of Arizona 2008 arrived in a deep freeze with snow on the ground and a north wind. Temperatures in Lakeside had been ranging from -4 to +32 for a month, reaching freezing for only a few hours on a few afternoons. It was +18 when I fed the horses. My efforts to drain the garden hoses back in late November had failed. I hauled water in buckets from the freeze proof outdoor faucet to the water tank... again.

After my own breakfast I bundled up and took a walk. The wind chill had me re-considering my plan to celebrate the New Year with a solitary trail ride. But once I was in the forest along Porter Creek the Ponderosa pines broke the wind. I reminded myself that I had ridden Sassy in this sort of weather 20 years ago, insisting that she behave just as well in the cold, snow and wind as she did on calm, balmy days. That training had contributed to making her such a great horse. Back at home I defrosted with a cup of hot apple cider. I bundled up again and went out to curry the horses. When I finished it was lunch time so I fed the horses and went over to my parents' house to join the rest of the family for lunch. Dad was doing his traditional New Year's activity - working on FOUR CRAFTSMEN's year-end tax forms.

The temperature was up to freezing when I went home to ride Cinnamon. The neighbor's grandson was shooting a cap pistol when I caught Cinnamon to prepare for the ride. She and Velvet both jumped every time the gun popped. The boy wasn't pointing it at us so I ignored it. Cinnamon imitated me. Velvet hung out near us for reassurance, but still flinched every time the cap pistol popped. After awhile the boy went inside. Raising horses in a subdivision does expose them to all sorts of strange things.

I saddled Cinnamon, then went back to the house to get my cell phone, riding helmet and her bridle. I deliberated for a few minutes on whether to use the snaffle or the home-made side-pull. I chose the side-pull, remembering that being able to ride without a bit in cold weather had been one of several reasons for starting Cinnamon with the side-pull. Cinnamon was quite happy with that choice. I threw a partial flake of hay across the fence to distract Velvet. Velvet wasn't fooled. She began dashing around whinnying loud protests before we'd gone

anywhere. When I gave Cinnamon permission to move she set off at a brisk flat walk, eager to hit the trail. She ignored Velvet, as usual, except for a few backwards glances.

We went out an easement to Flag Hollow Road then around the private gate across Jack's Road through a private gate onto the National Forest. I obtained permission to go through that private land in exchange for allowing Jack's private water line to cross my property. Cinnamon ground tied at the gate, as always. When the gate was closed I mounted again. We practiced standing. I turned Cinnamon right, following a powerline until it intersected with the Ice Cave Trail. Cinnamon carefully negotiated the creek crossing, getting only slightly wet feet. We followed the trail up and around along the shore of Scott's Reservoir. The trail then wended its way through the forest to another gate in the barbed wire fence on the east side of the reservoir. This gate is too stiff for sidepassing practice and Cinnamon wasn't interested in that project this time so she got more practice ground tying while I yanked the gate open. Back in the saddle we practiced standing again, then followed the trail through the trees. Cinnamon negotiated the snow covered ice over frozen mud quite well. Cinnamon has never been shod. Her bare hooves gave her better traction than plain steel shoes would have.

We saw numerous wild turkey tracks. One set of tracks followed the trail for almost an eighth of a mile. Another set of tracks was smaller, probably a juvenile bird. We did not see any turkeys. We didn't see any wildlife at all. There were also tracks from hikers and a dog in the snow on the trail, but we were the only ones out there.

The trail is quite narrow, twisting its way between trees. Recent winds had blown over a burnt out hollow Juniper snag since the last time Cinnamon and I rode there. Its new rakish angle made it necessary for me to lean over to avoid an overhead branch just before Cinnamon had to step across a downed log from a previous windfall. She confidently negotiated all of this. The narrow trail continued winding between trees as we approached the Ice Cave. We took a fork to the left onto the old trail that loops around in front of the cave. *(Continued on next page.)*



The Ice Cave on January 2, 2008

The Ice Cave is a large natural hole in the ground, surrounded by a chain link fence the US Forest Service installed about 15 years ago. Before the fence was installed it was possible to walk up to the edge of the hole and discover that it has an updraft of much cooler air. Aside from that interesting phenomenon it's not clear why this hole is called the Ice Cave because you very seldom see any ice in it... but this time there was. Icicles cascaded down the front of the hole creating a beautiful curtain of icy stalactites that looked like a real cave.

"I should have brought my camera." I commented to Cinnamon, who was sniffing a slightly squashed aluminum beer can at her feet. She took a step forward and nosed another empty beer can. I dismounted and picked up both cans. Cinnamon flicked an ear at the noise they made when I flattened them enough to fit in my jacket pocket. She ignored the can crinkle when I mounted. After practicing standing we followed the loop trail back to the main trail and backtracked toward home. Still no wild turkeys to be seen, just their tracks. Cinnamon strolled along looking around, but didn't see anything worth stopping to point out to me the way she sometimes does.

Back at the gate I rode Cinnamon through, then dismounted and ground tied her while I closed the gate. This time, instead of ground tying Cinnamon started walking down the trail on her own just as I finished latching the gate. I said, "Whoa, Cinnamon." She stopped, stood and let me walk up to her. I gave her a treat, then mounted, turned her around and took the other trail, which I'd already been planning to take. This alternate route winds its way through the forest, up and over some berms that were created to block old roadways and create shallow water holes. Cinnamon crossed the snow covered water holes, ignoring the crunch as the ice broke underfoot, before climbing up and over each berm. We selected fragments of several paths through the Ponderosa thickets getting back to the trail we'd come in on. Cinnamon ground tied perfectly at the gate.

We took a different route back to Flag Hollow Road, across a dam and along the driveway beside Jack's arena on the west side of the pond instead of our usual route through the forest on the east side of the pond. From there we backtracked home. Velvet hollered and resumed dashing around the moment she saw us. As usual, Velvet had probably given herself as much of a workout as I'd given Cinnamon.

At home I unsaddled Cinnamon, gave her nose a hug and told her she'd done a good job on our ride. Our timing was just about perfect, since my toes were getting seriously cold about the time I finished grooming Cinnamon. When I turned her into the corral she happily ate the hay Velvet hadn't eaten while fretting about our absence. I hauled another couple of buckets of liquid water to the tank, then went into the house to defrost myself with a cup of hot apple cider before feeding the horses their supper. It was a lovely New Year's ride in the Arizona Arctic. ♡

From The Dusty Files of *WHN*

January, 1978- 30 Years Ago

Looking through the 4 page typed master copy of the issue, I was struck by how involved everyone who wrote in seemed. There was a real sense of camaraderie, even though not everyone agreed on the topics discussed.

One discussion, regarding a registry for partbred Walkers, had Mrs. Jocelyne Steele, Erickson, MB; Mrs. A.R. Patterson, Cawston, B.C., Hazel Paton, Oxbow, SK and Mrs. Urfer of Brandon, MB speaking up in favour of such a registry, while Alvin Schlitter of Edmonton was not. Mae Dunlop of Castleton, ON was trying to organize a registry for partbred TWH in Canada. There was not yet a purebred registry association for TWH in Canada in 1978. Purebred TWH could be registered in the Canadian National Livestock Records General Stud & Herd Book, and 85 purebred TWH had been issued papers to Sept, 1978.

January/February 1988 - 20 Years Ago

This issue had 32 inside pages, set up, photocopied and mailed by Jo Kingsland. On its green professionally printed cover was a b/w photo of Diane Sept accepting the trophy for the 'Stallion whose progeny accumulate the most points' at 'The Canadian' Futurity, 1987 on behalf of Westridge Farm's Go Shadow Go. AWA Queen Clare Nike presented the trophy. Cover advertisers were Cole Farms, Cabri, SK; Leonard Eliason, Deer Lodge, Montana; McDonald Farms, Pouce Coupe, BC; Royal Class Walkers, Dawson Creek, BC; George & Heather Sharpe, Munson, AB & Westridge Farms, Calgary, AB.

Inside the issue was the sad news that Larry Hauk, author of the *WHN* column "Horsefeathers" had died suddenly at the age of 65. Allanna Jackson wrote her first Backyard Walkin' column for the *WHN*, and AWA was sponsoring a clinic bringing Dr. Bob Womack to Calgary on March 26 & 27. Also reprinted was *Toward a Minimum Level of Horsemanship* by Dan Aadland, reprinted again in full on pages 11 & 12 of this issue. The message is still relevant.

January/February 1998 - 10 Years Ago

44 pages were enclosed in a four page printed cover similar to the 1988 one, but with a photo of long time subscribers, Carl & Charlotte Larson with new comer Violet Safron & her two granddaughters. The picture was taken in front of the 'WHN ... for 20 Years' display at 'The Canadian' Futurity at Olds.

Cover advertisers were Brown Shop Road Farm, Cornersville, TN; Cloudwalker Stables, Strathmore, AB; Laurindale Stables, Rosalind, AB; Legacy Walkers, Blackfalds, AB; McDonald Farms, Pouce Coupe, BC; Skyline Ranch at Horse Creek, Cochrane, AB; and Snowbird Stables, Strathmore, AB. All had telephone numbers and mailing addresses - *but not one ad had an e-mail address or a website!*

There were 3 articles about using A.I. for horses, Dressage for Walkers, part 2, by Lee Ziegler, Learning to Ride - Again by Bill Salt, and many more.

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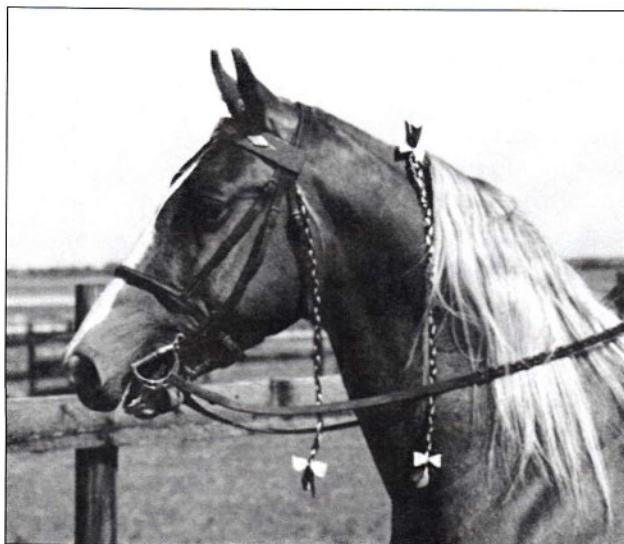
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More 'Horses For Sale' on next page.

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Cranbrook, B.C

(250)489-3267 jrjwalkers@telus.net

FOR SALE

CHANCE'S MOLLY MIDNIGHT - Black Mare, 15.3 hh. TWHBEA Reg. #934397. She has Canadian papers also. DNA'd. She has been used as a broodmare for the last 5 years & has been ridden on the trails lightly. Good for an experienced rider - she's not mean, just green. She has produced 3 fine geldings for us and is currently in foal to Ultra's Major Threat for 2008. Molly is easy to catch and good with her feet. \$4500.00

STORM'S MIDNIGHT ROLLER - Coming 4-year-old, all black gelding. U.S. Reg. #20406491. Mature 15.2 to 16 + hands high. Bloodlines include: Black Last Chance, Midnight Sun, Triple Threat (all on papers). 2 months with a professional trainer. Rolly was going up the trail alone by the 4th week. Naturally gaited with a good canter. Kind and willing. \$3000.00

COMING 2 YEAR OLDS

STORM'S ARTIC FUN: Black & white gelding, will mature 15+ hh. Bloodlines include: Cat Tracks, Canadian Threat, Bob's Beaucoup Boy and Go Boys Fancy Pants. Naturally gaited, shows a great canter at liberty. Easy to catch and work with. He is always at the gate to greet you. TWHBEA Reg. DNA'd \$1800.00.

STORM'S WHISPERING GYPSY: All Black Filly. Mature 15.3+ hh. Bloodlines include: Ultra's Major threat, Canadian Threat, Midnight Sun. Very smooth and naturally gaited. Canters well at liberty. She is easy to catch and very willing. She is a great prospect for show and breeding. TWHBEA reg. and DNA'd. \$2500.00.

Both of the 2-year-olds have been to a local show (see cover!) and have been trailered and bathed.

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They are dewormed regularly.

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Contact Jana & Roger at Cranbrook, BC

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CANADIAN REGISTRY OF THE TENNESSEE
WALKING HORSE Web site: www.crtwh.ca
Secretary Maureen Hummel 1-250-827-3386 secretary@crtwh.ca

CLUBS & ASSOCIATIONS

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

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PUBLICATIONS

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THE WALKING HORSE JOURNAL - 6 issues per year, \$20 per year US, \$30 foreign. Also BIOGRAPHY OF THE TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE, the history of the breed, authorized, revised edition. 928-367-2076 P. O. Box 177, Lakeside, AZ 85929-0177, www.fourcraftsmen.com info@fourcraftsmen.com

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Wild Rose Versatility Show - 14th and 15th of June, 2008 at the Thorsby Arena, Thorsby, AB. For further info contact Lorrie Black walkers1@airsurfer.ca or (780) 929-2151

The 2008 Canadian Rocky Mountain Challenge in the scenic foothills of the Rocky Mountains July 30 - Aug 4, 2008! Alberta has been selected by CaLDRA and Endurance Canada to host the 2008 Competitive Trail, Endurance and Ride N' Tie Canadian National Championships. For info or to volunteer call Sandra Nielsen 403-637-0245 or Email: sandra.nielsen@xplornet.com

DEADLINE

for the **NEXT ISSUE is**

March 7, 2008

Send ADS for *Walking Horse News*
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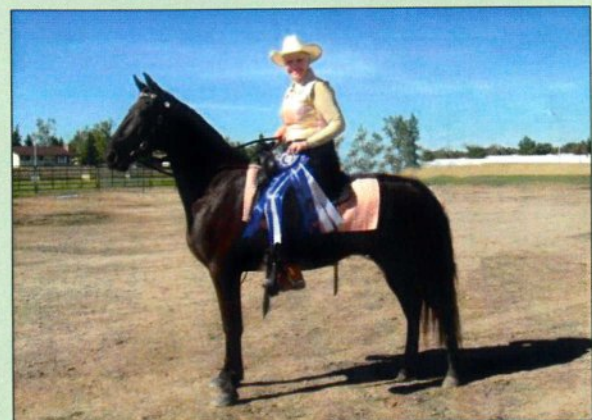
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