

June 2008
VOLUME XXXII No. 3



Walking

Horse

News



DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN - SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE IN CANADA

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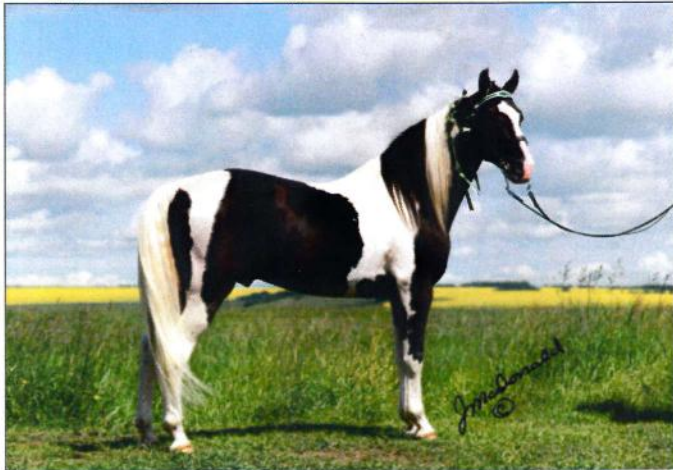
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Walking Horse News

DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN-SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE IN CANADA

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Jo Kingsland, Alix, AB

On Our Cover

BREAKAWAY

at a Field Trial, Fall 2007.

“Bob's dog is on the right.
I am about to mount Doll,
the black mare,
having released our dog.
Bob is at right
on Queen, the palomino.”

Photo submitted by
‘Fred Lloyd-Smith,
Vanessa , ON

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for May/June issue
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for Sept/Oct issue
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Dear Subscribers,

Finally we have some Real spring weather! Foal reports are coming in now and folks are planning which rides, shows and clinics they will attend. (And it IS a matter of making choices these days with the price of gasoline going up by the week.) Check the ‘Coming Events’ on the back page. There’s lots to do and I hope you all have a wonderful riding season.

‘Fred Lloyd-Smith sent in the great cover photo. Field trialing is another thing that many Walker owners do with their horses. It’s been a long time since we’ve had regular stories from that fraternity; ever since Larry Hauk’s *Horsefeathers* column ended when Larry died. But I know you’re out there! Check the BC News for the note and photo from Shirley Nilsson.

I didn’t have the space or time to do a *WHN* ‘Dusty Files’ column from ten, twenty & thirty years ago, but I did notice that in the *WHN* of thirty years ago some owners who were using their TWH for field trialing were mentioned: Ed Hutchinson of Kavanagh, AB, Jim Horne of Stettler, AB and John Gardner of Madison, MS who was once again up near Stoughton, SK for a summer of training dogs.

Twenty years ago the mare Peace River Star was one of those advertised for sale in a full page ad from Laverne Lundgard of Hines Creek, AB. In this issue her owner, Betty Augart announced Star’s death at 24.

Ten years ago there were 29 foals listed in the Foal Call. This issue has 14. Are there fewer TWH being bred, or are people not reporting them?

Sobering news comes from our US correspondents on the horse market there (or lack of it). See pp.10-11. What do you think about the trends here in Canada?

A big thank you to all who sent in news and photos, notices, questions, opinions and articles. And let’s not forget those who sent in ads! That’s what helps pay the bills. Thank you all for your support. Hope you enjoy the issue.

I’ll look forward to hearing from *you* for next time,

Marjorie

Walking Horse News

June, 2008

"DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN-SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE IN CANADA"

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 "CANADIAN TIMES OF THE TWH"

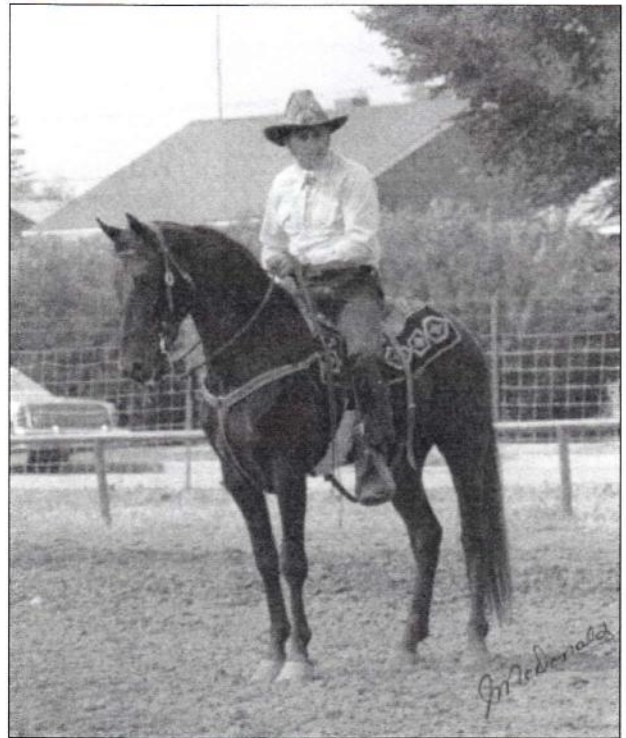
BLACK BEAUTY'S BEAU DEE by Beverley Skowronski

Wow! How the years fly by. It seems such a short time ago that we bought Beau as a 2-year-old. Len and I bought Beau from Norman and Donna Henry of Turner Valley in 1980. Beau was raised by Harry and Gladys Hall at Cascade, Montana and was born on March 16, 1978. He is now 30 years old.

We had a lot of work to do with Beau when he arrived at our place. We wanted to show him in 3 months at the Lloydminster horse show – and he wasn't even halter broke! We entered him in a 2-year-old halter class. There was only one horse in that class so Beau was moved to the aged stallion class. He was in a class with Laddie's Monte Ray, Go Shadow Go, Lucky's Koko Prince and Ebony's Jack Daniels. Laddie's Monte Ray was Grand Champion and Beau was Reserve Grand Champion. We were very pleased with our young fellow.

Beau was shown in 1982 in a very large stallion halter class in Camrose. He placed second. He placed second again in 1983 at Calgary with Judge Bob Womack. We were pretty proud of him. He had a very bad trip to Calgary with Ebony's Jack Daniels in a small 2-horse trailer. Jack was convinced that he really should *kill* this intruder in his domain. We quit showing after that as Len suffered a very severe heart attack in 1984 and passed away in 1986.

Beau sired quite a few nice foals before being gelded at the age of 12. He then became a great trail horse and participated in a lot of different things. We did a few



demonstrations, mountain trail rides and he was my grandson's 4-H horse.

Beau is still rideable and he doesn't have a stiff bone in his old body. However he doesn't have many teeth left - so he is given Golden Years feed every day and it's keeping him in great shape. He can still run walk with the best of them. I was riding him down the road last year and a neighbor stopped and said she liked my NEW horse. She couldn't believe that he was 29. He is still a very high-energy horse and enjoys a bit of bucking on the trails so he tires out quite quickly.

I still own his daughter Beau's Red Queen, his granddaughter TCPride, and 2 of his great grand children, Generators Carbon Pride and Silver Dollars Fantasy. I feel very blessed to have had this wonderful horse in my life all these years.

The above picture of Len on Beau was taken at the Lloyd horse show in 1981 by Jo-Anne McDonald.

CANADIAN WALKING HORSE ASSOCIATION REGISTRY
INCORPORATED UNDER THE LIVESTOCK RECORDS ACT AT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, OTTAWA, CANADA
CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION



Horse Name
BLACK BEAUTY'S BEAU DEE -202- 781204

Sex Stallion
Color Black
Markings No markings.
Foaled March 16th, 1978

Owned by Harry J. or Gladys E. Hall
Bred by Harry J. or Gladys E. Hall

Perfect Reflection 652155 <small>Sire</small>	Rodgers' Perfection 551107 <small>Grandsire</small>	Midnight Mack F 490450
	Merry Rose 390623 <small>Sire's Dam</small>	Merry Walker 391238
	Merry Rose 390623 <small>Sire's Dam</small>	Merry Boy 350189
	Allen Rose 390479	Allen Rose 390479
	Shadow's Brantley 521310	Go Boy's Shadow 540615
	Shadow's Brantley 521310	Go Boy's Victoria 540617
	Sage 340714 (Black Beauty 2nd) <small>2nd Dam</small>	Silvertip-Bickey 473752
	Sage 340714 (Black Beauty 2nd) <small>2nd Dam</small>	Black Beauty Allen 440890 <small>3rd Dam</small>
		Midnight Sun 410751
		Panola 390027
		Merry Boy 350189
		Earthman's Queen Mary 391237
		Roan Allen F-36
		Merry Legs F-4
		Roan Allen F-36
		Well Jacobs
		Merry Go Boy 431336
		Merry Walker 391238
		Merry Go Boy 431336
		Goodness Sake 451990
		Trouble 370306
		Strolling Beauty A 430763
		Colonel Allen 350021
		Kirrie Jackson <small>4th Dam</small>

This is to certify that the above named and described Tennessee Walking Horse has been registered in the Canadian Walking Horse Association Studbook by the Canadian National Livestock Records, Ottawa, Canada

Approved _____ **Issued** October 24th, 1983

For Minister of Agriculture _____ Director



FOAL CALL



PALOMINO FILLY (Northfork Sky Walker x CoHo Thistle's Gold Dust)
Jean Rempel, Rocky Slopes Walkers, Winfield, AB)

BAY COLT *Zepher Shadow Ridge* (Uphill Heir Trigger x Sundown's Shadow)
(Below left) Diane McCannel, Westwold, B.C.



BLACK COLT (Northfork Top Traveller x Northfork Sapphire)
SORREL FILLY (Walkien Jesse Skywalker x Summer Penny)
Jack & Margaret Gurnett, Northfork Farm, Bluffton, AB

PALOMINO FILLY (Northfork Patch of Gold x Kodiak's Miss Reflect CF)
(Bottom left) Amy Lauzon, Calgary, AB

SORREL TOBIANO COLT (Cherokee's Dark Knight x Willow's Rio Wonder)
Karla Freeman, Ride Easy Ranch, Bentley, AB

BLACK COLT (Toddys Royal Image x Shadow's Fly By Night)
BLACK & WHITE FILLY (Toddys Royal Image x Chief's Paint Brush) (below)
Greg & Maureen Germscheid, Magnolia Meadows, Evansburg,

BLACK COLT (Canadian Shaker x Threat's Magic Genie)
Don & Jo-Anne McDonald, McDonald Farms, Pouce Coupe, BC

PALOMINO COLT (below) (Uphill Heir Trigger x Cadillac's Calais) Bill & Sue Roy, Woodhill Walkers, Grindrod, BC

BLACK COLT (Ultra's Major Threat x Chance's Molly Midnight)
Roger & Jana Jacobsen, JRJ Walkers, Cranbrook, BC



SORREL FILLY (The Joy of Money x Calta's Tinkerbelle)
BLACK COLT (Allen's Midnight Rascal x Dixie's Just Push Play)
BLACK FILLY (Allen's Midnight Rascal x Mornin' Glory) (below)
Fran Kerik, Chrystal Star Ranch, Two Hills, AB



NEWS - NEWS - NEWS

ALBERTA NEWS

MAUREEN GERMSCHIED, MAGNOLIA MEADOWS, EVANSBURG, writes, "Just thought I would send you pics of our newest arrivals - a black colt born at the end of March and a black and white filly born on April 14. We're delighted with both of them. We're only expecting 2 more babies and are looking to sell one more brood mare as we are planning on cutting back a bit."

"We have been very busy training horses this spring and I am getting so that I can ride again after my injury last year. Greg has been riding 7 or 8 horses every day. We went to the Nicole Carswell clinic and found it quite informative."

"We're gearing up for the spring and summer mountain trips and Greg is going to try and squeeze out enough time to make the first one very soon."

"I hope everyone has a wonderful summer."

P.S. "Thanks for putting in the picture of our filly from last year (Page 24 in April issue) but that was actually my neighbor in the picture."

Editor: My apologies for the mistake, Maureen.

KARLA FREEMAN, RIDE EASY RANCH, BENTLEY, writes, "I had a wonderful time at the Red Deer Mane Event on the weekend of April 26 & 27. Thanks to the Canadian Registry for putting up a booth to promote this fabulous breed, and to everyone who helped it work, and to those who stopped by to say Hi! A big 'Thank you' to Fran Kerik for bringing her beautiful mare, Mornin's Miracle."

"I wanted to add something about a couple of the articles in the last WHN. Thank you for re-printing the article from Lexie Cole, 'Being Honest About Gaits'. **Honesty is Timeless**, and I agree, and identify with what she said."

"Also, about 'Hoof Angles', people seem to justify *what they do* to animals in their own minds, and tend to want others to agree. I have found that trimming according to the horse's particular shoulder angle does the most for the horse. **BASICALLY** it is a matter of doing what is natural for that horse to make it most comfortable."

"Would you please send a complimentary issue to Kathleen and Jay Winfield of Millarville? Wishing them miles of happy trails with Karla's Kadet. Congratulations also to Kim & Sheldon Grieve on the purchase of Gem's Last Wind, and Karlas Golden

Amber. Have fun with those girls! Also to Sandra & Rick Smith who are the new owners of Karlas King Tut", Thanks for your purchases. I trust you will all Ride Easy! And I will rest easy, knowing they have great homes! Happy Trails to All."

P.S. "On May 3rd, while talking to Marjorie, I looked out and saw *Why I Love Spring!* The first spotted horse born on the farm, a sorrel colt with white patches and the longest stockings, by Cherokees Dark Knight x Willows Rio Wonder!"

From STAN POTTER, ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE, "I really enjoyed the last issue of your magazine! The new project I'm working on is getting a stallion here for the first time. I selected Kentucky Hummer who is a buckskin and has the oldest of bloodlines, dating back to before Allan F-1! He goes back to the Hal, Brooks and Grey John lines mentioned in Allanna's article in April's WHN. I knew he had very old bloodlines but had no idea how many he actually goes back to before Allan F-1 until I read the article and began searching in IPeds. Now I'm overjoyed to have found breeding that is full of old bloodlines!"

"As for Ann Matheson's query about hoof angles that is something we all have to decide upon once we get a Walker. After getting good advice I try to get them around 53 degrees with a hoof angle gauge and all my horses do a running walk so it works for me. The adult walkers I've owned longest are in that neighborhood, the younger ones I'm trying to get there as you have to be patient for them to develop properly first and as long as that is good then start them toward your ideal. My recently acquired walkers are getting there. I don't think I'd try to make the change quickly. A couple of degrees closer each time you trim will make it a much smoother transition and will allow their legs to develop and adjust to the changes."

I also was approached on the internet for the purchase of a horse with the same scheme as Pearl wrote about on page 14. It was likely the exact same person. I hadn't advertised any horses for sale at the time so I instantly wrote it off as another scam."

"The Trail Plus event in Water Valley sounds great! I only hope I'm not so busy breeding mares with Hummer that I won't be able to take in at least one day. Happy Trails, Everyone."

BRITISH COLUMBIA NEWS

FRAN KERIK of CHRYSTAL STAR RANCH, TWO HILLS, writes, "We're pleased to announce our first foal of the year. She was born just 2 hours before the worst spring storm in my memory, on April 19. We named her "CSR Blaise of Glory" by Allen's Midnight Rascal out of Mornin' Glory."

CEC WATSON, CALYPSO TRAINING STABLE, DUCHESS, writes, "I'm renewing our subscription and sending an ad to sell our mare. Also wanted to share with readers how much they can learn by going to one of the TW shows, both by watching and talking to exhibitors. Everyone is really friendly and helpful. Last year I took our mare to the show in Didsbury. I had not worked with a young Walker for some time to develop gait, and really appreciated the encouragement from Laurie Innocent and Ted Smith. This included help improving the walk (ie: homework). I'm happy to say Cass has improved dramatically! Thanks!"

From LES YOUNG, WETASKIWIN, "It's been a while since I last wrote in, so here is an update on our horses. They are now located, as the crow flies, about five miles southeast of Millet, AB. We formed a partnership with Morris Hall who has 40 acres of land so now 15 broodmares, 2 stallions and 4 geldings reside here."

AMY LAUZON, CAYLEY, AB writes, "We got a gold filly! The mare's name is Kodiak's Miss Reflect CF (from Lexie Cole) and the sire is Gar's "Gold". This is the second filly we have from him. Last year we had a chestnut, "Canada Day Cayley Eh". She is turning out to be a very nice girl, so nice that her mom, Kodiak's Moon Stone (aka "Pearl") may go back for another visit."

LACYS at UPHILL FARM, EDSON, had a flying visit from Don & Jo-Anne McDonald, on May 4. They came to pick up Smokey (Uphill Heir Trigger) He'll be standing at stud at Pouce Coupe through June. Bill Roy had brought him up from near Armstrong on April 22, so he's been putting on the miles! Lucky for Smokey it's not the good old days - when a "travelling stud" did it on his own 4 feet!

From BETTY & ELMAR AUGART, SPRINGBANK, "I wanted to share with my fellow readers of the *Walking Horse News* that **PEACE RIVER STAR 1984 - 2008** has gone to join the stars above. She was my last beloved Walking Horse and will be sadly missed. Her gentle nature and loving spirit brought joy to me and my family."



From NATALIE SPECKMAIER & 'SWEET 16' TRIGGER, (above) VANCOUVER, "We all know that Trigger's birthday is tomorrow, but we had the party today, and what a turn out! Even people she didn't know brought presents for her: apples and carrots. I took a big bag of carrots for Trigger to share with her friends. After all, what's a birthday party without goodie bags? And the games were fun.... make faces and ears at your pasture mate and then challenge her to a "pin the tail on the mare" game. Musical hay was even better: run around in circles and first one to stop at a hay pile gets to eat it all. All this in the middle of a giant-flakes-as-huge-as-large-feathers snow storm!"

From BRENDA WIPFLI, BURNS LAKE, "Hi, I love getting my *WHN* but still have to find some time to read this one...not the easiest thing to do just now. I have 4 kids aged 5 and under as well as a business to run, and also we're in the process of doing major renos on our rental duplex which is located 3 hours from where we live!"

"My girl, Trigger's Salida Del Sol is shedding and I gave her a good brushing today. It was so nice to be able to spend some time with her. Hopefully when the snow finally melts, I'll be able to talk hubby into looking after the kids so I can go for a ride."

JANA JACOBSEN, CRANBROOK, writes, "I just wanted to drop you a note to announce the arrival of our latest foal. Born April 25/08 he's a black colt out of Chance's Molly Midnight by Ultra's Major Threat. He is a walking machine with a gorgeous head."

Losing a horse can break your heart,
but it will have been worth it.



SHIRLEY NILSSON, LANGLEY, writes, "I got Walkers to ride while handling pointing dogs in field trials. As you probably know, Tennessee Walking Horses, along with other gaited breeds, are used a lot for this purpose. And, of course, we also use them for just riding around. I've sent pics of both, and in the one above, where the horse is at a distance, you will see (if you look carefully!) that there is a dog running and hunting out ahead of the horse (named Tennessee of course)."

From DIANE McCANNEL, "Just thought I would update you on Zepher (whose mother, Sundown's Shadow, died about 12 hours after he was born). He is thriving. He is very gaited, complete with what appears to be a rocking horse canter. He is very personable without being rude. (That took some effort. He's learned patience due to situation and waits for nipple changes and filling bottles on site.) He is being supplemented two times daily and sister/foster mother Whisper is producing some milk. I want to work on getting his Bronze Award. I have to check criteria but I think he's already there! He knows whoa and back up and of course is halter and lead trained already. Everyone who has seen him has commented on his health and beauty. Must have some great genes, hey?"

DEBBIE SMITH, TOWER RIDGE FARM, MAPLE RIDGE emailed, "Just a quick note to wish everyone a good summer, healthy foals and good hay crops. Hope everyone enjoyed the winter. We are still waiting for spring. My daffodils were covered in snow a few weeks back, but all and all we had a wonderful winter for riding. Christmas Eve day we got out for a few hours, and again after the dump of snow, got out for New Years Eve day. The only times that we could not get out were when everything turned icy, unsafe to venture out.

"It's busy at the moment, with pinto Chihuahua puppies and awaiting the arrival of a pinto foal. Everyone around here is very excited about the foal, so we may have a little contest to name the new born. We've not had a baby at our barn for 3 years."

"We had a wonderful visit and nice trail ride while Jana Jacobsen was down for a winter visit. She was riding Sandy Amy's mare Dark Star Delite on the Bear Ridge Trail. Lucky for us the bears were hibernating at this time of year!"

"We have sold two of our mares, to a mom and her daughter. They purchased two full sisters. See photo below. If you'll send them a copy of the *Walking Horse News* they would be delighted. Congratulations to Darcey and her dream horse, "Tina" (TR"S Artic Dezyn) by Storms Northern Victory and to Yvonne Vernon on the purchase of "Artics Morning Star". After looking at about 30 horses, Star was *the one!*"

"We love showing off our beautiful trails to the new comers. They have decided to keep the horses at Tower Ridge Farm with the rest of the Walking Horse owners. Darcey is having a blast with Tina on the trails! Trying to talk her into taking her horse to the Gaited Show in Armstrong but she is happy on the trails and not the show ring. Our barn is overflowing and Dave is busy making more stalls... nobody ever wants to leave! 'Way too much fun here!'"

"Genevieve and Sandy Amy will be heading up to Lone Butte very soon to set up a base camp for their Sky Keep Homestead. They will be moving their horses up there for a couple of months this summer. We sure are going to miss Genevieve on those crazy wild rides we girls so much enjoy."

"Our trails are all in good shape, even the ones blocked from the winter winds have all been cleared and are in wonderful condition. We're planning on doing more riding in Golden Ears Provincial Park this summer. Our club has built some new trails that take you into the park and loop around, making a nice long days ride. All are registered trails, so can not be lost when development happens, which happens often. Lots of happy riding to all."



AWHA APRIL FOOLS CLINIC

It was a great clinic at Cloudwalker Stables on April 5 & 6, despite starting out with a spring snowstorm. It was an informative, enthusiastic and creative presentation by Dianne Little and Keith Oberle. Their ability combined to make the clinic invaluable. As a team they provided excellent safety and handling techniques for those 'fresh' spring rides. There was also much valuable information on the desired gaits of the Walking Horse, how to get the best out of your Walking Horse, and taking an honest look at conformation and how it affects movement. They both have a great ability to deliver pertinent information to the diverse needs of each individual. I enjoyed the clinic and the opportunity to visit with friends, and make new friends. I am glad Alexandra and I took the opportunity to learn from these knowledgeable and talented people.

I would also like to acknowledge Bill & Deloris Salt. Their friendly manner and excellent facility provided a wonderful venue for the clinic. On another note, I share their sadness on the loss of their friend and helper, Maurice. People might not remember what you did, but they *will* remember how you made them feel. Maurice always had a special way, it seemed to me, to make a person feel welcome at Cloudwalker Stables.

By Karla Freeman

SILVER SAYS...

About Hooves and Hoof Care

I'm always amazed that people who own TWH get into a flap about hoof angles. I am fortunate to have a farrier who was trained in Tennessee and knows how to do a lot of things we don't do here in Canada, but is still a conservative horseman. Maybe the key is to find a farrier who has experience, is dependable, and knows what is healthiest for the equine. A person like that can deal with little things like lazy stumbling or forging, whether in a Shetland pony or a mule, if you discuss them with him before he starts to work on your horse. He may even have some riding tips for you to try before you tinker with the horse's natural way of going.

If you want to keep your farrier,
there are a few things you need to do.

1) Treat him like the professional he should be, by having those horses caught and waiting for him at the agreed upon time.

2) Provide a decent work area for him. If you don't have a barn, at least try to have him work out of the wind or baking sun. Fly spray for all involved can make summer farrier work a lot nicer experience.

3) Try to keep the extra activity in the barn down to a minimum so the horses being trimmed are relaxed.

4) Have your horses trained to have their feet handled *before* he comes.

5) Warn him if you are wanting a difficult horse trimmed.

6) Keep him as safe as you can by being there to hold your horse.

7) Discipline your own horse; don't expect him to do it; he doesn't want to nor should he.

8) Know when to back off if your horse is acting up. You don't want the farrier, yourself or the horse hurt.

9) If your farrier refuses to trim a horse for you it is likely because he doesn't want to get hurt. Don't be offended; get his advice about how to get old Dobbin to accept his hoof care without a wreck and then do the homework. Please remember: horses are replaceable but people are not.

10) Be aware that unless regular trimming is done, your horses' feet might not look perfect after a trim. Your farrier cannot correct all the wear and tear at once if your horse has badly chipped or cracked feet. He cannot do a perfect job on a squirming horse either.

11) Try to book regular trims even in winter so your horses will not have problem feet to fix

12) If your farrier suggests that you make changes to your feeding program he is probably trying to help you avoid foundering your horse and ruining its health. Take his advice.

13) Schedule lunch breaks for the two of you if you have lots of horses to do.

14) Your farrier doesn't have to work on all of your horses in a day. Rebook for the rest of the gang. I don't like having more than 10 horses trimmed in a day.

15) Take a weekend farrier course so you can fully appreciate what a tiring and physical job it really is. This will definitely make you a better client!

16) Have good cold water to drink available.

By Brenda Baker



FOUNDER

A LIFE OR DEATH MATTER

by Barb Fenwick

When you're raised with horses and have them around you most of your life, you can expect to have to deal with their health issues over the years. We always learn something from these issues and what's equally important is to share how you managed them so others can learn from the experience. I never thought I would have to deal with not one, but two, foundered horses in the last few years, but I did. What I learned by the second founder has saved that horse's life and what I didn't learn with the first founder condemned that horse to an early grave. I wanted to share this story in hopes of maybe saving a horse you know.

Cherokee was a horse I owned for years, then sold at age 13 to a local person. He foundered while owned by that person and when I saw him - lame, unhealthy and in great pain, I bought him back to try and bring him back to health. For two years I worked with my farrier to save him, and also with medications and herbal treatments. The farrier put pads & shoes on him and instead of getting better he kept getting worse. After several months of trying this, I said 'no more shoes', he was in too much pain. Despite all efforts, it was with the greatest sadness that I had to have Cherokee put down at a too early age of 16 to end his pain and suffering. If you care to read it, I have written a full story on this experience with Cherokee on my website www.seasonsranh.com/articles.html.

What I didn't learn from this experience was just how a horse can become laminitic or I would have prevented Spirit, my 10 year old Tennessee Walking Horse from foundering in 2006.

As a result of "normal" hoof trimming methods over the years, Spirit had contracted heels by 2005. He was "set up" perfectly for hoof problems. As a result of poor hoof health and his diet, he foundered in spring of 2006. I was heartsick. I knew in my despair that one thing was certain. I would do everything in my power to keep him from joining Cherokee up on the hill in my back 40 pasture. I took over his farrier work after that time and consumed every book and article regarding hoof care and laminitis that I could find. I consulted my local vets, had x-rays and blood work done. The only suggestion one vet had regarding his feet was to recommend special shoeing. You can imagine I wasn't going there again!

For a year I worked on his feet and diet as best I could to help him recover. He did recover somewhat and although his feet were still having major problems, he improved to the point where he was comfortable & could be ridden for very short distances. Then in early spring 2007, even with all the precautions and knowledge I had to offer him, he had another bout of laminitis. This was so discouraging - I knew I had to get professional help to my doorstep.

As I came to learn during this whole process, both horses were predisposed to the health issues that can lead to founder. "Easy keepers", they both were living in lush pastures and in winters had rich alfalfa hay and grain. They didn't have enough need for movement and not enough regular exercise from winter to early spring. **This is a recipe for founder.** Into the recipe add farriers who are simply not aware of, nor are correctly taught how to obtain optimum hoof form and mechanism to prevent or treat founder, nor are obliged or mandated to keep abreast of the latest science and technology on healthy hoof care. In all fairness to them, even in veterinary schools it is apparent that little time is spent on teaching hoof mechanism to obtain optimum health and form.

During my search for knowledge I heard about "barefoot farriers". They are a group that have continued their studies in horse and hoof mechanisms and physiology to improve the feet and performance of horses without shoeing. They, as individuals or groups of farriers, scientists and veterinarians, have studied the mustang or feral horses worldwide as one of their models for natural hoof health. There is now a growing interest and respect for these studies and practices.

I knew I had to find one of these professionals to come and teach me and others here in Manitoba the basics of good hoof health and natural farrier practices. I found James & Yvonne Welz of Litchfield Park, AZ through their website TheHorsesHoof.com. I had ordered some educational books and videos from their online store. After reading about James on the site, I decided to host a clinic here in Manitoba, Canada to bring James & Yvonne here to present a Healthy Hoof clinic. In June 2007 they came, provided classroom education and James trimmed several horses in order to demonstrate the principles of barefoot trimming horses. It was a life changing event... for the participants and the horses, especially Spirit!

To be concluded next issue.

There will be another Healthy Hoof clinic with James & Yvonne July 12/13, 2008 near Winnipeg, MB. Contact Barb at bfenwick@xplornet.com for more info.

NEWS from our U.S. SUBSCRIBERS

From SHELLIE PACOVSKY, SLUSH CREEK WALKERS, BAINVILLE, MT, "Enclosed is the check for my subscription. I don't pay attention until I'm not getting my magazine and then I miss it. So far 2008 has been *terrible*. It started off with me spending most of January in the hospital. (I am mending and feeling better every day.) Then on the first of March we had to put our 2-year-old stallion prospect, NFF Lightfoot Taylor, to sleep. He had injured himself and there was no recovery for it. The first week in April our second stallion, The Ultimate Bum, went off his feed. On the second day of his not eating, not even sweet feed, we went to the vet. An ultrasound was done and a very large tumor was found on his right kidney. We did lab work and brought him home to await the results but within a few hours of coming home to his own pen The Ultimate Bum was gone. If it weren't for the foals coming I think I'd like to just skip ahead to 2009 and hope for things to get better."

"We are expecting 10 foals this spring and there are some by The Ultimate Bum and several from Slush Creeks Jubal S. We are searching for a stallion or stallion prospect so if you know of one, let us know. A nice natural running walk is most important; gentle disposition, and correct conformation are next. We prefer the older lines, the older the better! Color is not a consideration for us. We believe in the old adage that 'a good horse can be any color.'"

"We had an open winter with no snow and all the creeks and dams are dry already. If we don't get some moisture things don't look good for the pastures or the hay crop. Calving has just started so we are keeping very busy! The first mares are due any day so I guess I'd best get off the computer and out to the barn. Thanks for a great magazine! Keep up the good work!

ALLANNA JACKSON, LAKESIDE, AZ writes, "My *WHN* arrived today; haven't had much chance to look at it yet. I did read Bill Howes' nice little piece about Koko. He was off by a year on Koko's life span. Koko sired his last foal, Back Yard Cinnamon, at age 30 and lived to be 32 years, 3 1/2 months old. I've got photos of Koko and Cinnamon tied side by side in the corral that I took the summer of 2003 when Cinnamon was a yearling."

"I took Cinnamon on her first group trail ride with the White Mountain Horseman's Association on April 19, 2008. She did fantastic! Didn't catch any

pictures on the trail. I was too busy making sure she had a good first time out." *Cinnamon, below, ready for her first group ride with the WMHA.*



"Cinnamon and I had a nice ride again this morning in spite of extremely blustery winds. We went to the Ice Cave again, and once we were in the forest it was nice. She got a little silly coming home because of the wind, but nothing drastic. She's been a perfect little angel about standing tied - except for the usual playing with the lead rope and untying it. I'm going to have to shoe Cinnamon so we can get serious about trail riding. The problem is, I don't know of any farriers that I consider good enough to do my horses. I'm thinking about trying those plastic ground control shoes FOSH allows. Haven't gotten a response from my e-mail to the company yet though."

"I stopped by the feed store and bought hay. Spent just a few cents short of \$200 on 12 3-wire bales of alfalfa. That feeds my two mares for about a month. In addition to the increasing costs of feed and fuel (rising gas prices increase hay costs because hay here is trucked in from other parts of the state, an average of 200 miles or more) the US horse industry is also dealing with the consequences of the slaughter bans, leaving the market swamped with unwanted horses. The anti-slaughter activists ignored warnings from the realists that banning slaughter would result in more neglected and abandoned horses. Now we're dealing with the unhappy truth that the realists were right. There have been major incidents of mass starvations of horses in South Carolina, Georgia and Kentucky just this year. There are reports of horses being abandoned in National Forests in Washington and Kentucky. No telling how long it will be before the market finds a functioning equilibrium. Some people who are directly involved in legal prosecution of the starvation cases are afraid we may come to the

point of having to euthanize surplus horses the way we do surplus cats and dogs.”

From GRACE LARSON, FORSYTH, MT, “The *WHN* just arrived today and again I sat all afternoon and read it! Shellie Pacovsky is looking for a new stallion and I saw several prospects in this issue that I will email her on; will email her the *WHN* web site.”

“Would you add our web site to our new business card - www.hiplainswalkers.com, ? We have a video of Goldust posted on it now and it is really nice.”

“Lyle had shoulder surgery March 5th and he sure has had problems with it. There isn't any cartilage left so it's bone on bone. The surgeon removed the arthritis spurs and said shoulder replacement isn't that good yet; so Lyle has had to cut back on a lot of the things he's used to doing here.”

“We are selling all of our brood mares but Marigold. Dale Vare of Alberta is coming after Belle and Rain the end of this month. Both are in foal for this summer; Belle to Goldust and Rain to Chief. Lacey is going to Donna Rauschendorfer of Poplar, Montana. Lacey, a palomino, will have a “dream” home with lots of range to run on, and she will be used for ranch, pleasure, and parades. Anastasia is still for sale and we have two young geldings from last year for sale. We sold Buttermilk Sky and Mari Perfect Night in January. They went to a dream home and have it made! Harry & Lynelle March of Miles City just love them and plan to have them trained for riding when they are old enough.”

“We have been freezing semen from Goldust and will have at least 4 more collections frozen this year. His semen is very good when it is thawed and the cooled ships well. I'm even selling my big black gelding, Sun Of The Morning Star (aka “Herman.”). He is 15.3 hands and that's quite a height for me nowadays when it comes to getting on and off. Lyle still rides Fawn; she is 23 this year and when she is retired I'm sure he will retire from riding too. She is so smooth and such fun to ride. I will ride Chance, our 15 hand black and white gelding.”

“Our area is in a drought again . The snow pack in the mountains is good this year so those who irrigate ought to have plenty of water. We buy our hay so our only irrigation is a big garden that Lyle has every year.”

I enjoyed the article on Lucky's Koko Prince and also the photos of him, Laddie's Monte Ray and Bit O' Sage.

It appears that the Canadian market is still

holding well but our market down here isn't! With the falling dollar and the ban on horse slaughter, horses are being abandoned in numbers that haven't been seen in years. That is sad. Has anyone ever looked into a horse's eyes and been able to just turn them out without any thought as to their welfare? I know it's a very painful decision when we have to have a horse euthanized or shipped (and we know he or she will go for slaughter) but to just abandon a horse is the height of cruelty.”

“I admired Clark Allen's decision with Rapid Joe. He could not bear to see Joe suffer or end up at a rendering plant so he ended his life with a bullet, a loving and courageous thing to do, and a humane way to end that wonderful old stallion's life. I also admire my husband, Lyle, because he has been able to do this several times. I still have tears when I think of Maggie and Cloudy but they were in so much pain, and the vets said terminal. If we love our animals their life's end is also our responsibility! I know ending a horse's life, or that of any of our beloved animals, is always heart breaking and we want it to be quick and as painless as possible. Our vet prefers a bullet but he said he has clients that think that's harsher than euthenizing with drugs; he said he doesn't agree with them but he does abide by their wishes.”

“I know some people may be offended but when we own horses we need to be prepared to do what is necessary when their life is no longer possible without suffering.”



Editor's Note:

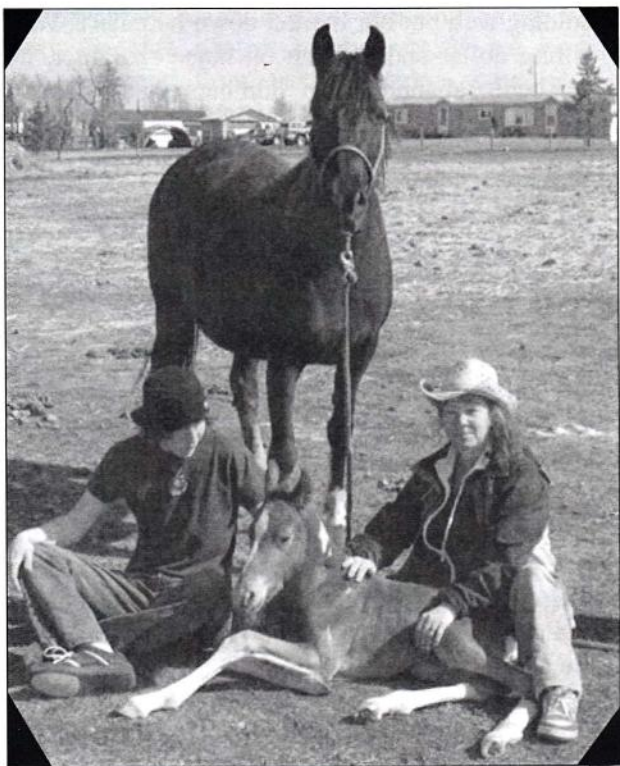
I agree with Grace's comments above. In my opinion, responsible horse keeping does not mean keeping an animal alive at any cost. If it is in constant pain, or cannot get around and stay with the herd, or has been so badly hurt or debilitated that its chances of recovering are negligible, then destroying it may be the only humane thing to do. Most of us call a vet to do this.

But, with horses, emergencies can arise suddenly and disastrously. All too often it's when or where there is no veterinarian available. If it is a situation where the only merciful thing you can do for your horse is put it down, know how to do it quickly and efficiently, for your horse's sake and your own.

Facing the horse, draw an imaginary line on its forehead, from right ear to left eye, and from left ear to right eye. Shoot the horse right where those two lines intersect. That destroys the brain and kills the animal instantly.

M.L.

What do YOU do with your Walker foals?

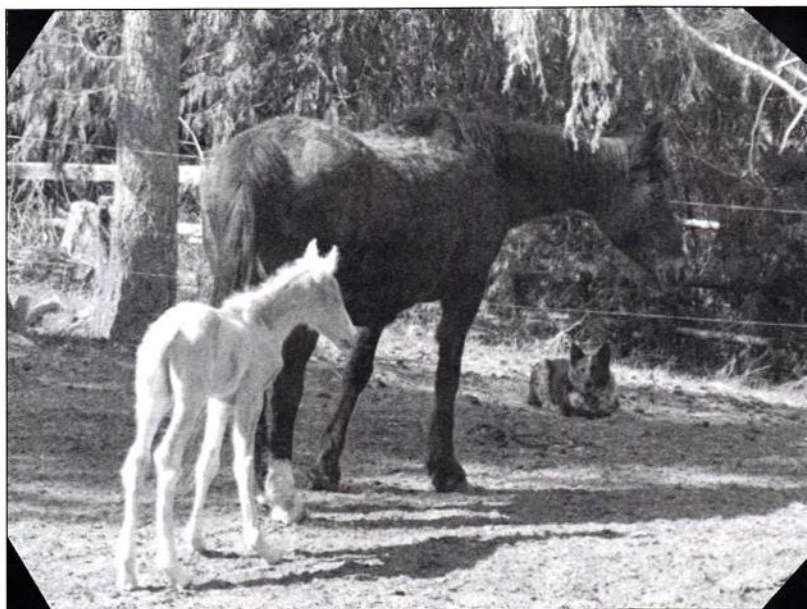


These folks started right away to get their new foals used to people and other animals.

Above: Patrick and Karla Freeman handle their only hours-old pinto colt, while mother Rio looks on.



Above: Maureen Germscheid gently restrains her new black colt, who is very curious about the photographer.



Left: Ben the dog guards the newborn foal and his mother at Bill & Susan Roy's farm in B.C.

*What do YOU do
with your Walkers?*

Send your photos to *WHN*,
Box 7326, Edson, AB T7E 1V5
or
whn@telus.net

First SOUND HORSE CONFERENCE Exceeds Attendees Expectations

Friends of Sound Horses (FOSH) is pleased to announce that the first Sound Horse Conference was well attended and well received by veterinarians, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) personnel, animal humane groups, horse industry organizations (HIOs) and interested individuals. This first event was held April 11 & 12 at Ohio State University School of Veterinary Medicine and sponsored by the American Association of Equine Practitioners, FOSH, the Humane Society of the United States, the American Horse Protection Association, the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders and Exhibitors Association and Ohio State University.

An impressive panel of veterinarians and technology experts reviewed leading-edge techniques and tools including thermography, digital radiography, pain detection, molecular-level tissue testing and drug testing that, if properly applied, would virtually end soring. Panelists made specific recommendations as to the use of these new technologies to perfect the detection of soring violations. Highly regarded organizations represented outside of the Walking Horse community included the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) and the United States Equestrian Federation. Both organizations provided information about identifying problems, addressing them, and finding and investing in technology to detect issues and implement serious deterrents.

Authorities in the area of affecting cultural change including the Ohio representative of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and a leading expert in rural crime, presented ideas on how to make the cruel practice of soring culturally unacceptable.

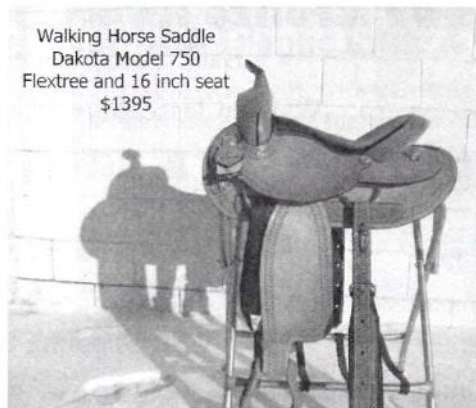
Attendees heard sobering facts that illustrate the prevalence of soring that included the following statistics: 826 Horse Protection Act (HPA) suspensions were issued in 2007. 970 individuals have repeat HPA violations, some with as many as 18 and 20 violations. Violators have long been, and continue to be, honored by the Walking Horse industry. There were 15 inductees into the 2008 Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration Hall of Fame who shared 13 violations, with one individual having six violations. Among the 115 members of the TWHBEA Board of Directors, there are 43 violations. Of the 54 Trainers' Cup honorees in 2007 there were 204 violations, while in 2006 the 65 top trainers shared 256 violations. The USDA presented photographic evidence of the pasterns of scarred and sore horses from the 2007 show season.

After the panel discussions, all attendees participated in a brainstorming session to generate ideas to end soring. The majority of the ideas generated focused on voluntary steps that the industry should take to end soring, without relying on government enforcement and intervention, which would set the stage for a more positive public image for this great breed.

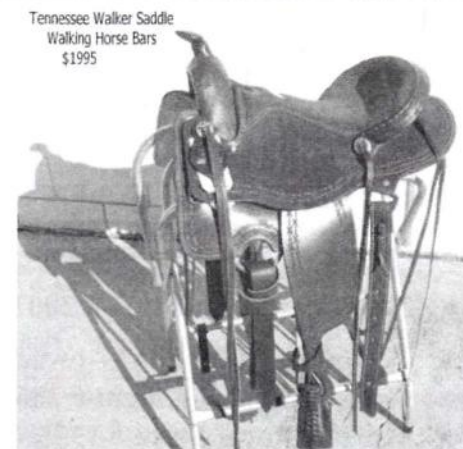
There will be a 2009 Conference. Further info will soon be available at www.soundhorseconference.com.

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Walking Horse Saddle
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The Canadian Registry of the Tennessee Walking Horse
Is Pleased to Congratulate

All the entrants who challenged & achieved these awards in
THE PROGRAM FOR EXCELLENCE:

2007 Bronze Awards

- Back Yard Cinnamon – 2002-2827 – owned by Allanna Jackson
- Walkien Jesse Skywalker – 3232 – owned by Charles H. & Marjorie C. Lacy

2007 Bronze & Silver Awards

- Karlas Black Betty 3091 – owned by Karla Freeman
- Karlas Black Jade 3092 - owned by Karla Freeman
- Karlas Red Velvet Vision 2975 - owned by Karla Freeman
- CSR Shooting Star – 2003-3038 – owned by Frances Kerik

2007 Bronze, Silver & Gold Awards

- CSR Mornin's Miracle 2003-3005 owned by Frances Kerik
- Uphill Heir Trigger – 3008 – owned by Charles H. & Marjorie C. Lacy

All entrants who challenged & achieved these awards in
THE TRAINING LEVELS CHALLENGE

2007 TLC Basic Skills

- Back Yard Cinnamon # 2002-2827-owned and exhibited by Allanna Jackson
- Karla's Kadet # 2862 – owned by Karla Freeman; exhibited by Alexandra Freeman
- Karla's Special Knight # 2864 – owned and exhibited by Karla Freeman
- Karla's Royal Flash # 1955 - owned and exhibited by Karla Freeman

2007 TLC Driving Level 1

- Back Yard Cinnamon # 2002-2827 – owned and exhibited by Allanna Jackson

2007 TLC Trail Riding Level 1

- Back Yard Cinnamon # 2002-2827 – owned and exhibited by Allanna Jackson

*CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL WHO ENTERED,
& TO THE THREE WHO ACCUMULATED THE MOST TIME IN THE SADDLE, IN*
THE 'RIDE YOUR WALKER' PROGRAM - 2007

GREATEST NUMBER OF HOURS IN THE SADDLE

- 1. RIDING MULTIPLE HORSES** - Karla Freeman
- 2. RIDING ONE HORSE** - Bill Roy
- 3. Youth Award** - Alexandra Freeman



The Canadian Walker

Volume 7, Issue 2

www.crtwh.ca

June, 2008

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GAIT FROM THE GROUND UP with Dianne Little & Bill Roy

This CRTWH Clinic will be held July 5 & 6 at St. Paul, AB, with the arena booked for the 4th for riding. It marks the first time Dianne & Bill have done a clinic together in Alberta.

The following will be covered: Achieving the best gait for your horse, trailer loading, standing still for mounting, cantering, and saddle fitting. It promises to be a fun, enlightening weekend, with Dianne's wonderful way of putting everybody at ease and her super teaching abilities along with Bill's 50+ years of experience with horses, his saddle fitting knowledge and unique ability to understand the horse.

A Gathering hosted by Fran Kerik will take place after supper on Saturday night. The Gathering is open to anyone (clinic participant or not) who wants to take part in the Program For Excellence Tests or Training Levels.

FEES: \$160 for non-members with a 25% discount for members of CRTWH
\$20 per night for stabling. \$60 for Auditors for the weekend.

PLACE: St Paul Ag Corral, St Paul, AB. **TIME** - July 5 & 6; 4th booked for riding. St Paul is a large town with all the amenities. There are several hotels and motels, lots of restaurants, camping with showers right across from the arena and ample parking for your rig.

Contacts: Fran Kerik, Two Hills, AB 780-768-2250 fkerik@digitalweb.net
Make payment to: CRTWH, c/o Dianne Little, 619 Lake Linnet Cres. S.E., Calgary, AB T2J 2J3. Email treasurer@crtwh.ca or phone 403-271-7391

A.G.M.

Despite bad roads and a spring snowstorm that blew into Alberta Friday night, enough dedicated CRTWH members attended the Saturday April 5th lunch meeting at Cloudwalker Stables near Strathmore to make up a quorum and attend to the business of the Registry. Thank you all!

The proposed constitutional amendments were passed unanimously, and have been sent to Agriculture Canada and CLRC for approval. Thanks to all who, although they couldn't attend in person, sent in their proxies.

The 2007 AGM minutes and officers reports were presented and approved. In new business Dianne Little was pleased to announce an

extremely generous gift from Eldon Eadie. He has given CRTWH all rights to the videos he created, The Running Walk of the Tennessee Walking Horse and The Running Walk from the Centre of the Ring. CRTWH will work on making these classic gait videos available once again, in a CD or DVD format, as soon as possible.

The very first Training Levels Awards were presented and the Ride Your Walker "highest number of hours" riders were announced. The second year of the Program For Excellence saw four owners enter and receive awards on behalf of eight horses. Congratulations to all! (See facing page for

lists.) One of the new registration certificates with the awards printed on it was available to view.

There were draws for door prizes followed by adjournment; then it was back to the Dianne Little / Keith Oberle clinic at Cloudwalker for many of the members, and "Good-bye until next year" for the rest. Our thanks to Bill and Deloris Salt for graciously hosting our meeting.

WWW.WEB NOTES

Members, please send in up to 2 photos of your 'beautiful babies' for a slide show on the CRTWH website. Also, we want to up-date the Members' Map List on the website so please renew or correct your listing. Contact Jean at the address to the left.

OUR READERS WRITE

I'm new to Tennessee Walkers and my mare is the only one I've ridden. She doesn't feel much different from my Quarter Horse. From what I understand, she's never had any formal training. Just broken in and ridden...probably by owners who didn't know a lot about gaited horses. She has a smooth canter and isn't uncomfortable to ride at a slower pace but just doesn't feel much different from any other horse. If I try to get her to walk out, and catch her just before breaking into a trot, she's fairly smooth. She doesn't walk very fast before attempting to break into a trot/pace though. I suspect that at her age (going on 13) that it would be a difficult habit to break and I'd have to keep concentrating on what she's doing instead of just relaxing and enjoying the trail ride. If she IS gaited, I'm quite disappointed, especially after wanting a TWH for so many years - and expecting a much more comfortable ride. I'd love to have an opinion on what she's doing...trotting, pacing, etc.

Reply:

From what you describe, it sounds as if she is probably trotting, because that is what she has been comfortable doing. Personally, I would be frustrated too. What I might try is to just keep her in that 1-2-3-4 walk and when she breaks, do a half halt, or stop. This is an established gait that she has, and perhaps all she is capable of now, regarding her conformation and age.

Speaking of moving freely, what kind of saddle are you using? Is she able to move her shoulders freely? There really could be a number of contributing factors. Are you riding by yourself? How are her feet trimmed? Where is your saddle positioned on her back? How relaxed are you? Where is her head carriage? And I know other people will have other questions.

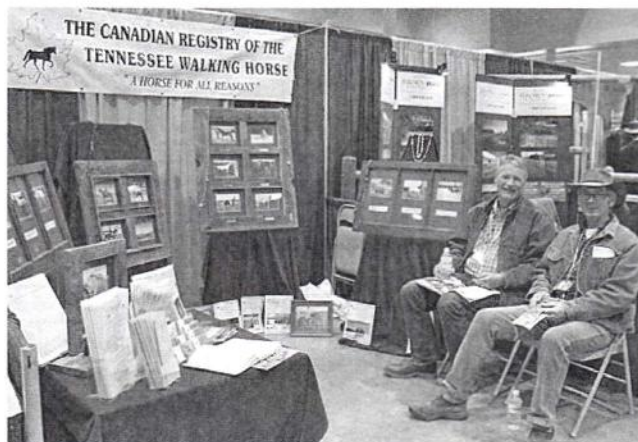
What has helped me with gait issues is going to clinics, taking my horses to clinics, and having experienced people guide me. Watching other horses move, and feeling the different gaits also helps. Watching videos such as David Lichman's, 'Gaited Horses, Naturally!' may also be useful.

I now take videos of my horses and have them evaluated, and that gives me a good idea of how the horse is moving. The Program for Excellence also evaluates their conformation from an unbiased point of view.

Hope this helps some.

Karla Freeman

WALKERS AT MANE EVENT

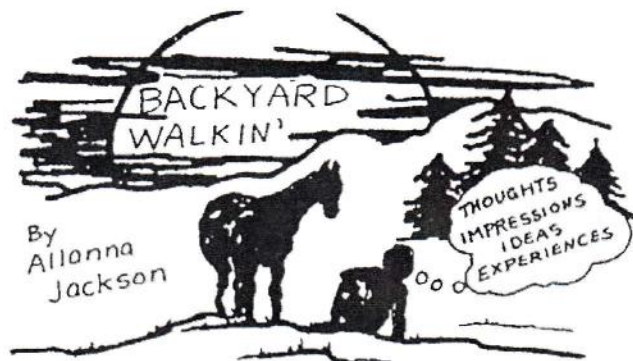


The Mane Event Trade Fair, Red Deer, AB ended Sunday, April 27, having had over 42,000 people come through the doors. People attended from Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and all over Alberta and British Columbia. And thanks to a group of dedicated CRTWH volunteers, they all had the opportunity meet Walker owners, pick up information & contact info, and see a Canadian bred TWH in the demos and "Meet the Breed" displays.

Fran Kerik brought her nice black mare, Mornin's Miracle (*below*) helped by Irene Verbisky and Lesa Luchak. Despite the foggy weather they made it to Red Deer in time for the first demos. Bill Roy was determined that CRTWH would be represented, and came all the way from BC with his friends, Ralph Livingston and Claire Christensen (*above*) to make sure of it. They, along with Karla Freeman and her daughter Alexandra and her friend Christine, spent many hours in the CRTWH booth, visiting with and informing people about Walking Horses in Canada. Dianne Little and Leslie Hunchuk came up from Calgary with the booth display, even though both were still recovering from surgery - a foot operation and a broken wrist. Now *that's* devotion above and beyond! Jean Rempel, Maureen Hummel and Marjorie Lacy worked on getting information and member lists ready to hand out.

CRTWH will also be represented at the Mane Event in BC running from October 17 to October 19, 2008. See you there!





THE ORIGINAL WALKING HORSE PART II

by Allanna Jackson (reprinted from *WHN*, 1993.)

The original Walking Horse was first, last and foremost a utility animal. The Walking Horse was shown but this was an incidental diversion from his every day work. The shows were planned around the work schedules of the farmers who would be showing their horses.

Strength, stamina, efficiency of movement and a docile, willing nature were so fundamental to any good horse that they were taken for granted. It was not unheard of to ride a top show horse 30 - 40 miles to a show the day before the animal was expected to compete.

The average Walking Horse was owned by a farmer and his family on their small acreage. This average owner usually had from one to four horses, which were expected to do everything. The mares were bred so that the farmer might have one or two foals a year to sell along with his other cash crops. The original Walking Horses served as transportation, as well as babysitter and family pet. Any one Walking Horse was expected to do all the jobs we now expect of a tractor, pickup truck, school bus, passenger car, luxury car and four-wheel drive.

SIZE: The original Walking Horse ranged in height from 14 hands or so to 16 hands at the withers. A height of 15.1 to 15.3 hands was considered ideal.

COLOR: Predominant colors were chestnut, black, bay and gray. The sabino pattern on all these base colors was as common as the solid color. Palomino and white could also be found. True roan existed but was rare. The vast majority of Walkers designated "roan" were actually sabino. The blending of sabino and overo pinto patterns was not unusual. Tobiano, dun and buckskin were rare.

DISPOSITION: The original Walking Horse was by nature very trusting, gentle, docile, good natured, mannerly, willing and trainable. They were frequently affectionate, people-oriented as well as highly

intelligent. A few horses were known for being temperamental, unruly, intolerant or just plain mean but this was unusual and thus noteworthy.

CONFORMATION: Because the original Walking Horse represented a mixture of Canadian Pacer, Thoroughbred, Morgan, Saddlebred, and Standardbred ancestry, all these conformation types could be found. There was no particular preference among these types. What was preferred was a well-balanced, correctly proportioned athlete. The standards for correct conformation were consistent with the ideals horsemen down through the centuries have agreed upon. The distinctive trait of the Walking Horse was the running walk gait, not a particular conformation or style. Certain preferred characteristics were common to all the types.

The Walking Horse was of medium build with plenty of bone, strong tendons and well developed, but not bulky, musculature. Hooves were strong, and of shape and structure that made them resistant to bruising, cracking, thrush and other ailments.

A medium slope and length of the pasterns was better than either extreme since this structure allowed for both maximum strength and greater smoothness. Flat knees and strong well-formed hocks were part of basic soundness. The legs were expected to be straight. Mildly "set" or "sickled" hocks were common but generally recognized by the horsemen of the time as a fault.

When in motion the horse was expected to track straight without crossing, winging, paddling or pointing of the front legs. Wringing of the hocks or any other motion that was not propelling the horse forward down the road was a major fault. Knowledgeable breeders avoided breeding horses with such faults because horses with those faults would not stand up to hard work and high mileage.

The gaskin and hindquarters of the original Walking Horse were well muscled. The croup was usually sloped. A high tail set was desirable so that the horse would carry his tail up and away from his body while moving.

The back was of medium length, straight or slightly arched. It was generally held that the arched back gave the horse greater weight-carrying capacity. Ribs were well sprung with ample room for heart and lungs. The original Walking Horse had high, well-defined withers, a sloping shoulder and a well developed chest.

The neck was of medium to long length, well muscled both top and bottom. The joining of neck to shoulder was often deep, muscular, yet well defined. Neck and head carriage varied from low (level with the horse's back) to fairly high but extended forward rather than up, a configuration that contributed to the forward reach of an efficient ground covering stride.

The head of an original Walking Horse was medium to large relative to the rest of the horse. Exceptional length from eyes to muzzle was typical. A roman nose was common though a straight profile was preferred. The ears were generally in proportion with the rest of the horse, set up on the head so that the horse looked alert and interested. The eyes were large and prominent, set well out on the sides of the head. Nostrils were large and somewhat flared, even when the animal was at rest.

GAITS: The gaits of the original Walking Horse were the flat walk, running walk and canter. It was generally known that these horses were multigaited and thus capable of several more gaits. The additional gaits varied between individuals but included some combination of these: A four-beat trot, a correct two-beat trot, foxwalk, foxtrot, amble, stepping pace and pace. A few of them could also rack but this was rare enough that individuals who did so were remembered for it.

Flat-foot walk - this gait was simply a refined or enhanced form of the basic walk universal to all horses. It was characterized by precisely even or square, four-beat timing, a deep head nod and some slight overstride. The ideal speed varied from 3 -5 mph depending on the individual horse.

The flat-foot walk was so called because each hoof remained flat on the ground until the next hoof in sequence had also been set down flat on the ground. The best horses set each hoof down very slightly heel first but each hoof remained flat on the ground until the next hoof was flat on the ground. This very slight heel first set down contributed to both smoothness of gait and a long term soundness of the horse. At the flat - foot walk the horse was both comfortable and relaxed yet purposeful and eager to cover the ground. Efficiency was the name of the game. Loose, square, bold and relaxed were the watchwords for the flat-foot walk.

Running Walk: The original running walk was, in all its components, a walking gait. The requirements of square four beat timing, head nod, looseness and confident efficiency remained the same. The only difference was that the horse was expected to flow or glide while moving at a speed of 5 - 7 mph. A few exceptional individuals could running walk 8 mph, but this was rare enough that it has been recorded in every case. Overstride was generally considered desirable though the possibility of too much overstride was a concern, particularly in the show ring. There was no hop, swing, bounce or suspension phases in the original running walk which is why it was limited to 8 mph as top speed.

Canter: This was a moderately fast 10 -12 mph with a moderate lifting front action somewhat similar to an old fashioned wood rocking chair. This is the reason

the gait was referred to as a rocking chair canter. This motion was not exaggerated as the horses were expected to be capable of traveling several miles at a time at this gait. The canter was generally slightly four - beat rather than the more correct three beats. This tendency is typical of gaited horses in general. The slight four - beat canter softened the ride. Flying lead changes were seldom or never used so the distinction between three-beat and four-beat canters was unimportant. The canter is the only acceptable original Walking Horse gait with a suspension phase.

ANIMATION: Efficiency over distance was the final judge of animation. Jim Miller, a noted trainer and showman of the 1920's, described the ideal action of a Walking Horse as being just high enough to tip a baseball and keep it rolling. This was ideal for both flat-foot and running walks for both front and hind leg action. The canter used higher front action but the hind feet were supposed to tip the baseball. Higher front action at the walking gaits was acceptable, and even preferred by some. However the forearm was never brought higher than parallel to the ground.

SHOEING: The original Walking Horse was shod to protect the hooves from excess wear caused by the high mileage work load. Weighted shoes and altered hoof angles were unnecessary and undesirable since they compromised the horse's soundness and stamina.

MANE AND TAIL: The original Walker was kept natural with mane and tail at whatever length they grew to. The trimming of a bridle path behind the ears was optional unless the horse was to be shown. Show horses had a bridle path cut after the fashion of the five-gaited Saddlebreds. The mane and forelock were braided just as we do today.

SPECIAL TRAINING EQUIPMENT: None. An English style bridle with arched mouth, solid shank curb bit was the most common. The saddle was whatever the owner usually used. There is reference to occasional use of trotting balls and riding over logs but general practice was simply to ride the horse several hundred miles at the flat-foot walk, then develop the running walk and canter.

Does this sound like today's Tennessee Walking Horse? Is this what we see in our Plantation and Lite-shod show rings? Does this sound like what you thought you were getting when you bought a pleasure Walking Horse?

Not all early Walkers conformed to this ideal but this is what the founders of TWHBA sought when they established the registry. ★

From Foundations to the Future

A CAMP IN CANAAN by Franne Brandon

Many little girls go through a horse phase, when they dream of owning their very own mount to soar over the rails, round the barrels, or tread the tanbark. For blond Carol Eva Camp of Hartselle, in Morgan County, Alabama, however, the girlhood dream became a reality when her parents purchased a bay pleasure horse for her. Sunset's Little Joe was a son of Midnight Sunset out of a mare by Orphan Joe. Carol showed him to win over 160 blue ribbons. Later, Carol also exhibited padded show horses. The best show horse on which she competed was Sun's Cleopatra C.W. Cleopatra was by a Midnight Sun horse named Sun's Night Time. Her dam was by Sundust, and her second dam was Carol Sue's Choice, a full sister to H.F. Midnight Allen. Carol showed successfully with the mare until 1978, then jumped at the chance to buy her back in 1988. The old mare died on Carol's farm at the ripe old age of thirty.

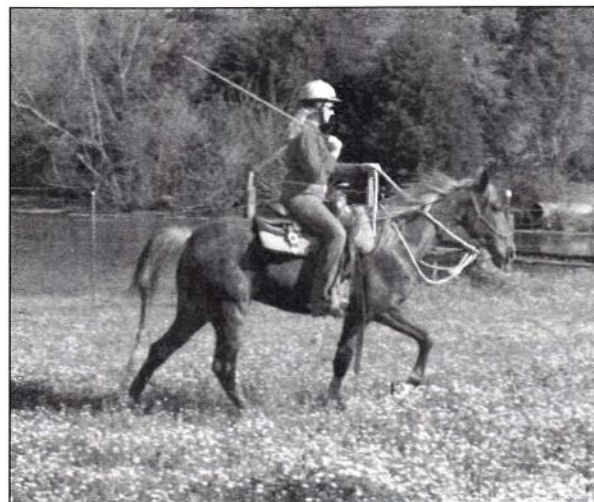
Unlike most horse-crazy girls who leave that phase behind when they develop an interest in boys, Carol remained in love with horses. She enrolled at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, with a major in Animal Science and the intention to become a professional horse trainer upon graduation. According to Carol, "My parents did not give me any encouragement to enter professional training. I think that they thought most horse trainers were liars, thieves, and reprobates!"

The director of the MTSU Horse Science program, Dr. Dave Whitaker, placed Carol in an internship at what is now Waterfall Farm while she was a student. She also worked at Jack Montgomery Stables while still attending the university. Once she received her B.S. in Animal Science after completing the Horse Science curriculum, she worked for Steve Hill, well-known as the trainer of Merry Wilson, The Talk of the Town, and Hill's Perfection. Later, she worked at the barn of the American Saddle Horse trainer Fritz Jordan. Carol affirms that "I considered them both to be master horsemen, and I was well aware that I had a great opportunity to work for them."

Carol's personal plan upon completion of her education and internship period was to be a professional horse trainer. Life, however, had other ideas, as she remembers that "the year I spent getting all that wonderful experience with Mr.'s Hill and Jordan, I nearly starved to death! I had to eat souse

sandwiches everyday for lunch because I couldn't afford anything else!" Souse sandwiches being a rather uninspiring culinary selection, Carol decided that she needed to obtain a better salary for a while, and accepted an office position. In 1982, she bought and moved to a farm near Franklin, Tennessee, which she named Canaan Farm. She had a modern, 5 stall horse barn and filled it with horses. Three years later, the barn caught fire, with a loss of all the stock, her horse trailer, and all the equipment that she had collected. Carol's memories of what happened next are still vivid. "News travels fast, and at 4:30 a.m. after the fire, Clay Harlin was knocking on our door with a big pot of soup that Fay had made for us. A couple of days later he called and, after sort of pulling information out of him, I found that someone had come by Harlinsdale peddling a \$150 filly. You bet I bought her; I was going crazy not seeing horse faces.

So with the insurance money from the barn that burned, I was able to build the shell of the present barn, with the idea that I would sort of build stalls as I could. My Dad helped out and bought me a brand new tractor, which I still have. New customers trickled back in; when I got up to four outside horses, I knew I had to either cut back on working horses or quit my office job. I went to see Eva and Harlin Knight about training their horse, and theirs was the pivotal decision. I needed one more horse to make ends meet and if they said yes, I was back in the horse business. So they did, and so I was."



Carol and Gen's Half Moon practice straight line work outside the arena to vary their routine.

Carol divides her career as one of the few professional trainers of pleasure Tennessee Walkers in Middle Tennessee into three distinct phases. The first phase included her internship periods and early years at Canaan Farm. During this time, she trained pleasure horses like most other trainers trained their horses. Experimentation with various bits and use of heavy shoes was common. During this period, pleasure classes were not universal and were generally limited to one plantation pleasure class per Saturday night show.

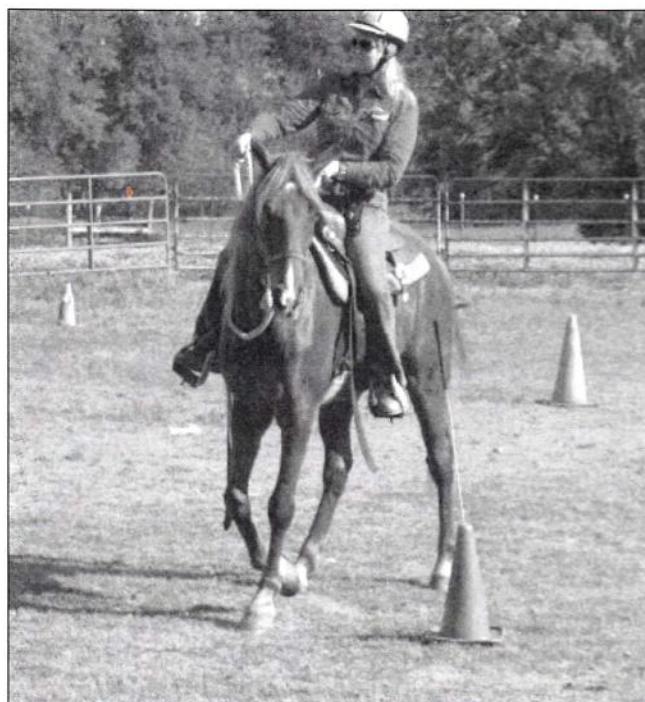
The second phase ran for ten years, from 1985-1995. During this period which followed the loss of the barn and her beloved horses, Carol refocused her perspective to the horse, and what worked best for each individual animal. During these years, interest in the pleasure walker for both flatshod show horses and smooth, steady trail horses burgeoned. In 1984, Carol, along with two other Franklin-area ladies, Connie Taylor and Becky Melton, organized the Pleasure Walking Horse Association of Tennessee, with guidance from Dr. Dave Whitaker of MTSU. With Carol at the helm as its first president, the new group worked tirelessly to organize trail rides and promote opportunities for showing of flatshod horses throughout the state.



Carol Camp and Gen's Half Moon practice a desensitizing activity as part of a daily training session.

The final phase began in 1995, at a PWHAT clinic featuring David Lichman. Intrigued by what Parelli could do for the horse and her training style, Carol started and passed Level 1, then went on to pass Level 2.

Starting a young horse or retraining an older one has acquired a totally new perspective in the 12 years since she began utilizing natural horsemanship along with classical dressage techniques.



The leg yield / sidepass was cool! It did not photograph nearly as well as the mare performed it.

Judging is also an activity that consumes part of Carol's busy schedule. It intrigued her even as a student at the university. When she graduated, she became one of the youngest apprentice judges for the National Horse Show Commission. At that time, this was the only affiliating body for Tennessee Walking Horses in the Southeast. Pleasure horse shows were waiting for the formation of PWHAT to be developed. Later, in the nineties, Carol applied for and held judges licenses with Walking Horse Owners Association, Friends of the Sound Horse, the National Walking Horse Association, the Rocky Mountain Horse Association, and the United Mountain Horse Association.

Carol Camp has been training pleasure Tennessee Walking Horses as a profession since January of 1986. Her resume' includes Generator's Souvenir, Go Mr. Go, Ebb's Equal Justice, Times Golden Girl, and Gen's Half Moon. The list of professional sound trainers in Tennessee is slim, and Carol's years of experience in training at Canaan Farm stand her in good stead both in the center of the ring and on the rail.

NEXT ISSUE – TRAINING TECHNIQUES AND A JUDGE'S PERSPECTIVE



THE EVOLUTION OF TRAINING TECHNIQUES VIII

by Dr. Bob Womack From Pages 244 to 246, The Echo of Hoofbeats, Second Edition, 1984.

The new lick of the Walking Horse resembled a foundered way of moving in which the front feet of the horse barely touched the ground while the back legs drove far up under to catch the weight of the body. While the new lick proved satisfying to the Industry, it did not lend itself to a scientific approach. The technique of soring never progressed beyond a hit and miss proposition. It was obvious from watching a particular horse throughout the season that its handler could not be sure when enough or too much of the irritant had been applied. Rarely were horses consistent from week to week. When they were "right" they were really "right," but there was little way for the handler to know the exact condition of his horse until the animal was taken into the ring. The reasons for this were many.

A Walking Horse had to be "over-sored" in order for it to make a complete show without losing its squareness. "Over-soring" was necessary because nature had a way of immunizing the horse from the initial discomfort which accompanied movement, and after a few minutes the effects of the soreness diminished. This diminishing effect was due also, in part, to the fact that horses were usually sored the night before a show and stood twenty-four hours with practically no movement except that received during loading and unloading operations. During this period of inaction the horse became stiff and practically immovable. With imposed movement during the warm-up period the horse became looser and more relaxed. The problem for trainers was to have the horse "over-sored" enough so that after nature immunized it from the discomfort of initial movement, a residual effect remained which would insure a square lick throughout the show.

The Walking Horse industry compounded the problems involved in soring horses because of its lack of knowledge and experience in the procedure. Chains were never discarded as training aids. On Monday or Tuesday following a Saturday night's show, the horse was taken from its stable for the purpose of preparing it for the next show. The bruises and scuffed places from the previous week still remained, but not withstanding, chains were placed on the horse's ankles and the training process resumed. The chains further agitated the horse's ankles until, in some instances, the foot became severely damaged.

Nature posed another problem. The

movement of the chains on damaged tissue oftentimes left permanent effects. The natural healing process of the animal fought back, and after the soring process had been sustained for a long period, unsightly calluses developed over the damaged portion of the horse's foot. This situation necessitated the handler's moving to another portion of the horse's foot to apply the irritant. This procedure repeated itself until, sometimes, the entire ankle was covered with calluses. Most of the animals subjected to such treatment were scarred for life, and at least a few were ruined and became crippled. Many potentially great horses were damaged during this period, but equally deplorable was the fact that other horses which were by nature quite mediocre, reacted favorably to soring, and presented the illusion of good horses when judged by "sore lick" standards.

It cannot be emphasized too strongly that when discussing the subject of soring horses it is dangerous to generalize. The critic of this practice must remind himself that the Walking Horse industry is made up of many thousands of individuals, each of whom has his own idea concerning the moral and professional issues involved. There were many people in the industry who did not practice soring at all, there were many well-established trainers who used it very sparingly, and some who vigorously fought the practice.

There were some people who did sore their horses but but took such excellent care of them that the horse suffered no permanent harm. But there were far too many who indiscriminantly sored their horses, neglected them afterwards, and in the process turned public opinion against the Walking Horse. In the final analysis, the industry-at-large must shoulder the blame for what happened, for until 1967 no meaningful attempt was made to stop the soring of Walking Horses.

Sored Walking Horses handed the detractors of the breed a convenient club with which they could cause great damage. Also, while laying the groundwork for its destruction from the outside, the sore lick was causing complications from within. Because of the uncontrollable factors involved in the soring process, predicting the consistency of an entry's performance in the show ring became impossible. Horse shows often became comical, and judges found themselves in impossible situations.

To be concluded next issue.

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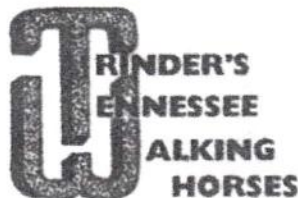


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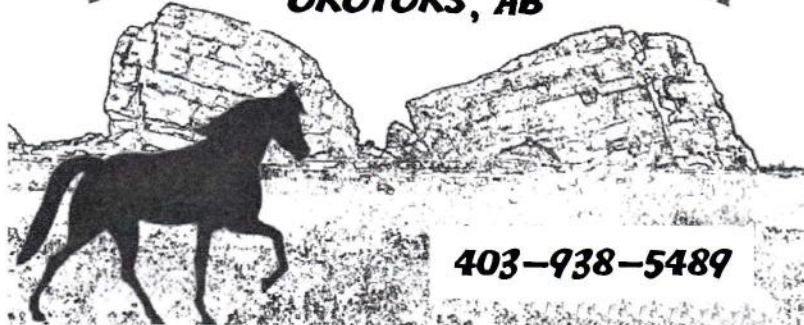
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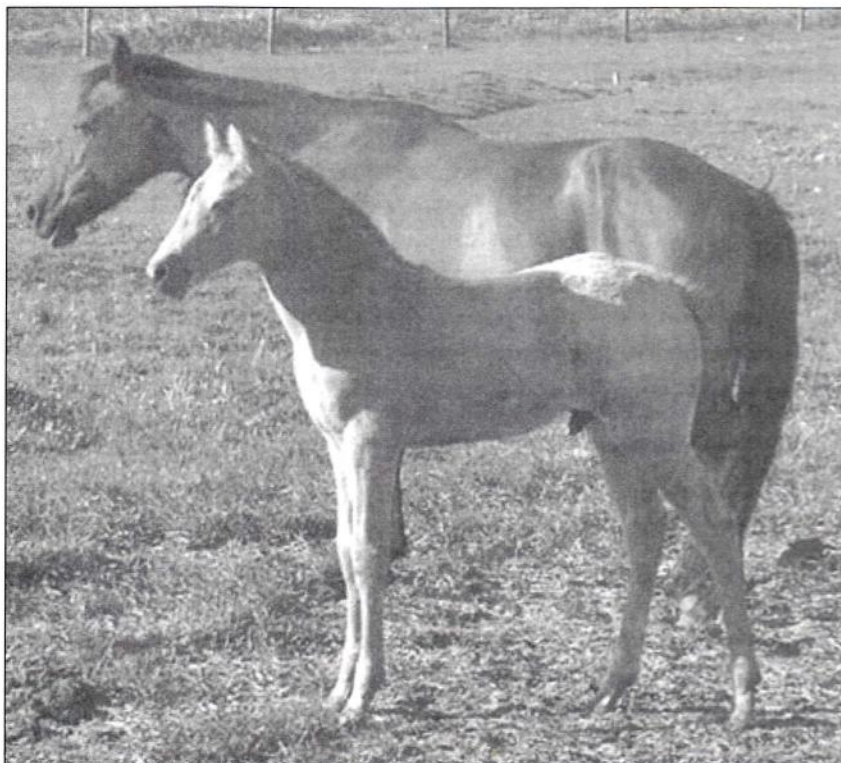
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HERD REDUCTION: GELDINGS & COLTS - Westhill's Chief Blue Eyes, tobiano gelding, 4 years, \$3000.00. Westhill's Gentleman Jack, chestnut gelding, 3 years, \$2500.00. Westhill's Thunder Shaker, bay gelding, 2 years, \$1800.00. Westhill's Moon Ray, black yearling colt, \$1200.00. Westhill's Red Luke, chestnut yearling colt, \$1200.00. **780-968-6395 STONY PLAIN, Alberta**

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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

REGISTRY

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

CLUBS & ASSOCIATIONS

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EASY RIDERS - new website is www.awha-easyriders.com

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

FOSH - a leader in the promotion of natural, sound gaited horses and in the fight against abuse and soring of TWH. For more information about FOSH, or to become a member, please visit www.fosh.info or call **800-651-7993**.

UPCOMING EVENTS

TRAIL PLUS Event June 7 & 8. AWAH & CRTWH invite you to 2 days of trail riding... with a difference! (Ad page 5, April *WHN*) For more info contact: keith@skylinewalkers.com or phone **403-932-5501**

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**

CRTWH Clinic: GAIT from the Ground Up with Dianne Little & Bill Roy - July 5th & 6th at St. Paul, AB. Call Fran Kerik - 780-768-2250 or fkerik@digitalweb.net. Participants \$160 for the weekend, Auditors \$60; with 25% discount to members. Payment to D. Little, 619 Lake Linnet Cres. S.E., Calgary, AB T2J 2J3.

The 2008 Canadian Rocky Mountain Challenge: July 30 - Aug 4, 2008! The 2008 Competitive Trail, Endurance and Ride N' Tie Canadian National Championships. For info or to volunteer call Sandra **403-637-0245** or Email: sandra.nielsen@xplornet.com

Gathering Gaits Clinic - with clinician Liz Graves. August 2, 3, 12 miles north of Regina, SK Open to all gaited horses. Contact Perry Miller - westwinds@sasktel.net, ph **306-352-0808**



DEADLINE

for the **NEXT ISSUE** is

July 7/08

Mail ADS to *Walking Horse News*

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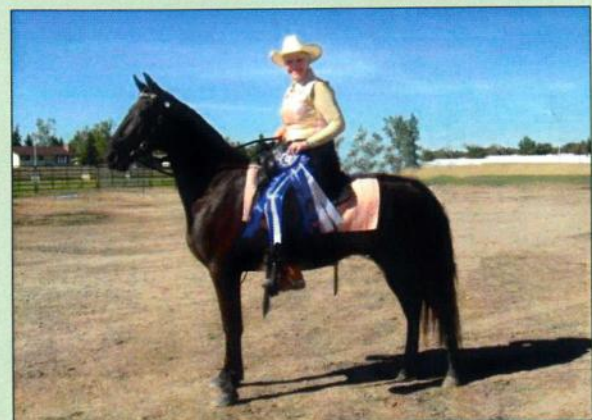
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