

OCTOBER 2008  
VOLUME XXXII No. 5



# Walking Horse

## NEWS



DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN - SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE IN CANADA



# McDONALD FARMS

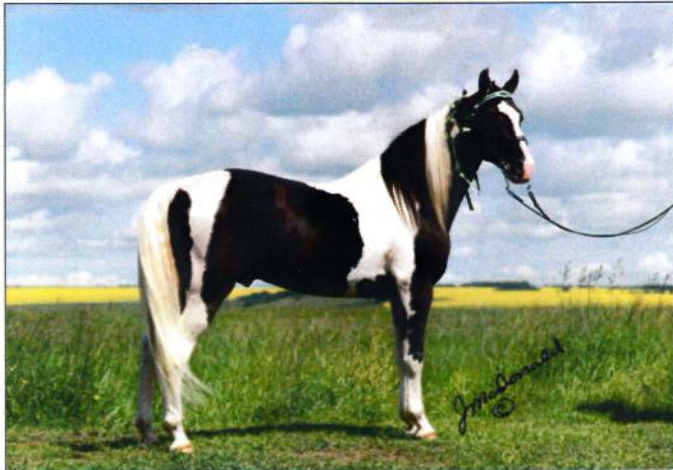
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# Walking Horse News

DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN-SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE IN CANADA

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## On Our Cover

*Erica and 'Panda',  
'Panda' aka Successful  
Signature, was bred by  
McDonald Farms, Pouce  
Coupe, BC. and is owned  
by Sam's Heaven Ranch  
in Switzerland.  
See the story on page 7.*

Photo courtesy

Sam's Heaven Ranch

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for Mar/Apr issue  
MARCH 7

for May/June issue  
MAY 7

for July/Aug issue  
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for Sept/Oct issue  
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**for Nov/Dec issue  
NOVEMBER 7**

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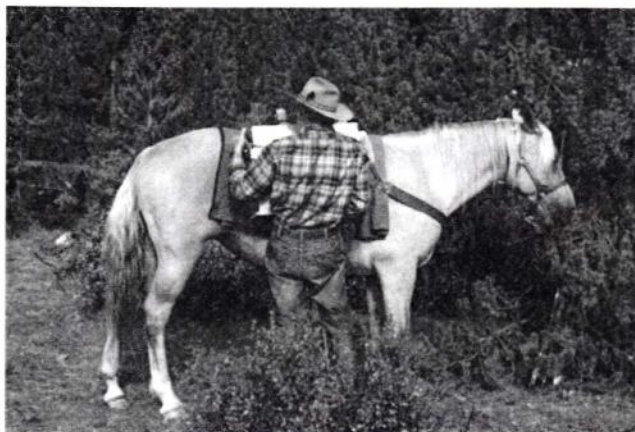
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Volume XXXII, # 5 September/October, 2008

Dear Subscribers,

What lovely warm temperatures and blue sky days we are having! It's so beautiful outside with the gorgeous fall colours that it's a shame to be down here in the basement working on the magazine. I'd really rather be riding into Eagle's Nest... See Kim Pielak's page 3 photos of that area. (Below: Charles Lacy & Uphill Lucy Belle packing up to hit the trail.)



Thank you to all who have sent in stories, photos and information of interest. I'd also like to thank those of you who send along little notes of encouragement and support with your renewals. I do appreciate them! Thanks to the people who buy a *WHN* gift subscription for new owners of TWH as well. Your generosity gives these folks an introduction to the breed as well as a feeling of being welcomed into the Walker world. *WHN* will send out one free introductory copy to new owners inviting them to subscribe, so if you know people who have recently become TWH owners, send in their names and addresses and we'll mail them a copy.

Once again it's time to ask you to consider advertising in colour on the 2009 covers. This is priceless advertising - but it doesn't cost that much when you think that it takes your message out all year, both in the magazine and on the web. There is limited space so don't miss your chance. See the rates and form on page 24.

Enjoy the issue and let's hear your thoughts and ideas on what you read. I look forward to your news and notes.

*Marjorie*

# Walking Horse News

October, 2008

**"DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN-SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE IN CANADA"**  
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Thank you for advertising in *Walking Horse News!*

Walking Horse News September/October 2008



## HISTORY & HERITAGE PROJECT

"CANADIAN TIMES OF THE TWH"

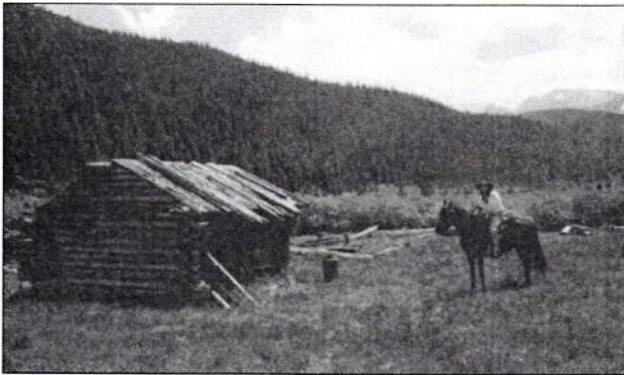
### WALKERS & MOUNTAIN TRIPS - A Family Affair by Kim Pielak, Niton Junction,



We took our annual pack trip into the Willmore Wilderness Area in July. What a great trip! It was Bill, myself and our two children, Brett (14) and Courtney (12). This is our annual family summer vacation and we all look forward to it, taking our horses into the Willmore and seeing some beautiful country.

I am including a scenic picture of Eagle's Nest Pass in the Willmore, *above*. The trails are nice, well marked trails and at Eagle's Nest there are a handful of campsites with lots of grass for grazing this year.

I am very fortunate to be able to take my two purebred Walkers. *Below* is a picture of me sitting on my 9 year Walking mare Panola (Panola's Rose). We are looking at one of the cabins not far from the steam engine on the Pope Thoreau trail. The final picture (on the right) is of my daughter, Courtney (12), crossing the Wild Hay River riding my 11 year old Walker gelding, Dandy (A Walk-N-Dandy).



We just got in from playing with the colts and taking some bragging pictures. *Below* is a picture of the stud colt we had born on the farm this year.

He's from Darkie's Last Chance out of Sun's Prairie Lady. He was born June 2. He is a month and a half old now. The other



colt born on our farm this year is by Chance from a Quarter Horse mare we have. That little guy looks like he might stay a buckskin with a dorsal stripe

Our TWH stallion, Chance (Darkie's Last Chance by Tim's Blue Canadian x Shadow's Lyrical) is still going strong, and sure is looking good for 19 years old.



A big "Thank you" to Cheryl Cunningham & Herb Nichols for looking after our farm while we were out in the mountains this summer. Please send them a subscription to the *WHN* with our thanks.

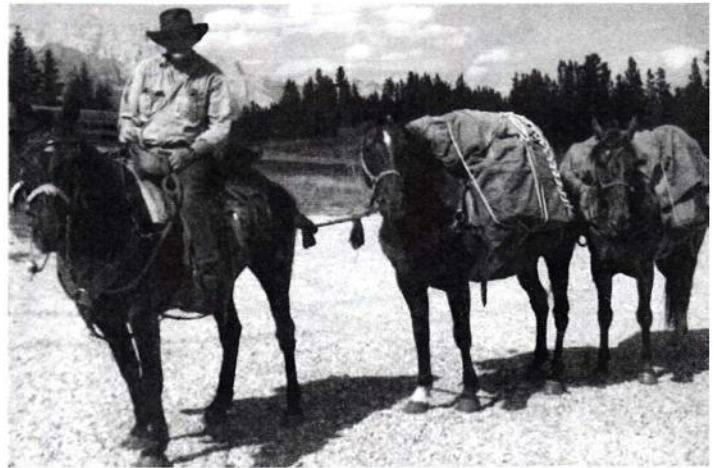
A decorative flourish or signature consisting of a series of loops and curves, resembling a stylized signature or a decorative element.



# NEWS - NEWS - NEWS

## ALBERTA NEWS

MERLIN RUDE of TOFIELD submitted the photo, *right*. He is shown riding Ron's Midnight Spirit, followed by Roadrunner and Shelen Zigger carrying the packs. All three are registered Walkers. The photo was taken on June 26 at the outset of a ten day pack trip up Corral Creek in the Nordegg area of Alberta. Merlin was accompanied by two friends who were also riding Walkers. The trip took them to the Brazeau River and back, seeing all the sights in between (including three grizzly bears).



CAROL HALL, CALGARY, writes, "I have been busy, as usual -currently haying. My daughter Sarah is conditioning Shadow's Zygadenous for the upcoming Canadian National Competitive Trail Ride being held the August long weekend in Sundre. I'd thought that I might be able to have my 4 year old Shadow's Kochia, (the frozen semen baby) ready for the event, but he is still a little green on the trails. Hope I will get him out to at least one event this summer."

I had a note and photo from Carol later in the summer with a report on how Sarah and her cousin, Erin Williamson, did in this prestigious event. See the article *Rocky Mountain Challenge* on page 14.

From BRENDA BAKER, CALGARY, "Well, now that we've had buckets of rain, nuisance showers, pesky hail and a small amount of sun, it looks like the weather might just stabilize. (It also could be wishful thinking on my part too.)"

In June we had the pleasure of meeting Dale Vare of Cardston, AB and he had the pleasure of taking Dee J's Star Fire (Reba ), and her sweet little black filly by Northfork Patch of Gold home with him. Once they got to his place, the filly was promptly named 'Chelsea'. Thank you, Dale, for your business. We know they have a good home with you."

A couple of weeks later Carie Wiens of Calgary, AB purchased Red Riding Horse (Ruby) to be her equine partner. The two of them are at Rick Hemmet's new place near Calaway Park getting trained together! Please send Carie a complimentary copy of the *WHN* to help get her immersed into the wonderful world of Walkers."

"We hope everyone does a SUN DANCE to aid our efforts to get some good riding weather out this way. See you on the trail."

J. GLENN ROBINSON, CALGARY, writes, "Just a short G2 Ranch update with my subscription renewal. Last April we had to euthanise Eb's Jet Stream. She was 27 years old and was having some health problems. Some of you may remember the colts that she produced - G2's Ebby's Master, Rainy, Sir Prize and Coal. I still have these big geldings, 16-1 to 17-0 hands. Their sire was Midnight Toddy. When we used to have the Futurity up at Olds, Rainy won his class in each of the 5 years he was eligible and had the top performance score in 2 of those years and 2<sup>nd</sup> top score in his 5<sup>th</sup> year. His brothers also did very well. Currently I am training them for my 4-horse hitch team. When I get them going I will send you a picture."

We'll look forward to that, Glenn!

LOREN & ELLEN LEWIS, HINTON, "We just returned from a week at the historic Reesor Ranch in the Cypress Hills. What a great place! They get top marks from us."

"While there we took part in the Nez Perce Ride to Freedom. This year our 'kids', Bay Jack of Hearts and Image's Black Pearl, went with us. It was their first time in a group situation and they handled it like old pros. They were the only TWH in the group and everyone was impressed with their looks, behaviour and dispositions. The only question that kept coming up was "Do they always walk so *FAST*?" We'd start out at the back of the line, end up at the front, wait, and then start all over again. Only one Arab in the bunch could keep up reasonably well. Our kids did us proud and proved again what we all know - Walkers Are Awesome!"



From BILL HOWES, STONY PLAIN, "Veronica and I are busy enjoying trails throughout Alberta's beautiful mountains with our good trail partners the McKenzies (Connie & Al) of Stony Plain and the Mankows (Leon & Ethel) of Drayton Valley. I am proud to have 'been there' from the beginning."

ARIANNE BAKER, MEDICINE HAT, writes, "Hope everything's well with you all. I am enclosing an ad for two broodmares. Unfortunately, with the death of Mike (F-88's Merry Minstrel) late last fall I don't have a stallion that is not related to Kinjie, and one of my young studs is Melody's son."

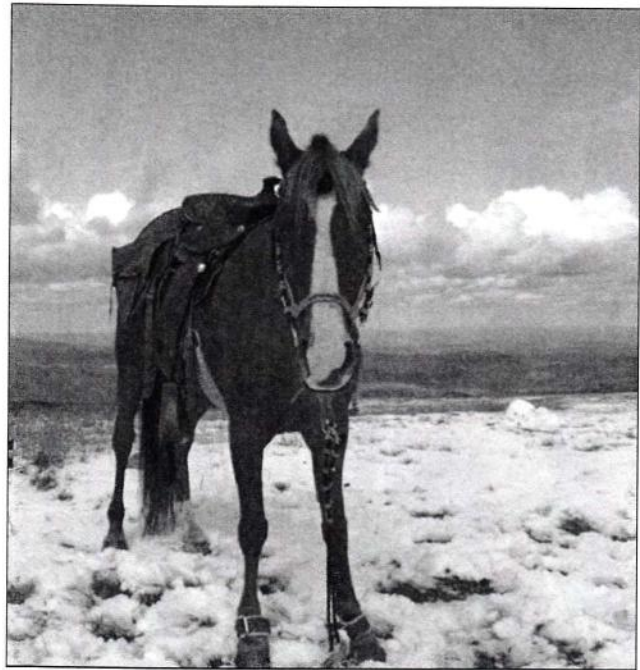
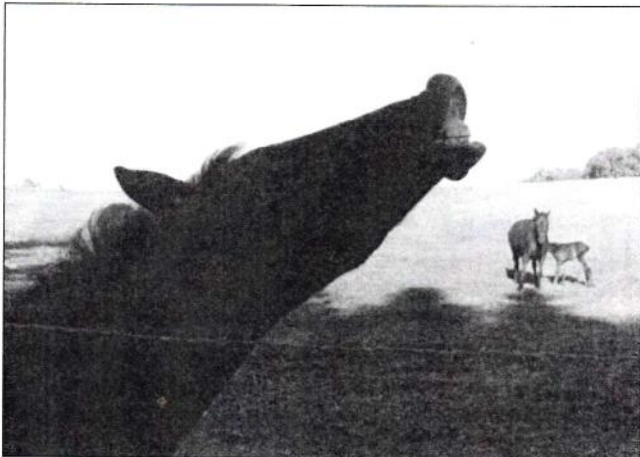
"We did have one filly this year, born July 1, our first foal in about four years."

"I'm busy trying to get the *spring* work done so I can get ready for winter, hopefully before it gets here!"

From ERNIE JENSEN & SHIRLEY KOSKI, TOMAHAWK, "We had two colts born the same night, May 15. We also had a late filly born August 15. All are by Bold Victory. Two are out of full sisters by Uphill Tonquin x Koko's Sundown Zepher, and the third is from King's Golden Miss, an American Saddlebred mare. Tonquin, now 14, was gelded a few years ago and is still Ed Lauer's favorite mount.

"We'd like to thank Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Plamonden and their son, Randy, of Valemount, BC for their purchase of two geldings from us. We hope that eight year old Duke of Limberlost and two year old Private Jackson work out well for you. Enclosed is a cheque to send the Plamonden family a subscription to *Walking Horse News* with our compliments."

"We really enjoy your magazine. Keep up the good work." (Below: Ernie says, "This is what happens when I forget my deodorant! May colt in foreground & August filly and her dam behind.")

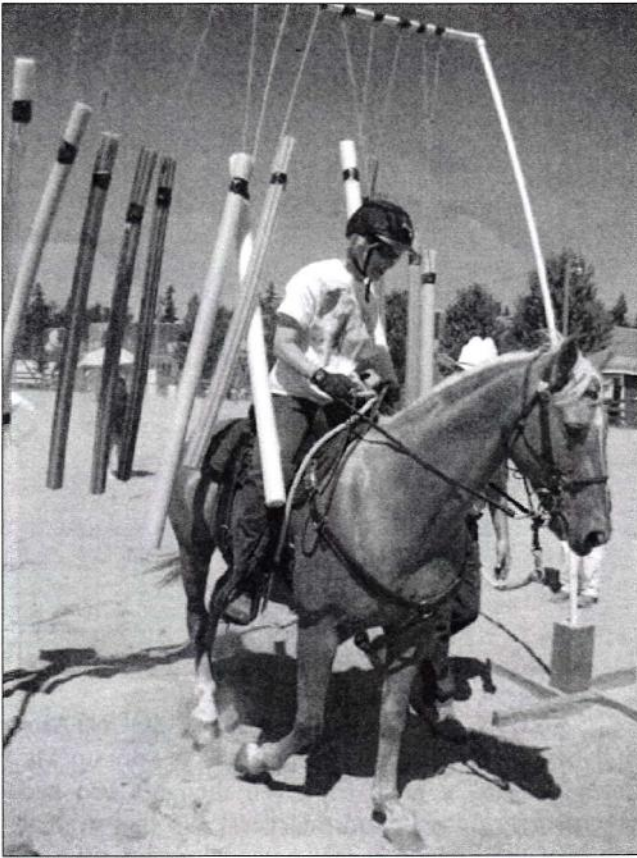


STAN POTTER, ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE, "I ran into a lot of hail on the way up Mt. Baldy but had a great trip even though Coco had never been ridden before this year! We had a great ride, met the lookout ranger named Joe and enjoyed the wonderful balsam fragrance surrounding the mountains. While there I hobbled Coco (*photo above*) and had a cup of coffee with Joe. There was even a man atop the tower making adjustments to its direction. New Yorks Touch of Coco performed great even at nearly 7,000! Coco is learning a lot since she's my only open mare that's old enough to ride - so she gets *all* the riding! She's doing pretty well too except she doesn't want to cross streams with clear rushing water over rocks. I travel alone but if someone with an experienced horse were to lead us I think she'd get over it. She's used to muskeg and muddy water crossings though."

ROLANDA EADIE, RIMBEY, writes, "Panda Capri (Northfork Patch of Gold x Candy's Bay Lady 2) is officially sold. This big beautiful buckskin mare will be picked up on Thursday, August 7. I wish Dale Vare of Cardston many happy trails."

From SUSAN BANKS, BALZAC, "Would you please send out a *WHN* subscription to Roxanne Jones of G & R Equine Centre, Strathmore with my compliments? She recently bought a Walker at the Innisfail Auction, and is very interested in gaining more knowledge of the breed. I've enclosed a cheque. Thanks!"





## BRITISH COLUMBIA NEWS

NATALIE SPECKMAIER, VANCOUVER, writes, "Above is a picture of Trigger and me, going through the "car wash" at the Maple Ridge Fair demo in mid July. Dave Smith had a wonderful clinic planned for the participants, and was the entertaining MC besides. It was a two day event, and if it hadn't been for Lisa (TWH Ziggy's mom) and husband, Harry Riedler, ferrying Trigger back and forth in their trailer each day, we would not have been able to attend. It was a lot of fun, even though Trigger decided she didn't want to play games, and even pretended to have forgotten how to play the Parelli circle game. Later in the day, Dave got on board and convinced her she should do the entire obstacle course, and it was surprising how her memory improved!"

"Moving on to the Labour Day weekend, we spent it at the Riedler's Fawn Lake Ranch for the 2008 Cariboo Ride. As was the case last year at this Haney Horsemen fund-raising event, the weekend was packed with fun things to do. Lisa and Harry had taken Trigger up on the Wednesday before and we arrived on Thursday and stayed at the Fawn Lake Resort, which had been part of the ranch years ago. Some of the other participants arrived that day, and

others were already there. The weather was cool some of the days and in the evenings, and we were glad to have packed warm clothing; things we were able to shed when the sun came out."

"Unfortunately, Trigger got a horse related injury on the Friday, and was out of commission until Sunday. A dose of 'bute, a lot of hosing, bag balm on the open cuts, and she was ready for a ride. We had a short one in the hay meadow, and after untacking her, I realized I hadn't done the obstacle course, but I was too tired to tack her up again. I had taken her through the course, in hand, the first day, and nothing scared her, not even the "bridge" full of snakes, lizards, and rats (all plastic, but very realistic... they scared me!).

"Ziggy, Trigger, and Genevieve and Sandy Amy's Finally & Delite, were the only Walkers there, so we represented 50% of the total participating horses. I'm sure you'll be hearing from Dave, Lisa and Genevieve, as we all have our stories to tell. Lisa and Harry deserve blue ribbons for doing such a fantastic job in making the weekend such a roaring success. Speaking of roaring... my husband built campfires that would shame a whole troop of Boy Scouts, this after receiving lessons last year from Lisa's brother, Mike. That was necessary as he had successfully killed Mike's fire and never heard the end of that."

"Happy trails to all, and may you all have as much fun as we have had this summer, especially on the long weekend. What a way to end the summer!"

From JANA JACOBSEN, CRANBROOK, "I meant to drop you an update... and August just *flew* by. I wanted to let the readers know that Ebony's Miss Arden (one of the mares mentioned in the note about Jim Arden's passing) is still going strong at 25 years old. The vet checked her this spring and said she was in top form and she still has all her teeth. She produced two fantastic foals for us, the second at 19 years of age. We retired her to a home where she's ridden a few times a year and well loved."

"I would like to thank Lisa Armstrong for the purchase of Storm's Midnight Roller. Rollie has gone to Kelowna to join his brother Storm's Miss'n Link (Arden's last foal) owned by Karin Bauer. As a breeder I couldn't ask for them to have a better home. They are such devoted owners and they use their horses regularly."

"We had two black colts born here this spring. (See Foal Call.) We knew the only surprise at birth would be the sex of the foal as both mares and stallions are all black. We managed to get hay at a decent price despite the prices rising sharply in our area. Now all we have to do is get the roof on the hay



shed and we can have it delivered! The horses' coats are starting to come in and the leaves are turning... so fall is on its way. On that note I'd best get back to the chores. Thanks as always for the hard work on the magazine. Happy trails."

HELEN LINSLEY, GROUNDBIRCH, writes, "Congratulations to Robbie Graff of Sunset Prairie on his purchase of the mare, Bess Shadow Gem, from me. Happy Trails, Robbie. Please send a one year gift subscription to *Walking Horse News* to Robbie with my compliments. A cheque is enclosed."

From JOYCE PATTERSON, CAWSTON, "Oh my gosh! Almost fall! Sure does feel like it as soon as the sun goes down. I only have two horses now; little Cricket, the pony mare I got from Fran Kerik a few years back and a beautiful three-coloured pinto filly."

"Happy Trails, Everyone."

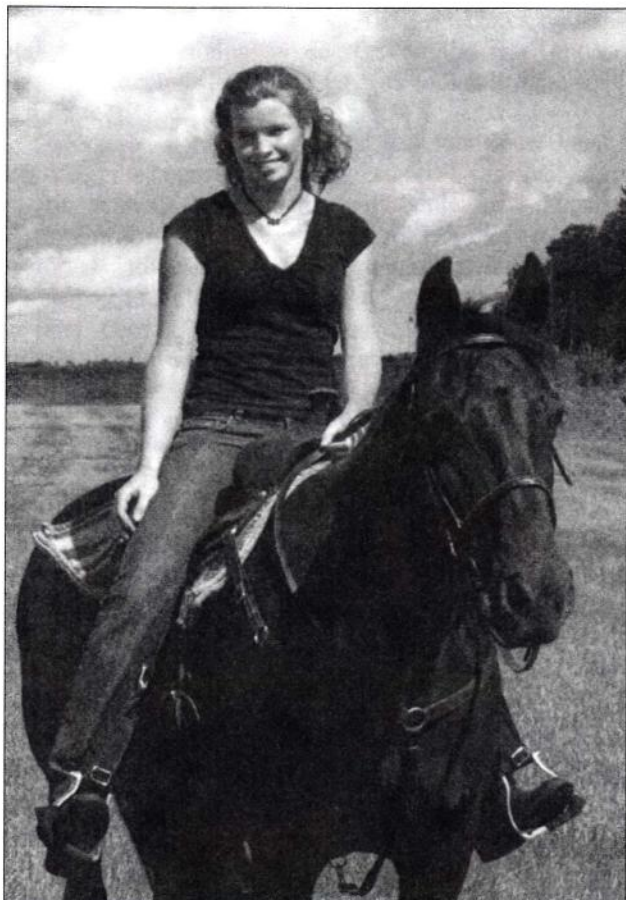
## NOVA SCOTIA NEWS

"Hi, RACHEL ROSE here from GRANDE CACHE, AB. Just wanted to let you know that we are moving. I am finally getting my husband, Emerson, to retire so we are off to CAPE BRETON. We bought a little farm back home so we will be hitting the highway August 17th. We have been here in Grande Cache for the past 20 years. I don't know where all the time went but we made some wonderful friends and the most important thing of all - discovered the wonderful breed - the Tennessee Walker. Our horses are now in Winnipeg and will be leaving for Quebec in about a week where I have a friend who has 250 acres and is going to look after them until we are set up for them in Cape Breton. Dan Dee is 20 now so I sure hope he handles the trip okay. I sure do miss going up to the barn and seeing them every day. Anyway I will still enjoy reading the *Walking Horse News* every other month so keep them coming."

"If anyone ever gets down to God's country (Cape Breton!) be sure to look us up. We will be in Marion Bridge, as the song goes... "OUT ON THE MIRA". Take Care."

RIA MACKAY, BASS RIVER, writes, "We have had a very wet summer with lots of flies and mosquitoes and haven't done a lot of riding so far. Dave will have to have a total knee replacement in August, so he will be laid up for a while. I hope all goes well and he'll be back in the saddle next year."

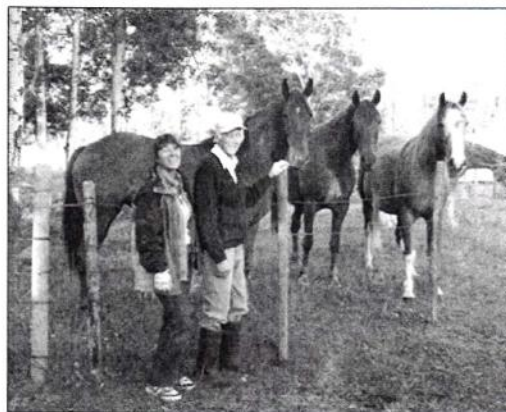
"Here is our payment for two years of the *Walking Horse News*. Keep up the good work."



## MANITOBA NEWS

From ASHLEY HODGINS, DELEAU, I would like to say a special "Thank You!" to Keith Doll of Douglas for selling me such a lovely mare this spring. Crown's Sable Walker SL has been the perfect trail mount in every way. She can handle a 25 mile ride without effort and is fazed by *nothing!* She is the sweetest mare I have ever come across and is a keeper for life. I have enclosed the above photo of the two of us out on a ride."

"Please renew my subscription to *Walking Horse News*. I love this magazine; keep up the good work."



*Jack Gurnett introduces Karla Freeman to some of the TWH at Northfork Farm, Bluffton, AB.*



# What do YOU do with your Walkers?



*Above:* Amanda Willson and Jubals Boot Scootin Boogy, bred at Slush Creek Walkers, Bainville, Montana, compete in The Pink Flamingo Endurance Ride in Idaho. This was "Scooter's" first ever attempt at Endurance & she did well.

The photo is courtesy of Steve Bradley Photography  
[www.stevebradleyphotography.com](http://www.stevebradleyphotography.com)



*Left:* Jan Pimm gets acquainted with her new Walking Horse, Uphill Miss Rainbow Two, bred by Uphill Farm, Edson, AB.

Jan and Lance purchased Jean Dahle's three TWH from Clearwater, BC.

Photo courtesy of Jo Kingsland.

*Right:* Victoria Bennet rides Slush Creeks Triple Jet, bred by Slush Creek Walkers, Bainville, Montana and owned by Patty Maul, to an eighth place finish in the TWH Over Fences, Adult Division at the TWHBEA World Versatility Show in Murfreesboro, TN.

The picture is courtesy of Heidi Rockhold,  
Flowing Mane Photography, Murfreesboro, TN.  
[www.flowingmane.com](http://www.flowingmane.com)

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[whn@telus.net](mailto:whn@telus.net)





## NEWS from OUR U.S. SUBSCRIBERS

I had the sad news from GRACE LARSON of FORSYTH, MT that they lost their beautiful palomino stallion, Goldust Royal Trigger. He was badly injured when a mare somehow managed to get through an electric fence and come up next to his paddock. Despite immediate veterinary care and surgery, he had to be put down. Grace says, "This has sure been a sad time for us. I am so thankful he has offspring that people love and appreciate. I guess we don't know how our day is going to go regardless of how we plan it! Our vets were wonderful. That is what really helped me get through Goldust's injury, surgery, and letting him go. They all went the extra mile. I am so thankful for the special care that Goldust and I got. I would do this all over again too regardless of the vet costs. Goldust was my friend and he & I had a relationship for over 12 years. Even as miserable as he was he put his head against me and he seemed to get comfort from my being with him."

"We are not going to be breeding anymore. This fall we will have Chief gelded so he can enjoy being out with the other horses. It will probably take a month or two for the testosterone to get out of his system but then he can enjoy just being a horse. We have a bay stud colt by him and out of our palomino mare, Marigold. Foaled July 10<sup>th</sup>, he is our last baby!"

"Marigold and Chief are 18, Fawn is 23, Chance is 13, Misty is 19. We may look into donating Marigold for a riding program. But if we can't she can stay here with the others as long as we are able to take care of them. Hopefully they go before we do. When a person gets older that becomes a worry."

From SHELLIE & MARK PACOVSKY, SLUSH CREEK WALKERS, BAINVILLE, MT. "This last week we heard from a couple of owners about their horses, both bred here. Jet showed and placed in both The International Grand Championships and The World Versatility Shows. And Scooter has started Endurance riding. Slush Creeks Triple Jet 20003425 (Supreme Black Knight x Dakota Breeze) aka "Jet" is an 8 year old bay mare out of one of our original Calvin Miller mares. Dakota Breeze has many of the same bloodlines and horses in her pedigree as our herd sire, Slush Creeks Jubal S".

Jubals Boot Scootin Boogy 20401260 (Slush Creeks Jubal S x Sundays Talimissy Rhythm) aka "Scooter" is a 4 year old coppery sorrel with a lighter mane & tail."

"Both of these mares were born and raised at Slush Creek Walkers in Eastern MT. In early 2005 Jet was started under saddle by Shellie's niece, Tracie. In the fall of 2005 Jet was sold to Florida where she met her current owner Patty Maul. Patty and Jet began jumping. The summer of 2008 Patty sent Jet to Fryslan

Valley Sport Horses in TN to further her training. At the 30th Annual International Grand Championships Jet won the title in TWH Over Fences, Amateur, & TWH Over Fences, Youth. Jet was ridden to both titles by Ms. Victoria Bennett. Also at the International Grand Championships, Jet was ridden to a Reserve Championship by Ms. Becca Hoos in TWH Over Fences, Open. Just a couple of short days later at The World Versatility Show in the World Champion TWH Over Fences, Adult, Jet placed 6<sup>th</sup> ridden by Becca Hoos & 8<sup>th</sup> ridden by Victoria Bennett. In the World Champion Over Fences, Youth division, Jet tied for the title with a horse named Repeat The Beat. Both horses were ridden by Victoria Bennett. These horses & riders are part of "The Dream Team from Tennessee". The team was put together, encouraged, assisted and applauded by Lisa & Arnold Warmels of Fryslan Valley Sport Horses of Franklin, TN."

"Scooter was sold to Amanda Willson as a weanling and Amanda has been her trainer. The summer of 2008 Amanda lost her 6-year-old TWH endurance gelding and then, just a few days before The Pink Flamingo Classic in Cascade, Idaho, her Arabian mare was injured. That put Scooter in the "hot seat"! Scooter had not been in training for this ride but she was in good condition, a sound and healthy 4-year-old so Amanda decided they would try it. There were 110 teams. On day one Scooter placed 24<sup>th</sup> and on day two a respectable 22<sup>nd</sup>. Amanda is thrilled and can't wait until next year to see how Scooter does with additional training, conditioning and maturity."

"At Slush Creek Walkers we are very proud of Jet, Scooter and our entire breeding program! We have known for many years that the TWH was very versatile and it was our goal to produce horses that would and could be used in all disciplines and aspects of the horse industry today. We also wanted to educate people, unfamiliar with the natural TWH, about possibilities of the sound, natural TWH. Walkers were not originally bred to be a "show horse", they were bred to be using/utility horses, a breed that could do it all! We have horses that are doing very well in numerous disciplines, training for Search & Rescue, working ranch horses, trail and pleasure, and now TWH Over Fences and Endurance."

*See photos of these two mares  
on the facing page.*

### TWHBEA MEMOS

TWHBEA has cancelled its 1-800 phone number.

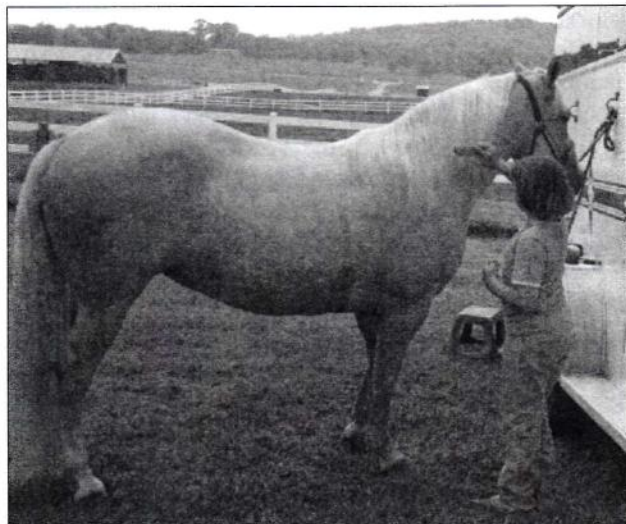
The new number is **1-931-359-1574**

and regular long distance rates apply. You can write

TWHBEA at Box 286, Lewisburg, TN 37091.



## JUST FOR THE FUN OF THE DAY by Franne Brandon



*Above: Skylar put down the camcorder in order to help with after-show grooming.*

Horse shows have been a part of Middle Tennessee rural life since the second half of the nineteenth century. Serious shows like the Tennessee State Fair and impromptu competitions held on courthouse squares all had their share of participants. When the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration became the focal point toward which the majority of Tennessee Walking show horses were trained, other shows lost prestige. Eventually, in the fifties and sixties, it became impossible to find show ring competition in their home state for registered Tennessee Walkers that were shod in flat shoes and trained as the breed had been in earlier decades. Walking Horse owners who liked to show their horses with normal shoeing and natural tails had only one venue for competition, that of the Saddle Club circuit. The Saddle Clubs offered plenty of classes for horses with four beat gaits, but the class designations indicated that a running walk was **not** the desired intermediate gait.

In the seventies, some of the Saturday night charity walking horse shows began to include classes for flatshod horses. Generally, these were called plantation classes, and the horses that appeared in these rings moved in a style somewhat reminiscent of the plantation horses of the early part of the century. As these rings for flatshod horses gained popularity with exhibitors, though, promoted by organizations like the Pleasure Walking Horse Association of Tennessee, professional trainers also began to train stock for these classes and the way of going of the plantation horse changed. This led to the addition of lite shod classes for

horses carrying a smaller shoe. When the lite shod horses began breaking higher and sitting up more in the bridle, shows introduced trail pleasure classes to provide a place for the horse traveling like the original plantation walkers had done.

As the nineties blended into the first years of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, competition in the pleasure arena became stiffer. However for those with green, young, or inexperienced horses, there remained the PWHAT Fundays, schooling shows not requiring an investment in pricey, correct riding attire nor expensive tack. More successful some years than others, the Fundays began in 1989 and continued seamlessly into the next century, sometimes as affiliated shows, sometimes as simple schooling shows with no affiliating body.

In late winter of 2008, however, the PWHAT Fundays reverted from being unaffiliated and highly successful schooling shows to affiliating with the National Horse Show Commission. Not wanting to support the latter organization in any way with my presence *or* my money, I chose to ride out the 2008 season on the trails only. Then a friend discovered that a boarding facility not far from our farm had started a series of monthly Funday shows. She asked if I wanted to try the July version. Since I had really enjoyed the PWHAT Funday I'd attended in October of 2007, I agreed to go.

The online show bill had indicated that the classes would get underway at exactly noon. We reached the show grounds half an hour early to obtain a ritzy parking space very close to the arena entry and with a panoramic view of the farm's lush acres as they rolled gently to the highway. Tanasi Gold, whose contrary behavior had put her on "The List" all week, recognized a classy set-up when she saw it and spent her time tied to the trailer pleasantly enjoying the view and hoping to sample the lush pastures. It was a hot day, but the facility had recently installed a new ceiling fan system. These were monstrous ceiling fans with paddles just like a house ceiling fan. They made little noise and really kept the indoor arena cool. Because my palomino mare stays in a stall during the day to keep her 'golden' and to prevent her from overeating, I did not want her to be tied out in the heat for a lengthy period. So first, I showed her in the open halter class to give her (and me) a feel for the ring before we did the saddle classes. I am accustomed to model classes, which use bridles, and I didn't realize that my everyday halter was not really suitable for halter competition until I'd already paid the entry fee. Oh, well. Tanasi Gold thought that she was the prettiest horse in there. She



really did better than she ever has in model, loose moving while being led, then quiet in the line-up. The judge, being a Western judge, picked some lanky buckskin Quarter Horse for the blue, probably thinking that my Palomino Princess needed to indulge in a diet plan before entering halter competition again!

Unlike some open shows, this Family Fun Day had six classes for gaited horses, but western pleasure ring specified stock horses and English Hunt Seat stated "No gaited horses." I decided to try country pleasure, but then I met a friend from church on the grounds who had changed her mind and come to the show. She told me she was the only entry in Open Racking Horses. I decided to join her just so her mare would see another horse in the ring.

Generally, I prefer a long, slow warm-up with Tanasi Gold before the first class, but the sun was beaming down on me and bleaching her coat, so I elected to go indoors where the ceiling fans were blowing. Misti found a spot on the rail near the in-gate where she could watch the competition. My sister-in-law and her granddaughter joined us there. I asked Skylar if she could video the classes when I rode. I've always wanted a video to critique our performances and multiple mistakes, but never before had anyone around to run the camcorder. My first class under saddle was Country Pleasure, which was also the largest rail class of the show with fourteen entries. Last time I went in country pleasure, it also had 14 entries. Now, the judge had some knowledge of gaited horses because he'd tied the two-horse plantation class correctly. However, in Country Pleasure he placed a pacey bay tobiano to the blue. Did I care? Not really, because the entry fee had been minimal and Misti had done such good job that I had just enjoyed the ride in the beautiful arena with perfect footing for walking horse gait perfection. The racking class did not go so well, since Misti was acting up more so in this class because she doesn't really like to rack. (Actually, she didn't really rack at all in that class!) I was glad Diana's mare won, because I would have hated to beat her when she entered first.

Skylar discovered a number of her school friends at this show, riding around, having a blast between classes, in the classes, and even during ribbon presentations. I left about four o'clock to get my mare out of the heat and myself back in the air conditioning. Sky and her grandma stayed until the last class ended. Now Sky is determined to show her own mare the next time the gates open at Clearview.

As for me, I have the memories captured by Skylar on DVD. Only, I should perhaps take a strong dose of Dramamine before I watch all the clips at one sitting! Video clips that zip from horses going in a circle to ceiling fans circling overhead can make a person dizzy!



## From The Dusty Files of *WHN*

### October, 1998 - 10 Years Ago

The September - October issue ten years ago had 40 pages, with a photo of Rod Ball and the yearling gelding, Dixie's Hot Bullet Chase with his Futurity ribbon on the cover. Judge at 'The Canadian' Futurity '98 was Jennie Jackson, and Franne Brandon had an interesting story about the Jacksons and how they came to own their champagne stallion, Watchout. Grace Larson had an historical article on Clark Allen of Billings, MT and his TWH stallion, Rapid Joe. It included the pedigrees of both Rapid Joe and Roan Allen's Wave, Walkers foaled in the forties, and still with us in AB 60 years later in their descendants.

### October, 1988 - 20 Years Ago

COVER PHOTO: D-J's Shade of Gold (L & P. Crumley), a regular participant in the Canadian TWH Futurity, was in this year's first ever 2-GAIT PERFORMANCE CLASS for 3 year olds.

Eight other stallions were on the COVER ADS: Go Shadow Go, Shaker's Royal Heir, & Chapie's Topper from AB; F-88's Masterpiece & Thunder's War Eagle from SK; Misty Dark Delite & Go Boy's Crown Royal from BC; and 7L's Perfect Shadow from Montana.

FULL SHOW RESULTS were included from 8 shows around MB, BC, and AB, plus a notice of the first ever TWH show in Bozeman, Montana

NEWS from 5 provinces, Peace area and the U.S.

ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT letters from 4 subscribers for a proposed Directory of Canadian TWH.

A GOOD LUCK WISH for Diane Meis-Sept who was leaving for a new job in Pennsylvania after training at Westridge Farm, Calgary for 8 years.

Dr. WOMACK had recommended at his spring clinic that we set up a steering committee to try to define standards of movement in Alberta Walking Horses. This was organised with the first meeting to be held in October.

SADLY, notices came in of the deaths of John Gardner, of Mississippi and Calvin Miller of North Dakota

### October, 1978 - 30 Years Ago

The front page story here was a wrap-up of the DeWinton Clinic which had approximately sixty people attend from all over B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan and Montana. It was so well received that Marjorie Fabro and Pearl Tompkins were discussing the possibilities of a similar one the following spring in the Kimberley-Cranbrook area.

Among the eight new subscribers listed were Mr. & Mrs. K.K. Coburn of Prince George, the only ones from that list who are still subscribing 30 years later!

Dr. Clark Lundgren was retiring as TWHBEA Director for Canada & Alaska, and there were only six people in Canada who had been members for 5 years or more, so were eligible to run. TWHBEA had just formed a new, separate pleasure horse division.



# FOAL CALL

**PALOMINO COLT**, stockings & blaze, as ordered!  
(The Ivory Treasure x Willow)  
Marlene Fairbrother, Myrnam, AB

**BLACK COLT** (Bold Victory x Aurora Dawn)  
**BLACK COLT** (Bold Victory x King's Golden Miss)  
**BLACK FILLY** (Bold Victory x Zepher's Canadian Beauty)  
(Below at 2 days old) Ernie Jensen & Shirley Koski, Tomahawk, AB



**CHESTNUT COLT** (Darkie's Last Chance x Sun's Prairie Lady)  
**BUCKSKIN? COLT** (Darkie's Last Chance x a buckskin QH)  
Bill & Kim Pielak, Niton Junction, AB (both above)

**TWO BLACK COLTS**  
(Ultra's Major Threat x Chance's Molly Midnight)  
(April's Artic Storm x Major's Whispering Willow)  
Roger & Janna Jacobsen, Cranbrook, BC

**CHESTNUT COLT** (Topaz Merry Go x reg'd TWH mare)  
Shirley Donnolly, Clyde, AB

**5 Foals Below are all by Topaz Merry Go:**  
**SMOKY BLACK COLT** (x Candy's First Lady) (right)  
**GOLD CHAMPAGNE FILLY** (x It's A Secret)  
**CHESTNUT FILLY** (x Walkien With An Angel)  
**CREMELLO COLT** (x unreg'd TWH mare)  
**TOBIANO FILLY** (x part-bred TWH mare)  
Above five foals property of  
Vernon and Ann Roth, Fort Assiniboine, AB



**CLASSIC CHAMPAGNE FILLY**  
(Topaz Merry Go x Jazz's Midnight Shadow)  
**BUCKSKIN FILLY** (Topaz Merry Go x Savanahs Last Tango)  
Both fillies (left) property of  
Northern Lights Equestrian,  
Onoway, AB







## CANADIAN REGISTRY OF THE TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE

### SCHEDULE OF FEES 2008

<b>1. MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>Fees</b>	
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	
<b>2. REGISTRATION OF FOALS or HORSES NOT ALREADY REGISTERED</b>	<b>Member Fees</b>	<b>Non-Member Fees</b>
a. Within 12 months of foaling ( <b>PLUS</b> add DNA fee - see 6a below)	\$40.00	\$80.00
b. After 12 but less than 18 months of foaling ( <b>PLUS</b> add DNA fee - see 6a below)	\$60.00	\$120.00
c. After 18 but less than 24 months of foaling ( <b>PLUS</b> add DNA fee - see 6a below)	\$125.00	\$250.00
d. After 24 months of foaling: ( <b>PLUS</b> 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.		
<b>3. REGISTRATION OF HORSES ALREADY REGISTERED in U.S.</b>	<b>Member Fees</b>	<b>Non-Member Fees</b>
<i>Applications must be accompanied by a photocopy of both sides of the U.S. certificate</i>		
	\$45.00	\$90.00
<b>4. TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP</b>	<b>Member Fees</b>	<b>Non-Member Fees</b>
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
<b>5. ALTERATION OF CERTIFICATES ISSUED</b>	<b>Member Fees</b>	<b>Non-Member Fees</b>
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
<b>6. OTHER SERVICES</b>	<b>Member Fees</b>	<b>Non-Member Fees</b>
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 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.)

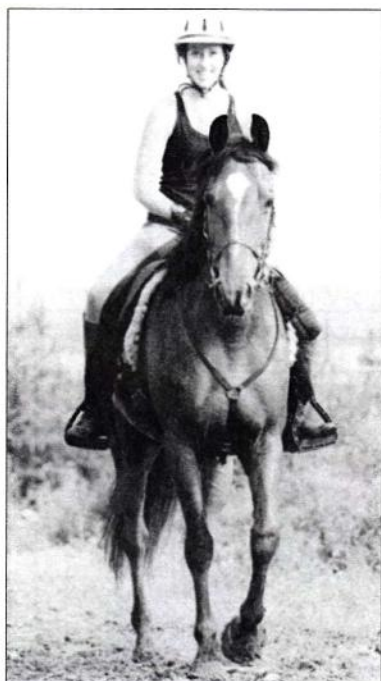
Please submit to: CLRC, 2417 Holly Lane, Ottawa, ON K1V 0M7 Fax 613-731-0704, Telephone 613-731-7110

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](mailto:secretary@crtwh.ca)



## ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE



Just thought that I would send you a picture for the *WHN*. My daughter Sarah Hall and cousin Erin Williamson, competed at the 2008 Rocky Mountain Challenge Canadian Nationals in competitive trail riding. The event was held on the August long weekend and took place at the Red Deer River Ranch

just west of Sundre. This was an FEI sanctioned event, which hosted three disciplines: Endurance, Competitive Trail, and Ride and Tie. There were well over 150 competitors competing in the many different divisions.

Sarah and Erin competed in the Novice division of Competitive Trail. They rode 28 miles and were given a time of 6 hours and 10 minutes to complete the course. There were 40 horses in this division. The girls did very well on their Walkers. The terrain was very challenging with many steep long hills, which became very slippery with all the rain. Sarah said that it was one of the most difficult courses she has ridden. Both girls did very well. Erin and her Walker, Rosie, placed 3rd in the Novice Light Weight Division and 4th overall, and Sarah placed 4th in the same division and 11th overall riding Shadow's Zygadenous. (See photo of Sarah & Zy above.)

This event was well organized and run. The safety of the horses and riders were of primary importance. Organizers used many veterinarians and had radio crews posted out along the trails so that if anything happened to a rider, STARS could be called in. Congratulations should go to all the organizers, volunteers and competitors.

This was the only event that Sarah managed to compete in with her Walker this summer, but we did a lot of training up in the mountains. We both agreed that we would not want to be on any other breed!

*Submitted by Carol Hall, Westridge Farms, Calgary, AB*

## THE STWHA PRESENTS...

The STWHA (SWISS TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE ASSOCIATION) is happy to announce that the *Westerner* is our new association journal. In the future we are going to inform you about TWH topics in the *Westerner* journal.

### Foundation 2007

The STWHA was founded in November of 2007 with the goal of giving the naturally gaited Walker more attention in Switzerland, as well as offering the 50 Swiss Walker owners an association and a platform to exchange information.

### Training For Natural Gaits

The association particularly cares about the promotion of competent and natural training for the Walkers in Switzerland. That's why the training department takes an important part.

### Involved In Western Riding Style

With a few exceptions Walkers are ridden western in Switzerland. We feel very close to western riding and the western lifestyle and hope for a warm welcome into the Swiss western riding family.

### Country of Lakes And Woods

Most of the Walkers living in Switzerland were originally imported from Canada where the Walkers established themselves next to the Quarter Horse as a ranch and trail horse. Because of their smooth gaits they are a popular alternative on the ranches where they are ridden for hours everyday. Of course their pleasant disposition is well respected for the daily work.

### Opportunities in Switzerland

The STWHA in Switzerland looks at the Walker as an interesting alternative in the established equine world, especially with their reputation of being such a versatile breed. In the ambitious pleasure riding scene the Walkers are an enrichment with their strong character but also very sensitive and extremely willing natures. We hope that we can offer readers interesting information in the future about this still relatively unknown 'gentleman of horses'.

Submitted by Andrea Schneider-Reber from *Westerner*, July 2008. Translated by Nicole, Sun Valley, CA

See our cover photo of Erica and 'Panda' (Successful Signature). This talented and eye catching tobiano mare, owned by Andrea & Matthias Schneider-Reber, Sam's Heaven Ranch in Switzerland, was bred by McDonald Farms, Pouce Coupe, BC.

*WHN would be interested in doing an article on Canadian bred Walkers that have been sold overseas. If you have a story and photo, please send it to me.*

*Dianne Little, Calgary, AB was in Europe this past summer conducting an IJA judges clinic and met a number of Canadian bred Walkers and their offspring while there.*



## BITS and BYTES

### AAEP WHITE PAPER -*Putting the Horse First: Veterinary Recommendations for Ending the Soring of Tennessee Walking Horses.*

"The American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP), the world's largest professional organization dedicated to equine veterinary medicine, with a membership of nearly 10,000 veterinarians and veterinary students who dedicate their life's work to caring for the horse, takes very seriously its responsibility when offering a position statement regarding the treatment of horses. The AAEP condemns the abusive practice of 'soring' and formed the Tennessee Walking Horse Task Force in 2007 with the goal of contributing the expertise of the veterinary community to efforts that will permanently eliminate one of the most significant welfare issues affecting any equine breed or discipline. The Task Force recognizes that any effective change in the current culture of the industry must come from within, but we genuinely hope that, with this white paper, we can provide support to those within the Tennessee Walking Horse (TWH) industry who endeavor to end the continuing abusive practices specifically prohibited by the Horse Protection Act (HPA) enacted by Congress in 1970."

*This White Paper was issued by AAEP in August of 2008. For the full text, go to [www.aaep.org/images/files/AAEP White Paper on TWH Soring](http://www.aaep.org/images/files/AAEP White Paper on TWH Soring).*

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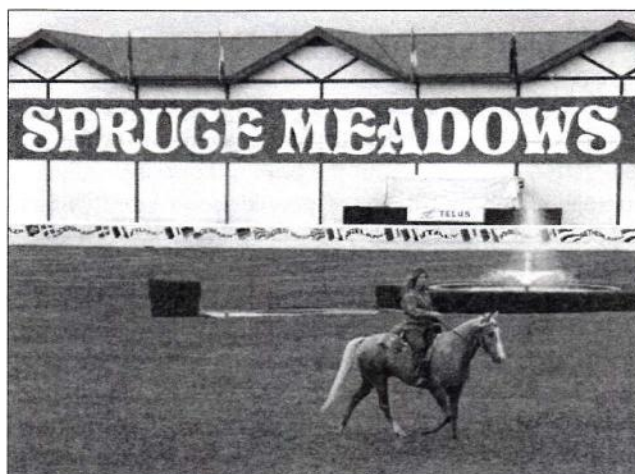
For those who would like to learn more about hooves & trimming, here are some websites you will find interesting:

Marjorie Smith - [www.barefoothorse.com](http://www.barefoothorse.com)

Pete Ramey - [www.hoofrehab.com](http://www.hoofrehab.com)

Gene Ovnicek - [www.hopeforsoundness.com](http://www.hopeforsoundness.com)

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### SPRUGE MEADOWS 2008

KARLA FREEMAN, BENTLEY, AB writes, "Thanks to the Alberta Walking Horse Association for providing a great booth at Spruce Meadows, and the opportunity to show off the great versatility of our Walking Horses. And thanks to all who helped with putting it up, manning it, and bringing their horses, all shiny and clean. We were lucky on Saturday and Sunday, as it waited till we were done the demos to rain. I heard that was not the case during the week demos."

*Photo above of Alexandra Freeman and Karla's Gold Fusion at Spruce Meadows 2008, courtesy of Karla.*

From LISSA TOWNSEND, COCHRANE, AB, another Spruce Meadows participant, "Hello there! This is my first time to write in to WHN, and it's about another 'first time', that being participation in the demos at Spruce Meadows. It was fun and exciting to see all the different breeds doing their thing. (Of course I'm a bit prejudiced and think the Walking Horse group stole the show, but that's just one woman's opinion!)

We had a great bunch of participants, some traveling quite a distance to be there. It was a pleasure to see those we don't get to see often enough. The weather is a whole other discussion however... but we persevered.

← The group pictured (left) is, from left to right, myself (Lissa Townsend), Greg Gersheid (all the way from Evansburg), Charis Cooper, Keith Oberle, Michelle Pulak and Karla Freeman (down from Bentley). *(Photo courtesy of Lissa.)*

It was Greg Gersheid's first time at Spruce Meadows, and Charis Cooper's twenty-first! It was a great bunch of people and a good time had by all. Thank you to everyone who took care of the booth as well during the week. Now we're looking forward to next year!



## READERS WRITE

DARLENE MOORE, BOISSEVAIN, MB writes, "Kudos to Barb Fenwick for her courageous article in the last *WHN* issues about her horses' laminitis ordeal – courageous because a lot of people won't admit it has happened to 'their horses'."

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From GRACE LARSON, FORSYTH, MT, "Regarding Stu Pritchard's information about the the first Walking Horse in Montana, I saw a bit on this in a *VOICE* magazine. However they called the horse Colonel Allen and had Colonel Allen's registration number. I wrote to the *VOICE* and told them the photo of this horse sure doesn't match Colonel Allen but I never heard back from them. Had they put his correct name and registration number down it would have been a good historical photo and brief write up. I cannot for the life of me remember what issue that was in."

"Using his registered name of Westbrook's Colonel Allen his correct information came up on IPEDS. His owner's name is listed as Maurice L. Biggs. Perhaps the Gleasons may not have bothered to transfer him into their name since they were not breeding purebreds. His foal record shows two registered TWH: a filly foaled 4-12-1938 and a stud foaled 5-15-1938."

"Westbrook's Colonel Allen was foaled 6-9-1935. He would have been three when the Gleasons brought him to Montana. I hadn't heard of him or that there were Walking Horses in the state that early. I think The Climbing Arrow Ranch had Walkers in the very early '40s. Hey Joe was from the Climbing Arrow. That is the ranch that was sold and the new owner got rid of all the TWH! I don't know when the Climbing Arrow got their first Walkers. They had quite a few."

"Also Fred Pierce, who had the Pierce Packing Company in Billings had some of the early TWH. He owned Rapid Joe and I think Rapid Joe came in on the same truck as Richardson's Honey Chile, the mare my Mom bought in 1947. Richardson's Honey Chile was Chief O' Chief's dam."

"There may have been a breeder in the Missoula area too. There are none that I know of as far back as this stallion, Westbrook's Colonel Allen in 1938."

\*\*\*\*\*

From BILL HOWES, STONY PLAIN, AB "In response to your question last issue about the numbers of foals being born today in comparison to years gone by, I believe many people just don't find the time to send in the 'news'. I would like to announce the 2008 foals by Topaz Merry Go as a result of his brief visit to Alberta last spring, 2007." (See the list in Foal Call for these babies.)



## WILD ROSE VERSATILITY SHOW

### AWARDS – 2008

#### HIGH POINT HORSE

**2 GAIT YOUTH** - Katie Haeberle

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#### HIGH POINT HORSE

**3 GAIT YOUTH** - No Entrants

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#### HIGH POINT HORSE

**2 GAIT ADULT** - Candice Randolph

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#### HIGH POINT HORSE

**3 GAIT ADULT** - Candice Dyberg

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#### GYMKHANA

**YOUTH** - Katie Haeberle

*SPONSORED BY: JEAN'S HIGH COTTON STABLE*

#### GYMKHANA

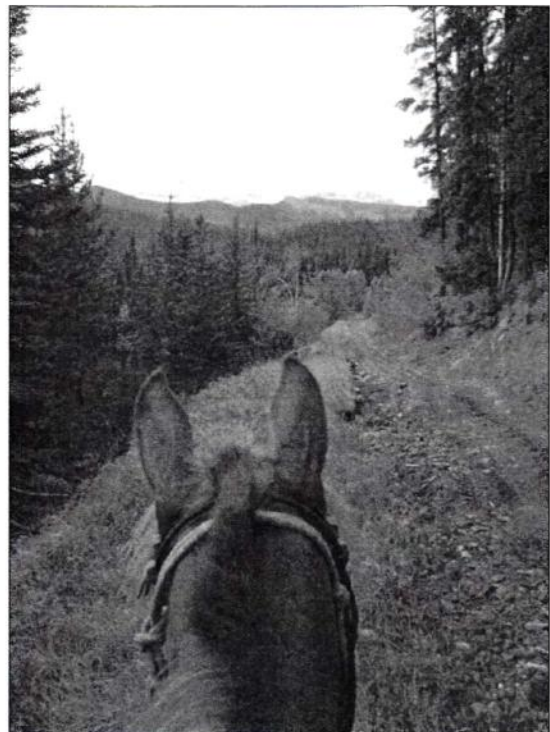
**ADULT 3 GAIT** - Marg Kovaluk

*SPONSORED BY: FRANK & DONNA EDWARDS*

#### ARENA TRAIL HORSE

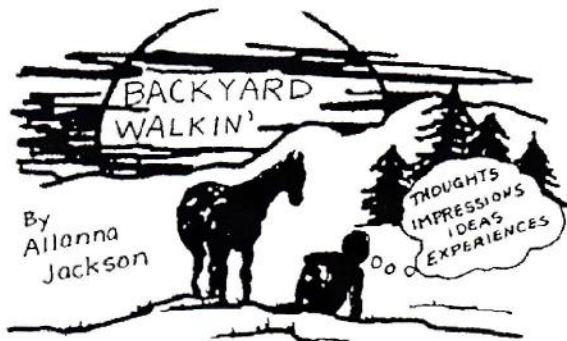
**3 GAIT** - Marg Kovaluk

*SPONSORED BY: BLAIR & LORI DYBERG*



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by ALLANNA JACKSON, LAKESIDE, AZ

Keith Oberle's 'On Trimming and Shoeing' in the August *WHN*, and the other questions and comments on this topic in the past few magazines prompted me to write. Keith's cautions about "natural" trims are much needed. Just claiming to be "natural" does not make something correct, nor does it guarantee that the practitioner is knowledgeable. The 4-point trim that Keith wrote about is not the only questionable allegedly "natural" trim. Just a few months back I was reading a report that practitioners of a "natural" trim philosophy that originated in Europe are being prosecuted for horse abuse in England due to the severe pain and lameness suffered by many horses during the 2-year "adaptation period" that advocates of this method claim is normal. Horse owners who hired this trim done to their horses have also been charged with horse abuse. The reports about the outcome of this "barefoot and 45 degree hoof angle for every horse no matter what" trimming method are as bad as the documented cases of soring of TWH. Some horses that were perfectly sound before being subjected to this trim have died as a direct result of hoof abscesses and laminitis caused by this trimming method.

My research indicates 52-58 degrees is the average range of hoof angles for normal, sound, healthy horses. All the horses I've actually owned had hoof angles within this range, with a definite majority preference for 54 degrees.

I just recently read that a hoof angle of 60 degrees is considered diagnostic in identifying a club foot. Club foot is a leg abnormality that, if not corrected, limits the horse's performance and in the worst cases renders the horse unsound and unusable. Consequently, responsible breeders are wary of breeding club footed horses.

I've read that it's considered normal for a horse's rear hooves to be 2 degrees different from the front, usually two degrees higher, but sometimes two degrees lower. However, several of my horses, including Sassy, Koko and Sunny, were happiest with a hoof angle of 54 degrees on all four feet.

Cinnamon seems to prefer 55 degrees on the front and 54 degrees on the rear. Cinnamon is 6 and has never been shod. Cinnamon does tend to wear her toes square, a little bit like the 4-point trim, but she then stumbles over the corners that result. Returning her front feet to a round shape by trimming or rasping the corners off instantly cures the stumbling.

Blue tended to get as high as 58 degrees on the front while maintaining 54 degrees on the rear, but I eventually concluded 56 degrees was probably best for her front feet.

Velvet is now 8 year old and has never been shod. Velvet is currently at 54 degrees on all four feet and has maintained that angle with minimal human intervention for several years. Velvet's front feet tend to stay round without any trimming or rasping to influence their shape. In Velvet's case crooked legs cause flares on her hind hooves that require occasional attention to maintain the natural oval shape of her hind feet. A case could be made for raising Velvet's front angle to 55 or 56 degrees, based on her hoof conformation and in an attempt to reduce her forging. However Velvet's alignment of the support that Keith mentioned seems better at 54 degrees so I'm not 100% settled on what angle is best for her. I did try Velvet at 56 degrees on the front for about a year and didn't see any difference in the forging, nor in her gait behavior.

Cinnamon and Velvet are Blue's daughters. When three mares that closely related have different conformation, different natural hoof angles, and three different hoof trimming needs, how can a single hoof angle be correct for an entire breed?

Last March I made a short videotape, which I sent to Europe, in which I intentionally put Velvet into an ordinary walk, flat walk, running walk, fox trot, stepping pace, rack, true two-beat trot, and 2-beat pace, all without making any changes to her feet or equipment. Velvet was barefoot and bare-legged. I rode her with just a plain, smooth mouth D-snaffle bit and a cheap dressage saddle. That was it. I can change Velvet's gait more with my riding than changing her hoof angle does. Changing hoof angle does not make any difference to how much influence my seat has on Velvet's gait.

***There is only one correct way to trim a horse - maintain the hoof angle that is most anatomically functionally correct for that individual animal. No two horses are the same.*** Natural wear and correct anatomic function are not always the same thing. Environmental and management conditions can cause hooves to wear naturally in a way that is anatomically dysfunctional. The 4-point trim Keith mentioned originated from observations of an environmentally induced abnormal wear pattern in one herd of ranch horses that had spent the winter foraging on frozen pastures. Some horses are born with leg abnormalities that create natural wear patterns that are physically damaging to the horse.

Knowing how to identify such problems and what to do about them is the science and art of correct hoof trimming. There is always more to learn about proper hoof balance. If you're trimming every horse in your herd at the same hoof angle I guarantee at least some of them are at the wrong angle. If you're trimming your horse at a particular angle because somebody said that's the magic number that will set his gait, or because that's the way some show champion was shod, your horse is probably being trimmed wrong.



## THE EVOLUTION OF TRAINING TECHNIQUES Part X - Conclusion

by Dr. Bob Womack From Pages 248 to 250, The Echo of Hoofbeats, Second Edition, 1984.

During the same year, 1966, the soring problem reached the halls of Congress. On May 10, 1966, Senator Joseph Tydings cited an article in LIFE magazine pertaining to the mistreatment of dogs and cats, and then added, "There is another problem of cruelty to animals which has recently come to my attention, which also requires corrective legislation... I refer to the widespread abuse of the beautiful Tennessee Walking Horse for the purpose of affecting its natural gait."

Tydings pointed out that several states and horse associations had passed rulings against the use of soring agents, but noted that such rulings have been honored more in the breach than in observance. It was further noted that the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders' Association had issued a statement effective September 15, 1964, disallowing soring, but this statement also had been ignored.

Although there were no formal movements aimed at eliminating the practice of soring, there were indications, by 1966, that trainers were refining the process. With over ten years of experience to call on, trainers began to capitalize on what they had learned. In the early stages of the soring era it had been assumed that if chains were used as training aids the damaged mass of tissue on the horse's foot would naturally follow. By 1966 trainers had learned that this was not true. Chains could be used without causing excessive damage if a lubricant was applied beforehand. Trainers also learned that if the horse's foot was properly cared for when the animal returned from a show, the effects of the soring process would quickly disappear and no permanent damage would follow. But again, far too many trainers did not utilize such knowledge, and the overall problem remained acute.

In 1968 the trainers organized themselves into a national association, and began their own campaign against the soring of horses. In July of the following year Vic Thompson, President of the Trainers' Association wrote a letter to all members stating, "I'm begging you... think about this or we'll all be out of business. The general public is fed up with all the inspections, changing rules, sore horses, and generally the conduct of Walking Horse people." Under the leadership of the trainers, definite progress was made in eliminating the severely sored horse, but the progress came too late. In Washington, the Humane Society was pushing for federal legislation against soring, and the progress being made by the trainers was too slow to eliminate the momentum of the movement. In December of 1970, the Federal Congress passed the Horse Protection Act aimed specifically at doing away with the sored Walking Horse.

The years following the passage of the Horse Protection Act were marked by a constant battle between the Humane Society and the Walking Horse industry. Caught between these two forces is the U. S. Department of Agriculture whose role as mediator casts it in a "no win" situation. Most proposed regulations aimed at enforcing the act have been considered too harsh by the industry, but not harsh enough by the Humane Society. The most significant concession achieved by the industry has been the legalization of chains inside the show ring. Unfortunately, that seemingly apparent victory may prove to be a costly error on the part of the industry. With the chain's appearance as a "performance aid" as opposed to its traditionally interpreted role as a "training aid" the Walking Horse industry admitted to the world that it had bred a show horse whose potential could only be controlled through extreme measures. Even more significantly, the industry advertised to the world that its show horse was an extremely complicated animal in constant need of technical knowledge and highly skilled labor. The market for such a horse is quite limited.

The training techniques in vogue at the time of the Horse Protection Act's passage have changed only in matters of degree since 1970. To be sure, the attention accorded the pastern area of the horse's foot has improved immeasurably and as a result the physical appearance of that area is quite acceptable. But it would be an extremely naive or uninformed person who would suggest that the soring of Walking Horses has ended.

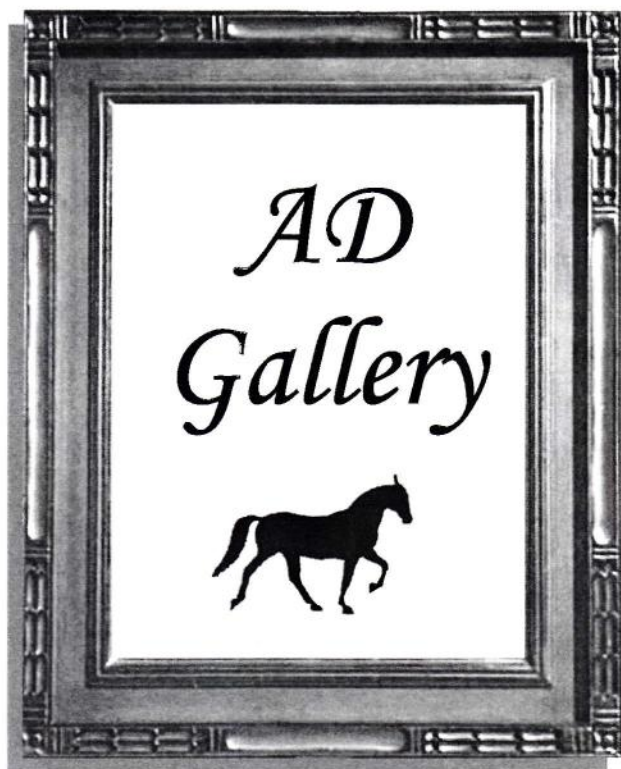
In the final analysis the question must be asked as to why the Walking Horse industry has deliberately followed a course of action leading toward self-destruction. There seems to be no simple answer. If a complicated answer can be stated simply, it is that long-range goals were sacrificed for short-range goals. What a particular horse does at a particular show seems to take precedence over what is happening to the industry. Whereas previous eras in the Walking Horse's history were marked by a gradual evolution toward an accepted ideal, the "Desperate Era" has been marked by an impatience for immediate results even if those results entail socially unacceptable training techniques. For this mistake the entire industry must accept responsibility. The Lebanese philosopher Kahlil Gibran wrote,

*"And as a single leaf turns not yellow but with the silent knowledge of the whole tree, so the wrong-doer cannot do wrong without the hidden consent of you all."*

This statement seems applicable to the Walking Horse industry.







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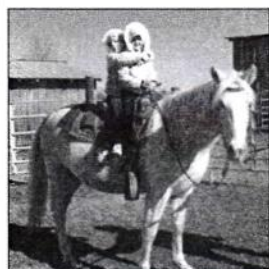
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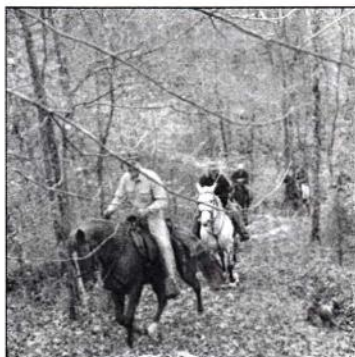
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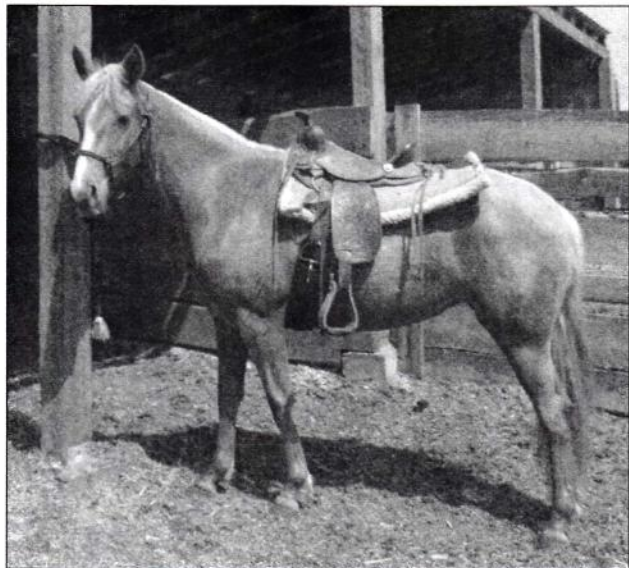
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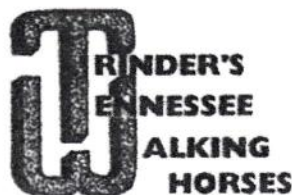
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**CANADIAN REGISTRY OF THE TENNESSEE**

**WALKING HORSE** Web site: [www.crtwh.ca](http://www.crtwh.ca)

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

## 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](http://www.fourcraftsmen.com) [info@fourcraftsmen.com](mailto:info@fourcraftsmen.com)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**PROGRAM FOR EXCELLENCE** - DEADLINE for submission of videos for 2008 is October 31. Please send to Dianne Little, 619 Lake Linnet Cres. S.E., Calgary, AB T2J 2J3. 403-271-7391 For details about the program check [www.crtwh.ca](http://www.crtwh.ca)

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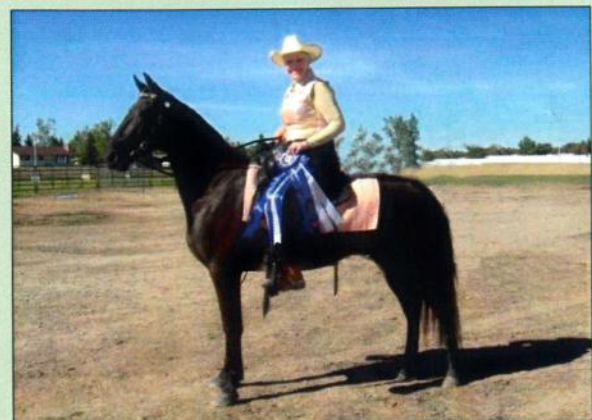
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