

DECEMBER 2009  
VOLUME XXXIII No. 6



# Walking Horse

## NEWS



DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN - SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE IN CANADA





# Walking Horse News

DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN-SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE IN CANADA

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## On Our Cover

It's not unusual  
to see this pair  
out riding on the  
coldest of winter days.

But you know  
it must have been  
*very, very* cold  
when BOTH of them  
had to come inside  
to warm their toes  
(and noses!)  
by the fire.

Photo courtesy of  
Karla Freeman & 'Roy',  
Bentley, Alberta

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Volume XXXIII, # 6 November/December, 2009

Dear Subscribers,

I don't know where the time has gone but here we are, looking at the last issue of 2009. It has been a year of ups and downs for the horse community. I hope all of you were able to find enough feed to see your horses through the winter. There is still demand for Walking Horses and some are selling very well. I think the word is out that these are the crème de la crème of pleasure horses. What can we as owners and breeders do to enlarge upon this? Let's hear your ideas on it.

I am always interested (and sometimes amazed) at all the things you readers do with your Walkers. It's not only that the horses are versatile; it's that their owners are too! That's why I think people would enjoy entering their horses in the CRTWH Training Levels Challenge. This is not a public training display or a competition. It's just you and your horse working together to demonstrate the skills that you probably already do together. The hardest part is likely finding someone to videotape it and put it on a DVD for you to send in! *WHN* plans a series of articles to acquaint you with this program. It would be a gentle way for those who have lost confidence to get back in tune with their horses, an excellent training template, and the DVD could be a super sales tool for breeders.

This issue is packed with interesting stories, more than I can mention here. But among them - Gen Amy and Boomer's brush with a bog in the back country. For horse history buffs Grace Larson sent in some more pictures from her mother's photo albums. Rhonda Lemmon submitted the High Point Award winners from the Alberta Celebration in August, and Franne Brandon reviews a re-issue of Eldon Eadie's *The Running Walk of the Tennessee Walking Horse*. (It's worth looking at again.) Thank you to everyone who sent in their news and stories, ads and tips. There is also a page of Christmas gift suggestions for the horsey ones on your list.

Which brings me to... A very Merry Christmas to you all! And best wishes for a happy holiday with your family, friends, and horses.

Marjorie



WHN makes a  
great gift!

December, 2009

# Walking Horse News

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

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*Thank you for advertising in Walking Horse News!*



CANADIAN TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE

## HISTORY & HERITAGE PROJECT

"CANADIAN TIMES OF THE TWH"

### HOW WE BECAME INTERESTED IN WALKERS

by Barb Gilmour, Jasper, Alberta

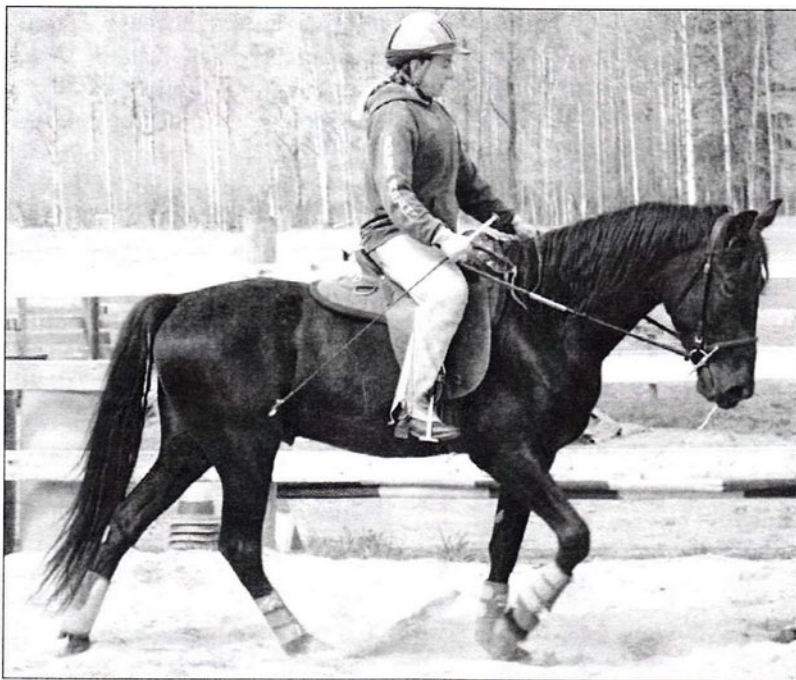
How did we become interested in the TWH? The interest began a long time ago. One fall - it would have been about 25 plus years ago - my husband and I went on a Sunday drive to check out Tennessee Walking Horses. Our friend owned one and my husband had ridden it on a backcountry trip. Milt really liked the movement of the horse so we decided to check them out. We ended up meeting you and your husband at Uphill Farm and looked at your horses. We also looked at, and rode, a couple of other horses in the Edson area. Nothing came of that trip; we already had a couple of horses and we weren't ready to change. We were just interested.

Then one summer, about 20 years ago, we acquired the friend's Walker. It was an older gelding that was in need of TLC. We had him for a couple of years. He wasn't well gaited and he wasn't overly friendly either, but he *was* a really good trail horse. He was never spooky and always a solid mount. He instilled the desire in my husband to get his own gaited horse. I had a Morgan cross that I liked and I wasn't interested in changing breeds.

As the years passed, we ended up with two Morgans, a mare and a gelding. Both are wonderful horses. But Milt still wanted a gaited horse, so, in 2005 we sold his Morgan and in the fall of 2006 we bought him a nice TWH mare, Dixie's Chocolate Shamika. Everyone had told us: if you both ride you can't have just one TWH. ... Well, they were right!

I ended up selling my wonderful mare back

to the woman I'd bought her from and went on a shopping expedition for my own TWH. I found him in Rocky Mountain House. Thistledown Celtic Spirit, aka Johnny, was just three years old when I brought him home in 2008. He had a bit of training, about 30 days, so I figured seeing as how I had already brought along four young horses in my 34 years of riding, I was 'way ahead of the game buying a young one that had 30 days training on it already.



In the meantime, my husband has decided that he wants to spend more time on the golf course and less time in the saddle so he's looking to downsize to one horse.

I want to have a solid trail horse, just like the first gelding we had. I know Johnny will end up like that; he even looks like the first gelding, but he needs miles, ridden

by a calm rider. And I'm not calm with young horses anymore. The mare just doesn't fit me. She's a wonderful horse as well, but not for me. She's probably going to go to friends of ours in Banff, who're looking for another horse. Maybe I'd better warn them about having one TWH and one non-gaited horse?

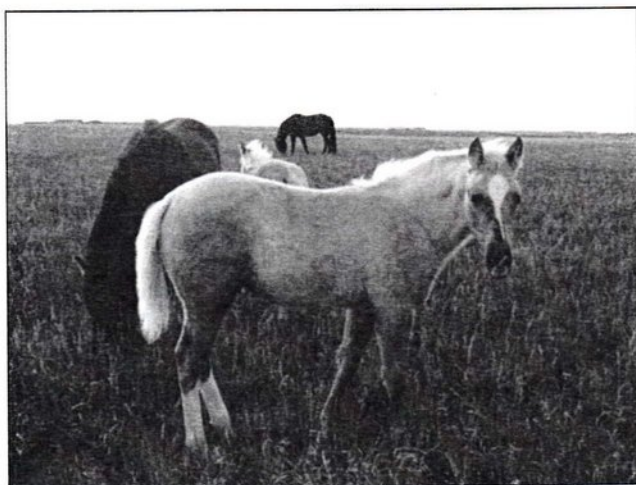
And that's how we became interested in Tennessee Walking Horses.

*Photo above shows Johnny demonstrating what he knows under the tutelage of Birgit Stutz. She's a Gold Certified Chris Irwin coach/trainer and I had her work with Johnny in May of 2009.*



# NEWS - NEWS - NEWS

## ALBERTA NEWS



AMY LAUZON, CAYLEY, writes, "I'm sorry I haven't sent these before now ... however! All three of our 2009 foals are palominos by Gar Beacom's Northfork Patch of Gold. Not that I'm biased but I think these foals are exceptional and more people should be breeding to this stallion! Gem's stud colt is Donny G (Payback for Donny G), a light palomino with a blaze, white lower lip and two hind socks. Bella's boy is Monty (*The Full Monty*, above) with a star, stripe and snip and two hind socks, shedding to be a color that I'm not sure what to call ... maybe chocolate? Pearl's filly, Gotcha (Gotcha Good in Gold) is palomino, no white markings, and she really looks like a little lady... but don't let that sweet face fool you!"

"I've also sent a photo of Lexie (This One's for U Lexie Cole ) and another of Lexie and her mom Missy (Kodiak's Miss Reflect CF)."

"Congratulations to Robert Munro on his recent purchase of two Tennessee Walkers from SUSAN BANKS & TOM SHACKLADY, the South Extension near AIRDRIE of Margaret & Jack Gurnett's Northfork Farm. (Susan is their daughter)"

"Northfork JC's Sundown and Northfork JC's Fall Chance, two half sisters went as a pair and have themselves a beautiful new home where they will continue to give Robert and Angie along with family members that pleasant ride with their easy, smooth gaits. They are missed but it's always a good feeling to have your "kids" leave home knowing they are going to a great place. Perhaps these two mares will even continue their heritage of "Northfork Farm" breeding in the next few years. Robert was very impressed with "Uphill Heir Trigger", a stallion owned by Charles and Marjorie Lacy that is presently standing at stud at

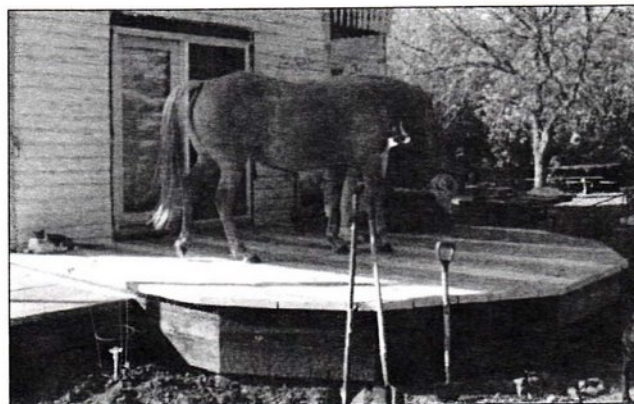
Northfork Farm. Please supply Robert with a one year subscription to the *Walking Horse News* compliments of Susan and Tom. It is a great source of information for all Tennessee Walking Horse owners!"

From ROLANDA EADIE, VALLEY VISTA RANCH, RIMBEY, "I have sent in my renewal form already so count me in on the next edition! And if it isn't too late, please cancel my ad for Sianna. We've just traded with Eldon: Sianna for a little buckskin weanling colt. Oh my goodness, is he ever cute! I have been loving him up, picking up his feet and getting my hands on him a lot. So... another new project."

"Princess Blue Eyes is coming along well, but is not ready for my kids yet. I have done a lot of riding on all five horses because I sent my buckskin out for training. My son Kaiden is getting along really well with Diamond Jubilee. Finally, my dream came true on the September long weekend. My family went out with Eldon, and a couple of other families to ride west of Turner Valley at Blue Rock. We all rode together to the most beautiful waterfall that I have ever seen. The kids jumped in at the bottom of the falls and had a very "refreshing" dip. We had an amazing weekend of riding and camping fun. I still need an excellent trail horse for my 8 year old son, Carter. If there are any readers who have a good reliable trail horse that would be safe for my son, please let me know."

DONNA ROBAK, writes, "Below is my horse Karlas Honey Delight. I've had her for 4 years, and she will go just about anywhere I ask her to. Here we are using her for 'quality control' on the new deck we have been working on. We figured if the deck is strong enough for Honey it will be strong enough for *all* the people at one of our barbeques. She was looking in the patio doors, wondering if I would let her in the house... Not on the hardwood floors! This is just one of things I do with my Walker. Thought I would share it."

*Honey on deck, below.*





KARLA FREEMAN, RIDE EASY RANCH, BENTLEY, writes, "Hello TWH Fans. My, how the time flies! I just couldn't believe it was time to get the videos ready to send in for the CRTWH Program For Excellence already. Having broken my foot last June, I was a bit behind with the training program. I did however enter two of my mares in the Training Level Challenges, and I also *just* managed to get my two year old colt into the program for his Bronze before he went off to become a daddy for Wyants' Winter Springs, in Cheshire, Oregon."

"So Congratulations to Laura Wyant on the purchase of Karlas Rio Rambo. He has been acting like a real gentleman so I hear. Also, Congratulations to Tracy and Ed Wakefield of Bailieboro, Ontario, on the purchase of Karlas Sweet Cocoa. She is going to have a wonderful life with them there, and is settling in with Queeny. I am sure they will enjoy their new home as much as their new owners enjoy them."

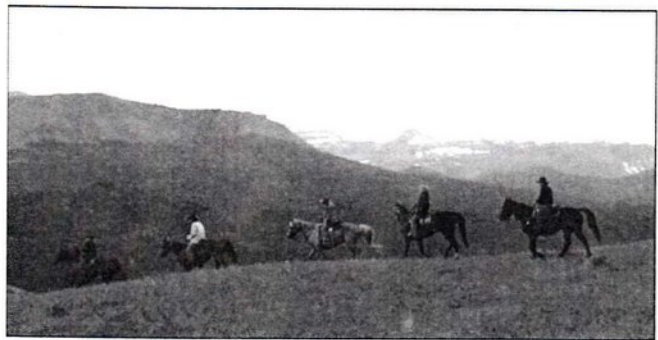


"I was glad to make it to the Spruce Meadows Demos this year, as brief as it was. (Above L-R are Keith Oberle, Michelle Pulak, and Karla Freeman who were on hand for the last Saturday of Spruce Meadows.) It is always good to get out and be with other Walking Horse enthusiasts. I hope to be able to participate more in the promotion of our Canadian bred Walkers next year and have fun doing it!"

"I had some nice fall rides, and did get a video of a Ya Ha Tinda ride but the leaves sure got spoilt by the killing frost we had so early in the fall."

"Oh well, I guess we will have to look forward to the snow, as I am certain it's on its way. I will have to get the sleigh behind Roy this year!"

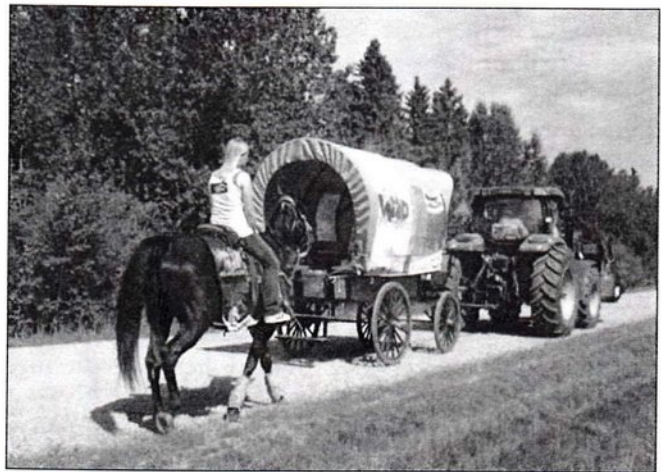
"Well, Happy Trails to all, wherever you take them."



JOANNE STERN, BLUFFTON, writes, "Our family had a great trip out to the Ya Ha Tinda this summer. Above are (L-R) Dad (Jack Gurnett), Tom, Sue, Paige & Miles riding over a ridge."

"My daughter Paige and I also rode for a day with the Wild Pink Yonder Wagon Train in July. Paige was leader of the pack on Northfork Ebony's Echo (aka Snip). Snip really was all duded up - a pink bridle and reins, breast collar and leggings. We even had pink ribbons on the backs of the horses! The town of Rimbey was *really, really* pink. The support was great." (Paige, below, on the WPY ride.)

"The organizers gave us each a card to write why we were doing the WPY ride, and Paige said it was for her Uncle Jim, (my brother who we lost to cancer this past April)."



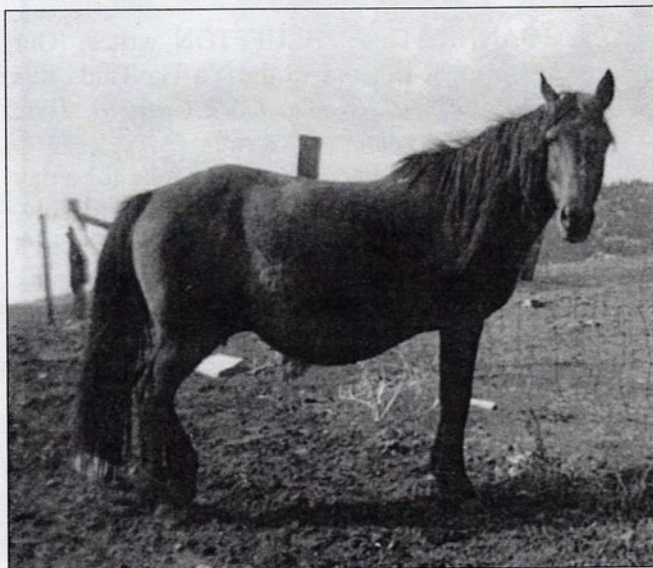
## NEWS from the US

LAURA MOY, COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO, writes, "I love the articles in the *Walking Horse News*. I'm glad there are old-time Walkers to buy!"

From LAURA WYANT, WYANT'S WINTER SPRINGS, CHESHIRE, OREGON, "I wish ALL your *WHN* advertisers would put their email address in their ads. So much easier to get in touch."



GRACE LARSON, FORSYTH, MONTANA, writes, "I will send a couple of Mom's old photos that I scanned last night. Mom's note on the back said the one of Kathleen LaMarr was taken just before she foaled, but she didn't write down the year! The white spots are from something that was stuck on the photograph. I couldn't remove it without hurting the photo." *Kathleen La Marr # 511018 (below) was by Silvertip-Rickey out of Patty La Marr.*



"Fall has sure been busy at our place. Lyle had to replace the electric line from the house to the barn. Then our home water heater was producing lukewarm water so he had to work on that. Our outdoor wood furnace decided it was time for the pump to wear out so he had to replace the pump. The furnace is supposed to heat our water as well as our house and garage, which saves a lot during the colder weather. The bright side of this is it has all happened before zero weather, and Lyle is able to repair most anything that goes wrong around here. (With my Gofor help that is.)"

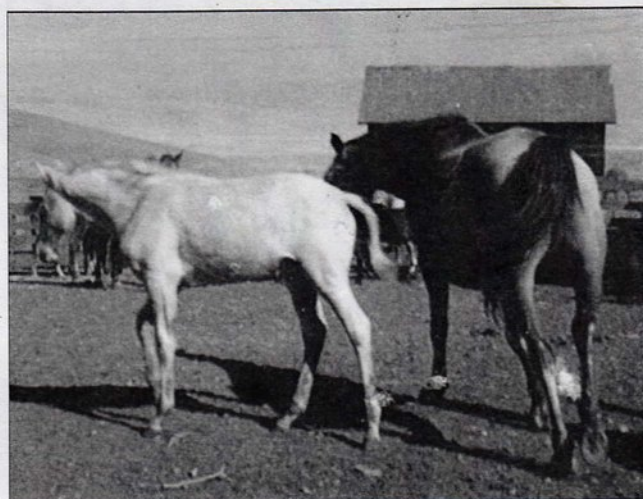
"Karen Morton called and shared some news on Goldust Montana Moonbeam, a gelding she bought several years ago. Moonbeam just completed his first 50 mile ride. She said he did very well until the last 5-10 miles. Then he decided a walk was good enough. Last spring he placed first over all in the California State Horseman Limited Distance (25-30 miles) rides. I am going to call Karen and see if she will write a bit on Moonbeam and her."

"Our yearling, July Johnson, crossed the muddy canal when it was frozen. By the afternoon the canal bottom was thawed mud. We tried everything to coax him across but he'd have no part of that; no muddy hooves for *him*. Lyle decided to walk down

into the canal and *his* feet started sticking, and over he went ! I am laughing; I couldn't help it. I'm sure that was all it took to convince July that mud is *really dangerous*. Lyle went in to change clothes and I walked through the garden to the bridge, then on to the pasture gate . A crossing of a few feet ended up with a quarter mile detour. July was glad to stay on high ground as he followed me along the canal, across the bridge, and on to the barn."

"I mentioned that I laughed when Lyle fell in the mud. Several years ago we had a friend visit from Switzerland. I went out to bring the horses in and they were all across the muddy canal; it had been shut off so this was late September or early October. When I got to the canal I noticed one of our ducks eating a toad. I threw a rock at it; when that didn't work, I threw the oat bucket. Then I fell forward flat on my face in the muck. The muck smelled like dead fish - and I was a sight. Lyle had a good laugh and so did our guest. It was still warm enough for Lyle to hose the mud off me. Next came a shower and clean clothes, and in the end the duck finished off the toad."

"We have had record setting cold, but warmer weather is on the way. The feed room and tack room doors and frames need painting. With warmer days maybe I can get these sanded and painted."



*Above is Marie La Marr # 501284 (Buck La Marr x Black Beauty Allen) with her filly Chief's Smoky Girl # 674660 by Chief O' Chiefs.*

Ed. Note: Check to see if any of *your* Walkers have La Marr breeding. That line goes back to Lady La Marr, X-4, born in 1917. A daughter of the Thoroughbred Jack La Marr and an unnamed daughter of Pat Gannon, Lady La Marr, bred to the Saddlebred Billie-Gene (accepted into the TWH registry on performance and as a sire) produced Patty La Marr 380002 in April of 1937, a foundation mare of that line. **MCL**



## ALBERTA NEWS

From CHARIS COOPER, TURNER VALLEY, "Hello from Southern Alberta. It was a very busy year for my horses and me. Peppi and I managed to ride in the Black Diamond parade despite sleety weather. Loreen Harper was our Parade Marshall and rode with a big smile all through the fog and sleet. Loreen was born and raised in the Turner Valley area. It was nice to have her come back."

"In early March Brenda Baker and I went to the Grand Canyon and rode the mules down and spent the night, then rode back up next day. The mules come from Tennessee and I believe my mule, Chester, was part Walker as he was smooth and so level headed."

"I did lots of trail riding with my neat little Trinkette. Also Peppi and I attended a two-day side saddle clinic at the historic Bar U Ranch thirty miles south of here. (Photo below.) Peppi was the only Tennessee Walker out of the ten horses there, and as usual, got plenty of attention. She is now 23 years old, and yours truly is 79."



## ONTARIO NEWS

WENDY BERRY, CASTLETON, writes, "Thanks for your quick reply. I got an older copy of your magazine from the TWH breed booth at Spruce Meadows Masters when I was visiting my son in Alberta in September. I went onto your website a few days ago to get some more current info re your magazine as well (hoping that you had weathered the recession storm!). I will look forward to getting the December issue and I'm sure will end up as a subscriber. We have three QHs and so the Walker has been a whole new fun experience! We purchased him in April from a gaited horse dealer in Kentucky."



I had a phone call from PAUL & JANET GUNTER, WOODSTOCK. They own a beautiful 6-year-old palomino TWH gelding that came from Alberta. He is still very green so they were looking for information on training and riding Walkers.

ROSEMARY HARTLEY, NIPIGON, writes, "Fall riding was great and we are still having good riding weather. The wet summer reduced riding, not because of the weather but because the black flies were *so bad*. The horses appreciated being in the barn during the day and I let them out at night when they only had the mosquitoes to deal with. I love having the horses at home. Love my barn. Lots of work, but it is the good type of work. I feel so lucky and tell myself that every time I am walking from the barn to the house."

## MANITOBA NEWS

DARLENE MOORE writes, "Dakota Dusty Doll has come to make Walking Acres at BOISSEVAIN her new (and forever) home. I have admired and appreciated her looks, intelligence, temperament and extremely good gaits for all of her twenty years. I had the privilege and pleasure of driving her in a cart at a TWH Clinic and Exhibition at Barb Fenwick's Four Seasons Ranch about 15 years ago. I never forgot her willingness, courage, manners and training as we went up and over gentle hills as well as around the show ring at Barb's."

"I had the pleasure of caring for Dusty at my farm when she was here to be bred to Majestic's Streaker, my TWH stallion. The resulting foal was a black, uniquely marked filly named "Phantom of the Opera". An added bonus is that Dusty is by the same sire as my beloved old mare, Sun's Special Angel."

"I was absolutely thrilled at the opportunity to enjoy driving Dusty in my four-wheeled viceroys buggy. Dusty hadn't been driven in years when she came here. (She's been busy serving as premier broodmare in Keith Doll's Walking Horse herd.) But there was no problem - Dusty immediately drove and pulled the buggy perfectly. Some horses never do pull a buggy well because of backing up and the sharp, cramping turns that happen with the 4-wheels. But from the first drive Dusty returned to driving with enthusiasm, skill and trust-worthiness. Most thrilling of all, though, is her head-nodding, over-stepping run walk. In fact, her gait is so enthusiastic that I've had to add a noseband to keep the bridle still!"

"Anyone searching for a Walker, do look into the purchase of one of Dusty's offspring or one of the other beautiful, well-gaited TWH at Keith's. You'll be happy you did!"



## CHRISTMAS GIFT Suggestions for the Horse Lover on *YOUR* List



### BOOKS

are always appreciated, especially ones about our TWH.

A few suggestions:

**THE ECHO OF HOOFBEATS** –Dr. Bob Womack published by Dabora Inc, Shelbyville, TN. Traces the history & development of the TWH breed.

**EASY GAITED HORSES** by Lee Ziegler, Storey Publishing. 247 pages. Paperback. [www.storey.com](http://www.storey.com).

**FOSH'S COLLECTION OF TWH TRAINING ARTICLES** - 23 articles on training Tennessee Walkers using common sense, good horsemanship, and empathy with the horse. Available from [www.fosh.info](http://www.fosh.info) or 1-800-651-7993

**TRAIL RIDING – Train, Prepare, Pack Up and Hit the Trail** (right) by Rhonda Hart Poe. This book contains many useful references to training and conditioning gaited horses, including Walkers. 2005. Storey Publishing. [www.storey.com](http://www.storey.com).

**BIOGRAPHY OF THE TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE** by Ben Green. The history and background of the TWH. Available from Four Craftsmen Publishing, P.O. Box 177, Lakeside AZ 85929-0177 1(928) 367-2076

### CLOTHING ITEMS

**CUSTOM EMBROIDERED** with the CRTWH logo and your horse's name & number or with the horse and your farm name... All sorts of possibilities! Go to the website [www.hoopyourdreams.com](http://www.hoopyourdreams.com) for full details & prices.



### DVD'S ARE GREAT TOO!

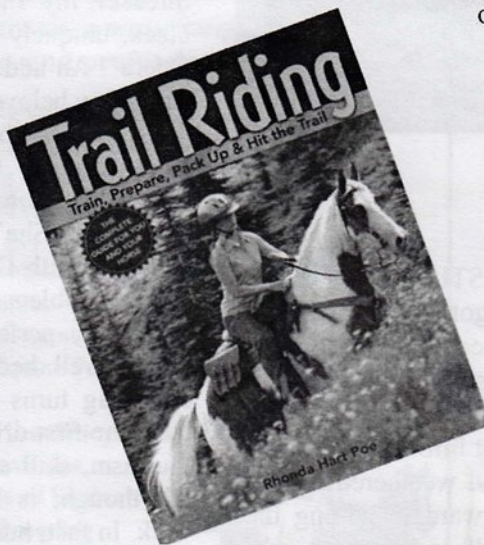
**THE RUNNING WALK OF THE TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE** (left) Eldon Eadie's original tape, is still one of the best for showing the different gaits, and explaining gaits in general. Now available for \$25 in DVD format. See page 18.

### TICKETS

To the **Horse Breeders' and Owners' Conference**, Red Deer, Alberta Jan. 15 - 17/10 See page 18 for details.

### GAITED HORSES, NATURALLY

with David Lichman, a Parelli 5 star Premier Instructor, is a two DVD set, Knowledge and Techniques, with booklet. Now there's another **CANTERING THE WALKING HORSE**. [www.DavidLichman.com](http://www.DavidLichman.com) or call (916) 648-1004.



### MAGAZINES

Don't forget ... a subscription to *Walking Horse News* Or *Walking Horse Journal* makes a very welcome gift!

The ultimate Christmas gift for the horse lover on your list would be ...



A HORSE, of Course!





## BOOMER AND THE BOG by Genevieve Amy

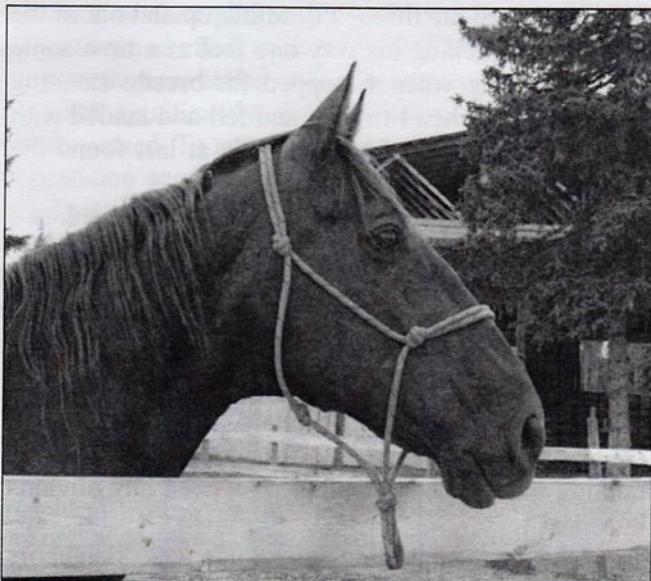


My husband is a Craigslist addict. He haunts the 'Farm and Garden' columns, and likes to point out really interesting ads to me, like the cutest mini foal, a lovely tractor for only \$\$\$\$\$\$, farm gates, people trying to sell horses they shouldn't have had in the first place ("Peruvian/Tennessee Walker cross – needs work on his trot"), etc.

He had been watching one particular ad for months as the price went down, and finally emailed it to me, with the comment, "Sad – somebody selling their old buddy." It was an ad for a TWH gelding, 21 years old, with custom made saddle, for \$800. I emailed him back, saying, "The saddle is worth more than that." He replied saying, "Maybe you should email her." So I did, and within half an hour she phoned me. At the end of the conversation, I told her I'd send a cheque. A week later, we went to get him.

At the beginning of the heat wave, we headed down to Keremeos with the trailer on Friday, and met Boomer. A 16 hand liver chestnut, with a narrow crooked stripe, he possessed a gentle distant dignity, as if he were preoccupied with deep thoughts. His noble, old fashioned head sat on a beautiful arched neck, his coat shimmered, and he had good manners; perhaps a *little* pushy, but he accepted correction without attitude or resentment. His only obvious conformation fault was that he was back at the knee, but at 21 and still sound, I didn't think it would be an issue. He was, after all, going to be our 'company horse,' only taking the occasional visitor for a trail ride, not working every day.

*(Boomer's head portrait below.)*



The seller said she didn't know how he loaded, as she had just ridden him home from the person she'd bought him from. We thought it would be a good idea to find out Friday evening, instead of at 5 am Saturday morning, so we showed him the trailer. No problem. The seller didn't really know anything about his past, she hadn't ridden him out of a flat walk, as she was a nervous rider, she did not ride him anymore, had never had him in a stall or barn. In the 2 years she had owned him, he'd lived in a 80 x 200 foot enclosure, cows on one side, goats and sheep on the others. He had more hay than he could eat, and she told me he was greedy at grain time. I wondered why he was getting grain at all if he wasn't being worked. Then she told me she trimmed his feet herself. The old inner voice murmured, 'Oh-oh.' (It will take maybe two years of consistent corrective trimming to even up the hoof on the right front: the others actually are not too bad.)

So Saturday morning at the crack of dawn, we loaded the old trooper and headed up the province. We arrived in the Cariboo, at Thunder Ranch where our horses are living until I get the fence finished and the well in at our place, at noon. He stepped off the trailer, looking not terribly stressed, and after a night in a corral near the ranch house and barn, we took him to the 30 plus acre parcel of fenced wilderness across the road, and introduced him to the herd. It was not successful. He didn't know he was a horse, and was not interested in the others, and they were not interested in him after their initial inspection. When we walked away, he followed us as far as the fence would let him, and stood there looking after us. I swear I could hear him thinking, "Hey, what are you doing? Don't leave me out here in the wilderness." It broke my heart to walk away. I knew it was the wrong thing to do. That was Sunday, and we had to go back to the coast.

You'd think that, at almost 60, I would have learned to listen to that inner voice. Back at the coast, I woke up at night worrying about him. I phoned and emailed the ranch, pestering them about his well-being. I could hardly wait for Thursday, when we were going up again, taking Finally and Delite up to the ranch, where they would stay until the fence and well were in at Skykeep.

Thursday morning, we left at dawn again, as we wanted to be through the Canyon before the worst of the heat with our old girls. We arrived at Thunder Ranch at noon, got the mares off the trailer and into the corral. I had my hoof rasp, and a brand new set of



nippers, and I was going to start to work on that foot, as soon as I could find Boomer. So halter in hand, off I set into the woods. After hours of tramping through willow wastes, meadows, pine and spruce stands, seeing the other horses standing around swishing and stamping, I made my way to the top corner of the property. There I found 2 sections of barbwire fence blown out, with one long rusty strand extending 20 feet into the woods. "Oh no," said that inner voice, this time accompanied by a very heavy stomach, as if my heart had sunk right into it. I slogged back to the road, and told Sandy, who had come with the truck to help me look. We drove back to the ranch house, got some water, and bitched at each other for a few minutes. It was 32 degrees. Then I got him to drive me up the hill to the fence line with the break at the end as far away from the road as it goes. Into the woods I went, with the halter and a plastic bottle of water in my pocket. Why take a cell phone? There's no coverage.

I followed cow paths – the ground was so dry, it was hard to see tracks at all, let alone tell whether they were cow or horse prints, I figured that since Boomer had been living with cows, maybe he thought they would take him home. I lost track of time. I heard things in the bush that stopped moving when I stopped and looked at where the sound was coming from. The Cariboo is dotted with old lakebeds, flat expanses that evolve from lake to grass to willow. I came across one of these, maybe 20 acres in extent. On one side of it, a small herd of cattle bunched on firm ground under a stand of spruce and dead pine. "Hey you cows," I shouted, "Got a horse with you?"

The cows responded to this insanity as they should – they put their tails up and ran away (high-tailed it). I got to the edge of the grassy area, found it to be in a very soggy stage of its development, and skirted around it, still following a faint trail through the grass. Three quarters of the way around it, I stopped and looked back across to where the band of bovines were milling. They were looking into the marsh, as if at something disturbing. I followed their gaze, and saw something rising above the level green. "Is that a moose – the ears look big." Down it went, and then back up, and I saw it was Boomer's head and neck.

I slogged over to him, and everything went numb and still. He was in the bog up to his body. He had been there a while. The ground was churned where he had tried to get up and failed. He was covered with deerflies as big as hummingbirds. His right front leg was folded in front of him in a way that

a horse's leg should not fold. His back legs went straight down into the black treacle. He groaned, a sound I had never heard a horse make outside of a movie. I took out the plastic water bottle, took off the lid, and sprinkled some on his lips. He opened his mouth and I poured all the water in. He lapped it up, his eyes got a little brighter, and I put the halter on and urged him up. He got up, and his left back leg instantly went straight down into the bog, right up to his body. He fell sideways onto his left side, groaning, his leg bent at virtually a right angle to his body. I was having an out-of-body experience by this time, my emotions had been turned off completely, my mind desperately drawing on any body of wisdom or experience it could find stored in the far corners of my brain or anywhere else.

I went around him, and pushed on his neck, made him right himself, made him get up again. This time he stood, head down, panting, covered in black mud and deerflies, but he stood on all his legs. Nothing broken. I wouldn't have to go find someone with a gun. All I had to do was get him out of the bog. It was a short distance, maybe 50 feet, to the shoreline, and firm ground. I dropped the lead rope, and said unnecessarily, 'You stay there' to the heaving, exhausted horse, and picked my way to firm ground, looking for *something* - not sure what, a portable bridge maybe? I realized that where there were little willows, the ground was firmer, so I went back and made him walk behind me over the willows.

We made it to firm ground, I found him a patch of shade, where he immediately started grazing. I considered the options. I knew the direction we had to go to find the road, and I knew we could not go back through the marsh, so up the hill we started. That old horse followed me through deadfall, up and out of the hellish bog, picking his way one foot at a time some places, grazing when I stopped for breath, standing still as a rock when I tripped and fell and landed with my back against his front leg. We at last found the road.

We made it back, and he drank and drank and drank (Over a period of half an hour, not all at once. With all the grazing he had done on the way, I didn't worry about colic as much as dehydration.) We washed him up and found so many wire cuts, from his chest to his right hind leg, the one that the rusty 20 feet of wire had wrapped around, lacerated. But it could have been worse – no hanging flaps of skin, nothing that needed stitching. Not even any obvious lameness.

As I was stumbling around in a daze, neighbors drove in to tell the ranch folks that the conservation officers were coming out to take care of



a cougar that had taken a calf last week – in the section of crown land where I had found Boomer in the bog. I was glad I hadn't known that when I was roaming around the woods armed with a rope halter and a water bottle.

Needless to say, Boomer is now in a pasture all by himself, where he can get into the riding arena next to the barn, where there is the shade of a building and people to watch over and take care of him. As soon as I get to SkyKeep next week, Boomer will be coming home to live in the corral by himself, where I will be able to baby him. He may never live in the pasture with the rest of the herd, but that is okay. He is a sweetheart, and even if he is a little dumb when it comes to rough living, he deserves the best I can give him.

He has not had his teeth done in a while, and we discovered that up there, you don't just call the vet and have him make a house call like you do down at the coast. You make your appointment, trailer your horse to the 100 Mile House vet clinic, where there are 'facilities' for tranquilized horses. So I guess Boomer will be having more trailer rides in the near future, because he should be able to eat without pain, poor old thing.

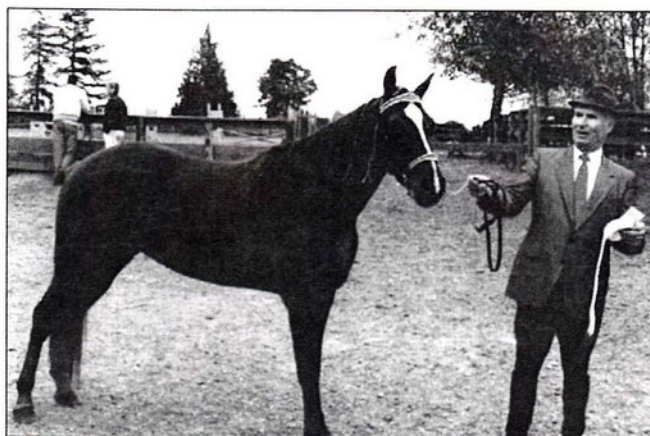
Oh, and the custom made saddle is really nice. I am looking forward to trying it. It was made for him, has the maker's mark "DD" on the back. Boomer's papers have been lost along with his history – so if by chance anyone recognizes him, or knows his story, I would dearly like to know.

The other horses are doing fine, Henry/Rasta is back to being Henry, but this time it is KING Henry. He has developed into an alpha male, and struts his stuff like the stud he is not.

Summer is alpha mare. So is Finally, who has formed her own herd, consisting of herself and Delite, who is not allowed to talk to anyone else at all. I don't know how long that will last. I will be glad to get up there and get them to my place, where I can interact with them many times daily.

P.S. Boomer has healed up miraculously, with only a bump on the hind leg that was torn open. We have each ridden him once, just for a few minutes. He's a bit out of practice, but so kind, gentle and unflappable. He's the perfect 'company horse' - the kind that can carry anyone.

We found a reference to a gelding named "Boomer" in the J/A 2000 *WHN* magazine. This horse had been purchased by Pat Everatt of Keremeos, so it's in the right area. His registered name was Dark Tom's Strutter, by Tom Dooley's Mister x a Midnight Secret, Allen's Ladybird dam. Is this the same horse? *Help*, Keremeos Readers!



## REMEMBERING HELMUT PENNER

It is with great sadness that I share the news of Helmut Penner passing away October 3, 2009. A long time Tennessee Walking Horse owner and rider, Helmut was very active in all aspects of the West Coast Tennessee Walking Horse Club, showing as many as three horses at some shows, doing Demos, participating in Endurance Rides, and riding in countless Parades throughout the lower mainland. He was also active in the BC Breed program, Agricultural Fairs, Trail Maintenance with the Haney Horsemen Association and in the Fraser Valley Endurance Riders Association. (*Above is Helmut showing his filly, April.*) Fun, enjoyment and sportsmanship were traits that Helmut shared with many of us. He is sadly missed on our trail rides.

Helmut was passionate about things in life. His love of his family, horses, music, and his church were always forefront in his life. He always had time for someone who wanted to learn more about horsemanship, water skiing, hunting or music. After a courageous battle with cancer, he passed away in the early morning hours of October 3. The family would like to extend a sincere thank you to all who came to visit, and for the many phone calls in his last days. Your love and support made this journey much easier to bear. We will miss you, Helmut, from all your friends of The West Coast Tennessee Walker Club, BC.

*Dave Smith, Past President*

### 'SPRING TRAINING TOUR' With BILL ROY

Bill is willing to help YOU train your young horses or work with older horses at your place next spring.

If enough people in an area book a day or several days, he can make a circle tour and perhaps even come back to put a little more time on your horses after a week or so. It depends on you. So, if you are interested, contact

Bill at **250-838-2066**





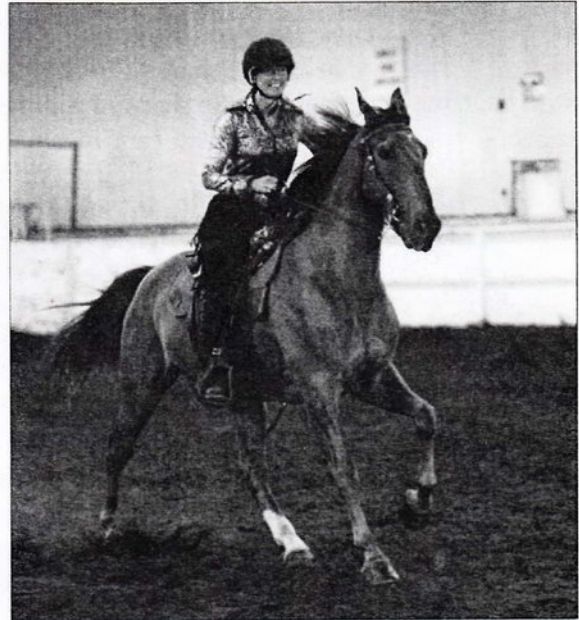
*A Tribute to the CRTWH Demo Horses at the Mane Event , Red Deer, AB*

## Rag's Fantasy Romance

'Rome' is a 5 year old sorrel Canadian Registered Tennessee Walking Horse gelding. Because of his willing, gentle nature and smooth gaits, I was able to start riding him again only 12 weeks after Open Heart Surgery. As the long winter months passed by and I grew stronger and more fit, a partnership of trust in each other was building. And so... I wanted (or needed) to finish training him myself - so we started working on the canter! Although we are only at the training level, it has been a very fulfilling and satisfying experience for me.

Rome & I are looking forward to a summer filled with trail riding, showing, demos and hopefully adding gaited dressage and 3 phase eventing to our list of horse activities!

Lori Dyberg



*Lori and Rome*

## Skyline's Bellatrix

Belle is a 6 year old mare who was started under saddle at 3. At the same time she was used as a pack horse. At age 4 she was ridden by a variety of different people with different levels of experience. Last fall she was ridden by a novice teenage girl in the Whaleback of the southern Alberta Foothills.

Since January of 2009, she has been ridden over 200 kilometers in the mountains and forests by a 79 year old man. Belle has been in the Calgary Stampede parade twice and has represented the breed and the Alberta Walking Horse Association at Spruce Meadows twice.

I started driving Belle the winter of 2009. Belle is a naturally gaited, 3-gait horse, and has achieved the Gold Standard, gait-certified by the Canadian Registry through its Program for Excellence. She is also entered in the Canadian Triple Challenge Program and has achieved level 2 in Horsemanship, Level 3 in Trail and Level 1 in Driving. Belle is a truly versatile horse,

"A horse for all reasons - and seasons."



If you are buying a TWH in Canada, ask if it is Canadian Registered! Ask if it is gait certified (and if not, why not?)!

PS: Belle has recently been sold to Bruce Desserre, Tofield, AB. Bruce is planning to do some breeding and Belle will anchor his brood mare band. He asked that Belle be bred to Skyline's Regulus, and she has been confirmed in foal.

Keith Oberle





## 2009 Alberta Celebration

The Alberta Celebration is A.W.H.A.'s premier horse show. This year we had the Honourable Diane Sept from the U.S.A. as our judge, and a great turnout of very talented horses. There were a number of new faces, which was great to see, along with a number of spectators. A great time was had by all, starting with the gymkhana events Friday night followed by the model/halter classes Saturday morning and after that the performance classes. This year we introduced gaited dressage as well as working trail pleasure which was a big hit. Expect to see more of these classes next year!

Saturday night saw many exhibitors engaged in horsey discussions over a glass or 2 (or maybe it was 12 - I lost count!) of Shirley Wesslen's homemade wine. Thanks, Shirley! Amazing wine!

Thanks again to our volunteers, for without you the show would not have been as successful as it was. Thank you to: Dianne Little for finding us such a wonderful judge, ensuring she was picked up and delivered back to the airport, driving her to and from the show grounds and also for announcing all weekend; Laureen Tichkowsky for being our ring mistress and ribbon presenter; Dave Sigurdson for manning the gate; Larry Friedel for data entry; Leslie Hunchuk for filling in wherever needed; Tammy Halko for coming to help and on discovering we had it covered, stayed to help me hold horses anyway. And last but certainly not least, Thank You to the show committee - Blair, Lori and Candice Dyberg and Dave Lemmon. Thank you again! I would also like to extend a big thank you to our sponsors: Blair & Lori Dyberg, Dave & Dawn Sigurdson, Noisy Hollow Acres and O & T Farms.



**HIGH POINT AWARDS** went to the following:

**Peruvian Best Gaited Horse of Show -**

CM INCA ROCA owned by Crescent Moon Ranches, shown by Mimi Busk-Downey.

**Versatility - BUSTER'S LOOSE WOMAN** owned by Sande & Nicole Hirsekorn, shown by Nicole Hirsekorn.

**Trail Pleasure 2 Gait Champion - RAGTIME'S RAZZLE DAZZLE** owned by Unicorn Farms shown by Lorrie Black.

**Trail Pleasure 2 Gait Reserve Champion - I'M PRETTY MAJOR** owned by Julie Woollam shown by Nicole Hirsekorn.

**2 Gait Champion - WHAT AN ENCORE** owned by Unicorn Farms shown by Robert Black.

**2 Gait Reserve Champion - BUSTER'S LOOSE WOMAN** owned by Sande & Nicole Hirsekorn shown by Nicole Hirsekorn.

**Trail Pleasure 3 Gait Champion - CHAPIE'S READY LAD** owned by Lori Dyberg shown by Candice Dyberg.

**Trail Pleasure 3 Gait Reserve Champion - FANCY'S MIDNIGHT PROMISE** owned by Noisy Hollow Acres shown by Rhonda Lemmon.

**3 Gait Champion - CHAPIE'S READY LAD** owned by Lori Dyberg shown by Candice Dyberg.

**3 Gait Reserve Champion - RAG'S FANTASY ROMANCE** owned by Lori Dyberg shown by Lori Dyberg.

**2 Gait Champion of Champions - I'M PRETTY MAJOR** owned by Julie Woollam shown by Nicole Hirsekorn.

**2 Gait Reserve Champion of Champions - Tie - RAGTIME'S RAZZLE DAZZLE** owned by Unicorn Farms shown by Lorrie Black & **PRIDE'S GENERATIN' A FUTURE** owned by Pride's Noble Walkers shown by Rhonda Lemmon.

**3 Gait Champion of Champions - CHAPIE'S READY LAD** owned by Lori Dyberg shown by Candice Dyberg.

**3 Gait Reserve Champion of Champions - FANCY'S MIDNIGHT PROMISE** owned by Noisy Hollow Acres shown by Rhonda Lemmon. (*Promise, shown above with Rhonda, was also Model Champion & Reserve 3 Gait Trail Pleasure Champ.*)

Hope to see you all next year! Come out and support the shows either through showing or volunteering.

**For the complete list of results go to the web site: [www.noisyhollowacres.net](http://www.noisyhollowacres.net).**

Submitted by Rhonda Lemmon

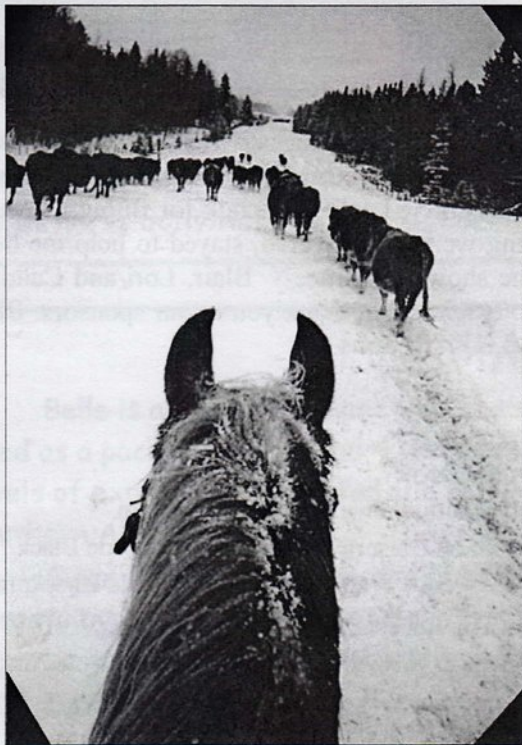


# What do YOU do with your Walkers ?



*Above:* Many of us *try* for that “perfect” photo of our horses. Pat and Stu Pritchard actually *snapped* it one snowy day! Isn’t it an amazing picture?

Photo submitted by Stu Pritchard, Calgary, AB



*Left:* This was the view from the rider’s seat one very cold January day, as Jack Gurnett was helping the neighbours move cattle.

Photo submitted by Jack Gurnett, Bluffton, AB

*Below:* Greg Germscheid drives his team of registered TWH, Diamond, a 14 year old (on the driver’s side) and Mr. A., a 4 year old by their stallion, along a snowy trail.

Photo submitted by Maureen Germscheid, Evansburg, AB



Mail your photos to  
WHN,  
Box 7326, Edson, AB T7E 1V5  
or email [whn@telus.net](mailto:whn@telus.net)





## MORE ON WINTER PAWING

by Stan Potter

Since reading the article about Winter Pawing in the last issue and since some Walking Horse owners may resort to feeding by pawing for the first time this winter, I thought I'd add a few things that I've learned over the six years that I've owned Walkers. For all those years I've fed my Walkers pasture all year long and never have bought hay, except the odd bale for trailering! It came about quite naturally since for the first three years I only had one gelding and 80 acres of pasture to feed him on. Why buy hay with all that grass under the snow?

Previous to owning Walkers I had up to 140 head of sheep. These sheep could give birth to four lambs and nurse them all to weaning if fed properly. But even with all the alfalfa hay and barley they were fed they always went out to dig through the snow up to 2 feet deep to find green shoots that still laid on top of the ground even into March! If you dig down in your pasture you'll discover the same; although the number of green shoots may be significantly less for those in the Canadian prairies who suffered drought this past summer. I've noticed my horses digging with the same vigor as well through up to 3' of snow to get those delectable morsels buried under there! And all that exercise of going out to rustle up their daily meals is very healthy for them. In fact, it's much better than keeping their head in a bale all day long. I bought a Walker who did that and suffered from a wind problem as a result. She was completely recovered from it six months later by feeding this way and has had no sign of it since! She produces some of the best foals I have.

After the first three years of owning Walkers I loved the breed so much I bought some bred mares and continued to feed pasture all year long, but it took a more concerted effort to do it right. If you were to test the grass they are eating under the snow you would find it would significantly drop in value as the winter months passed. To make up for this deficiency I learned to condition score all my horses weekly, and to add rolled oats with canola oil and later soybean meal daily as well. By doing so I could keep them in the condition desired. I should add that I've been informed that some articles have been written stating that oil should not be fed to horses because they are not supposed to be able to digest it. All I can say to that is when it's not added their coat comes down with a severe case of dandruff but when I do add it no such condition appears. It can be very severe if you don't add it to the ration for weanlings and yearlings. I would not supplement pawing with grain and leave out the oil, but if something better is out there I'd be willing to try it too. In all the years of feeding this way I have never had a

case of colic!

I was very surprised last year at how well my herd did on muskeg pasture late last fall. They all continued to gain weight until mid-December. I do like to see them gain weight in the fall and by then there isn't much chance of founder. But I also like to see them slim down by spring as the chance of founder is greatly reduced and by doing this I have not had this problem even though they all eat as much as they desire. You should watch adult geldings and open mares closely however, but allowing them to slim down over winter will help reduce chances of founder occurring when the grass gets lush in the spring. It has not been a problem for me so far. As you observe your herd be sure that they are acting perky. Even on the coldest of days they should have the energy to take off on a run from time to time holding their tails up and acting lively. If they begin acting despondent you should start giving grain or increase the grain they are getting each day. Also get your gloves off and condition score each one every week to be sure you are meeting their nutritional needs.

I mentioned using muskeg pasture and seeing weight gains in the fall even months after the first hard frosts came. Last year I came upon test results by Central Testing Laboratory Ltd. of muskeg grasses here in Alberta. It showed Crude Protein levels for reed canary grass above 10% for dry matter tests, for willows it was 8.9%, sedges were 8.46% and whitetop at 8.27%. The lab received these samples on Nov 16/07. Total Digestible Nutrients as a percent of Dry Matter showed sedges above 60%, reed canary at 58%, whitetop above 57% and willows at 55%. These results can be confirmed by Meghan Ford of Bonnyville, AB at 780-826-7260 or by writing [kspicer@cowsandfish.org](mailto:kspicer@cowsandfish.org). I was very surprised to see that these results confirmed what I was observing in my horses out in the field. Don't underestimate the value of muskeg grasses. Some of you may have fields of this just waiting to fill your horses' bellies!

Continued on next page.

*Star & Rocky enjoying those nice green shoots on Nov 8.*





Since most horse owners who switch to winter pawing feeding this year will do so mainly for cost saving reasons I should mention that to have all your horses' teeth checked is probably not worth the expense. I have never done this to ready them for winter but I would for an individual horse if it failed to gain on fall pasture as it should. After foaling in June, to avoid the late freak Alberta winter blizzards in May, I wean foals off the mares at three months and worm the herd after the first hard frost while removing all bot eggs at the same time. If a horse did not improve in condition after this it should have its teeth checked.

I would not feed with piles of grain once a week as the dominant ones always get more than their share and the weaker ones don't get enough. You can't feed much grain this way either and the dominant ones could overload on a once a week feed of grain. Also once they need to be supplemented they will need grain daily! It is best to halter the entire herd and tie each one to a post starting with the most dominant one and going down the pecking order. Reverse the order when they are done releasing the least dominant first and it should go smoothly for you. Be sure to measure out all the grain needed before haltering and tying them up. Once they are all tied up I feed the most dominant first and go down the line. If any start pawing the ground and acting up I toss a pebble or snowball at them and call their name telling them "No!". They do seem to learn this way. I enjoy working with them throughout the winter, and it allows me to work on the young ones with yielding heads to the side or from the poll, and leading them around.

Depending on the winter I have at times not had to supplement with grain until the beginning of February, but last year had to start in mid-December when a cold blast rolled in. Usually their condition tells me they require supplemental grain sometime in January. This I gradually increase to a full 1 kg (or 2 pound) coffee can of rolled oats with a 500 g (or half pound) sour cream container of soybean meal, and canola oil added to coat the oats. Start with half a coffee can of rolled oats only. Later when adding soybean meal start with half a container of it as well. Wait at least 4 days before increasing. When feeding I carry a number of pails already pre-measured out with rolled oats for the group being fed and dump it out starting with the most dominant first and on down the line. Then I quickly go back and top the oats off with soybean meal. By sometime in March they will need the full ration. By condition scoring them weekly you can keep on top of their needs and respond accordingly. Here in central Alberta you can usually quit the grain around the end of May, but for bred mares I continue until two weeks after foaling in June.

I enjoy watching the herd digging through the snow and getting their daily ration, and calling them in every morning for their grain ration while watching them respond at a gallop. It's a wonderful way to enjoy creation as the sun rises each morning. If you have enough grass to do this it really is a great, economical and healthy way to raise horses. Combine this with trimming their hooves and medicating them yourself, and there isn't a more economical way to own horses!



*Stan lives near Rocky Mountain House in Alberta with his Tennessee Walking Horses (above)*



## ***THE RUNNING WALK OF THE TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE***

*by Eldon Eadie*

**DVD Review by Franne Brandon**

*Concluded from page 17.*

Having heard the terms "diagonal drift" and "lateral drift" since watching the tape many years ago, I found the computer graphs just another interpretation of these concepts, with the added benefit that the graphs showed when an individual horse had drifted too far and was no longer performing the running walk gait.

The DVD *The Running Walk of the Tennessee Walking Horse* belongs in the video library of every serious owner, breeder, and trainer of the flat shod Tennessee Walking Horse who truly appreciates and wishes to understand the natural, evenly timed running walk that is original to the breed. It represents a serious effort to educate the general walking horse public about the signature gait of the Tennessee Walking Horse breed. Those whose main interest is in the show ring gait found in Middle Tennessee, or who are looking for an entertainment video, should look elsewhere.





# **THE RUNNING WALK OF THE TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE**

by Eldon Eadie

## DVD Review by Franne Brandon

In the late 1980's, Canadian Eldon Eadie produced a video on the gaits of the Tennessee Walking Horse, both the ideal middle gait and the others which the breed exhibits. Titled *The Running Walk of the Tennessee Walking Horse*, the video was marketed for a number of years in Canada and internationally, and was one of the few, if not the only, video available with a focus on gait identification rather than training to produce a specific gait. In 2008, Eadie donated the rights for this video to The Canadian Registry of the Tennessee Walking Horse, which is releasing the DVD version of the original videotape in December, 2009.

*The Running Walk of the Tennessee Walking Horse* is first and foremost an educational production. Its purpose, according to Eldon Eadie, whose voice narrates the entire DVD, "is to define the middle gait known as the running walk as executed by the Tennessee Walking Horse." The narrator defines certain terms that will be used so that the viewer understands precisely what they mean the next time they occur in the discussion. These terms are: gait cycle, stride (not to be confused with overstride), natural, a word with many different uses in the gaited horse communities, modifying a gait, and enhancing a gait. Definitions established, the DVD begins its visual task by showing clips of first an English-style trotting horse, then a Standardbred pacer engaged in a harness race. These two gaits are defined as total opposites, with the four-beat middle gaits falling in between them. The running walk, the foxtrot, and the stepping pace are then described in the narrative, as horses clearly demonstrating pure forms of these gaits are presented on the screen for the viewer to ascertain the footfall patterns and general appearance of each gait that corresponds to the definitions.

Following clips of the horses that demonstrate the running walk, the foxtrot, and the pace, the narrator states plainly that "The natural gait of the big lick horse is the pace." With various trainer-established modifications, it is transformed into something that resembles a running walk. He also asserts that the plantation show gait is an unnatural, modified stepping pace. For those who doubt the validity of this statement, Eadie shows his viewers how to identify gait using still pictures. For this demonstration, he uses first the correct hoof

positions, most notably the front hoof in the air at the time the shot was snapped. The running walk is used as the basic example, then the positions that the front hoof in the air have in the foxtrot and the stepping pace. The classic shot used in many Walking Horse show publications for the running walk is indeed the shot that results in a freeze frame of the stepping pace, with the horse's head carried high and the front leg far forward.

Following the basic illustrated gait definitions and demonstrations, the video becomes more technical. The gaits of several different horses are categorized and charted. This information is probably more than most beginning horsemen can understand, and could perhaps confuse even more seasoned breed enthusiasts who ride by the feel and the sound of the gaits. As early as the eighties, Eadie was disagreeing with some breed fanciers who would later insist that the running walk is totally dependent on the horse's conformation. He insists that the gait is neurological, not based simply on conformation. He also warns breeders not to choose overstride as the primary selecting quality in evaluating mares and stallions. His belief is that this factor leads to paciness in breeding stock, which results in foals lacking the natural even timing that is the essential element of the natural running walk.

*The Running Walk of the Tennessee Walking Horse* presents gaits in an ideal setting with good footing and interesting background. Those who ride the trails frequently will realize that even the best natural running walk horse may shift its balance of gait when in rough terrain, going uphill, and heading downhill. In fact, the old walking horse trainers of sixty years ago used just these factors to bring out the latent running walk in horses with tendencies to trot or pace more than was desirable. Today, very, very many naturally talented running walk horses that are blessed (or cursed) with multigaitedness can be forced by rider error, or even preference, to travel exclusively in gaits other than a cadenced flatwalk and a gliding, evenly timed running walk. This style of horse is not addressed in the DVD because it was less apparent in Tennessee when the video was made, and probably not around at all in Canada.

For those who saw the older videotape version of *The Running Walk...*, as I did, the new DVD format brings a pleasant surprise. The colors are sharp and the images are crisp. Even the technical section at the end which plots gaits of various horses with computerized precision was interesting, although this last segment still might not be for everyone!

*(The review is concluded on page 16, opposite.)*



*The classic video on gait ...*



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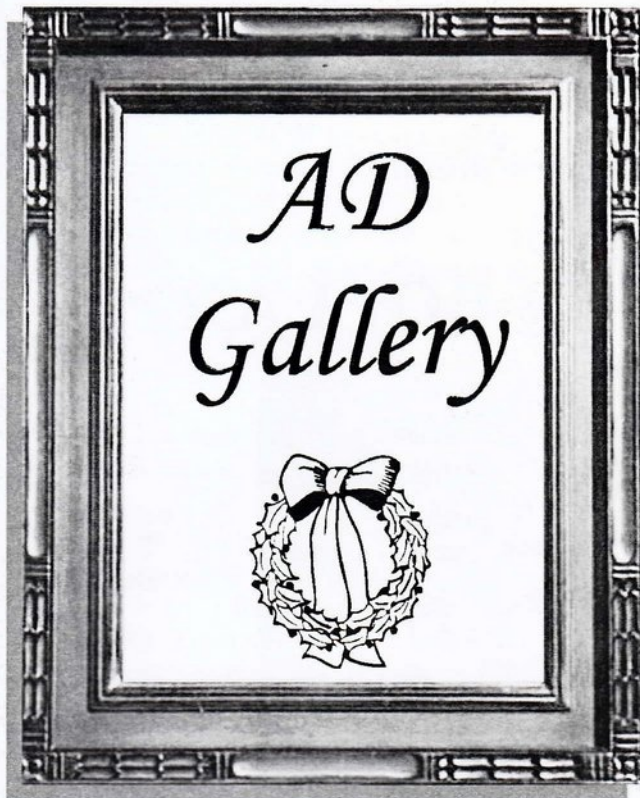
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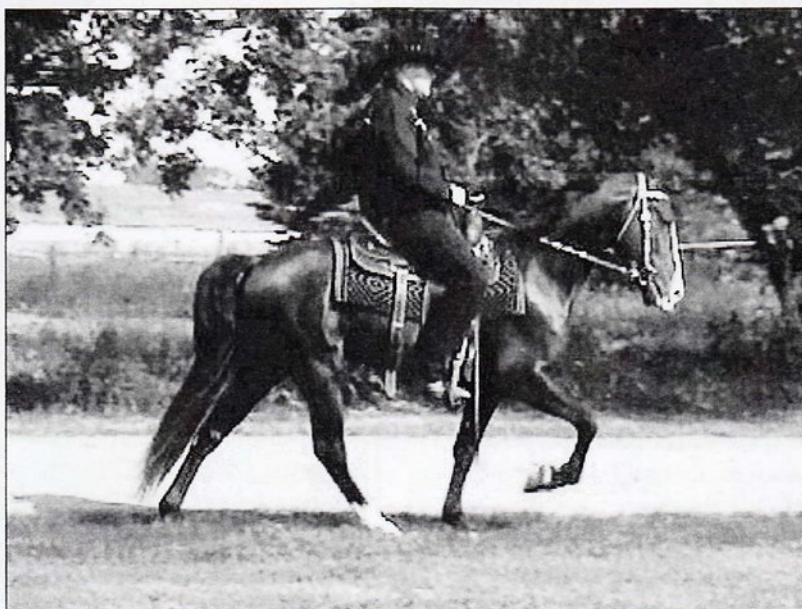
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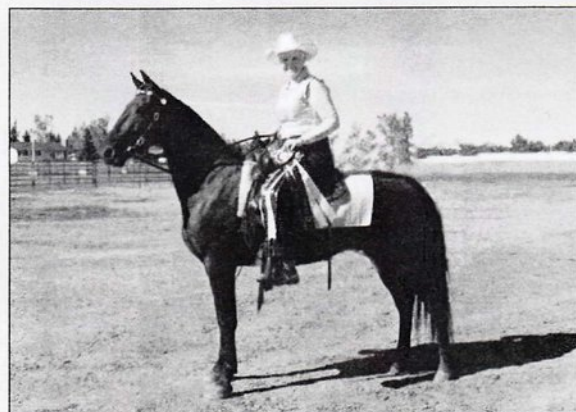
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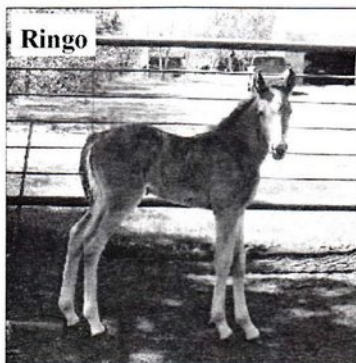
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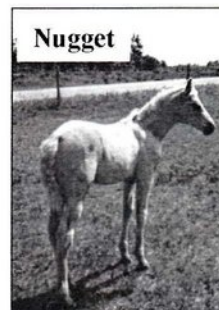


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