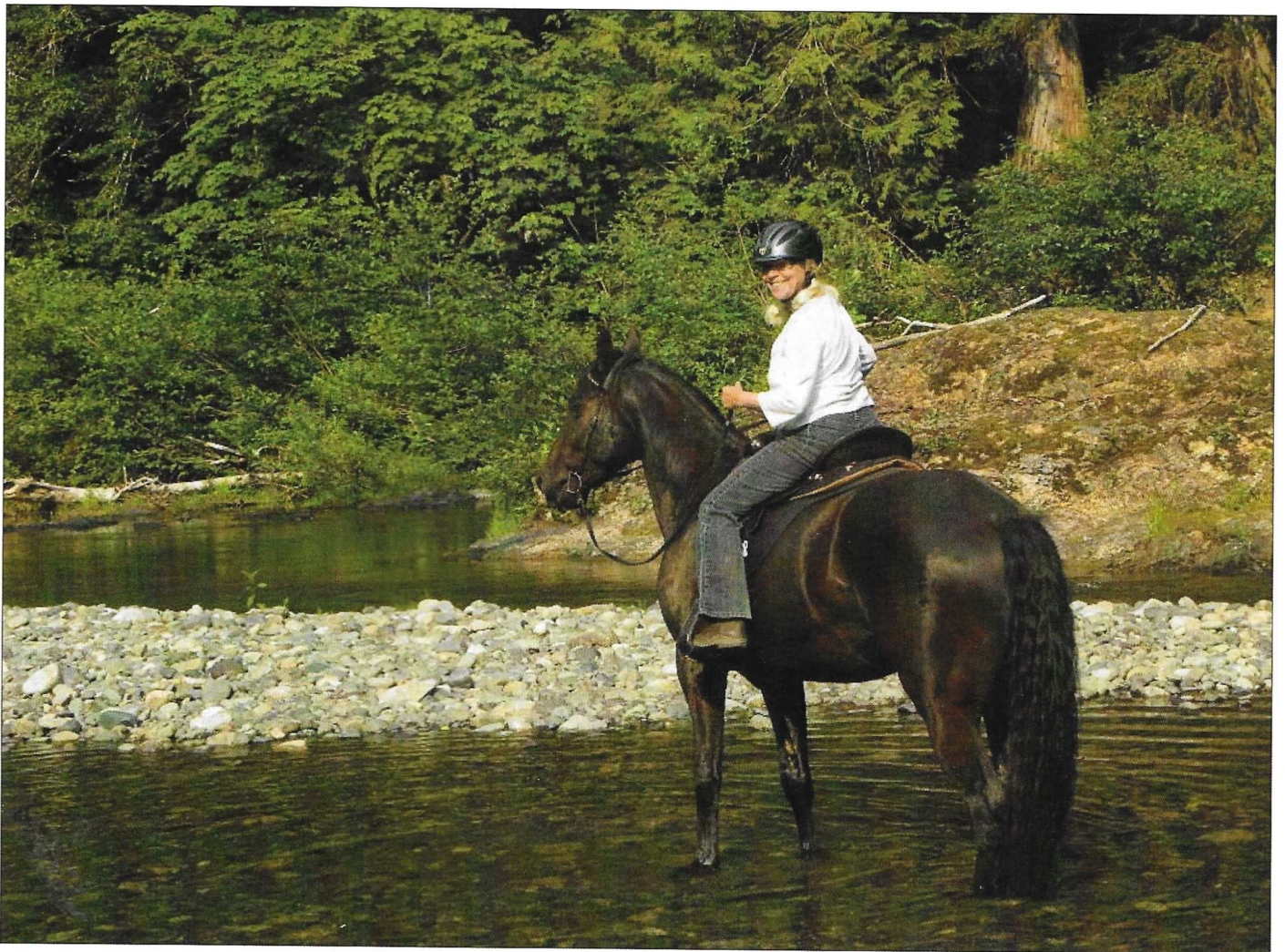


FEBRUARY 2013

VOLUME XXXVII No. 1

Walking Horse

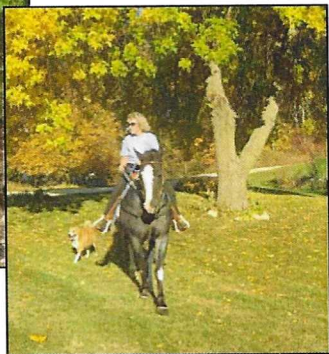
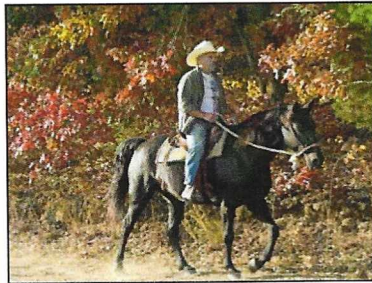
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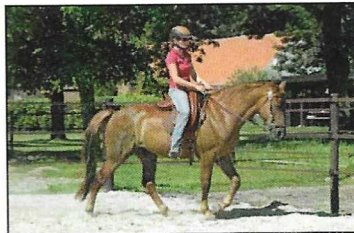
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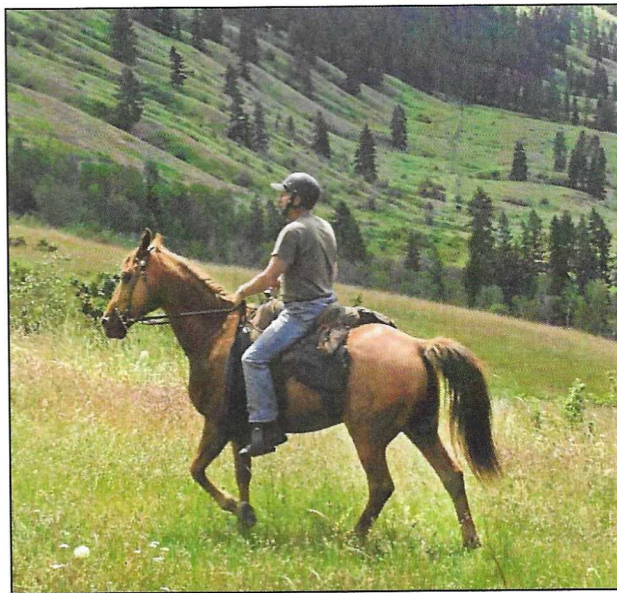
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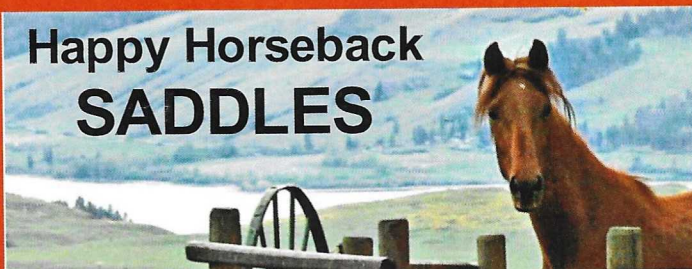
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On Our Cover

Six-year-old Tosh
(Karla's Black Magic
Shadow)
and my friend, Sandy,
are cooling off
in the creek after
a challenging trail ride
which included
walking over the huge
Kinsol Trestle.
I took the photos
while riding Shale
(Karla's Super Trooper).
See more pictures
on page 18.

Photo courtesy of

Laurie Joslin,
Saanichton, BC

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JANUARY 7

**for Mar/Apr issue
MARCH 7**

for May/June issue
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Volume XXXVII, # 1 January/February, 2013

Dear Subscribers,

How are you all wintering? It's starting to feel like
a long one, with all the snow, and temperatures fluctuat-
ing from warm, wild chinooks to bitter cold. But the days
are getting longer and we're almost at the end of Janu-
ary. Before we know it new foals will be arriving!

We are always hearing from folks who want more
information and advice on training their horses. Now Bill
Roy of BC has offered to answer your questions or give
advice about training. So now - all we need are the ques-
tions! Please send them to "Ask A Trainer" and we'll ask
Bill to deal with one each issue. I look forward to hear-
ing from you. This month's question and answer is on
page 21.

I'd like to welcome all the new and continuing
cover advertisers for 2013. I very much appreciate your
advertising, and hope the ads bring you in new business.
And we all enjoy the colour front page that you make
possible.

In this issue, we are very sad to tell you of the
tragic loss of Jack Chapman, who has had a great influ-
ence on the TWH breed in Canada. See page 6. There is
also an excerpt from Rhonda Hart Poe's book, *Trail Rid-
ing*, on page 14, a book I highly recommend. Franne
Brandon takes us back to the fifties on pages 16 & 17,
with stories of White Wilson, the first flag horse at the
Celebration. Check if your TWH has a "Fritsches" con-
nection through Fritsches Merry Boy! And if you have a
young horse out in your pasture, read Allanna Jackson's
"What Do You Do with a Two-Year-Old, pages 19 & 20.

A big "Thank You" to all the subscribers who
bought a gift subscription for friends, relatives, custom-
ers or new TWH owners. That is most generous of you
all, and really helps our circulation. I'd also like to thank
everyone who renewed promptly. It is much less work
for Jo and me when you do. To all of you who sent ads,
news, comments or articles - you are truly appreciated.
There'd be no *News* without you!

Have a Happy, Healthy, Horse-filled 2013,

Marjorie

WHN makes a
great gift!

Walking Horse News

February, 2013

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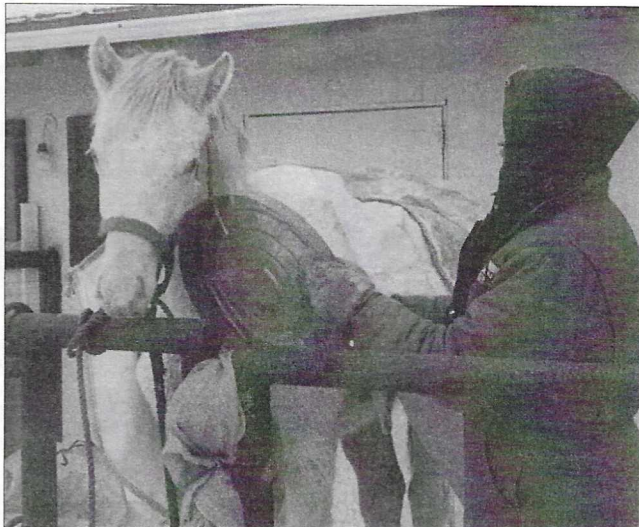
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HISTORY & HERITAGE PROJECT

RUN WALKING ON WITH TOPAZ MERRY GO by Bill Howes, 2012

On June 16, 1993, a foal was born on a farm belonging to Dr. David Schindler and Dr. Suzanne Bayley of Wildwood, Alberta. The dam was Chiffon's Amber Dream, an (amber?) champagne TWH, and the sire was McLaren's Robert. This colt, although he was perfectly made, was an unusual color. His coat was golden, his mane and tail were a mix of white, gold and black. His skin was pink and his eyes were blue at birth but slowly became a golden amber colour, or topaz, by the time he was a long yearling.

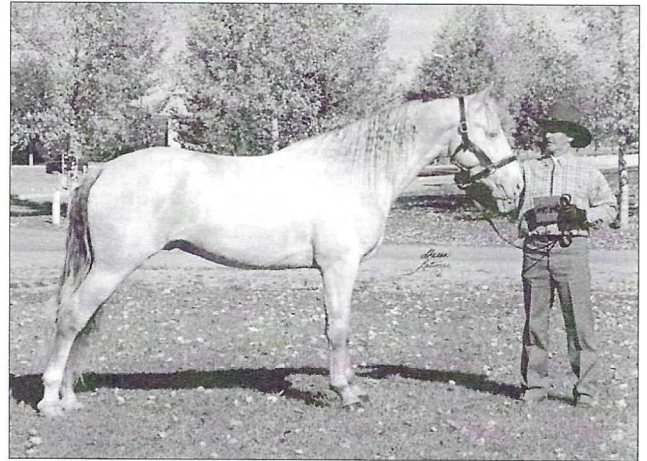
Bill Howes of Ardrossan, AB was interested in a 'horse of a different color'. He liked what he saw in the odd colored colt and bought him on the spot. Weaning and halter-breaking occurred on the same frosty January day that Bill brought the colt home. (Below: Sacking out lessons - Topaz and Bill.)



At the time Alberta Agriculture held a Horse Improvement Show for Alberta bred horses in Red Deer each September. Each breed that participated had a few classes in this two day event, including Yearling Halter, Two Year Old Halter, and Performance Classes for 3 to 5 year olds. All classes were judged by three judges, one of whom was a veterinarian.

Bill traveled with the yearling Topaz Merry Go to compete in the Yearling TWH class and placed at the top in a class of 21 other entries! Returning the following year he once again came home with the top score over a smaller class of 7 or 8 two year olds!

The Horse Improvement Program also awarded Topaz Merry Go the distinction of a SUPREME classification. (Below: Topaz as a two year old with Bill at the H.I.P. Show.)



He went to BC for some training with Cindy Botkin, and to a few shows after that in Alberta, before beginning his career at stud.

TOPAZ stood at Laurindale Stables at Rosalind, AB and later at Shady Lane Stables of Ardrossan, AB. Meanwhile, Winston and Donna Curtis of Winfield AB had been bitten by the champagne bug. They already owned Cee Dee Canadian Topaz, an ivory champagne TWH son of Topaz and liked the excitement of the unusual coloring that he was siring on some of their mares

In 1999 Winston & Donna and Bill came to an agreement to have TOPAZ pasture breed their 16 registered TWH mares and some others. Bill had decided this was the best opportunity to show Topaz's potential as a stallion worthy of some recognition in the future of the Tennessee Walking Horse breed in Canada and at the same time to add a little color. That first breeding season, after being taught his manners by some 20 pasture mares, TOPAZ showed his utter happiness at being there by settling 19 of the 20. Nine foals from that first foal crop proved to be champagnes! Donna & Winston sold the offspring of TOPAZ and their other stallions through their annual production sales. Their marketing efforts showed success by placing TOPAZ offspring all across Canada, as far away as Nova Scotia.

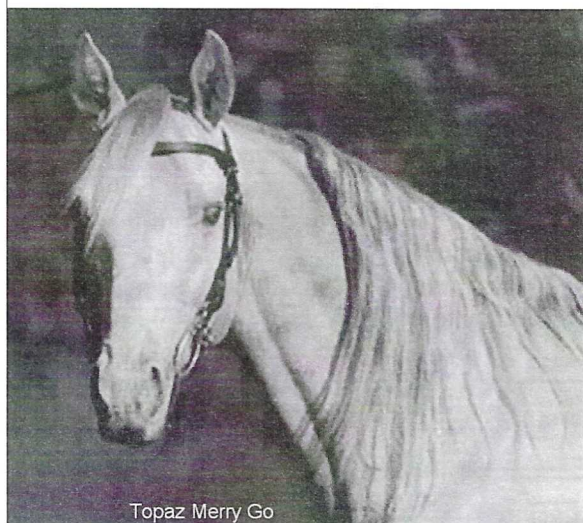
Concluded on the next page

Topaz is unique in many ways. During the time of his involvement in the Alberta Horse Improvement Program (A.H.I.P.), nothing was known of the 'Champagne' gene. One of the three judges involved in his being designated a Supreme Alberta Bred in 1995, was inquiring as to his whereabouts during a phone conversation in 2004/05. I asked why he remembered him. "Because he was so unique!" he said.

It was not until sometime in 1999 that a university in California was able to isolate and identify the dilution gene that became known as the Champagne gene. Subsequently several Champagne registries were formed throughout the U.S. Suddenly all those color descriptions of horses throughout history that somehow just didn't fit the color designation of palomino, light sorrel or 'blond claybank' as Topaz's papers show, were now to have their true color shown as some category of champagne. The TWHBEA registry in Tennessee and several interested TWH people throughout North America started sifting back through old pedigrees and quickly realized and identified the many hundreds of horses that had been incorrectly designated as to color. In our own area of Alberta alone, it became very obvious that champagne is a much sought after choice of color, judging by the number of TWH breeders that now have champagnes in their pastures & barns.

In January of 2000 when Topaz was evaluated and subsequently registered in the Champagne Horse Registry, a personal survey of Tennessee Walking Horses here in Canada, turned up only one other strong possibility and that was a stallion owned by the Youngs of Lac La Biche. It was to be several more years before another Champagne stallion was recognized here in Alberta. To the best of my knowledge it was a horse owned by the Widmers at Okotoks.

Topaz is currently standing in Saskatchewan, where he's been for a few years. Claudia Duncan in Regina has done well with him in cross breeding to Curlys and a few Walkers, but we'd eventually like to have him closer to home prior to our move to Mexico.

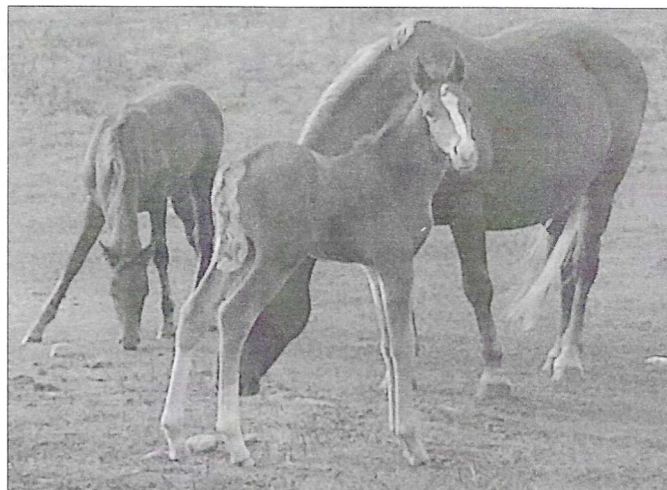


Topaz Merry Go

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ALBERTA NEWS

From LORI DYBERG, WETASKIWIN, "Birth Announcement! Late colt by Heir Trigger out of Neitak's Golden Stardust. Jack Gurnett has been trying for three years to get a colt from this cross for me and here he is. *(Above with sister & aunt.)* Cute eh? I am going to leave him at Jack's until at least late spring. I want him to have that social structure that only a group of mares and babies can provide. I haven't seen him since before Xmas so I'm looking forward to going out this week while it is warm. It was just too cold in December to stand outside and admire him!"

TOPAZ FOR LEASE 2013 UP-DATE

A survey of Topaz progeny today in the CRTWH pedigree records shows almost exactly 50% champagnes in the 50 registered foals to date.

Claudia intends to re-breed her Curly mares to Topaz this spring to continue her successful sales to Germany / Europe.

We hope to be able to lease him to a new home in the Yucatan area of Mexico where we eventually intend to emigrate.

In the meantime there is a period of one to two years where he could be siring more good Tennessee Walking Horses with that exciting potential of surprising and desirable colors in *your* foals.

**If YOU might be interested in leasing
TOPAZ,**

the "Horse of a Different Colour"

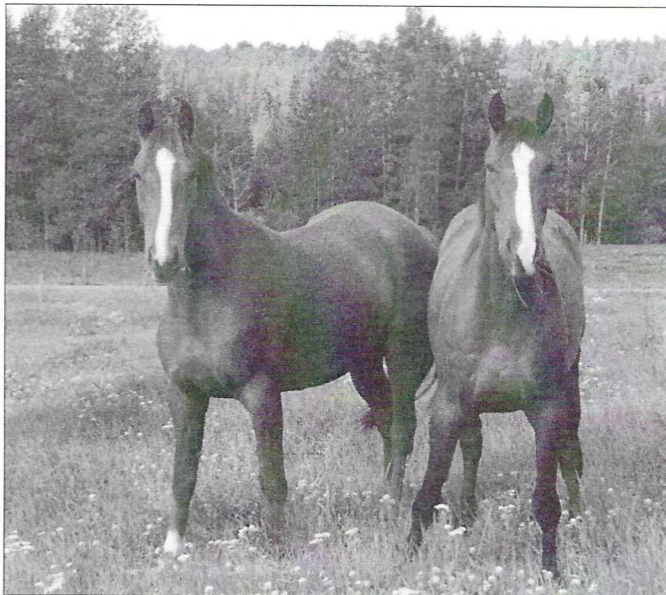
contact

Bill at jackspad@shaw.ca

NEWS - NEWS - NEWS

ALBERTA NEWS

AMY LAUZON, CAYLEY, writes, "Thought I'd touch base before we leave for Florida (to ride our other horses ... of the Harley variety!) The Full Monty went to his new home with Fritz Kaufman of Potosi, Wisconsin the end of November. Fritz is 70 years young and says Monty will be his "retirement" horse. It's funny - both Monty and Donny G went to "retirement" homes. Met Deb Johnson (the hauler) of Niobe Valley Ranch, Innisfail, in the parking lot at Deerfoot Mall, Calgary, to send Monty on his way south and literally, stopped traffic. (Monty didn't mind; just got out of my trailer and climbed right into Deb's.) Fritz will be the envy of all his riding buddies! Please send him a complimentary copy of the *Walking Horse News*."



From SUSAN BANKS, "Dad (Jack Gurnett) and I have sold two Northfork Top Traveller geldings to a very nice gentleman, John Larson, and his wife and daughter. We are pleased to sign them up for a year's subscription to *Walking Horse News*. The Larsons purchased Traveller's Velvet Patch #3375 and Northfork Travelling Topaz #3446. Patch and Topaz are "best buddies" here on the farm and will now get to stay together in their new home. I am sending a picture of them, *above*, taken last summer. The one on the right is Patch and the one on the left is Topaz, as we call them.

MANITOBA NEWS

From KEITH DOLL, DOUGLAS, "Just got my *Walking Horse News* and realized that another year has flown and it is due again. How time flies. Next week the days will start getting longer again."

"We've had a pretty good winter so far (to 16 Dec.). About a week of cooler weather and with cold winds but it has warmed up again. I was out snow shoeing today (-4 degrees) and there's only about 6 - 8 inches of snow. There's still a lot of grass. The horses paw about half a dozen times and then eat for five minutes. Still green grass under the snow."

"I finally came to the conclusion that I don't have the stamina or energy I had 50 years ago (!) so I've been downsizing. I sold my covered wagon, harness and the big team, and have only six TWH "babies" that I raised left. I kept my single harness and cart. I have a buddy making a set of skis for the cart so maybe I'll try driving summer *and* winter."

"I was quite pleased to read Karen Barker's story. I am so glad that Diamond Snipper has such a good home and that they bonded so well. Another good "Doll bred" Walking Horse! And thanks to Hilton Hack for the high recommendation that he gave Karen."

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MARES

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2002 CHESTNUT MARE, #2831, well started.

2012 FILLIES by UPHILL HEIR TRIGGER.

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PALOMINO FILLY, dam is Chapel Belle.

GELDING:

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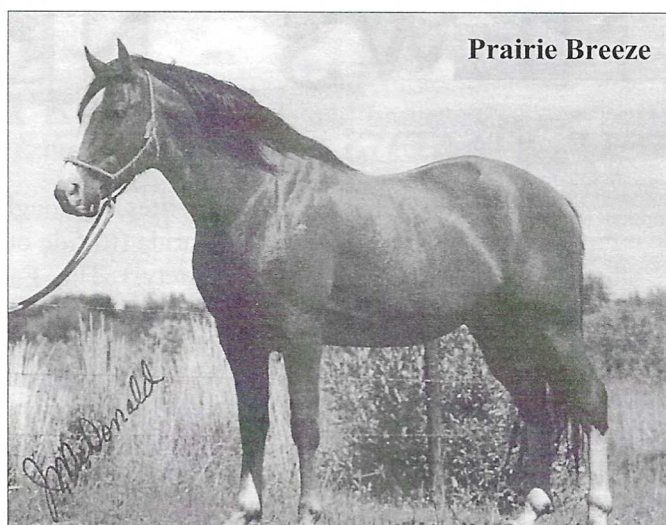
Please call **Jack Gurnett**
403-843-6124 early morning or evenings.



Jack O' Rourke Chapman 1920 - 2013

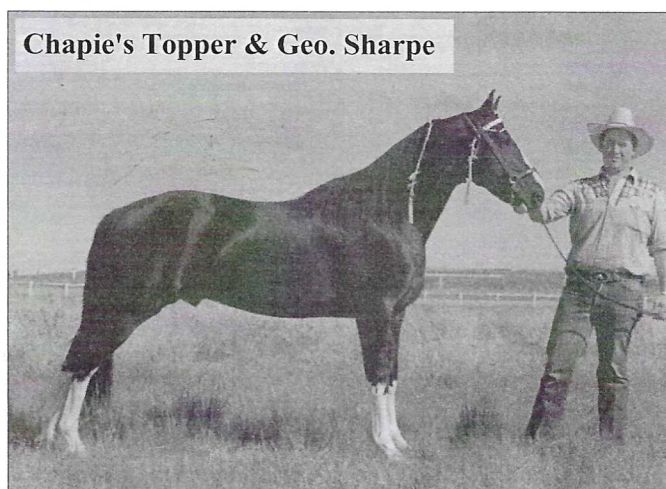
Our Canadian Walking Horse community has lost a pioneer and staunch supporter with the passing on January 1, 2013 of Jack O' Rourke Chapman of Stettler, Alberta. Jack was a pioneer breeder of Tennessee Walking Horses. He was also the most senior of the Canadian Registry's Century Partners, having been born in 1920. Countless people in Western Canada became interested in Tennessee Walking Horses through Jack's influence over the years.

Many, many horses carry his bloodlines and the colour he loved - the chestnuts with high stockings. His foundation broodmare (and trusted saddle horse), Shadow's Lyrical, was the dam of four stallions influential in the breed in Canada - Prairie Breeze, Chapie's Topper, Darkie's Last Chance and Chapie's Shadow King. As well, Jack stood one of the first purebred, registered Walkers in Alberta with Rhythm O' Rolling Hills, as well as other well known sires such as Laddie's Monte Ray, King's Stormy Mist, Tim's Blue Canadian and more. During the 1980's and 1990's, Jack had one of the largest Tennessee Walking Horse herds in Canada. Look at *your* Walker's papers and there's a good chance that you'll see a horse there with the Chapie prefix he used for the past 30 plus years to name the registered TWH that he and Madeleine bred. Jack will be sorely missed by all who knew him. Our condolences to his wife and family. *M.Lacy & J.McDonald*



Prairie Breeze

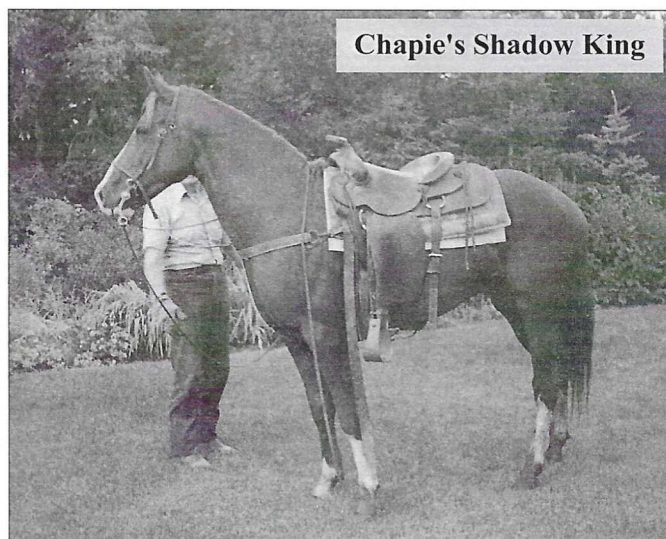
PRAIRIE BREEZE #93 (aka Chinook) (Laddie's Monte Ray x Shadow's Lyrical) was born in 1973. He sired over 50 registered offspring, and died in 2008.



Chapie's Topper & Geo. Sharpe

CHAPIE'S TOPPER #262 (King's Stormy Mist x Shadow's Lyrical) - a noted Canadian Futurity winner.

CHAPIE'S SHADOW KING # 1254 (Tim's Blue Canadian x Shadow's Lyrical) sired over 30 reg'd TWH.



Chapie's Shadow King

NEWS from our U.S. SUBSCRIBERS

ALLANNA JACKSON, LAKESIDE, AZ writes, "This morning Cinnamon demonstrated the kid-friendly mentality she inherited from Koko by giving a little girl from church a ride for her ninth birthday present. I led Cinnamon, with the little girl aboard, into the forest and around one of our usual shortest loops by Scott Reservoir. Cinnamon was on perfect behavior and gave the girl a safe trail ride. It's the first time anybody but me has ridden Cinnamon. When the girl's mother asked about a horseback ride for her daughter I didn't even have to think about which mare could be trusted to do it."

"Velvet entertained the mother and little brother by dashing around in the corral while we were gone. I was reading in the latest Reader's Digest last night about the US military's efforts to train soldiers to be more mentally resistant to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. The article mentioned a study that neuroscientists have done on rats, in which it took only a few generations to selectively breed strains of rats for either a very bold temperament or a very timid temperament. Then, with proper conditioning, they could train the extremely timid rats to a confidence level that's within average for rats, but they could not teach them to behave like the rats that had been bred to be bold."

SHELLIE PACOVSKY, SLUSH CREEK WALKERS, BAINVILLE, MT writes, "It's been some time since we have written. Life here in this part of eastern Montana is not like it used to be. Our little corner of the world has been affected by the Bakken Oil Boom. There are people everywhere! Our main marketplace, Williston, N.D. has had its population quadruple, and now has nearly 45, 000 people. That kind of population explosion only 26 miles away brings its own unique set of problems. But enough about that and on to horse news!

"We still stand Slush Creek's Jubal S. He is nearly 22 years old now and doing well. We have done a little research and found that, except for his sons, he is the only stallion with an unbroken top line to the incomparable Hill's Perfection (Reyclif Mid-Merry 561395). We also own Delight's Midnight Legend, a 23 year old grandson of Midnight Sun and Sun's Delight D. Last but not least is The Little Red Rascal, a son of Bud's Sterling Bullet and grandson of Red Bud's Rascal. All three are certified by The Heritage Society. Believe it or not, we *are* trying to slow down and have only four mares bred for the spring of 2013."

"We lost Miller's Princess late last summer. She was the last of our original eight Calvin Miller mares. We do have several replacements out of the Miller mares and Jubal in our broodmare band, so those lines will continue."

"Some fun, exciting things have happened too. On November 5 Lehman's Black Dixie, 24 ½ years old, foaled a bay filly. We were quite surprised as we do not have any artificial lights or anything. Even our vet was surprised. But both mother and filly seem happy and healthy! In other news we have sent three mares to the Dominican Republic – two Slush Creek's Jubal S daughters and one by The Little Red Rascal. Also early this fall we shipped SCW Penelope Candice to France. She is a Jubal daughter in foal to Delight's Midnight legend. From what we understand, "Penny Candy" is one of approximately 15 Tennessee Walking Horses in France, and when she has her foal in spring it will be the FIRST Tennessee Walking Horse born in France. "Penny Candy" did her quarantine and caught her flight to France from a place in Calgary, AB called "Overseas Horse Services". These sales just go to show that there is still a demand/market for well bred, naturally gaited Tennessee Walking Horses."

MODEL HORSES FOR SALE

- Breyer # 60 Midnight Sun** w/ original box and 1979 catalog.
- Breyer # 67 San Domingo** w/ original box and 1979 catalog.
- Breyer # 103 Sandy Bay Appaloosa** Yearling w/ original box and 1976 catalog.
- Breyer # 165 Appaloosa**, Lying Down Foal w/ original box and 1973 catalog.
- Breyer # 174 Appaloosa Indian Pony** w/ original box and 1974 catalog
- Breyer # 183 Palomino Rearing Stallion.**
- Breyer # 190 Black Bucking Bronco** w/ original box.
- Breyer horse model - Charcoal Grey Belgian** (same pose as model #84), tail is missing.
- Hallmark Carousel Horse 'Star'** with original box.
- Plastic Horses:** Mare 6 ¼" tall & foal 3" tall. Factory charcoal grey color. **4 hand-painted 4"** tall in various natural colors.
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READERS WRITE

On Saddle Fit, Bitless Bridles & Helmets

From **IAN GREEN, BOWMANVILLE, ON:** In a previous issue of *Walking Horse News* I was surprised to read that an instructor was advising her students to move their saddles four inches forward. I had seen the same advice in the *Western Horseman* magazine some decades ago, and find the matter very interesting.

As the horse's body is not the shape of a symmetrical cylinder, I fail to see how this can be done either to fit the horse properly or be comfortable for the horse. Should a breast collar be required to keep the saddle in this place, I feel that the horse must be uncomfortable. I would also be concerned that a large saddle might well put pressure on the scapula.

It pleases me to know that there are people who realize the fact that many saddles do not allow the rider's weight far enough forward. Some readers may recall I addressed this in *WHN* some twenty years ago.

About forty years ago the Simco Saddle Co. offered a saddle they called "the forward seat". The seat area of this saddle was simply set more forward on the saddle tree – a simple means to put the rider's weight more forward. This, of course, is the answer, but I have no idea if any such saddle is available today. I did see one in a tack shop.

It can be argued that there is only one place on the horse's back where the saddle can fit properly and be both safe and comfortable for the animal. This position does not allow any linear movement and is of course in the same spot on all horses. Saddle makers for centuries have striven to provide saddles to sit in this exact spot. My own strong feelings on this subject can be best expressed by relating my experience with a beautiful lightweight Eamor saddle I used on a nice Appy I had about forty years ago. Please believe me when I say that I could have gone riding on this saddle and left the cinch in the barn! I never used a breast collar. The cinch always seemed to be tight enough when I tacked up but was always very loose after a short while. People would stop me to say there was daylight between the cinch and the horse's belly, but I never stopped to tighten it while out. At the time I used to ride a lot in disused gravel pits which offered some very steep gradients but I never found the saddle to move. I used to demonstrate that I could mount and dismount with the cinch this loose.

Obviously this saddle was a perfect fit at the exact spot that Mr. Eamor intended it to rest. The gentleman must have been a master at his profession. It would of course have been unthinkable to try to set this saddle in any other position.

Viewed in profile it is obvious that many saddles simply defy any chance of the rider sitting more forward. So many have a large sloping swell toward the pommel which coupled to often forward-hung stirrups force the

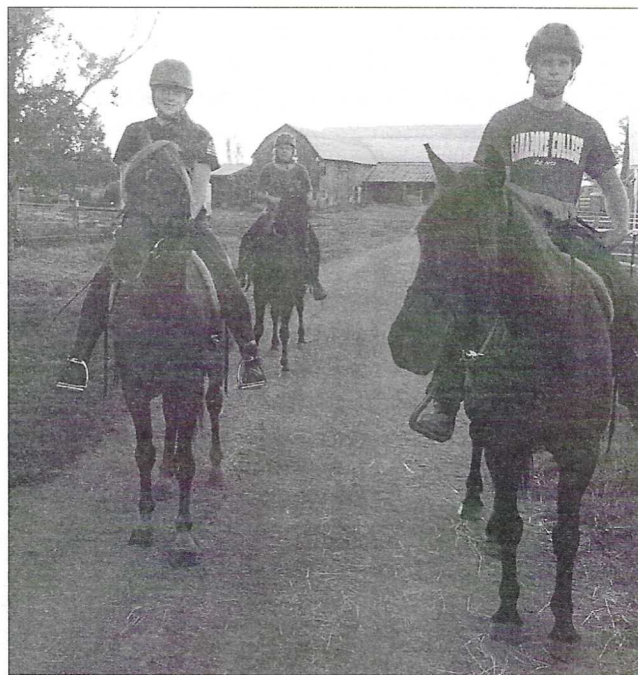
rider to the back of the saddle. Wise old horsemen used to say that if the horse evaporated, the rider should land on the ground, standing on his feet. This would NOT be the case with many riders I see!

Now, for the bitless bridle as newly defined. I seriously advise anyone who would try this device on any horse with plenty of life to choose the location of said trial with great care. In my fifty years of work with horses I have had two run away with me when I tried to change from curb to snaffle bits. One didn't even wait for me to find the off stirrup; the other waited until we got half a mile from home after a long ride.

An experienced lady rider I know told me she was quite unable to evaluate a Walking Horse she wished to buy simply because the seller insisted she use one of these bridles. She said the horse seemed to be at the point of becoming uncontrollable all the time.

It would seem that the bitless bridle is certainly not a "one size fits all" device. Of course, there are lots of horses one can ride with nothing more severe than the halter. Have done it for miles. Incidentally, both my run-aways were TWH!

Finally, may I voice concern at the number of photos in horse magazines of very small children being perched on horses. They do look cute - but I can assure you that the little girl I saw on the ground with her front teeth poking through her top lip did not look or sound at all cute. There were three people "looking after" this photo shoot, no doubt on the proverbial "bombproof" horse. But I must stop, as I am growing cynical...



RON BOUWERS of **BELLEVILLE, ON**, sent this photo of his family starting out on a trail ride last summer. Dylan is on (Cee Dee's Melody's) *EBONY* on the right, Mariah on *HOLIDAY*, the rescued gelding on the left, and Judy on (Tracker's Kennebec) *BEAUTY*, centre. What a lot of fun!

ILSE KETELSEN, ROSSBURN, MB writes, "Thought I'd let you know what we have been up to with our Walkers. The top picture is Dana Meise on Kit n Kaboodle riding with Thomas and our son, Ray in the Riding Mountain National Park. Dana is travelling the Trans Canada Trail from the East Coast to the West Coast by foot (over several years) and passed by Rossburn this year. He stopped for several days here to take in the historic sites and lakes, and we showed him our end of the National Park via horse back. You can even find a short video on YouTube of his ride."

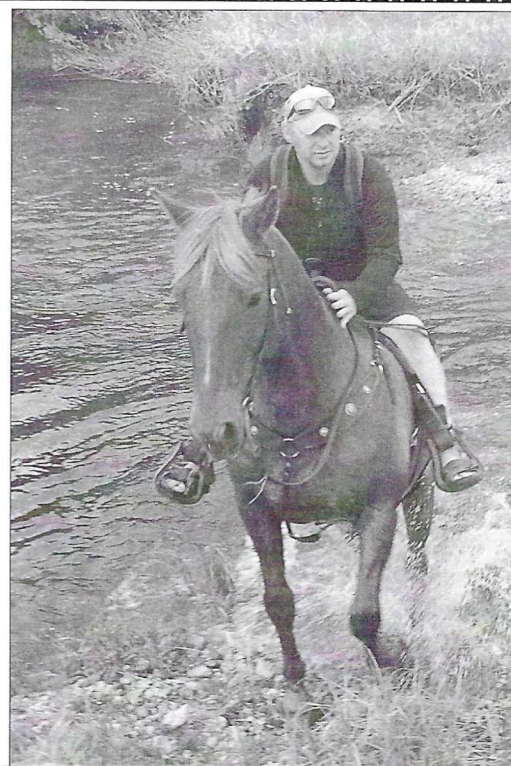
"The second and third pictures are from the annual parade at Fair Day. Opposite is 9Finger Ranch leading the parade with Thomas (left, with MB flag) and Ray (on right with the Canadian Flag) as flag bearers."

"On the third picture below right you see from left to right, Thomas on Drifter, granddaughter Daphnee on Apache, son-in-law Yannick in the background on Twosocks, friends Sandra on Ladybug, Nicole on Charlie, and hidden behind her, granddaughter Sarah on Melody, our only Welsh Pony, and son Ray on Kit n Kaboodle."

"In 2013 the Parade will be extra special as Rossburn is celebrating its Centennial. Consider this as your invitation to come and participate, and show what Tennessee Walkers are all about! It will be on July 1st (with activities going on for a full week) and we do have a few RV spots/corrals available at our Ranch. As well we can organize a ride into the Riding Mountain National Park the next day!

Do contact us at www.9fingerranch.com if interested. 9 Finger Ranch is also on Facebook; come and 'like' us."

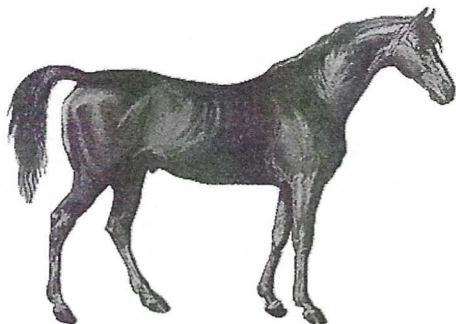
What Do YOU Do With Your Walkers ?



HORSE HEALTH HINTS

THIN HORSES

by Marjorie Lacy



This is not a problem I've had with many of my 'good keepers'. But it can be a serious problem for many animals, and I've heard from several people who are very worried about their horses' failures to thrive. So what are the reasons why a horse gets thin?

I read a very good book entitled *Horsefeathers*, written by a veterinarian. He addressed this problem of thin horses by saying that a **thin horse was, nine times out of ten, simply not getting enough to eat**. And that is true, whatever the reason WHY. So the first thing to do when your horse is losing weight and looking poor is to assess just what it IS getting to eat and increase the total calories available to it.

Sometimes the cause is obvious. A mare nursing a foal needs an immense amount of feed to supply both her own needs and the foal's. When the grass in the pasture matures or becomes grazed down, the mare may not be able to eat enough to maintain her weight *and* feed the foal. The shortfall will come from her own body reserves and she will start losing weight. I found out how fast this can happen a few years ago, and it was a shock to me. One of my mares who had always been TOO good a keeper lost weight drastically over a few weeks. I couldn't believe how fast she'd gone down in condition and even feared that she was sick with some horrible wasting disease. I hadn't realized how thin she was partly because she'd put on her winter coat and I hadn't actually gone up to her and run my hand across her ribs for a couple of weeks.

So the first thing I did was wean her colt, then separated her from the rest of the herd. I started pouring the hay to her, pretty well free choice. Luckily I could put her where she was close enough

to the others not to fret, but where none of them could bully her away from her feed. She had been getting a mineral supplement so I continued that. Once her udder shrunk and her milk dried up, I also began giving her a small amount of oats with bran and cooking oil (canola in this case) added. This was slowly increased until I felt she was getting the maximum I could safely allow her, given in two feedings per day, along with some alfalfa pellets to bring up the protein content. I had the vet check her teeth and de-worm her.

Nevertheless, it was some time before she was back to normal body condition. So a horse can get thin a lot faster than it can regain the weight, and the lesson is - take action **before** your horse is thin.

With foals and young horses, it can also be a matter of *not enough feed*. These youngsters can go into a growth spurt and become thin seemingly within days. Here is where you really need to know the feed value of your hay. Mature grass hay is fine for grown horses but is a poor feed for growing foals. You can bring up the protein content of the forage if necessary with added alfalfa pellets or cubes. As for a supplement, Les Burwash of Alberta Agriculture suggests that you use a commercial ration for foals, such as Frisky Foal, instead of grain. These foal rations are balanced for the energy, minerals, protein and vitamins a youngster requires. Fed according to the directions on the label, along with good to excellent hay, your foals should show a nice even growth curve. Keep a close eye on your young horses, and if one isn't doing as well as the others, take steps right away to see that he gets more feed.

A good article entitled 'Pack on the Pounds' by Holly Endersby in the October 2003 *Western Horseman* listed seven common causes of thinness in horses which I'll enumerate here: (Comments after each one are mine.)

- 1) '**INADEQUATE FEED**' – an 1100 lb horse needs roughly 1.5 to 2.3 percent of his body weight per day of total feed, depending on his condition & the work he is performing. Nursing mares may need as much as 3 percent. Horses also need more feed in cold weather, and if they are already thin going into the winter, they will need even more.
- 2) '**PARASITES**' – are a very common reason for thinness so remember to deworm regularly.
- 3) '**DENTAL PROBLEMS**' – Watch your horse eat. Dribbling or slobbering grain or quidding hay or grass can mean that her teeth need care.

4) **'SOCIAL FACTORS'** – This is often not recognized, but if one or two horses in the herd are doing poorly, it may be that they are being kept away from their share of the feed by more aggressive or dominant herd mates. Very old or young animals are particularly likely to be bullied. Observe the horses.

5) **'STRESS'** – Horses kept in stalls or away from other horses may fret and weave, stall walk or pace up and down the enclosure, effectively burning off all the extra feed you can supply. This is particularly common in stallions kept alone during the breeding season. Trying to find a solution to his loneliness is a challenge. Even a non-horse friend may help.

6) **'BARN MANAGEMENT'** – Supplying the feed where it will be eaten, not fouled or trampled, can help both the horse's weight problem and save feed. Feeding in a trough or manger may avoid losses of up to 20 percent.

7) **'DISEASE'** – Many diseases will cause weight loss. Check with the vet if your horse's weight and appearance don't improve after you've taken all the above steps.

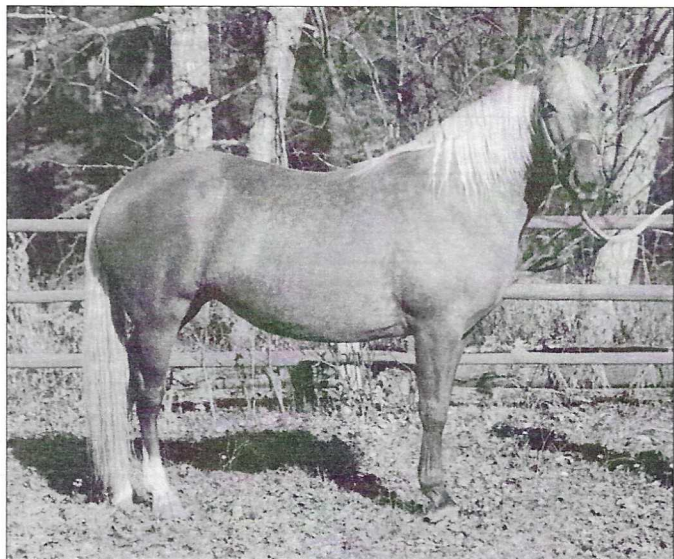
"The eye of the master fattens the cattle".

Good luck with keeping your horses in trim,

not thin
condition.

For more on horse feeding & care, contact Alberta Agriculture at 310-0000 for information on their excellent horse care handbooks.

Also see the articles in the S/O 2002 and N/D 2001 *WHN*. For more on body condition of horses, see Jan/Feb 2002 *WHN* p.13, Description of the Body Condition Score System. (The above was reprinted from *WHN*, 2003.)



UPHILL PENNY BY CHANCE, just off pasture, and illustrating a horse that is definitely *not* thin. She might even be considered *too* plump and well favored!

BOOKWORM CORNER

KINDRED SPIRITS

I've been reading a book called *Kindred Spirits* by Allen M. Schoen, DVM, MS. In it he goes into the bond between animals and humans, and how various alternative healing practices like chiropractic, acupuncture and touch therapy can also help animals.

He has also written *Love, Miracles and Animal Healing*, which sounds interesting too.

THE NATURE OF HORSEMANSHIP

Bill Roy is reading another book by Mark Rashid that he recommends highly. It is *The Nature of Horsemanship*. He was also immersed in a book by Dr. Temple Grandin, who gave the Alberta SPCA Fred Pearce Memorial Lecture address at the Horse Breeders and Owners Conference in Red Deer, AB in January this year.

GAIT 'FROM THE GROUND UP' CLINICS

If YOU and your friends would like to have a CRTWH clinic in your province or area, please contact Dianne Little or Bill Roy or any of the Directors.

The Board has approved up to four clinics for this year - providing clinicians and helping out with expenses. A local organizer will need to find a venue and publicize the event in their area.

We'll contact members through *Walking Horse News*, e-mail and Facebook.

*Let's hear from you
if you'd like to learn more
about your Walkers,
their gaits and how to find
the most enjoyment with them.*

Dianne Little 403-271-7391

Bill Roy 250-838-2066

or any of the CRTWH Directors -
See contacts on *The Canadian Walker*, page 13.



CANADIAN REGISTRY OF THE TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE

SCHEDULE OF FEES 2013

1. MEMBERSHIP		Fees
a. Full Membership (Individual, Family, Corporation, Partnership - Canadian residents.) Voting, member fees apply		\$25.00/yr
b. Individual Life Membership (Individual). Voting, member fee schedule applies		\$200.00
c. Youth Membership (Individual, under 18 years of age). Non-voting, member fee schedule applies		\$10.00/yr.
d. Associate Membership (Individuals, organization, groups - Canadian Residents). Non-voting, non-member fees		\$15.00/yr.
e. Non-Canadian Resident Membership. Non-voting, member fee schedule applies		\$35.00/yr.
f. Non-Canadian Resident Lifetime Membership. Non-voting, member fee schedule applies		\$250.00
2. REGISTRATION OF FOALS or HORSES NOT ALREADY REGISTERED	Member Fees	Non-Member Fees
a. Within 12 months of foaling (PLUS add DNA fee - see 6a below)	\$40.00	\$80.00
b. After 12 but less than 18 months of foaling (PLUS add DNA fee - see 6a below)	\$60.00	\$120.00
c. After 18 but less than 24 months of foaling (PLUS add DNA fee - see 6a below)	\$125.00	\$250.00
d. After 24 months of foaling: (PLUS add DNA fee - see 6a below) <i>Non-refundable fee of \$125.00 if application is rejected.</i>	\$300.00	\$500.00
If the sire and/or dam of the unregistered foal (or horse) is not registered with CRTWH, submit a photocopy of both sides of the parent's U.S. registration certificate along with the foal's registration application.		
3. REGISTRATION OF HORSES ALREADY REGISTERED in U.S.	Member Fees	Non-Member Fees
<i>Applications must be accompanied by a photocopy of both sides of the U.S. certificate</i>	\$45.00	\$90.00
4. TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP	Member Fees	Non-Member Fees
a. Within 1 month of date of sale	\$20.00	\$40.00
b. After 1, but before 3 months of date of sale	\$30.00	\$60.00
c. After 3 months of date of sale	\$50.00	\$100.00
5. ALTERATION OF CERTIFICATES ISSUED	Member Fees	Non-Member Fees
a. Change of colour	\$20.00	\$40.00
b. Change of gender (gelded)	\$15.00	\$15.00
c. Death of a registered horse (<i>certificate will be returned</i>)	\$5.00 credit	No charge
d. Change of Name: <i>Provided animal is no more than five (5) years of age and has no registered offspring. Subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. Submitted fees are non refundable if application is rejected.</i>	\$50.00	\$100.00
6. OTHER SERVICES	Member Fees	Non-Member Fees
a. DNA Hair Analysis Profiling for an unregistered foal. DNA kits are available from CLRC. Pay CLRC for DNA kit when registration application is submitted.	\$75.00	\$100.00
b. DNA Hair Analysis Profiling for a Registered animal: CLRC Request form for DNA kit is required. Pay CLRC when application for DNA kit is submitted to CLRC.	\$75.00	\$100.00
c. DNA Profiling for a Registered animal from blood stored at Maxxam Analytics. Submit fee with a letter of request stating the name & number of the animal to be DNA profiled, & 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 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** Toll free **1-877-833-7110**.

The CRTWH accepts either Blood Typing or DNA Hair Analysis Profiling for parentage verification.
Both parents must have blood, or both must have DNA records on file for the foal to be parentage verified.

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



The Canadian Walker

Volume 12, Issue 1

www.crtwh.ca

www.facebook.com/crtwh

February, 2013

CRTWH EXECUTIVE

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780-768-2250

president@crtwh.ca

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250-838-2066

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AB Marjorie Lacy

780-723-2547

BC Ralph Livingston

250-764-4482

The Canadian Registry of the Tennessee Walking Horse
will hold its

2013 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

on **May 11 at Klondike Victory Farm** west of Red Deer, Alberta.

Further info to follow. Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend.

As in previous years, we will hold a clinic that same weekend of May 11-12.

This year it will be a

GAIT FROM THE GROUND UP Clinic with **Bill Roy and Dianne Little**
with an emphasis on **Trail Tune Up** for the new or experienced horse.

Book early. Space is limited.

Please phone Dianne at **1-403-271-7391** or email treasurer@crtwh.ca

2012 AMNESTY

Congratulations to all those owners who took advantage of the amnesty to register or update ownership of their Walkers. You can now show off your registered horse, duly recorded in your name, with pride.

Quite a number of TWH were registered or transferred through this amnesty from March 1 to December 31 last year. And as well, there are still many owners who applied within the December 31/12 deadline and whose applications are still in process.

Apparently the Kentucky lab, that is the only one still doing blood typing, restricts this service to twice a year in spring and fall. So for those who required blood typing to parentage verify their animal, there has been a significant delay.

This is another good reason to be sure your mare's DNA is done and on record with CLRC before you breed her. And be sure the stallion you take her to is DNA profiled as well. Blood & DNA don't mix when it comes to parentage verification!

Questions? Call CLRC 1-877-833-7110 or contact one of the directors.

MANE EVENT 2013

The Mane Event will be held at The Westerner, Red Deer, AB

April 26, 27, 28, 2013.

CRTWH will have a booth there so MEMBERS - volunteers are needed!

Please contact Dianne Little at **403-271-7391**

if you can help set up on Thursday, or help in the booth on Friday, Saturday or Sunday.

Volunteering is a great opportunity to meet with other TWH owners and introduce people to the benefits of owning a Canadian registered TWH.

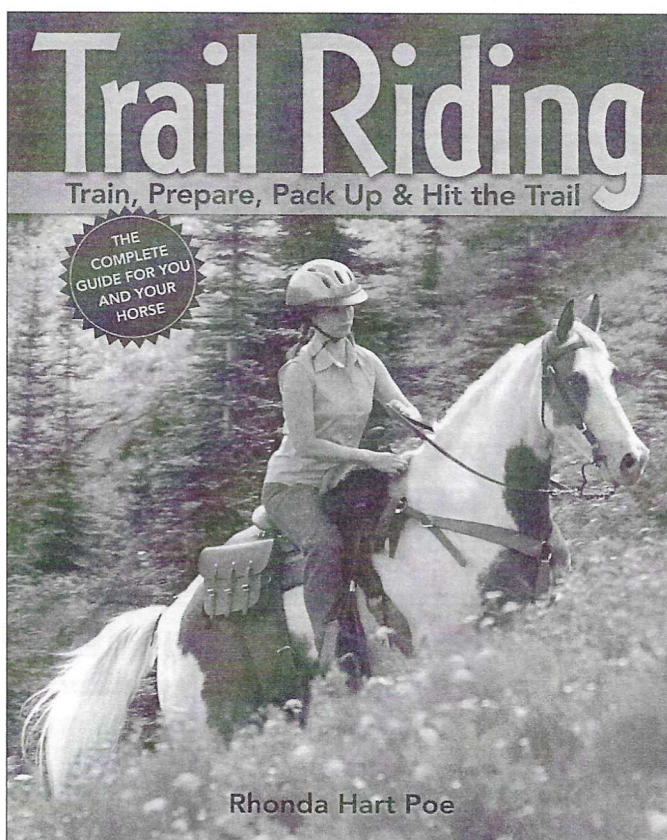
REMINDERS

Renew your CRTWH membership for 2013.

Ride/Drive Program Participants - send in your hours to Fran Kerik at president@crtwh.ca or Box 505, Two Hills, AB T0B 4K0.

Register your 2012 foals before their one year old birthday for the lowest rates.

Reserve May 11-12 to attend the AGM and the Gait & Trail Tune-Up clinic.



GAITERS VERSUS TROTTERS

Listen to the “party line” of a lot of the gaited horse associations and you’ll be told that the horses can go all day in gait providing smooth comfort to the rider with no adverse effects to the horse. That’s one of the great selling points of gaited horses. It would be even better if it were true.

There are several things wrong with this idea. For one, any animal – human, hamster or horse must be in physical condition to “go all day” doing anything. A sedentary horse that hits the trail for an all-day ride will be just as achy and cramped from gaiting as from trotting. Second, the quality of gait, and thus its effect on the horse and rider, varies from individual to individual. Just as the speed, stride and stretch of the gallop varies from racehorse to racehorse, so too does the comfort and caliber of any of the multiple saddle gaits from horse to horse. Finally, due to the nature of the horse’s carriage in certain gaits, some gaits are just hard on the horse – period. Horses that are ridden relentlessly in certain gaits are almost guaranteed to break down over time because of the constant stress to back muscles and supporting structures.

Before any gaited horse should be conditioned

in gait, he should be “legged up” with long, slow distance training at the walk for at least eight weeks and should be in good overall condition. Horses with strong, well conditioned muscles are much less likely to tire and break gait once they begin gaiting under saddle. Conditioning improves gait training as much as gait training improves condition.

Pushing a horse for too much gait can have immediate effects as well. If a young, inexperienced, poorly trained or tired horse is pushed too far in gait, the quality of the gait will quickly deteriorate as the horse searches for the least stressful way to carry his body. He may pace, trot, or mix up gaits that you can’t even recognize. Nobody chooses to ride a gaited horse for a rough ride, but over-conditioning in gait can lead to a horse that learns to carry himself improperly.

That doesn’t mean that you can’t condition a gaited horse to cover miles of ground in superior comfort to both of you. Remember that most gaited horses can do more than just the gait their particular breed is known for, and some gaits are harder on the horse’s body than others. So even though your gaited horse may offer you only one gait today, you can improve his condition tremendously by encouraging other gaits and teaching him to respond on cue with the gait of your choice so that you can alternate gaits during conditioning, as well as while on the trail. This allows one group of muscles to rest while alternative muscles take the strain of motion, which many believe gives well-trained, well-conditioned gaited horses a definite edge in trail endurance.

Because working in gait can be demanding on a horse’s body, those truly knowledgeable in gaited horses recommend not training hard in gait until a horse has fully matured, roughly until the age of five to five and a half years. Until then, it is advised to work young gaited horses in varying degrees of the walk (dog walk, flat walk, fox walk). Advance to gait work a few minutes at a time, gradually building up until the horse can maintain his gaits for longer periods. I know this flies in the face of what you will see in the show world, but your horse’s long-term soundness is a pretty fair trade-off for the rushed, “time is money” approach that dominates that scene.

(I thought the above would be valuable info for anyone with TWH or other gaited mounts. We’ll continue with more from Trail Riding next issue. MCL)

Excerpted with permission from **TRAIL RIDING, Train, Prepare, Pack Up and Hit the Trail** by Rhonda Hart Poe. Published in 2005 by Storey Books, it is widely available in bookstores and on-line. The above is taken from the chapter *Principles of Conditioning*, pages 97 to 98.

READERS WRITE...

STAN POTTER, FERNANDINA BEACH, FL writes, "I just read your article by Juliet Getty about adding oil to a horse's ration. While raising Tennessee Walking Horses in Alberta I added canola oil to their diet in the winter to keep them from getting a dry and flaky coat. I either read or heard from someone at that time that a study had been done showing oil was not digestible by horses. However, it was obvious from the horse's healthy coats that they were digesting it just fine."

"Now I'm living in Florida with the same Tennessee Walking Horses and have returned to using oil for different reasons. The only hay grown down here is coastal hay but it lacks in nutrition compared to northern hays like timothy, orchard and brome which might also be mixed with alfalfa. So I'm able to increase fat levels by adding canola oil once again. But it was a lot cheaper in Alberta. Only this time instead of doing it for a healthier coat it is to put some weight on them. Although it's too early to tell for sure but it does appear to be working."

"It sounds like winter came early in Alberta and stayed this year. I was actually there for my daughter's wedding in October when the snow arrived! Down here in FL however the warm humid weather doesn't know when to quit. Here it is December 11th and we're putting up the tree, but I still come home each day from doing chores with my clothes soaked with sweat!"

From **ANNA GADICA, MELVILLE, SK**, "Hi, I'd like to thank Judy Taylor of Pritchard, BC for taking the time to send the information on the Ultra-Kelp supplement. I checked out the website noted, and decided to try it. As there are no suppliers in Saskatchewan for Ultra-Kelp, I am fortunate that the company is willing to ship it directly to me. I expect its arrival any day. Judy, thank you again very much!"

IAN GREEN, BOWMANVILLE, ON writes, "I have never made any comment about the cruelty inflicted on the extreme show horses. You must know the contempt I hold for the people concerned. It escapes me how showmanship was allowed to replace horsemanship. It is sad that even the U.S. government cannot do enough to prevent this misuse of our beautiful animals."

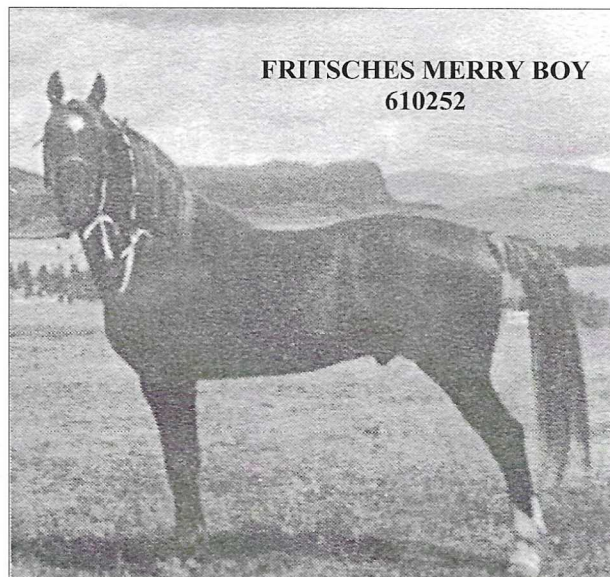
DEBBIE & DAVE SMITH, MAPLE RIDGE, BC wrote, "We decided not to renew *WHN*. We are in the middle of moving - people and horses."

SUE GAMBLE, SWASTIKA, ON writes, "Well, wasn't that just the "Surprise"! Thank you for featuring Koko's Smokin' Surprise on the cover of the last *WHN*. Here is the story. Dave picked up the two copies of *WHN* at our mail box but didn't look at the covers. When he got home with the mail he delivered both copies to me on the couch with my 4:00 o'clock cup of tea. I asked him if he had looked at the cover (seeing as I already knew what was on it.) He was blown away! Never has any one received a *WHN* with their horse on the cover with such disbelief, enthusiasm, and appreciation before! His quote was that it was "the best Christmas present ever". He has treated Koki like a rock star ever since."

"Just one omission - We should have given Christal Hanuszcak credit for the cover picture as she did the photo shoot of my horses. Thank you so much, Christal."

From **CLAIRE CHRISTENSEN, VERNON, BC**, "Thank you for sharing that note from Marion Taylor about the Barefoot Saddles. It is always nice to hear positive feedback. We also carry the bitless bridles fashioned after the Dr. Cook's model. It is the only bridle I use and I know Bill also uses it extensively."

I had a phone call from **DR. MARK SLOAN** of the Edson Chiropractic Clinic here in EDSON, AB. He was commenting on the article by Dr. Juliet Getty on feeding fat to horses, and how important it is to watch the balance of omega 3s and omega 6s. Dr. Sloan also does equine chiropractic work.



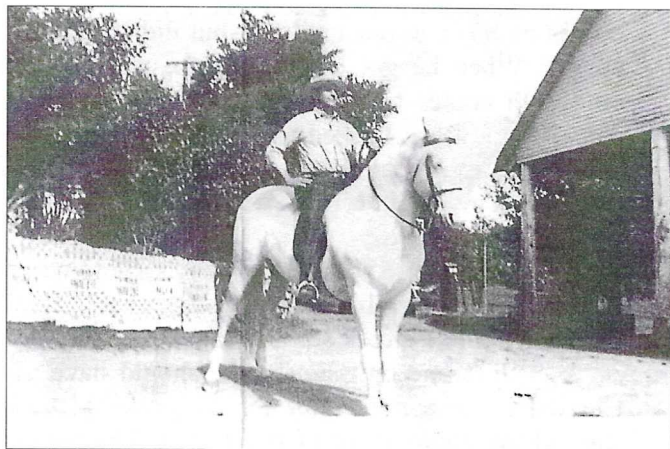
FRITSCHES MERRY BOY
610252

Purchased by Pearl Tompkins, MT from Leland C. Fritsche, Shelbyville, as a two-year-old. See Franne Brandon's Foundations article on pages 16-17.

From Foundations to the Future

HOORAY FOR THE RED, WHITE WILSON, AND BLUE

by Franne Brandon



White Wilson & Leland Fritzsche at Toby Green's stables.

Leland C. Fritzsche and his wife Nora settled in the small Middle Tennessee town of Shelbyville, Tennessee. Nora Fritzsche was the head nurse at the town's hospital, and she did private duty nursing as well. Leland did not have a job directly following the move. He took a position selling Maytag washing machines and Singer sewing machines door to door. In those friendly days in the thirties, people invited the salesmen into their homes willingly for the demonstrations, and even if they did not buy a machine, they fed them lunch. Eventually, in 1938, the Fritzsches had a baby girl that they named Flora. They were firmly established in the town, with Leland finding his niche as "The Farmer's Friend" dealing with animal nutrition.

It was in 1939 that the community of Shelbyville held the first horse show for Tennessee Walking Horses, designed to promote the area as well as the horses that were popular in that era. Baby Flora attended that first show. Later, Leland, Nora, and Flora were often at the barn of trainer Fred Walker, who was a family friend. Walker was the trainer of Harlinsdale Farm's contender, Midnight Sun. While little Flora never rode Sun, Walker would take her with him when he rode out on a mare to bring in the cattle. Flora had her own pony and she liked to go on horseback. The size of the horse did not faze her. The Fritzsches also had a box seat at the Celebration, which at the time was being held behind the high school in Shelbyville. They were in their box, waiting for the contenders for the 1945 World Grand Championship to enter the ring, when Fred strode by on the big, black Midnight Sun. Little Flora began crying because Fred did not stop, pick her up, and let her ride into the competition with him and Sun.

Fred's horse won the World Grand Championship that night. As still happens, family and friends, including the Fritzsche family, went back to the barn with him to "celebrate" the Sun's victory as the first stallion to be crowned World Grand Champion Tennessee Walking Horse. After a while, Mrs. Fritzsche realized that little Flora was missing. Everyone began searching, until they found her inside Midnight Sun's stall, moving around the big stallion's legs and petting him. Flora Fritzsche was perfectly safe with the stallion, who would often during his lifetime pose with small children on his back.

Eventually, Fritzsche's love of the walking horses led him to purchase two of them. One was a white yearling stallion. The other was a mare named Merry Easter. Merry Easter was a quality mare but with a quirky disposition. She remained the Fritzsches' property for a number of years, and when they moved from a home near the new Celebration grounds to the big house with barn in the back and acreage on East Lane Street, Easter was bred. As the mare's term approached, Mr. Fritzsche noticed that she was about to foal and ran to find a vet, leaving Merry Easter with his wife, the trained nurse. Miss Nora recalled after the event that "Merry Easter just laid over and said, 'I'm tired. You take care of it.'" Nurse Fritzsche had years of experience in human medicine at this time, and knew how to deliver a baby, but she had never studied equine medicine. She saw two tiny hoofs emerging and thought the foal needed turning. However, she was afraid of Merry Easter's quirks and did not intervene. By the time that her husband returned with the vet, the deed was done, and the curious new foal was up and actually interested in its mama's foaling attendant.

At the time that Fritzsche made his horse selections, Sam Stanfill was the County Extension agent, and he had a barn on North Main Street. The white yearling stallion, named White Wilson, was stabled at the barn, where he was eventually broke to ride. Gentle, sensible, easy to train, the horse was still never shown at the new Celebration grounds that had been developed to provide a permanent location for the increasingly popular horse show. Instead, he became Fritzsche's personal trail and riding horse. Fritzsche and the stout white stallion were seen all over town, and Fritzsche would often stop and give rides to the children who were watching the horse's progress. The pair were local ambassadors for the breed with youngsters who might not have had other chances to ride. The white stallion also carried his owner on trail

rides at farms in the area. He had perfect manners, so that there were no issues when he was ridden with mares, geldings, and even ponies with children in the saddle.



A 1951 Ridethon on the Charlie Elbem farm on Chestnut Ridge. Betty Sain, centre, on her pony Champ, her brother on a borrowed mount to her right, dad Henry Pearl Sain on Honeygirl to her left, Leland Fritzsche on White Wilson behind the pony, the three Hines sisters, and two other unidentified riders in the back. From Betty Sain's files.

Leland Fritzsche was a very patriotic American. He was the son of immigrants, his father being from Germany, and his English mother having come as part of the Great Experiment that was Rugby in East Tennessee. In 1951, Fritzsche decided that the growing Celebration needed a special flag ceremony to express the patriotism of those holding the show and those attending it. And what better display of patriotism could there be than a white horse with rider bearing the Red, White, and Blue? For weeks, Fritzsche, by this time the local Purina horse feed dealer, practiced with his white stallion in the Celebration arena, a Purina feed sack on a pole substituting for the flag, as recorded in the original edition of Biography of the Tennessee Walking Horse.

In the chapter titled "The National Celebration", the author relates that the "stately white stallion named White Wilson paraded around the arena each night to open the show – for five nights – proudly carrying a champion rider with the American flag. It brought cheers and tears to thousands..." The riders that first year were Carl Edwards, Steve Hill, Winston Wiser, Fred Walker, and Urban S. Small, Jr. " (Biography, p. 162)

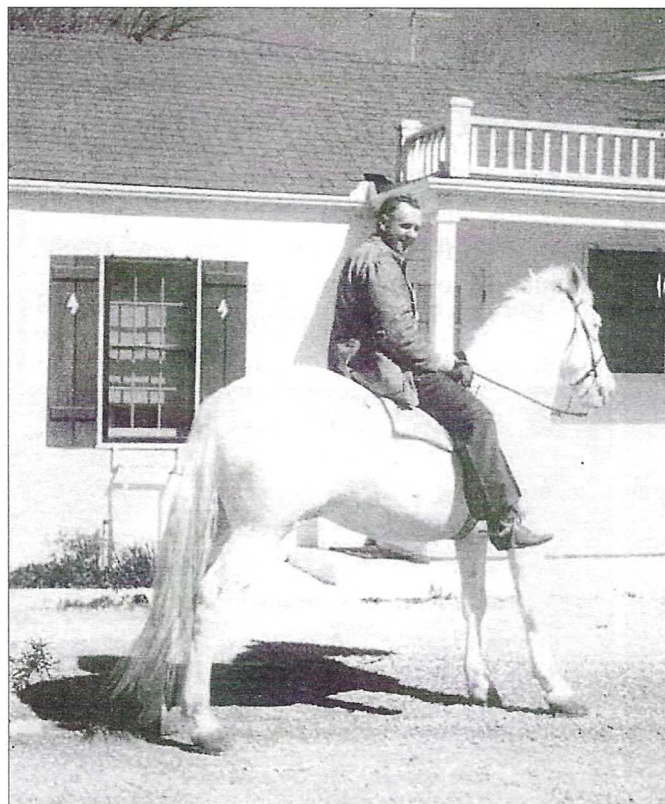
L. C. Fritzsche was a friend of the author of Biography, Shelbyville editor Ben A. Green. He'd encouraged Green to write the book to celebrate the Centennial of the Tennessee Walking Horse breed and then to begin publication of the magazine Voice of the Tennessee Walking Horse. In the November, 1963, issue of the new magazine, Green used his editor's column to pay a special tribute to his friend, thanking him for his assistance and encouragement over the

years. He calls Fritzsche "probably the best known Purina Dealer in the Southeast". (p. 4)

White Wilson claimed the role of official flag horse for the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration for several years. While he was performing this duty, he sired three foals, a colt and two fillies. Through his daughter, Ray's Flowing Stream, and her offspring, most notably Go Boys Rock-N-Roll, the genetic contribution of White Wilson continued forward into the 21st century. The stout stallion was eventually sold to a new owner from North Carolina, according to Biography, but Breeders' Association records have no indication of the change of ownership. In the fifties, association rules did not require the owner to transfer the papers to the buyer. So the handsome stallion White Wilson and his famous owner remain forever linked in the history books and the breed's historical records as a pair, a team, an equine unit responsible for a tradition that continues proudly over sixty years at the world's largest Tennessee Walking Horse show.

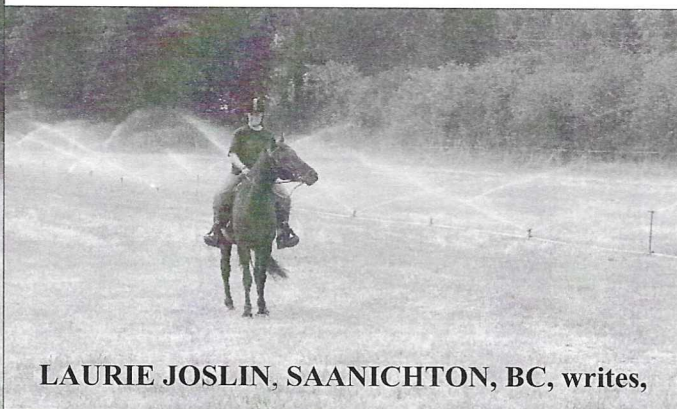
Wouldn't it be wonderful if a flatshod white horse could assume that role once again?

White Wilson and L.C. Fritzsche during a ride around town in Shelbyville.



The author would like to thank L.C. Fritzsche's daughter, Flora Barber, and her husband Donald, for sharing their family's walking horse history with Walking Horse News readers.

What Do YOU Do With Your Walkers ?



LAURIE JOSLIN, SAANICHTON, BC, writes,

Here are some photos of my Tennessee Walking Horses. I am very happy with them. I have to ride right on the road here at times and the drivers are not very horse savvy, so I'm thankful that they are so calm compared to other breeds.

The pictures of the irrigation sprinklers (*above*) show "Shale" (Karla's Super Trooper), 6 years old, walking right alongside those noisy, water-shooting pipes without a blink of an eye.

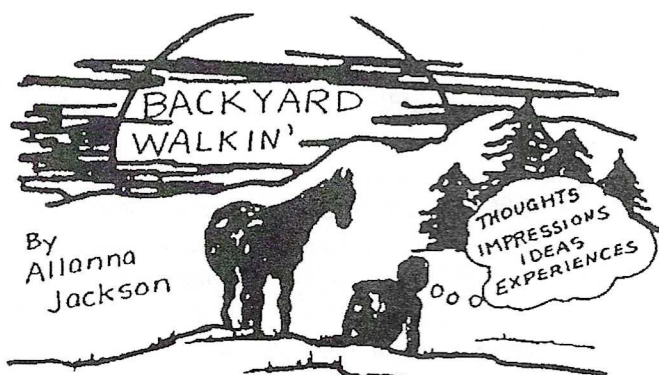
I am so thrilled to have such a brave and calm horse.

Below is my 6 year old, Tosh (Karla's Black Magic Shadow) with my friend Sandy up while I take the photos riding my Shale.



Left: They are cooling off in the creek after a very challenging trail ride which included walking over the huge Kinsol Trestle.

The photo of both horses, Shale & Tosh together with me (*above*) shows us starting our walk across the Kinsol Trestle.



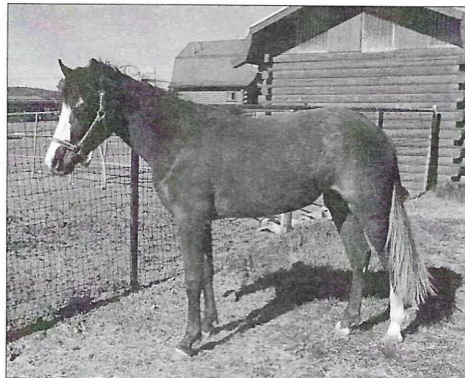
WHAT DO YOU DO WITH A TWO-YEAR-OLD?

Copyright June 2012 by Allanna Lea Jackson

In many forms of equine competition, both racing and show, two-year-old horses are expected to act and perform like full-grown horses. Often in such competition the horses are arbitrarily assumed to have been born on January 1, despite the fact that more foals are born in spring and summer than in mid-winter. These competition schedules almost require that the horse be started under saddle as a yearling. The notable exceptions to the practice of riding yearlings are the sports of Endurance and NATRC Competitive Trail, because they do not allow a horse to compete in the easiest levels of the sport until 48 months, a full four years after the horse's actual birth date. Horses cannot enter open competition in these sports until they are a true 60 months or 5 years old.

Why this two or three year difference in when a young horse is started under saddle? The reasons for starting horses as yearlings are primarily economic. We all know raising and keeping horses is expensive, so the rationalization is, the sooner the young horse can begin earning money in competition, the better. This assumes that the juvenile horse will stay healthy and sound while being pushed to the limits of its physical and mental capabilities.

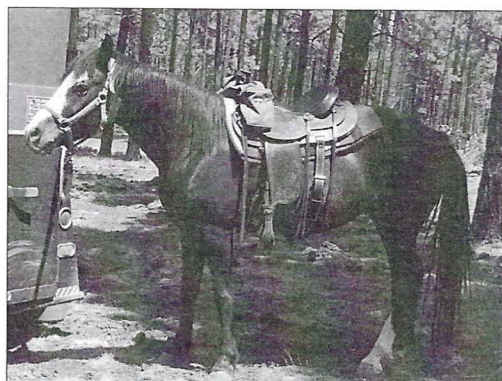
Very few equine sports offer enough prize money for a horse to earn a profit. In sports that do pay large prizes only a very few



horses can earn that prize money.

When we look at the two-year-old horse (*below, left, Cinnamon at two years*) compared to a 10-year-old horse (*Below, Cinnamon at ten years of age*) we can easily see that the two-year-old is still a baby. Though two-year-old horses are capable of reproducing they are still adolescents who have not attained their full height, and are mentally and emotionally still juveniles. It is commonly assumed that when the bones of the horse's knees have stopped growing the horse is ready to ride. However, the hock joints continue developing until the horse is four years old and the vertebrae of the spine may not be fully grown until the horse is seven or eight years old. The age requirements for the Endurance and Competitive Trail sports are based on these facts about the physical development of horses. The age restrictions are intended to protect the long-term health and soundness of the horses competing in these events.

Pleasure horses and trail horses that are not being used for competition are not subject to any rules about what age they are started under saddle. Walking Horses have always been a long-lived breed and today it is becoming common for horses of all breeds to live 30 years or more. A young horse that is managed properly and started at three and a half or four years of age is quite likely to remain sound enough to ride at age 25 or more. Some horses that are ridden as yearlings or two-year-olds *may* remain sound this long. However, the younger the horse is when it is ridden and the harder it is worked at a young age, the more likely it is that horse will develop soundness problems while still in the prime of its life. Waiting to start the young horse under saddle at three or four years instead of two years may add 10 or even 15 years to that horse's working life. This is not only better for the horse but it gives the owner that many more years to enjoy riding the horse. Managing the horse to keep it sound and healthy as long as possible also costs less than



treating and managing chronic, incurable hoof, leg, or back problems for half the horse's lifetime.

Continued
→

If you *don't* ride the horse until it is three or four years old, what do you do with it between weaning and age three? People who have always ridden fully-trained, well-mannered, experienced horses may take it for granted that a horse is easy to catch and halter, leads well anywhere, stands tied, accepts grooming deworming and vaccinations, loads and hauls in a trailer, is easy to saddle and bridle, tolerates dogs, motor vehicles, bicycles, and children and travels calmly down the road or trail. However, none of these things come naturally to the horse and many of them are contrary to the horse's instincts.

Despite thousands of years of domestication horses are not born with the skills they need to cope with our 21st century society. Every foal must be taught how to be a good equine citizen in the world of people. Centuries of domestication has selected horses that are mostly capable of coping with our world, but every safe, reliable, enjoyable horse was carefully taught everything it knows by a person, or several people, with patience and good horsemanship.

The Canadian Registry of the TWH Training Level Challenge starts with a basic skills test that the horse must pass before it can challenge any other test in the program. The horse must be at least 18 months old before it can challenge the basic skills test. This is an accurate indication of how long it takes for a young horse to learn all of these skills and develop the emotional and mental maturity to do them consistently. Whether your horse is 2, or you've just acquired an adult horse that is new to you, an evaluation of the following essential skills will help you assess the horse's training and suitability for pleasure and trail riding.

Can you easily catch and halter the horse in a stall, paddock and pasture? Does the horse lead easily and respect the handler's space when walking beside the handler and behind the handler? Does the horse lead as well from the right side as it does from the left? Does the horse stand tied quietly for grooming? Can the handler easily move the horse over while grooming? Does the horse cooperate with having all four hooves picked up and cleaned? Does the horse accept being touched all over including its ears, mouth, under the tail and its sheath or udder? Can you hose the horse's legs? Does the horse calmly accept being dressed in and wearing leg

wraps, tail wraps, head protectors, blankets, fly masks, and a saddle and bridle? Can you lead the horse down the road or on a trail, through gates, up and down hills, across water, over logs, bridges or tarps and around other animals, other people, machines and strange looking or noisy objects? Will the horse lead or 'pony' respectfully beside or behind another horse? Does the horse back-up easily in response to light pressure or no pressure? Can you move the horse sideways a step or several steps with light pressure or no pressure? Does the horse know how to turn on the forehand and turn on the hindquarters in response to little or no pressure? Will the horse load safely into a horse trailer, haul well, and unload safely? Will the horse calmly accept being hobbled or picketed or tied to a high-line?

These skills are part of the basic gentling and halter training that every domestic horse needs to learn to be a safe and useful horse. A trainer must teach the horse all of these things working in-hand on the ground to prepare the horse for riding and more advanced training for a particular sport or use. As we look at this list we can see that it really does take two years for even the most willing and intelligent of young horses to fully master all of these skills.

Whether your horse is 2, 12, or 22, has it been taught to be a good equine citizen, or does it lack some of these skills? Taking the time to give the two-year-old horse a solid basic education will increase the enjoyment and safety for the horse, for you, for vets and farriers, and for everyone else who handles that horse for the rest of its life.

The above was first published in
Walking Horse Journal, July 2012.
The Training Levels list of Basic Skills
can be found on the CRTWH website
crtwh.ca

under the Canadian Triple Challenge.

Even if you don't intend to enter
your young horse in this,
it is a worthwhile project
to see how many of the skills
it can demonstrate.

It can only make it a better horse!

ASK A TRAINER

When I go out (on foot) to feed the horses in the pasture, they often get very excited and run and jump and buck out of sheer high spirits (especially if the wind is blowing). I am glad they are feeling so good, but am wary of their getting too close to me. I don't want to be accidentally knocked over or kicked. It would still hurt, even if they didn't mean any harm! So how would you suggest I deal with this problem?

Marjorie

BILL ROY replies: It just depends. Walking into a herd of horses is always a bit of a risk. If there are younger horses in the herd that are playing, vying for food or position, one has to be even more careful.

I have been in a situation several times when my back is sore or I've hurt my knee, and I'm not sure about moving out of the way quickly enough. This has taught me to think of ways to make it safe for me to walk out into a herd. The worst time is a cold, frosty sunny morning when every horse is playing. Another is when a new horse is added or one removed. The herd dynamic changes.

You can generally bluff your way around the lower caste and younger horses if the lead horse is familiar with you and accepts you. If you don't know the lead horse, forget the bluff and carry a flag. This is just a stick, a cane, or a short whip, with a bag or cloth on the end that is easy to wave or shake.

A bluff is easiest, as it leaves your hands free to carry things. The bluff is an energy thing. I tell my grandkids to pretend, but "believe" that *they* are the Boss Horse. The boss horse is quiet, calm, knowing, steady, purposeful and deliberate. All that boss horse has to do to put the lower horses in their place is to arrogantly flick an ear. This doesn't always work, but it is the mind set you need to assume. Before you bring up your flag, think big and even raise your energy and voice and say, "HEY!" like you were getting the attention of a bunch

of rowdy kids.

Be ready to smack any rumps pointed in your direction in disrespect or inattention. It can be tricky as young horses kick at each other in their horse play. And you don't want to be caught in the middle. You need to get their attention before they get to you.

The lead horse will let anyone near as long as they are coming nose first, head down, and energy low. This is what you want, too. When any horse approaches the lead horse or doesn't move when she wants it to, the result is immediate and painful, like a short firm slap with the flag. The offender is usually given several warning before the bite happens.

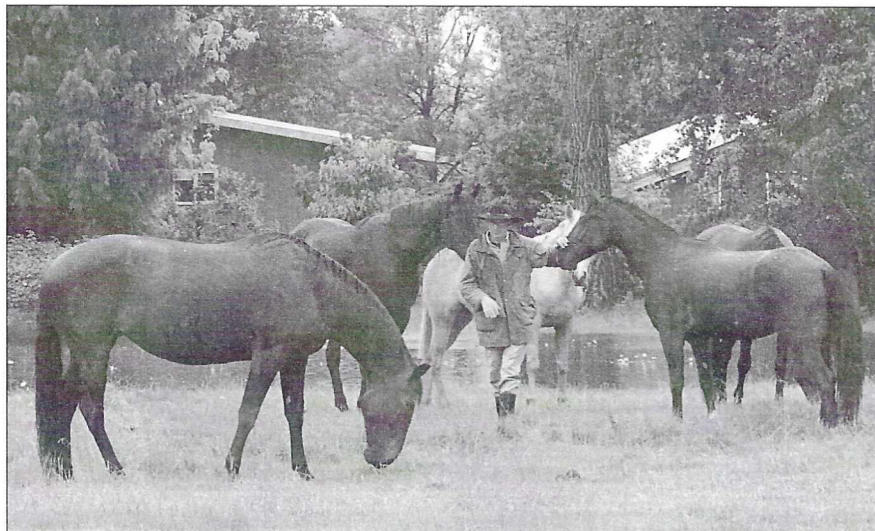
The lead mare stops moving, then stops eating, raises her head, raises her energy. Her body will look poised, her neck arched, and then an ear and an eye will turn in the offender's direction. If the offender is still coming and hasn't changed its demeanor to 'submissive' in view of her magnificence, she will turn her head with that "Oh really" look. If this doesn't work she will angle her body to attack front on, or turn to give the offender a three quarters view of her butt.

A lot of the time the second and third dominants in the herd have already started things moving, one to defend the leader, the other to move the herd out and around or onto higher ground. This usually distracts the offender. If you see this behavior, get out of the way. Like the lead horse you want to do as little as possible to get the results you desire.

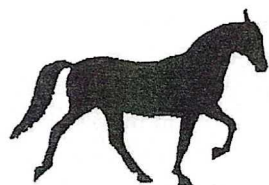
In a herd of mostly young horses at feeding time there may be a lack of, yet a desire for, leadership. Remember - the panicky, noisy, pushy bully is the low horse; don't be that horse. Also, the 'bluff and shake the flag' doesn't work if the horse or herd has had a less than normal upbringing. Herd behavior works best on horses that have been raised in a herd.

Every herd is different, every person is different.

Horse communication is very low key to our eyes; most people don't even see it. If you're going into the herd, be with the herd, keep yourself in the present, and be the caretaker lead horse who doesn't put up with any nonsense.



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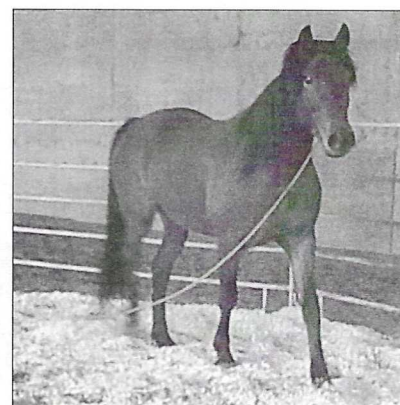
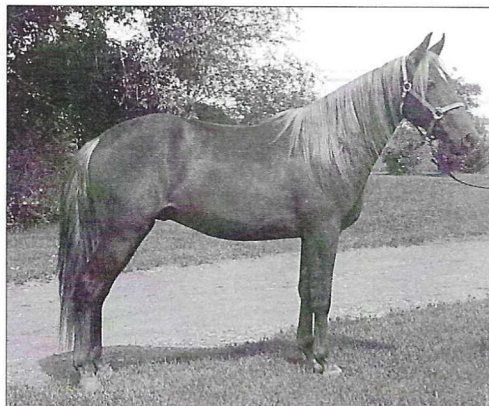
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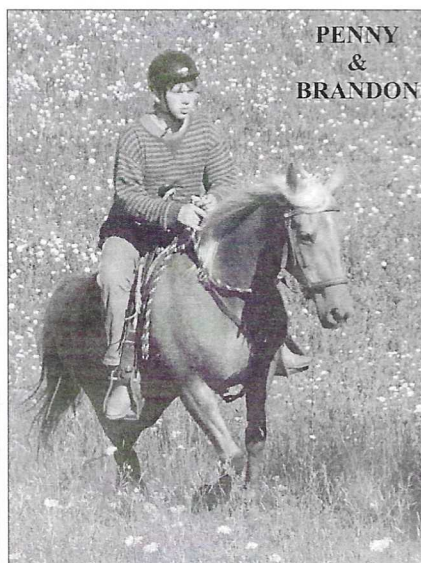
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CRTWH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held May 11, 2013 at Klondike Victory Farm west of Red Deer, AB. Call President Fran Kerik, **780-768-2250** or any of the Directors for further info.

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Legacy Walkers

SHIRLEY WESSLEN
RR 1 BLACKFALDS ALBERTA T0M 0J0



*Photo of Walkien Starlite Gem 1995-1694
and her filly foal by Northfork Patch Of Gold 1994-1488*

OFFERING FOR SALE

A GREAT SELECTION OF REGISTERED WALKERS

All ages, colours, sizes & stages of training

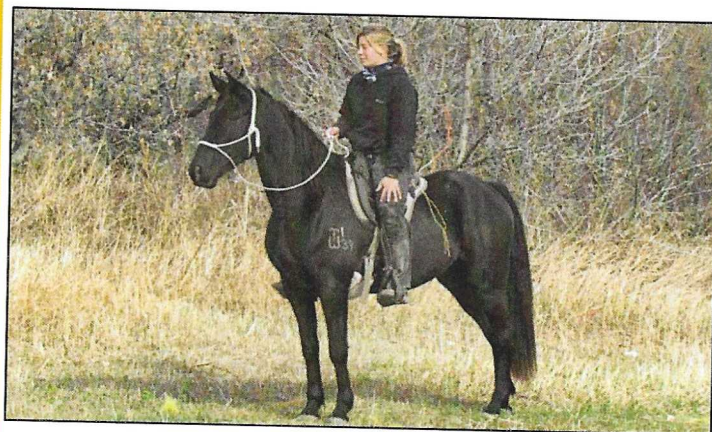
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Presents
LEGEND # 20508571
(for sale)
a fine example
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Raising quality TWH since 1997

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ALLEN'S MIDNIGHT RASCAL
(Homozygous black)

CSR GOLD FEVER (Gold champagne)

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Youngsters and trained horses for sale.

For more info on our good natured, smooth moving TWH

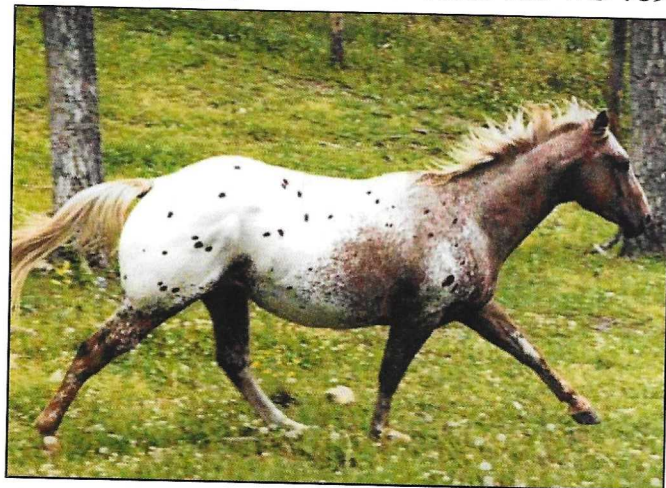
Check www.csrwalkers.com or call 780-768-2250

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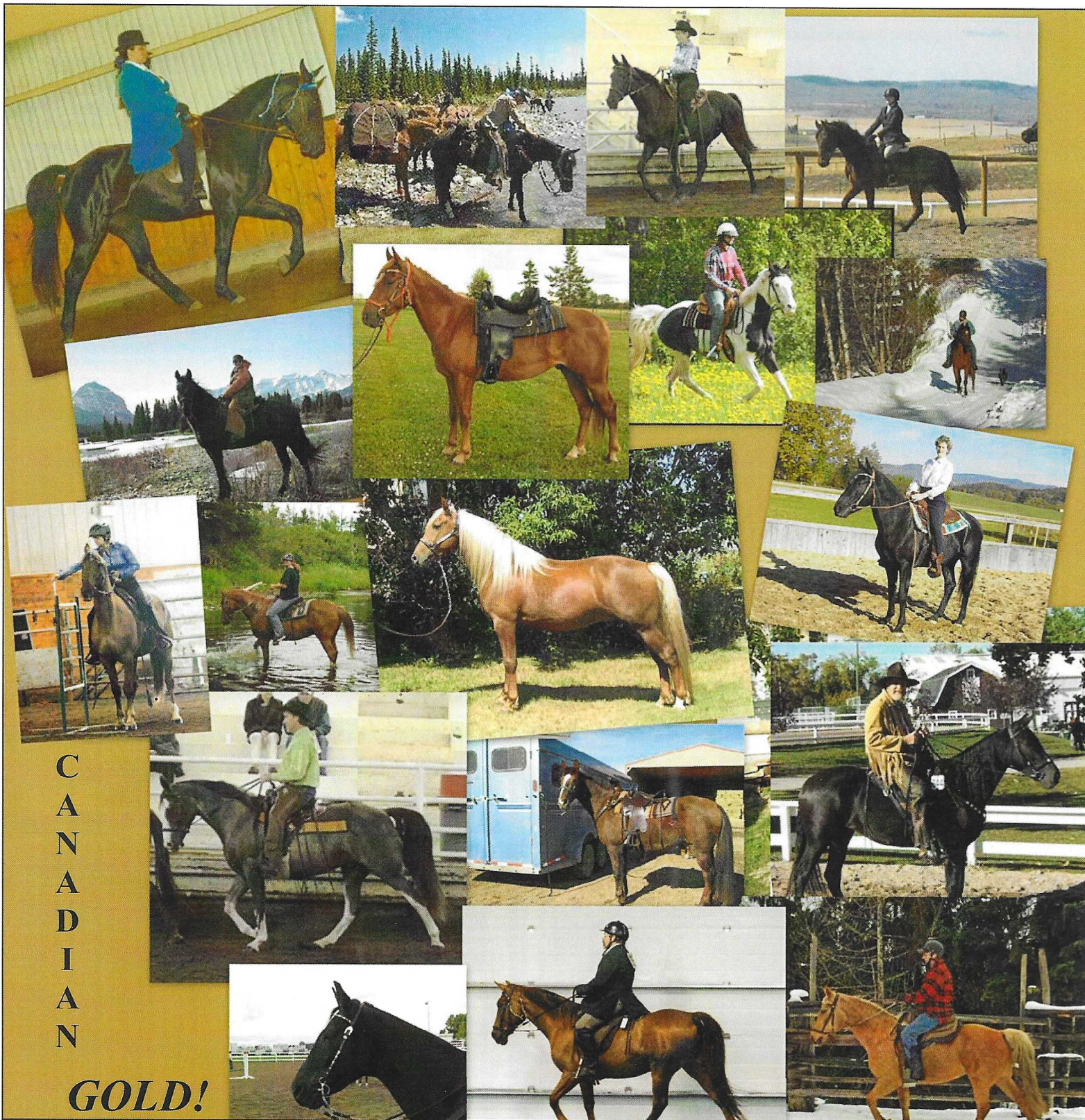
Standing at Stud: STARWALKER

Dual registered ApHCC (Appaloosa Horse Club of Canada) and
CRHA (Colorado Ranger Horse Association).

A 15 hh, natural smooth gaited Appaloosa, he sires gaited
offspring approximately 50% of the time from non-gaited mares
and 100% of the time with gaited mares. He is a 1997 model,
and has a wonderful disposition that he passes on consistently.

Phone for further information. Stock also available for sale.

Raise a Walkaloosa - Spot the Smoothness



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