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Walking Horse News



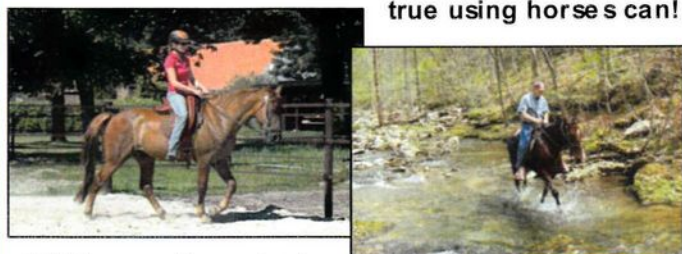
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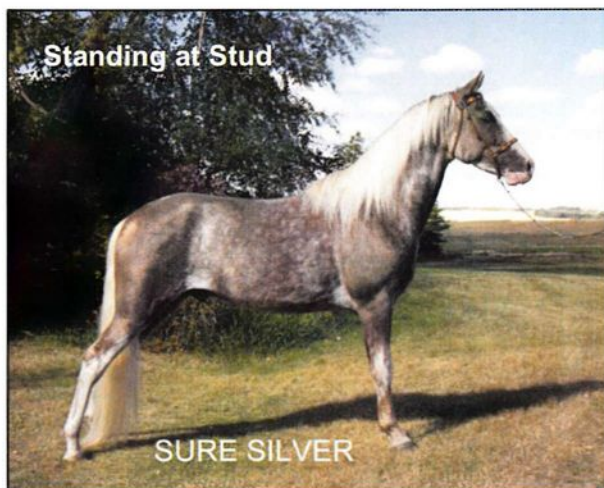
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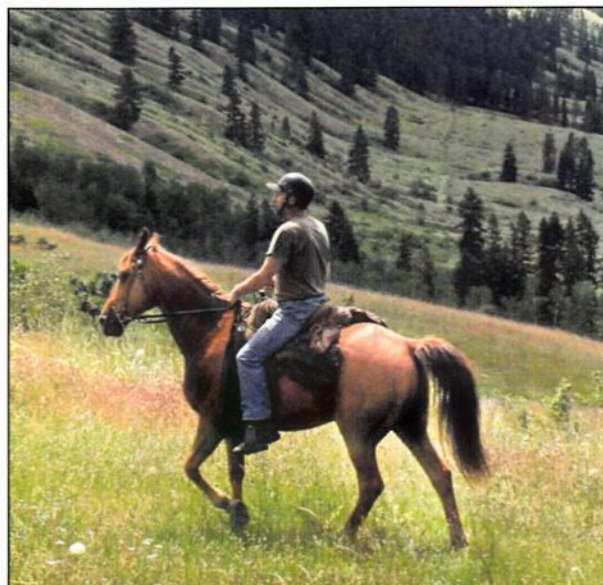
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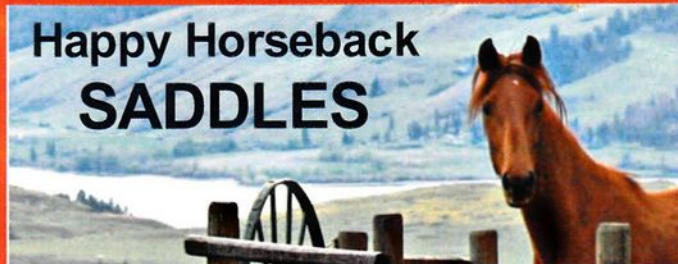
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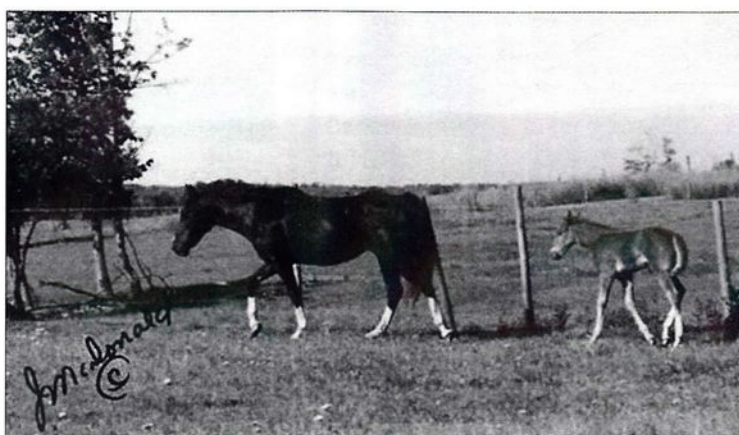
HISTORY & HERITAGE PROJECT

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by Jo-Anne McDonald

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On a trip in 1992, we were curious as to how our colt had matured as he would now be a two year old. We stopped in and Allen showed us his herd running in the pasture. Among them was a lovely black mare "Chapie's Shadow" with her '92 stud colt (sired by Wainwright's Shadow) at side. Naturally I took pictures of all the horses and filed the resulting pictures in my numerous photo albums.



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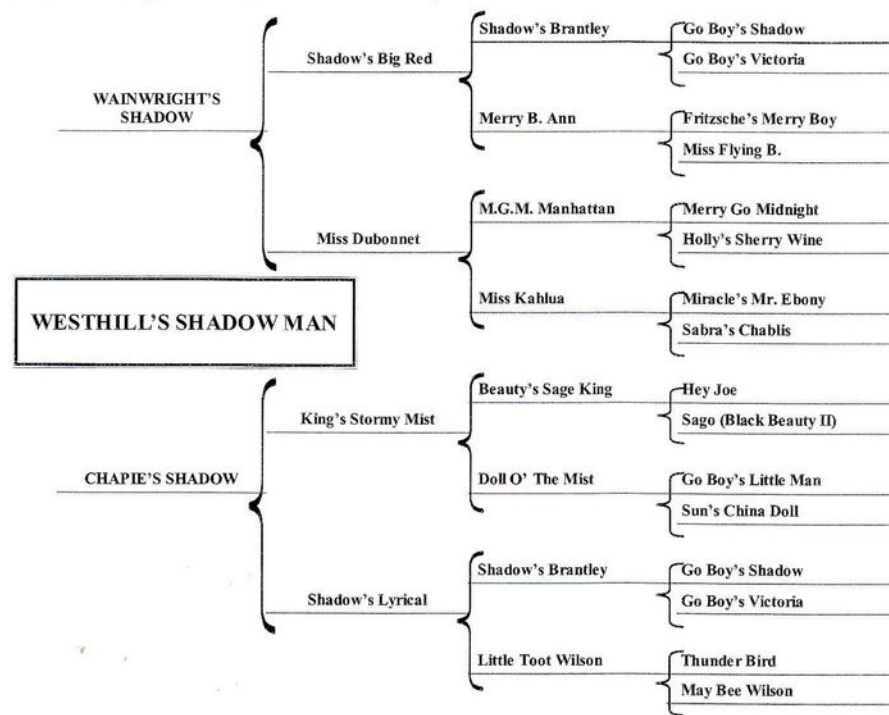
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I went and searched, and found the picture I had taken in 1992 - almost 21 years ago. (Left)

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Thank you, Jo-Anne, for the story and photo.



Walking Horse News

DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN-SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE IN CANADA

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On Our Cover

Lori Dyberg
and Bill Roy
enjoy riding their
very well-trained TWH
in the mountains
near Enderby, B.C.
Woodhill's TS Trooper
& Rag's Fantasy
Romance
have both earned
the title of
'Ultimate Canadian Horse'.
See more pictures
of Rome and Trooper
on page 12.

Photo courtesy of
Sue Lellman,
Grindrod, BC

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for Mar/Apr issue
MARCH 7

for May/June issue
MAY 7

for July/Aug issue
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for Sept/Oct issue
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Volume XXXVII, # 2 March/April, 2013

Dear Subscribers,

Spring arrives this week - according to the calendar. But the calendar hasn't looked out the window lately. Here west of Edson we got another 8 inches of snow in the last two days after a foot in the past two weeks, and the temperatures are colder than they were in February. Something's not right with that picture!

No reports of new foals have come in yet, but that's probably good, considering the weather. We'd love to hear about your new babies when they do arrive, though. Don't forget to send your registrations to CLRC for last year's foals before they turn a year old and the fee goes up.

There's important information for owners and breeders of U.S. reg'd TWH on page 10. You will want to be aware of the TWHBEA rule changes on using blood typing for parentage verification, and also the limited time 'grace period' for TWHBEA registrations and transfers.

Research has turned up a single mutated gene that appears to be responsible for 'gaitedness' in the easy gaited breeds. A genetic test has been developed to check for it. See a note about this on page 16.

Be sure to read about 'conditioning for gait' on pages 9 and 10. Once spring *actually* comes you'll want to get your horse in shape to be able to carry you smoothly and in style. On page 14 Bill Roy explains how he trains his horses to 'stand', and Allanna Jackson discusses using your horse's two-year-old year to the advantage of both the young horse and its future owner on pages 15-16.

Franne Brandon attended the re-opening of the TWH National Museum and brings you her impressions of the new venue in Wartrace, TN on pages 18 & 19.

There are interesting notes and news from readers, and a letter from Vic Burton. There are also a good number of interesting ads. So I'll let you get on with reading it.

But just one more thing - although it doesn't seem possible now, by the time the June issue comes out, we'll have green grass. I'd like to remind everyone to take care about turning horses out on lush green pasture. Far too many horses founder at that time of year and even later in the grazing season. Keep a close eye on your Walkers, especially those 'good keepers', and restrict their grazing *before* they get fat and cresty, and founder.

Marjorie

WHN makes a
great gift!

Walking Horse News

April, 2013

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

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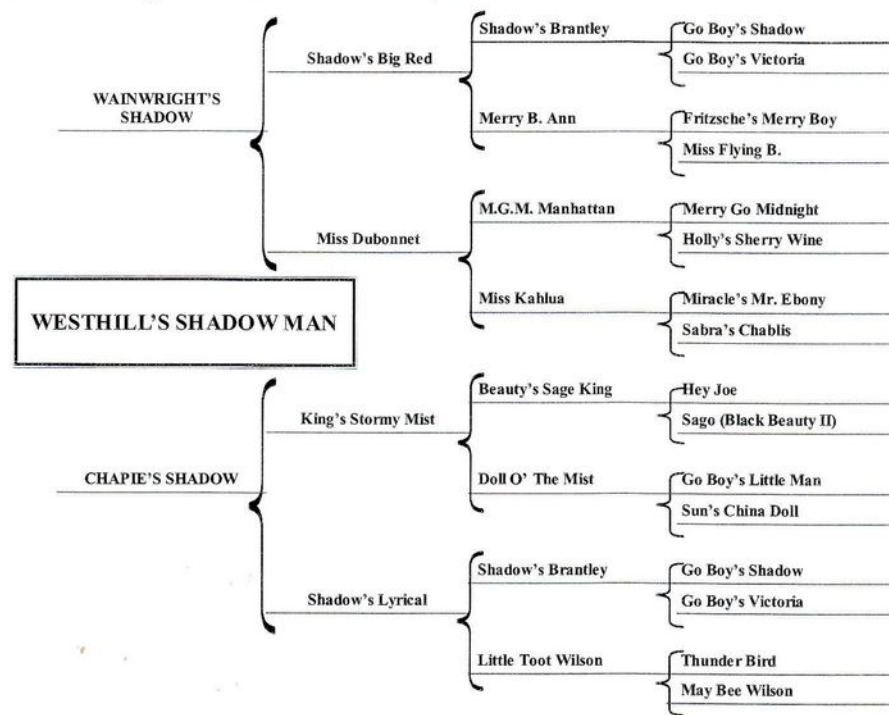
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NEWS - NEWS - NEWS

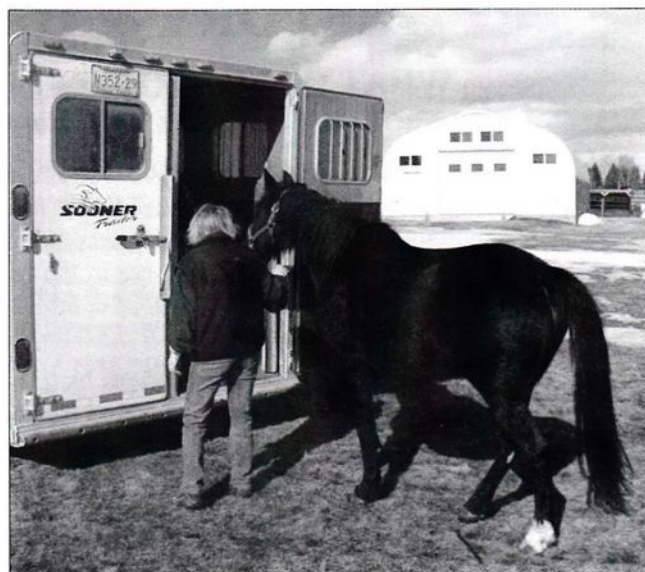
ALBERTA NEWS

KAREN BARKER, CALGARY, writes, "I did pick up all those *WHN* back issues that T'Lara offered. We finally connected a few weeks back. It was perfect timing as I am in the middle of the 4th chemotherapy cycle and it has been a significant trial of sickness and weakness, so the magazines have been perfect company for me. I organized them from oldest to newest and have been going through them one by one. Very interesting to read the history, and everyone's journeys with their horses! Thank you to T'Lara and you for thinking of me.... the magazines have been a Godsend."

"On the days when I am strong enough I have been spending time with Diamond Snipper. She has kept me going, just as I thought she would. I have had lots of help out at Calta too from the wonderful people there. Hilton brings Di (Princess Di, as she's affectionately known) in for me when I am too weak and the girls help me with the saddle (on and off). I think I am done with the chemotherapy now so will slowly continue to gain strength over the next few months and I'm really looking forward to summer with my girl. I have started a list of things we're going to work on together!"

"I finally found my *WHN* subscription envelope. It was in the back seat of the truck under a vast variety of horsey items. It is stamped and addressed and you should see it soon, although it may have molasses cookie residue and maybe even some horsey dirt on it. My apologies!"

Below - Princess Di and me in my Cavalia cap.



BRENDA BAKER, CALGARY, "Just thought I'd send you a picture of Hombre getting into the trailer to go to his new home with Sonja Norgaard. We wish Sonja and Hombre many happy adventures together. Sonja already has a TWH, "Tommy", who is 28 years young! Please send Sonja a complimentary copy of the *WHN*."

KARLA FREEMAN, PONOKA, writes "Howdy all. I'm sure every one is pleased to see daylight lasting a bit longer. I've been busy tromping through the snow, using it to my advantage to start the four year olds under saddle. My stallion, Hustler, is one. I have ridden him a couple of times now, and he is just so athletic. With his great temperament it's going to be a hard decision whether I geld him this year or not. It won't seem much like spring for me this year, with none of my mares having foals, but I still have a couple of youngsters to keep me busy - and that they do!"

"There is some awesome riding around the Chain Lakes, east of Ponoka and I have been enjoying that on the temperate days we have been lucky enough to have. Roy, my old boy, doesn't think too much of all the wildlife out there, trying to get at *HIS HAY!* He is still Old Faithful, and comes over for that ever-elusive last crunchie in your pocket.

"Also I should get some pictures onto the Canadian facebook page. I do enjoy the Canadian Registry and their posts of our Canadian horses - but not as much as reading my magazine through and seeing what's going on in the rest of the country."

"Well, I must get outside, so I hope everyone has a wonderful spring, and perhaps I'll see you at the Mane Event this year."

MANITOBA NEWS

From MARSHA TRINDER, T W RANCH, RUSSELL, "It looks like spring is heading our way sometime soon! The Ranch Team is busy bringing in the riding horses from their winter hiatus and cleaning them up, working through groundwork and getting spring rides on them all. I have set March 25th as the date after which we will be prepared to show horses to prospective buyers again."

"2012 was a great year here on T W Ranch with terrific buyers and sales, good solid training done on horses already in the system, several new horses going under saddle, a good quality foal crop on the ground. We had buyers last year from five Canadian Provinces and into the United States, and enquiries from overseas. I am seeing a change in our industry with interest in gaited horses growing and growing. Promotion obviously is very important and internet definitely plays a big role."

"Lots of big bellies in the "momma" pasture. Horses look good this spring, much better than last. The ranch had its own feed from 2012 for this past winter, but in 2011 the ranch was not able to seed an acre due to flooding all growing season caused by the Manitoba Government's management of the Shellmouth Dam which is upstream of us; therefore all feed had to be purchased. The difference in quality between our own grown feed and the purchased feed was amazing."

"I received word a few weeks ago that I have been nominated for the 2013 Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Awards so I am quite excited about that. I feel like the Academy Awards where they say things like "it's an honour being nominated". Now I know what they mean. I have worked very hard the past few years and last year in particular in putting this ranch on the map so to speak. Lots more work to do."

"I am very excited about our new prospect stallion that we are purchasing from Slush Creek Walkers. He should be home on T W Ranch by the end of March."

"Hope everyone has a great 2013!"

ONTARIO NEWS

ANGIE JANSEN, ZEPHYR, writes, "The little mare BROOKES SHADOW MIST (Doc's Duel Force x Chapie's Cindy S.) that I finally got registered is doing well. She is coming 4 years old. I only have a handful of rides on her though. Another icy, slippery winter has kept me off her. I'll get some news and pics to you soon (I know.. I keep saying that...) I made a resolution this year to get back at the photography and I mean to do so."

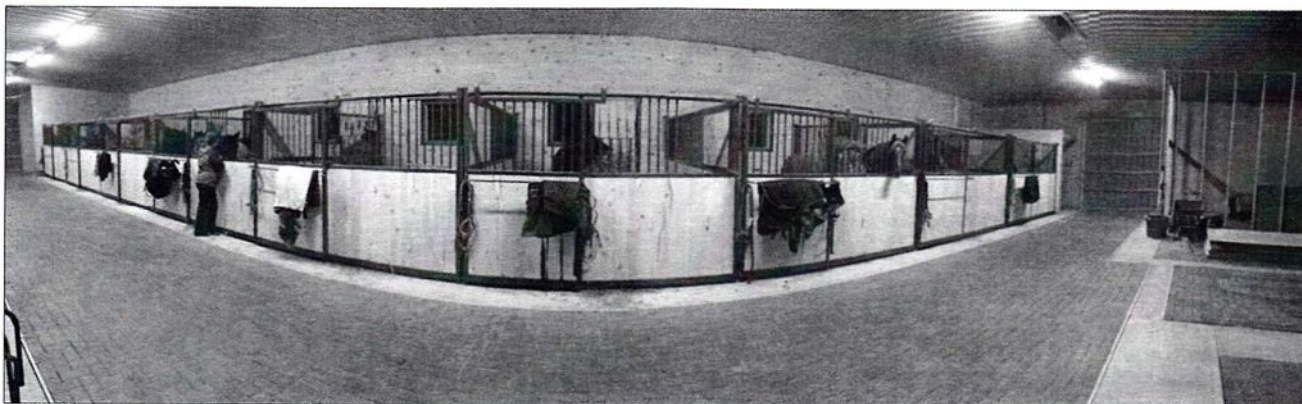
GHGO (Gaited Horse Group Ontario) will be putting on a Gaited Horse Clinic on May 4th and 5th at Stone Castle Stables, Caledon East. It will run from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm each day. Topics covered will be Conformation of Gaited Horses, Saddle Fit and Bit Discussion, plus Understanding, Affecting and Influencing Gait. On Sunday there will be one-on-one private sessions with riders and their horses. More details and information are on their website at www.gaitedhorsegroup.com.

From RON BOUWERS, BELLEVILLE, "We received the *WHN* magazine yesterday, February 11. I did not read through it till 10 pm, after my daughter Mariah and I went to check on the horses. I was so surprised to see a picture of us already. Much appreciated! That made my day!"

No one knows how hard we work with these three horses. They love us as much as we love them. Today, Feb 12, I received the papers for Cee Dee's Ebony's Melody, from Ottawa, completed with surplus in the account."

"A lot of people are going to see this magazine. Is there a chance I could have a few more Feb 2013 issues sent to us? Informative articles, and through the ads I believe I tracked down Ebony's sire! It made my day - thanks again."

Below is the stable that is now home to the Bouwers' 3 horses. It looks like a great facility!

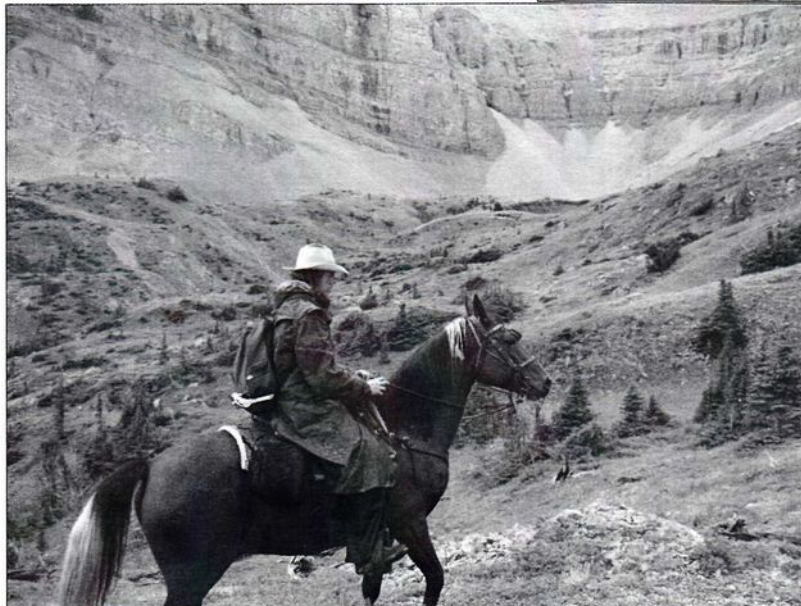


What Do YOU Do With Your Walkers ?

*People do lots of different things.
Here are a few examples.*



Above: Joe and Terry Kinch enjoyed a rare opportunity to ride their Walkers along a beach on the Pacific Ocean.



Left: David Gernscheid on Image's Mr America, rode high into the scenic Rockies. Mountain trail riders will be eager to get out into that beautiful country again.

Below: Curtis Raymond on Homer was 'roading the dogs' along a prairie country road. Dog trialers will be itching to get back to riding their horses and conditioning the dogs.

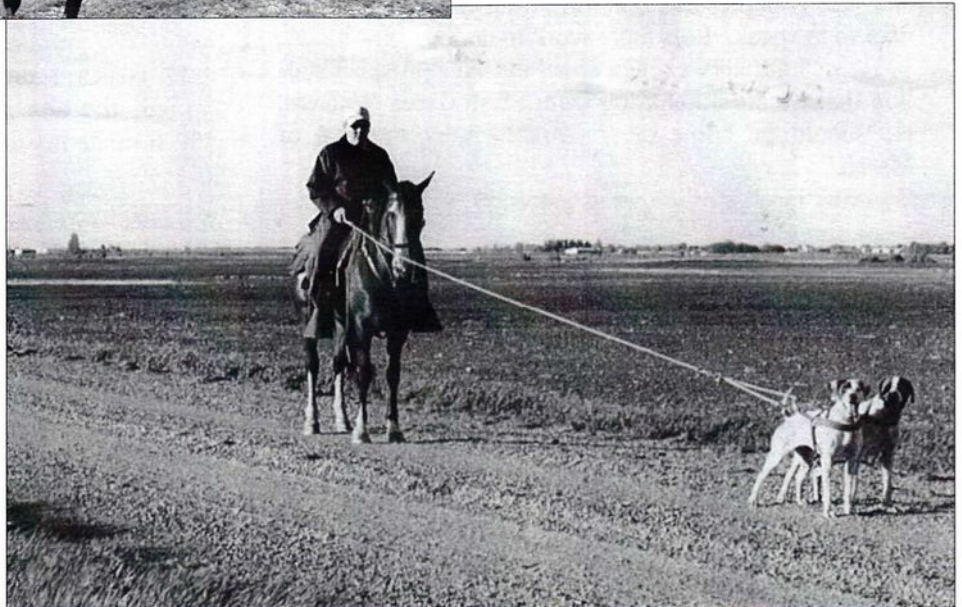
What Do You Do...

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or email

as a small jpg file
to whn@telus.net



BRITISH COLUMBIA NEWS



NATALIE SPECKMAIER, VANCOUVER, writes, "The above was taken shortly before Trigger's and my "Big Fall". We never did figure out why Trigger went down. The last thing I remember is watching her head go down, and feeling the resulting launch from the saddle. Debbie & Marg described it best by saying Trigger went "a** over teakettle" so it almost sounds like she did a somersault. Our friend, Marg Peabody above, on Kenny, an old rescue Arab that decided he didn't want to be retired, is a nurse and sure was a good riding buddy to have on *that* fateful day."

"The weeks after the fall were a haze of prescription-drug-induced stupor, and a whole lot of pain. The drugs are long gone but the pain still haunts, and I'm not so sure about the stupor. Much has happened in the time since my swan dive into the mud and the resulting broken shoulder. Trigger was unscathed, even though she ended up on her back, with her feet in the air. Since I was unconscious at the time, I'm going by what I was told by Debbie and Marg. It was my final ride (not quite!) before we went to Maui in two days for a two week holiday. Needless to say, that didn't happen. As I've said one other time, and will say again, I may not have made it to Maui, but I did make it to MAU (Medical Assessment Unit)."

"I'm so thankful that Trigger didn't even suffer an injury, let alone a horrific one. I'm just as thankful that *my* injuries weren't any worse, as I could have been another Christopher Reeves, or worse. I wasn't ready for that great trail ride in the sky and settled for a broken shoulder instead. The helmet was impacted with mud, and my own doctor indicated I had been concussed, but other than Marg testing me with the "how many fingers can you see?" no one at the hospital looked inside my head. But we are making progress and my doctor tells me I can ride in the spring, depending on how well I've healed. November 15 was our last ride, and Trigger and I are ready to have some happy trails together again."

"While I was still spaced out, we went to Tower Ridge Farm to clear out Trigger's belongings as she was moving. Debbie & Dave sold the farm, and our recreational riders and coffee klatchers scattered like dust in the wind. It was the end of an era for all of us, but we promised to keep in touch, and have been doing that."

"Trigger is now at the farm of friends of ours, who are like family. We always knew that there was a home for her with Conny & Mark if ever the need arose. Well, it did, and she is being lovingly looked after, and I am now able to visit her on a regular basis. She was boss mare with her big pasture mate at the Smiths and she's now finding her place in the herd here. She will often chase all the others away from the hay piles just because she can, and then settle down to eat her share."

"Trigger must have missed me while I was unavailable because she now follows me like a puppy. This from a stand-off type of horse. "How about a bit of a rub, Trigger?" "I *want to be alone*", she'd say and off she'd go. Now she hangs around while we have coffee and follows me everywhere. I hope it lasts. She still doesn't want love rubs, but enjoys her grooming sessions, stands quietly, at liberty, and almost purrs. I love it that she wants to be with me every minute I'm there. I'm still not able to use my left arm much so a lot of it is one-handed. Lifting feet to pick them out is a bit difficult, and painful, so she is warned not to lean on me. And she listens."

"I must tell you about Trigger's semi annual check up today. That girl has a better medical plan than I do. Did I already mention that our vet now does fecal testing rather than automatically deworming? He's also testing her hay as it is different than what she was used to and she had to adjust. She needed to have her teeth floated, for which she never needs sedation. There she was with that big metal contraption on, and the vet, Brent, grinding away with the foot long grinder, and I happened to look at her back feet. She was standing the whole time with a back foot cocked. I wouldn't have been surprised if she had relaxed to the point of falling asleep. She kept munching hay while she got her shots, and other intrusive procedures. Brent always says that if every horse he treated was as good as Trigger, he'd be a happy man. *That's my gal, Trigger!* Norm says he plays second fiddle to a horse, because I *loove* my horse. Brent kept commenting on how calm she was. He was amazed, and I was a proud mama. A mighty fine horse!"

From JO-ANNE MCDONALD, MCDONALD FARMS, POUCE COUPE, "We have sold the big, gentle, started three-year-old chestnut gelding, Genie's Triple Reward (Sunny's Greatest Glory x Threat's Magic Genie) to Mr. Brian Leitch, who lives near Fairview, AB. We wish them many happy trails ahead. Please send Brian a gift subscription to *Walking Horse News* with our compliments."

NEWS from our U.S. SUBSCRIBERS

GRACE LARSON, FORSYTH, MT, writes, "I again enjoyed every page and ad in the *Walking Horse News*. Thought of new foals as I read about mares for sale... But our health causes us to pause, because with new foals comes a lot of time and care. Fawn and Marigold are enjoying retirement although Marigold has arthritis in her left shoulder."

"My next appointment at Mayo is in late March. I was hoping my trips would have ended last December but have at least two more trips to Mayo. Lyle has an appointment at the Edina Pain Clinic in Minnesota the same week. This is for Pudendal Neuralgia. This is severe pelvic pain that can be caused by bike and/or horseback riding, or in women, possible injury with forceps during childbirth. Lyle has seen at least ten doctors and has had many MRIs, even two surgeries, without anything helping. A gentleman I sold horses for called several weeks ago, and as he was describing his pain and how disabling it has become, I immediately recognized it as what Lyle was going through. This man had been to many doctors and finally, while wintering in Mexico, a doctor there diagnosed his disability as Pudendal Neuralgia. He told us about a doctor in MN who specializes in treating this. We had never heard of this and as far as I know none of Lyle's doctors were knowledgeable about it either. If anyone wants more information you can email me at walker22@rangeweb.net for the website that describes the clinic and the doctor Lyle will see in late March in Edina, MN. and for other helpful websites about this. Horseback riding as well as bike riding can cause this problem."

"We have had a very mild winter so far. It is still very dry and hay prices are close to \$200 a ton. We have plenty of hay from last year but we will need hay before next winter."

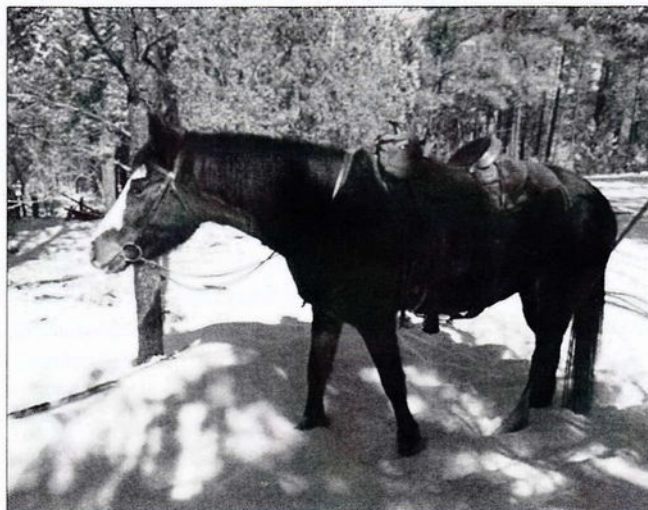
"Eventually, I will get into some of the old walking horse history. So many of the horses in this last issue go back to Silvertip-Rickey and Buck La-Marr. To show the impact of bloodlines on performance one can read *The Western Horseman* and Trevor Brazil's gelding. My aunt owned a stallion with the same bloodlines years ago and won the barrel racing at the Calgary Stampede and the Northwest title. These traits are powerful, and the two stallions Mom had sure made sound contributions to the TWH breed."

"I hope this is a good year for all *Walking Horse News* readers."

From ALLANNA JACKSON, LAKESIDE, AZ, "Cinnamon and I had a lovely 2 hour trail ride this afternoon. It warmed up to 40 degrees and was calm and sunny so the snow is melting but there was still enough to cover most of the trail."

"The latest Dressage Today magazine has an interesting article about how the barefoot movement is invading international dressage competition. The article reported that Ravel, one of the USA's dressage horses at the London Olympics, developed a quarter crack on one front hoof only six weeks before the Olympics. The need to keep him in training resulted in the owner, trainer and managers deciding to pull Ravel's front shoes, give him a barefoot trim and train in Easy Boot gloves. Ravel was shod with aluminum shoes at the last minute for the Olympics, then had his shoes pulled afterwards and is now barefoot and retired."

"Ravel's gloves were custom fitted by the president of Easy Boot Inc. who didn't realize he was working on an international dressage champion until after the fitting. The article went on to explain that president of Easy Boot Inc. didn't know that much about dressage because his equestrian sport of choice is Endurance racing. He won the 2012 Tevis Cup with his horse competing in EasyBoot gloves - with gators, not the glue-on version. The EasyBoot Inc. web site brags about the gloves having been used successfully in Endurance and one of their sales reps told me it was someone in the company doing it, but I didn't know it was the company president until I read it in the Dressage Today article. Sounds like Cinnamon's got the same model of hoof boots that won Tevis! I wasn't using the gloves on Cinnamon today (*below*); she doesn't need them in the snow and snow makes any ride more of a workout for the horse."



GAITERS VERSUS TROTTERS Part 2

(Excerpted from *Trail Riding* by Rhonda Hart Poe)

Some gaits shouldn't be executed for long regardless of the degree of conditioning. The rack family of gaits and the stepping pace (and related gaits; see chapter 2), which place the horse's body in a reversed flex – ventroflexed, or hollow – posture, should be limited. Because the horse has always one or two feet on the ground, the rack is extremely comfortable to the rider. However, that moment of single-leg support is very hard on the horse's body – from the hoof, lower limb, upper limb, shoulder/hip, and spine – as that one hoof bears all the weight/force/impact of the horse and rider. Because of the support sequence and pick-up/set-down pattern of the feet, the rack requires more energy from the horse and is more tiring to maintain than most other saddle gaits. Pacey (lateral) gaits put even more strain on the horse's body, as not only is the back hollow, but the muscles along each side of the back work independently, alternately shortening and lengthening from one side to the next. This is an inefficient form of motion that is tiring to the horse and stressful to his spine. All this also puts incredible strain on the muscles supporting the back and belly and over time can lead to excessive soreness and swayback. As a rule it is detrimental to the horse's body to maintain these gaits under saddle for more than 15 minutes at a stretch. On a level trail, that should cover anywhere from 1 to 4 miles, depending on the saddle gait and the speed.

The saddle gaits easiest on a horse's body are the fox trot and walking gaits, including the running walk. I'm referring not to extreme show-ring versions of these gaits, but to the natural way of going born to gaited horses (before they are "improved" with training). In the fox trot, the horse can round his back and keep his body loose. Since he always has two or three feet on the ground, he works with minimal stress on his body, and if in good condition can cover long distances in this gait. Remember, this is an uneven, four-beat gait, which means there will be some movement to the rider. Some might consider a little more rider motion to be a trade-off for better back health and comfort for the horse, but a fox trot is still incredibly smooth compared to any regular trot.

The running walk – one of the smoothest of saddle gaits in terms of rider comfort – also allows for some, though not much, rounding of the back and is also a two/three support gait, naturally performed with a loose, relaxed body. Since the back can at least maintain a neutral frame (neither rounded nor hollow), the horse can maintain the gait for quite some time before experiencing soreness or fatigue, making it another excellent choice for eating up trail miles.

Just as for a non-gaited horse, start your conditioning program with lots of walking, beginning with 20 to 30 minutes, and then progress to an hour or more several times per week. With gaited horses this has the added benefit of enforcing the balance and timing of the walk (the basis of all saddle gaits). Be sure your horse is sufficiently "legged up" with lots of long slow miles at the walk before introducing gait into the conditioning program. Give him at least a month or two to allow

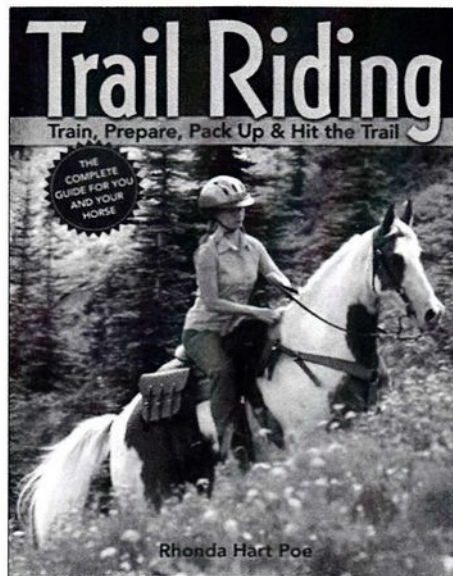
for remodeling of heart and leg muscles before pushing for much work in gait.

When he is ready, the best way to condition (and trail-ride) a gaited horse is to use a variety of gaits. Keep gaiting to a minimum while you condition your horse's body to the stresses it requires, and build up gradually. Start with no more than two minutes at a time in gait and build up to no more than 15 minutes for the rack or stepping pace, and as much as an hour or more for the fox trot or running walk. Just as for non-gaited horses, be sure to vary the pace and check your horse's vital signs to evaluate his stress load and progress.

Tricks Of The Trade

There are a few tricks to encouraging and maintaining gait, which not only help improve your horse's overall condition, but also help to lock in the gaits themselves. They can't be considered "training" the gaits (since the horse does them naturally anyway) so much as reinforcing your horse's response to your cues.

As you ride up and down a gradual slope at a walk, push for more speed but check the horse if he breaks into a trot or pace. This encourages him to



engage his hindquarters. Another strategy is to ride through plowed fields, sand, boggy soil, or even tall grass, for this encourages the horse to break up uneven footfall timing. Pacey horses tend to break up their gaits toward a more even four-beat tempo on uphill climbs and over rough ground, as do trotty horses on downhill slopes. Remember to initiate any changes slowly and build up the distance or speed gradually.

Don't forget that, just as for a non-gaited horse, there are factors that can affect the horse's quality of gait, and thus his ability to hold one for any length of time. These factors include his age/development, any conformational defects (see chapter 2), discomfort from tack, and the rider. A too-heavy rider, perched above his kidneys, can wear out a racking horse in no time, even though that is precisely the madness behind a common show-ring method to "improve" the gait. He will drag his back legs up underneath himself desperately to keep his footing and put on a spectacular show – for a little while. Another problem is a tense or stiff rider, which usually translates to a stiff horse that hollows his back in an effort to avoid contact (translation: bouncing) from the rider. This not only ruins the gait, but it tires his back out all the more quickly as well.

Gaiting Guidelines



A gaited horse in good condition should be able to maintain the following:

Fox trot. 15 minutes, three times per hour, walking between, to an hour of steady fox trotting, in a loose frame at slow to moderate speed

Running walk. 10 to 15 minutes, three times per hour, walking between, to an hour of run walking, in a loose frame at slow to moderate speed

Rack. 5 to 15 minutes, three times per hour, walking between

Stepping pace. 5 to 10 minutes, three times per hour, walking between

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 98 to 99.

TWHBEA Registry Rule Changes

Attention Owners of U.S. Reg'd Tennessee Walking Horses

1. After December 31, 2012 TWHBEA will no longer offer blood typing conversions as part of their registry services.
2. All outstanding blood typing kits or conversion kits will expire December 31, 2012 and will no longer be accepted for processing. TWHBEA will offer a list of lab(s) that do blood conversions for parentage verifications but will no longer negotiate a reduced price for members or offer this service as part of TWHBEA contracted services.

After December 31, 2012, conversions that are done by TWHBEA recognized lab(s) that prove parentage as verified by TWHBEA contracted lab(s) will be accepted for the registration of foals.

As with any registered Tennessee Walking Horse, parentage must be verified before registration will be granted. All parentage verification kits that are issued after Nov. 04, 2011, will have an expiration date.

All re-test kits will receive a 90 (ninety) day expiration date from the time a re-test kit is created and sent to the owner seeking registration.

For further details or information, contact (931) 359-1574.

From Marilyn Walker, TWHBEA, (mwalker@twhbea.com)

"The only lab we recognize for bloodtyping purposes is the University of Kentucky lab."

Blood typing for Parentage verification will only be accepted April 1 to 15 and November 1 to 15.

For more info on bloodtyping and DNA from blood, see:
<http://www.ca.uky.edu/gluck/AGTRL/TWHBEA>

Dr Kathy Graves ktgraves@uky.edu
Phone 859-218-1212; fax 859-257-5169

Transfer &/or Registration Grace Period

"In an effort to both decrease the economic burden on our members and to increase the accuracy of our registry, TWHBEA will be offering a **Grace Period starting March 4, 2013 and running through July 1, 2013. During this time, any transfer and/or registration, no matter how delinquent, will be accepted at regular stated fees without any late fees.** In order to take advantage of this special, one-time offer, members must have all paperwork associated with the transaction complete by July 1, 2013 and that paperwork must be accompanied by the appropriate payment. TWHBEA realizes that at no time in the history of our breed has the accuracy of registration/ownership records been more important. It is hoped that this program will assist all of our members in updating and maintaining those records."

For further details or information, please contact
(931) 359-1574 or go to **www.twhbea.com**

A LETTER TO TWHBEA - VICTOR J. BURTON

Jan 30, 2013
Fort Macleod, AB

Marty Irby, President
TWHBEA
Lewisburg, TN

First the congratulations. I refer to the Nov/Dec 2012 issue of the *Voice* magazine deploring soring. However I think we all realize that as long as we ask our great breed to perform a gait so unnatural to them we will always have a soring problem. Dishonest people have always found a way to circumvent the rules. I am referring to the big lick.

I have only been a walking horse owner for 12 years and in that time I think the abuse that the horse world is so incensed about is not as bad now as it was a few years ago. It used to be when it showed a big lick horse performing in the *Voice* magazine, their eyes were "just wild" indicating to the observer that they had just been whipped before coming into the ring.

My great concern is that we are now breeding stepping pacers instead of square beat horses. The DVD I just received, "If the Shoe Fits" by Bobby Richards, illustrates it. The "Grizzly" as Bobby comments, is a lateral gaited horse. What he is saying is that, if you didn't do something to help him, he would be doing a straight pace. As the horse moves past you, he has all the look of a straight pacer, except, as Bobby says, they have moved him back just a little bit to where he now has a four beat gait which takes out the jolt and lets him have a little head shake. It is a four beat gait, but not a square or even four beat gait. If ridden on hard ground, you would not hear an even 1-2-3-4-1-2-3-4. The horse is doing what we in Canada call a stepping pace.

It is true that the pacey horse will give you a greater over stride, but speed or over stride should not be at the sacrifice of form. I never see the term 'stepping pace' used in the *Voice* magazine. Maybe you don't use the term down there. What I refer to as a stepping pace is normally about half way between a square beat and a straight pace. I would say that the horse "Obsessed With Silver" is closer than half way to a straight pace. If you were using a scale of 1 - 100, and a square beat was a 50, then this horse, instead of being a 75, would be 85-90.

Note, from page 20 in the Tennessee Walking Horse book* - Bert Hunter's and Fred Walker's

description of the running walk. They would roll over in their graves if they could see what the judges are now tying. It is interesting to see Bert Hunter's comment that the canter "is easy with lots of spring and rhythm, and just enough rise and fall to give you a thrill." A far cry from having to watch that the horse's neck doesn't hit you in the face.

Note the foot patterns on page 27 - the picture of City Girl. This is a running walk. I take issue with the TWHBEA as I feel that your magazine promotes the stepping pace. This last issue was one of the worst. The front page demonstrates the great disposition of our horse, but the horse chosen, a Grand Champion, is just a hair off a straight pace. On page 10, "He's Majestic", a great looking two year old by his appearance, is doing a stepping pace. If you turn to page 12, I believe the front feet on "Maxximise" are already deformed. If his heels aren't contracted, I would be very surprised. Pages 32 - 36 featuring the German horses, almost without exception, are step pacing. I have no argument with the step pacer and the fox trot. Both are nice gaits, done by some great horses. However if we are supposedly promoting the running walk, why feature and breed for the stepping pacer?

The ad on page 76 for "Design to Love" is what we strive for. Were we wanting to breed more horses, I would certainly consider him. I believe that the only way that we can get back to what Bert Hunter and Fred Walker described is to take a page from the Paso people and start showing barefoot. That, and bearing down on the abusers. That in itself is hard to do - kind of like leaving a fox to guard the hen house.

Can you give us any reason why my son and I, who hate to see our great breed go down the tube, should renew our memberships when they expire? I would appreciate your comments. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Victor J. Burton

Ed. Note: Victor sent a copy of this letter to me with permission to print it in WHN if I thought it would be of interest to readers. Your comments?

**The Tennessee Walking Horse - An American Tradition, Published 2010, copyright TWHBEA and Grandin Hood..*

What Do YOU Do With Your Walkers ?

**WOODHILL'S TS TROOPER &
RAG'S FANTASY ROMANCE**

*Two all-around great mounts,
have attained
The Ultimate Canadian Horse title.*

*If you'd like to try for this too,
go to 'The Canadian Triple Challenge'*

**TRAINING LEVELS,
on
www.crtwh.ca**



Above: Bill Roy and Trooper show some bareback and bridle-less moves.

Left: Rag's Fantasy Romance (Rome) displays some of ribbons he's won.

Far left: Rome and Lori enjoy a canter.

Below Right : Bill Roy and Trooper stop for a break on the road west of Calgary.

Below:

Bill Roy & Trooper and Lori Dyberg & Rome went for a cross-country ride in BC last year.



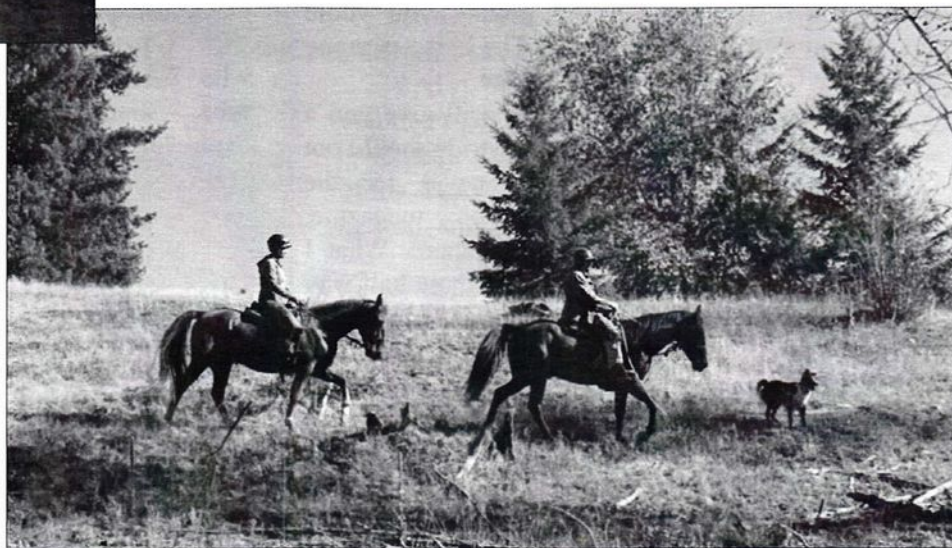
What Do You Do...

Send your photos to

**WHN,
Box 7326,
Edson, AB
T7E 1V5**

or email

*as a small jpg file
to whn@telus.net*





The Canadian Walker

Volume 12, Issue 2

www.crtwh.ca

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April, 2013

CRTWH EXECUTIVE

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780-768-2250

president@crtwh.ca

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Western: Bill Roy, BC

250-838-2066

vice-president@crtwh.ca

Eastern: Sue Gamble, ON

705-642-3746

• **Recording Secretary:**

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403-931-2105

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• **Treasurer: Dianne Little**

403-271-7391

treasurer@crtwh.ca

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403-826-0308

AB Marjorie Lacy

780-723-2547

BC Ralph Livingston

250-764-4482

CRTWH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

5:30 pm May 11, 2013 at Klondike Victory Farm west of Red Deer, AB

Supper to follow the meeting and awards.

Please phone Fran at **780-768-2250** or email president@crtwh.ca

GAIT FROM THE GROUND UP CLINIC with emphasis on **Trail Tune Up**

Clinicians **Bill Roy and Dianne Little** **May 11-12**

Book early. This clinic fills up quickly.

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

PS: Don't forget - CRTWH will have a booth at Mane Event, Red Deer, AB April 26-28

FB SALES ALBUM - NEW SERVICE for CRTWH MEMBERS

The CRTWH announces a new service for CRTWH members wishing to sell a CRTWH registered horse or horses. We are creating an album accessible through our Face Book page showing horses for sale. A current member wishing to list a horse requests a form from sgamble70@gmail.com, and returns the filled-out form to same, with a good picture of the horse. One form and one picture for each horse is required.

Your CRTWH membership number and the horse's registration number will be required.

Listings will be posted as a service to current members of the CRTWH for their CRTWH registered horses. Photos deemed unsuitable will not be posted. The CRTWH takes no responsibility in any resultant transactions. A Disclaimer will be posted in the Sale Album. Below is the information requested on the form for each horse you wish to list:

CRTWH 'HORSES FOR SALE ALBUM' for Current CRTWH members:

Name & address of member - _____

Membership number - _____ Date: _____

To have a horse posted, the following is required: A good photo and the info below:

Horse's Reg'd Name- _____ Colour/markings - _____

CRTWH number - # _____ Height - _____

Sire and Dam - _____ Training - _____

Date of birth - _____ Use to date - _____

Gender - _____ Your contact email &/or phone number - _____

ASK A TRAINER

STAND!

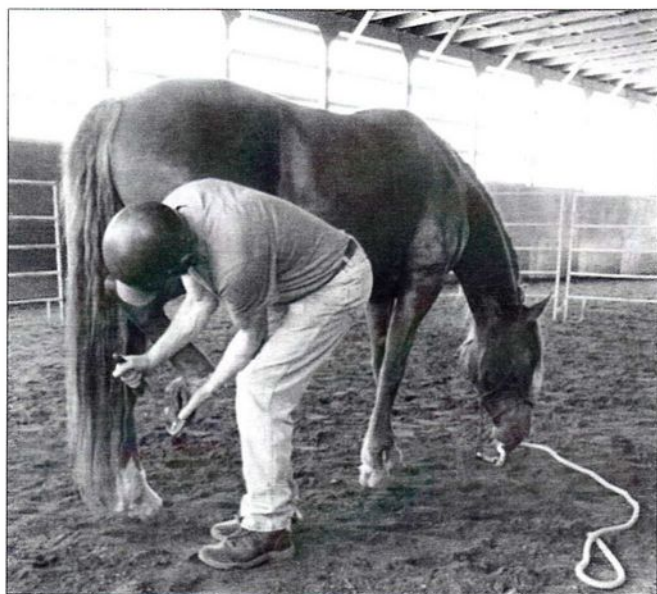
Bill Roy says, "A question I am often asked is, 'How do I get my horse to stand still, so I can get on him?'"

Having your horse stand for hoof trimming, brushing, tacking and mounting is a very important part of training - and a safety issue.

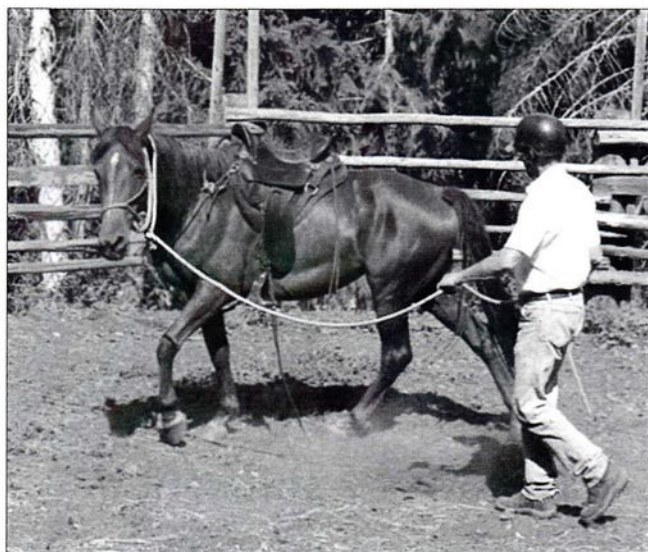
First off, if the horse has medical issues, get help. A horse needs to be pain-free to have the emotional capacity to learn or re-adjust.

Again this is about being calm, and keeping your connection to the horse. Keep focused on what you are doing. Be single-minded. If you are nervous or afraid, the horse thinks there is something to be nervous or afraid of. If you are in a hurry, angry, frustrated or aggressive, the horse will see you as a predator and move away. Don't try to fake it. You can't lie to a horse. Just take it down a notch or two.

I start the "standing" training right from the beginning. When I'm standing next to the horse with my feet in the same direction or opposite to his, my energy is not directed towards him and he should stand. If he chooses not to stand when I am right next to him, I move out and aim my energy at him and move him off. I turn him left, right, backward, forward, on the fore and on the hind. Basically I am just putting him to work. The horse will quickly look for the feel and position that allows him to stand. When he stands, I always drop my energy and pet him. *(Cate is content to stand while Bill trims her foot.)*



The body position has to be consistent. The horse learns to stand whenever I am in that space beside him; then whenever I am in that space beside him, touching him. If the horse moves off at any time, from handling to mounting, repeat the same steps: back off, direct your energy at him, put him to work, as shown below with Dee and Bill. Keep your energy low enough so you'll see the "try".



Reward the try, stop, lower your energy, and direct the energy parallel to the horse, walk up to him and pet him. Carry on calmly until he moves off, then repeat. If the horse needs to do laps to unwind, let him. At this point you're responding to what he needs, so you can accomplish what you want.

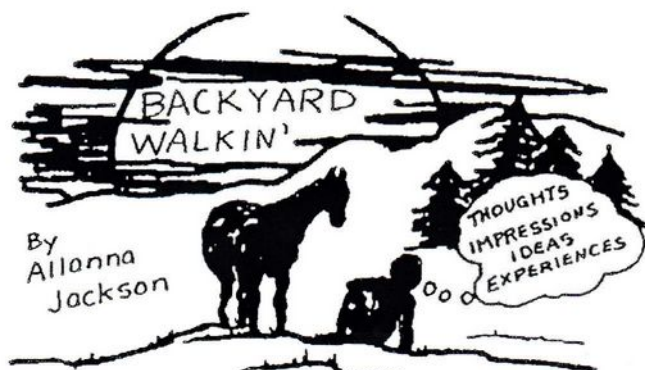
While saddling through mounting, I have the slack out of the inside rein, not tight, but just so I can see his near eye. At the same time, I leave the outside rein slack.

Also, really watch your toe in the stirrup so you don't jab the horse in the ribs while mounting. I have deep western stirrups, and come up on the ball of my foot. When you swing on, do it in a controlled motion, sitting down on the horse's back softly.

Remember, with horses it ALL DEPENDS on so many things. This advice is general and won't apply in all cases.

If you have a specific question or concern, my contact info is Box 199, Grindrod, BC V0E 1Y0 or woodhill@telus.net, or you can write in to the magazine.

Bill



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

Part 2

by Allanna Lea Jackson

Copyright August, 2012

In the last issue we considered a list of skills a 2-year-old horse needs to be a good equine citizen. When someone raises a horse from birth they know how that horse has been handled and what it has been taught. Most breeders soon have more horses than they can keep. Most owners buy a horse bred by someone else so most horses change owners at least once in their life, often at around 2 years of age.

The handling and training applied to 2-year-old horses varies widely. Buyers will want to learn as much as they can about the horse's origin and background before buying. One horse might have been broke to ride as a yearling and shown under saddle at only 26 months of age. Another 2-year-old of comparable quality might be untouched and half wild because it has spent its entire life in the pasture it was born in. Yet another 2-year-old may have been gently and consistently handled and educated since birth then carefully started under saddle to prepare it for a career as a trail horse.

A horse's first experiences with being handled and the way it is started under saddle have a life-long influence on the horse's attitude and behavior. **Buyers should expect to pay a premium price for horses that have been gently and carefully educated since birth.** A 2-year-old horse is still mentally and physically a juvenile. A young horse

that has received the full benefits of excellent handling and training will still have moments of insecurity and less than perfect performance due to its youth and limited experience. Nevertheless, the purchase price of such a horse is a bargain compared to the risks and costs of re-training a horse that has endured poor handling or rehabilitating an abused horse. Re-training or rehabilitation of some horses can be done but it is not a project that novices, children or the disabled should undertake.

In far too many cases people erroneously assume that a horse with a calm, cooperative temperament is "born broke." As a result the average gaited horse is given less training than the average grade horse. Much of what we expect of domestic horses is contrary to their instincts so there is no such thing as a horse that is "born broke." Horses that are calm, gentle, eager to please and intelligent are easier to train; however, good temperament cannot substitute for a lack of education. No matter how good-natured the horse is, sooner or later gaps in a horse's training will manifest themselves in unpleasant or dangerous ways.

What Makes Horses Trainable?

Horses are very emotional animals. Horses are very perceptive of both physical and emotional signals from other horses and people. Horses are sensitive to pain and seek to avoid pain. Horses are very social animals who want to be in safe, comfortable, well-defined relationships. Horses are capable of thinking. Horses are capable of some degree of simple cause and effect reasoning. Horses are very observant of patterns. Horses have excellent memories. Horses have a conscience. Horses have a degree of self-awareness, though a horse's self-awareness is more limited than human self-awareness.

All of these attributes are the mental components that make horses a trainable animal. It's been said that a horse is like a thousand-pound 4-year-old child. Weekend clinics fit human schedules but horses have a very short attention span so giving the horse short daily lessons is more effective training than the occasional marathon session. Each horse is an unique individual that brings its own innate character traits to the training process.

Assessment

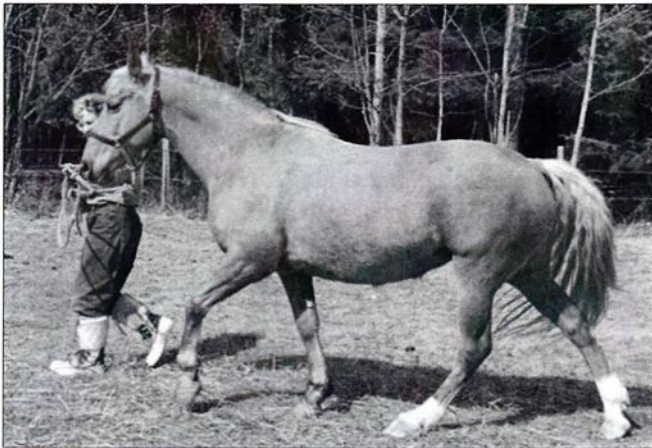
An assessment of the horse's skills is a useful step in determining what the horse has been taught, what additional training may be needed and whether there are any problems that need to be corrected. When the buyer of a horse discovers the horse needs more education, the buyer must decide whether to do the training herself, or make arrangements to have someone else train the horse for her. Much as we may hate to admit it, we can always improve our own horsemanship. Training a horse quickly exposes deficiencies in the trainer's skills.

The skills a 2-year-old gaited horse needs are the same essential manners and halter training that every domestic horse must have to live with people. One difference in the halter training of gaited horses has to do with teaching the horse to lead at a middle gait. Most people don't want their gaited horse to trot so many Walking Horse trainers recommend limiting the horse's speed on the lead line to the most energetic walk the horse can do without breaking to a non-walking middle gait.

To be concluded next issue.

(Originally published in the Sept. 2012 issue of
The Walking Horse Journal.)

"THE MOST ENERGETIC WALK THE HORSE CAN DO
WITHOUT BREAKING TO A NON-WALKING MIDDLE GAIT"



Above is not a 2-year-old, but a mature mare being led in pasture at the greatest speed her owner at the time could muster (especially in those boots!). There is more to leading than you'd think. The handler must control, but not interfere with, the horse's forward movement. A loose lead shank allows the horse to nod its head freely. The handler must be careful not to turn the horse's head (or her own!) to one side. Look straight ahead and walk on!

GENETIC TEST FOR 'GAITEDNESS

A joint research project by five universities in two countries has identified a single mutation in gene DMRT3 that they believe is responsible for 'gaitedness' in horses.

Scientists at Uppsala University and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, and the Universities of Minnesota, Texas A.& M, and California-San Francisco investigated the genetic basis for a horse's ability to perform the 'ambling gaits'. The DNA of 70 Icelandic Horses was analyzed. In these horses a single mutation in the DMRT3 appears to be responsible for the horse's ability to tolt (similar to a rack). Two copies of the mutated gene appear to give the horse the ability to pace as well.

Other breeds tested for this mutated gene, such as Tennessee Walking Horses, Paso Finos and horses bred for harness racing (eg: Standardbreds) were also found to carry this mutated gene, many of them with two copies, or homozygous, for the condition.

Thus the same mutated gene seems to be responsible for gaitedness, but it is expressed differently in the different breeds. The researchers concluded that the gene's expression must depend on how it interacts with other genes specific to that breed, to give rise to various other smooth gaits such as the running walk.

They have gone on to help develop a genetic test for 'gaitedness'. The test, called "SynchroGait", is available through a company called Capilet Genetics. Breeders can test their stock to see if they carry one, two or no copies of this mutated gene, and plan their breedings according to what gait they are hoping to produce.

MCL

Information for the above was gleaned from the January 2013 issue of Equus, pages 6 & 7, from an article by Christine Barakat and Mick McCluskey, BVSc, MACVSc.

Thank you to Dianne Little for calling my attention to this article, and to Linda Hokanson of Starmyri Appaloosas, Edson, AB for sending me a copy.



From Foundations to the Future

THE TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE NATIONAL MUSEUM

by Franne Brandon

The Tennessee Walking Horse had its origins in the native saddle horses being bred and used in Middle Tennessee prior to the U.S. Civil War, blended with the strains of Northern stock which were left behind during the conflict. In the first chapter of his history of the breed, Ben A. Green, writing in "War - Reconstruction - and a Breed is Born", traces the bloodlines and histories of these early stallions and mares. (Biography of the Tennessee Walking Horse, pages 9-20). By 1935, a type of horse that was in much demand had been established, and in April of that year, a group of gentlemen gathered in Lewisburg, Tennessee, to form a breeders' association to record the pedigrees of the various strains that had produced this uniquely gaited breed. Only four years later, a horse show began in Shelbyville, Tennessee, to promote this breed and the local area where much of its activity was centered. This pair of entities, The Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders Association of America (later the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders and Exhibitors Association), and the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration, did much in those early years to promote the breed and extend its range to all areas of the United States and into other countries as well.

In 1989, forty years after the first Celebration was held in 1939, Ron Thomas, then CEO of the TWHNC, received a \$300,000 grant, earmarked for the construction of a Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration and Walking Horse Museum. This museum would be housed within the structure of the new Calsonic Equestrian Center. (Shelbyville Times-Gazette, vol. 116, no. 220, Nov. 9, 1989). The museum that resulted from this grant occupied a corner of the Calsonic Arena, its location designated by an attractive Southern Plantation home façade. However, since Calsonic is not open on a daily basis, the museum got limited traffic, so in 1993, the contents moved to a formerly vacant building on the public square in Lynchburg, Tennessee. Admission to the museum in this new location was free, and it drew regular visitors from the many people who wander the square every day, drawn by the attraction of the Jack Daniels' Distillery tours, but also enjoying the variety of shops that this old country town boasts. In 2006, however, the museum's elderly caretakers died, and in 2010, Jack Daniels' Distillery for the first time requested rent for the building housing the museum.

The museum was closed down, some of its contents returning to original donors and the rest going into storage until a permanent location could be resolved.



The entry area of the new museum features an exhibit of Wartrace's favorite son, Strolling Jim, the first WGC who was trained in the town and lies buried near the museum. The saddle which Jim wore is preserved in its display case as part of the exhibit. Photo by Diana Saunders.

The small town of Wartrace, Tennessee, home to some of the earliest walking horse shows and known as "The Cradle of the Tennessee Walking Horse", offered to take up the reins as sponsors of the walking horse museum. Thus the Tennessee Walking Horse National Museum became a Title 501C-3 charity, with the museum no longer being affiliated with the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration. On March 7, 2013, the museum, housed in a newly renovated building along the Wartrace storefronts, held a grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony. Grant monies had been skillfully used in designing the interior to create exhibits within a venue that is appealing to the eye and draws visitors back to explore every corner of museum space. A soaring archway separates the entry area with guest registration desk from the actual exhibits, but even this front entry space has been used for a Strolling Jim display above the guestbook and a display of old walking horse artifacts on the opposite side of the walk-through area. Among the items on display in this area are the plantation work saddle used by Ray Tenpenny of Merry Boy breaking fame, the show boots of Another Masterpiece and the double-hinged boots worn by Go Boy's Shadow, and the saddle used to show Strolling Jim.

Guests visiting during the open house on March 7th were greeted by TWH Museum board members, President Phil Gentry and Treasurer Peggy Payne. They made everyone feel welcome, offered refreshments of coffee, punch, and pastries, and encouraged exploration of all corners of the museum. They were a steady presence to answer questions about the exhibits, the museum's hours, its presence in the Wartrace community, and how tax deductible donations can be made to support the museum's ongoing mission to promote the Tennessee Walking Horse as a breed. As Gentry said, "We want to showcase the Tennessee Walking Horse. All of our money goes for upkeep of the museum. We are focused on the Tennessee Walking Horse."

As visitors wind through the museum's exhibits, they find records of the earlier years of the Allen horses, with an exhibit of photos from the James R. Brantley family that brought Allan F-1 to Middle Tennessee and bred Roan Allen F-38, and his son Brantley's Roan Allen, Jr.

Old photos from the Jack Knox files on Midnight Sun stand opposite pictures of his show ring nemesis Merry Go Boy, along with the checks when Go Boy was purchased by C.C. Turner of Galax, Virginia. A section on Three Time World Grand Champion Talk of the Town features his framed registration certificate.

Betty Sain has donated a riding suit from the seventies, along with a collection of Shaker's Shocker and Sain family memorabilia, among them an original Jack Knox pencil sketch of Betty and the Shocker, below.



Exhibit of 1966 WGC Shaker's Shocker photos and other items, donated by his owner/trainer Betty Sain.

Photo by Diana Saunders

Since the museum was originally created by the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration, photos of all the World Grand Champions line the walls, beginning with Strolling Jim in 1939, and continuing to wrap around until the horses that have won in the 21st century finish on the opposite wall. A hat, saddle, and spurs from the late Sam Paschall, trainer of Setting Sun, Ebony Masterpiece, and Sun's Delight D., have a special niche. There is also the saddle used by amateur competitors Burt Daughette Lowe and Anne Daughette Renfrow, the first Celebration competitors to ride in a patent leather saddle. The 1971 WGC Sensational Shadow's personalized breastband hangs from a peg. According to Mr. Gentry, 1971 was the last year that horses were permitted to compete in any equipment personalized with their names.

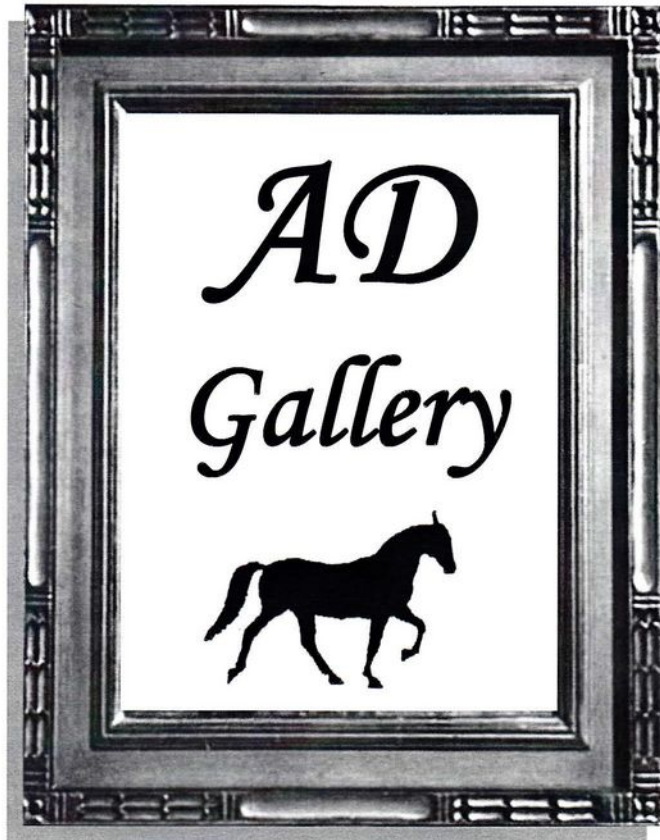
The emphasis, though, is not totally on show horses. One exhibit features Tracy Pinson and her Versatility Horses, Skyjacker's Mountain High and Texas at the Ritz. Tuff (Mountain High) was the TWHBEA World Versatility Show Overall High Point Champion in 2008 and 2010, while Ritz won the honor in 2011. In addition, Tuff was catapulted into national fame when he became the first Tennessee Walking Horse to win the Extreme Cowboy competition. Photos in this exhibit illustrate the various tasks he had to master to achieve this title. Another exhibit focuses on the halter colt side of the breed, with photos from Carla Hurley of Lead Me On Farm in Gallatin, Tennessee. Lead Me On Farm also brought their mare A Gold Heart, and her October, 2012, foal by Master of Jazz, to be on exhibit outside the museum during the afternoon of the grand opening.

At the back of the museum, there is a flatscreen TV designed to show films during the course of the day. The museum has the old TWHBEA tape, [A Look into the Past](#), as well as more modern footage on other DVDs. Visitors are able to stop, relax on the oversized ottoman in front of the TV, and enjoy what is playing. They can also request to see a specific DVD from the museum's collection, if the one playing has not engaged the attention of other visitors.

The admission charge for the new Tennessee Walking Horse Museum is only \$5.00. For those interested in old walking horse history, photos, show paraphernalia, and other artifacts, it is well worth the money and the time it takes to wander through the museum's displays. Wartrace has been known for decades as "The Cradle of the Walking Horse" breed, and now the town offers a vision of the past with promise to keep this vision viable for years to come.

Museum Hours 10 am - 6 pm, Thurs, Fri, Sat.

If you plan to be in the Wartrace area earlier in the week, call 1-931-205-1683 a day or more ahead to arrange to see the Museum on a Mon, Tues, or Wed.



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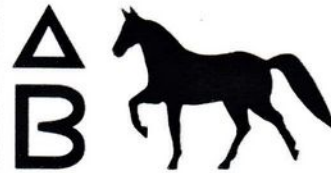
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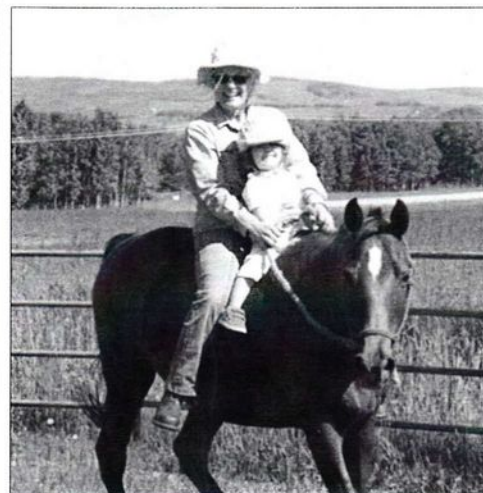
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He's fully broke,
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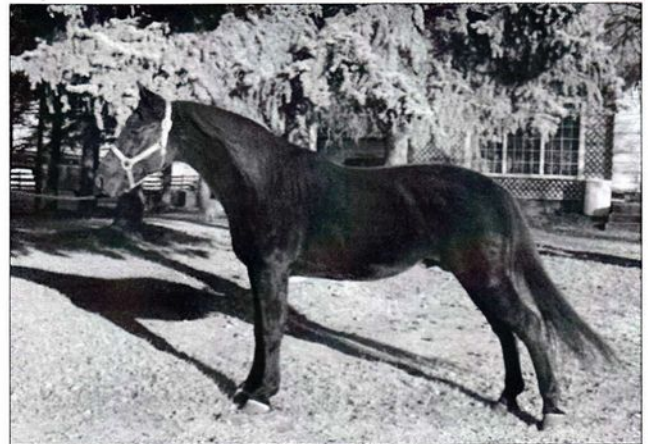
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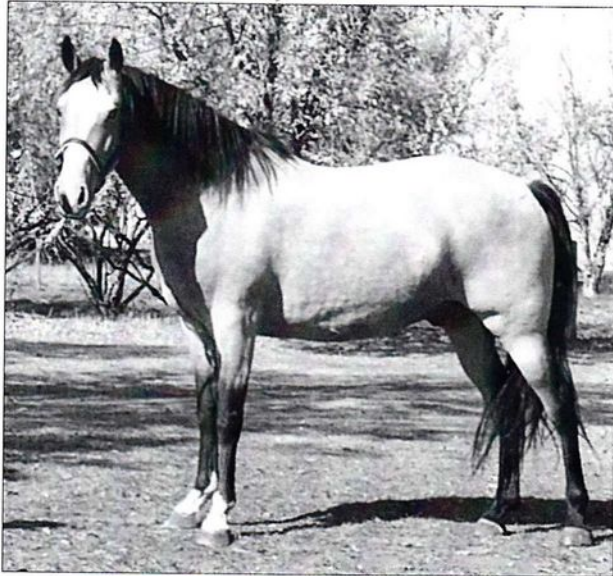
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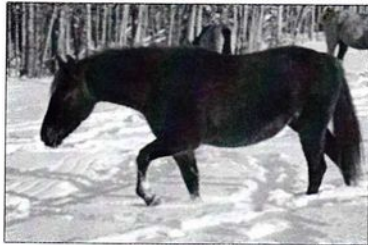
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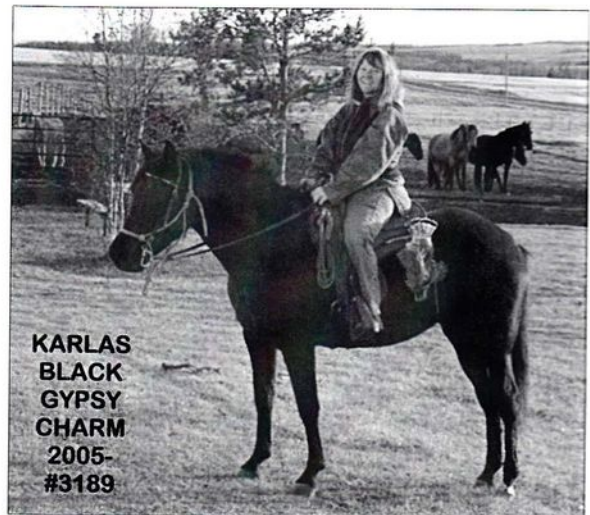
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CRTWH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held May 11, 2013 at Klondike Victory Farm west of Red Deer, AB. Call President Fran Kerik, 780-768-2250 or president@crtwh.ca or any of the Directors for further info.

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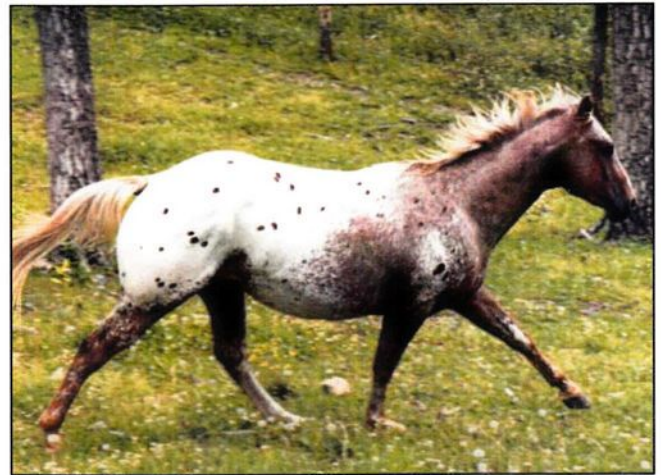
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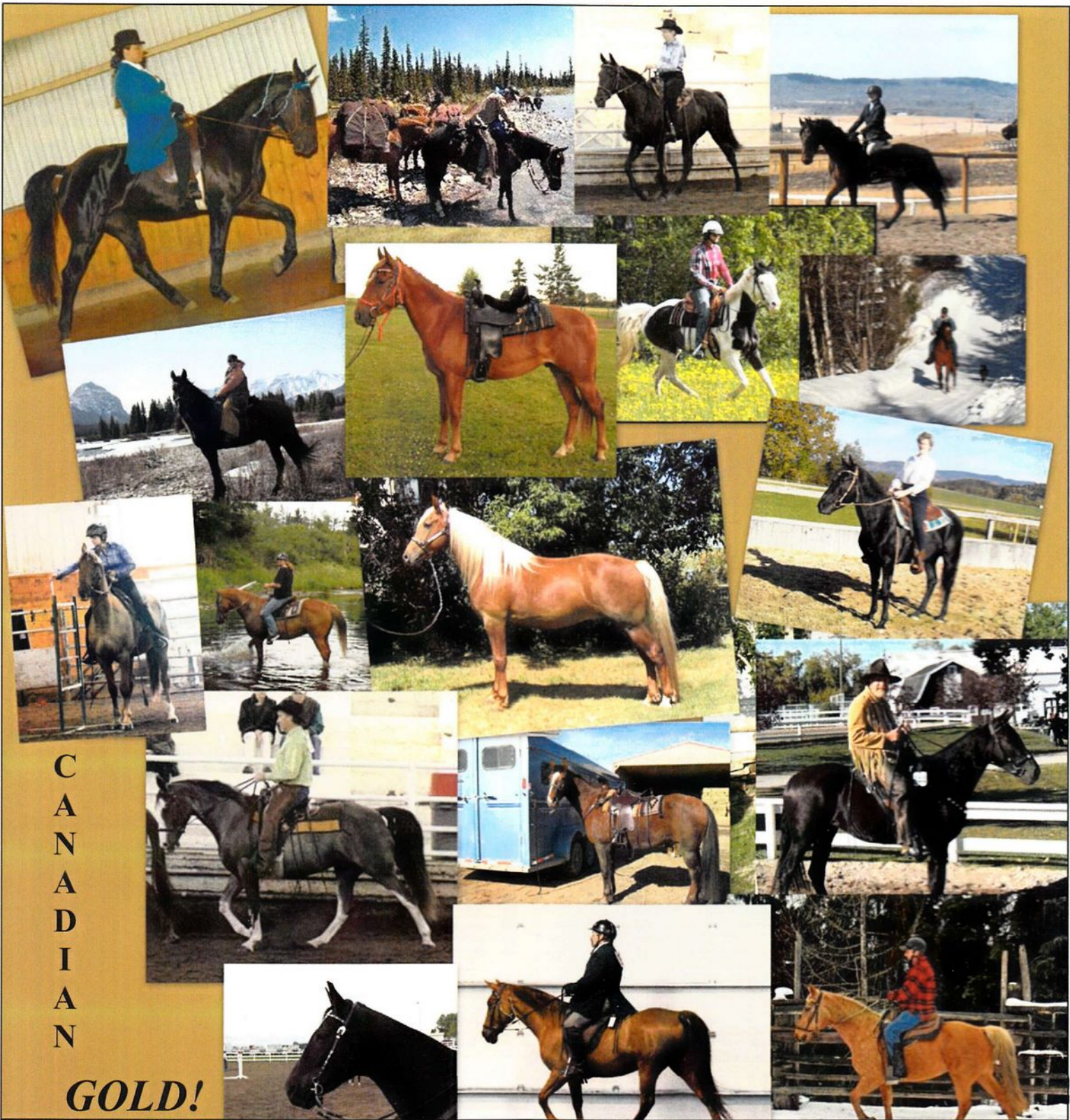
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