

JUNE 2013
VOLUME XXXVII No. 3



Walking

Horse

News



DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN - SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE IN CANADA SINCE 1977

Walking Horse News

DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN-SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE IN CANADA

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On Our Cover

Tom Shaklady
knows how
to make friends
with a new colt at
Northfork Farm,
Bluffton, AB.
It's a lot like fishing -
you have to
keep very still
and be patient!
For more foal
pictures and
announcements
see page 8.

*Photo courtesy of
Susan Banks,
DeWinton, Alberta*

Deadline Dates

for Jan/Feb issue
JANUARY 7

for Mar/Apr issue
MARCH 7

**for May/June issue
MAY 7**

for July/Aug issue
JULY 7

for Sept/Oct issue
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Volume XXXVII, # 3 May/June, 2013

Dear Subscribers,

Suddenly it's summer - or that's the way it feels. I'm itching to get out of my basement *WHN* office and do something more with the horses than just feed and water them. The weather has been warm and sunny, and DRY around here. For all the snow we had, there was little or no run-off. I hope the rain comes in time for pastures and hayfields, everywhere and there won't be another drought like so many areas experienced last year.

The *WHN* website is now carried by a different server, so if you are having trouble reaching it from the old address you have, just retype walkinghorsesnews.ca into your browser and it should come up. Also, another reminder regarding the internet - if you send a photo, please reduce it in size from the huge pictures that come straight off the camera. My dial-up system can't handle those and, all too often, just quits. Sending a whole lot of pictures on the same message also causes a problem. One per email is safer! I love getting pictures from you, so don't stop sending them. Just send them a bit smaller and one at a time!

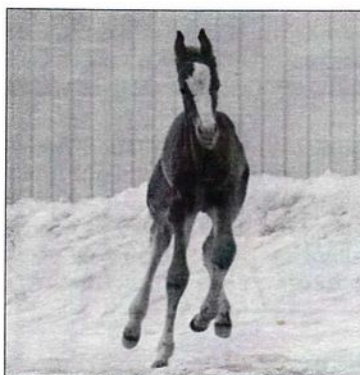
We have another interesting mix of news, stories, and ads. It is always fascinating to see what comes in the mail as I work on each issue. This time Franne Brandon sent a story about Stonewall Allen, also known as Gene Autry's 'Champion' (or one of them, anyway!). Then I had an ad come in from Nicole Jamieson of Cabri, SK for her William's Kodiak gelding - and he turns out to be a descendant of Stonewall Allen! Such serendipitous coincidences!

Remember, the limited time 'grace period' for delinquent TWHBEA registrations and transfers ends July 1, 2013. And be sure to check the TWHBEA rule changes on using blood typing for parentage verification if you are buying or breeding any U.S. registered TWH.

Foals are arriving...
and they don't always
come when it's convenient.
See Maureen Germscheid's
note on page 8. This was
the weather shortly after
their little 'Rascal'
made his appearance!

I'm looking forward
to hearing from YOU,

Marjorie



WHN makes a
great gift!

Walking Horse News

June, 2013

"DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN-SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE IN CANADA"
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How about some news from your place?

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Walking Horse News!*

CANADIAN TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE

HISTORY & HERITAGE PROJECT

ROCK'S FLICKA - THE ONGOING STORY by Kathy Minor

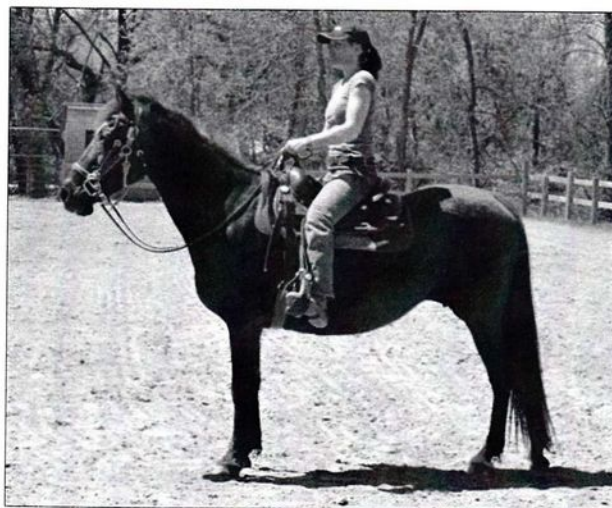
Here, as promised, is the ongoing story of my mare Rock's Flicka and her return to my care and keeping. Brief summary - five years ago at the age of 19, she developed a problem which seemed to indicate that she could no longer be ridden. She would buck furiously when I mounted, and endless vet visits, saddle changes and everything I could think of did not help. We could not solve her pain issue so I found a retirement home for her 60 miles away where she was well looked after in a herd of many other horses, with good supervision and about 30 acres to roam.

Last year I found another closer retirement place for her about one mile from my present boarding stable where I keep her replacement, a 14 year old QH. Last summer due to the drought and hay crop failure, the owners of this boarding facility did not replace boarders who, for various reasons, moved to other facilities. There were only six boarders left of a total of 15, so this spring, because of the available space, I asked if Flicka could be accommodated with my other horse.

One month ago I moved her and she was turned out with Bucky the QH. I am a fairly heavy person for a small horse like Flicka and I have realized that many of the problems she had experienced might possibly have been caused by my daily rides on an elderly horse that couldn't manage the weight and who had arthritic issues. With this in mind, I wondered if she might be able to carry much lighter riders and could possibly be ridden by my daughters, grandchildren, and a 12-year-old daughter of a friend. The trainer/coach at the stable is a very slim girl who weighs about 100 pounds and she offered to see if Flicka could carry her without issue. To prepare for this I spent the last month hand-walking Flicka every day. We went from 15 minutes per day to an hour and she ended up carrying her saddle and doing a bit of slow gait work on the lunge line. Her diet was enhanced to provide optimum nutrients and more protein.

The result was worth the effort! Yesterday she was ridden by the coach slowly and carefully for half an hour and co-operated beautifully, no signs of stress.

Above photo shows their first ride.



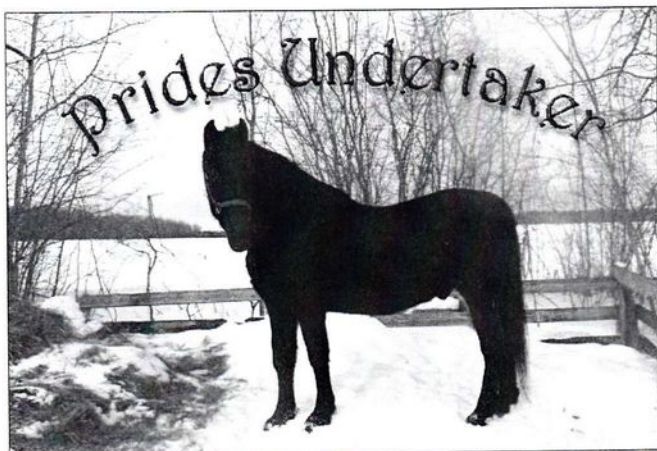
She was stiff to start with but that gradually wore off and she was able to respond to requests for walk, halt, backup, some lateral work and finally a few minutes of gaiting. Now my plan for her is to have the coach ride her in the ring two times per week until she builds up some strength and then we will start her on rides through the farm trails accompanied by me on my QH. At that point my daughters and my friend's daughter can take her for easy rides with me, and the children can be ponied on her. She loves the attention, especially from the children, and she will be all the better for the exercise. She is 24 years old and, other than some arthritis, she seems to be in excellent health. Hopefully she will be around for many more years and I will make sure her life is a happy one.

ROCK'S FLICKA was bred by Betty Motherwell in BC. Flicka's sire was Rockette's Rocket (A Masterpiece x Ebony's Rockette) and her dam was Midnight Star FF. Most will be familiar with the breeding behind her sire. Her dam Midnight Star FF came from Friesen Farms in Spence's Bridge, BC. and was by their stallion, Sun's Shakedown, out of Grindl GW. Grindl was by Go Boy's Sun out of Ester Lee (Red Bud Allen x Clark's Mary Ann). An interesting oldtime pedigree.

Rock's Flicka has two offspring registered with CRTWH. They are Westhill's King of Spades, and Tracker's Kennebec Beauty. Beauty is owned by the Bouwers family of Belleville, ON.

NEWS - NEWS - NEWS

ALBERTA NEWS



LISA LAMBERT, PRIDE'S NOBLE WALKERS, PERRYVALE, sent this sad news. "On March 27, 2013, Pride's Undertaker passed away. It's been a real hard time around here without him. Unless you met him you just couldn't understand how sweet he was. Sure, there are lots of nice stallions out there, but he was different, always so well behaved, never testing fencing, just a gentleman always. When my kids were smaller they would climb all over him. He was a horse you really didn't have to worry about. Our farm will never be the same."

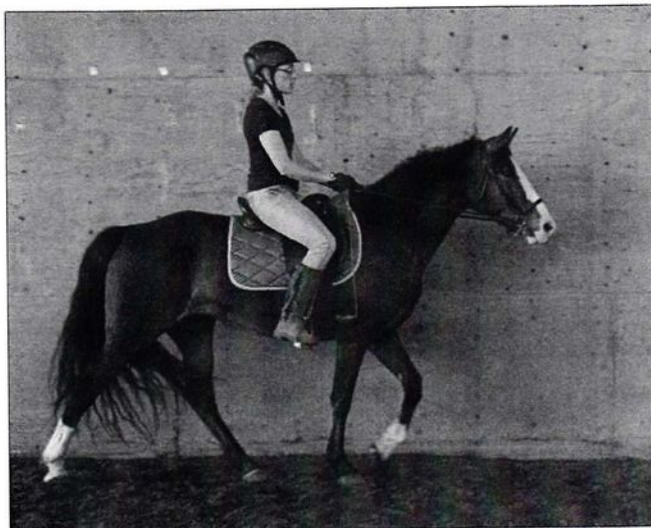
"In 2012 he bred three mares that should start foaling in mid May, the next week or so. The first mare to foal that was bred to Pride is Ultra's Violet Velvet (Pride's Ultra Threat x Bum's Black Velvet by Delight Bummin Around. Next will be Cashes Private Dancer (Coins Hard Cash x Ghost Dance by Ebony's Mountain Man) and the last one is Ima Ultimate Masterpiece (Iron Works x Ebony's Black Crystal by Ebony Masterpiece). We will keep any fillies, but the colts will be for sale."

This request came in recently. These folks are experienced with horses and it would have good care. Is there anyone out there looking for a retirement home for a horse or 2 meeting this description? If you get in touch with me, at whn@telus.net or 780-723-2547, I'll pass your message along.

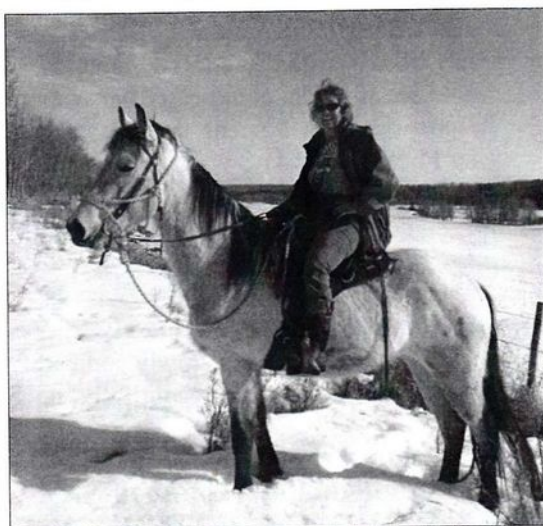
"We have decided to look for a couple of horses. We'd like to find under 15 hh, older, very well-trained and laid-back, easy-going horses, that can be ridden occasionally. I would prefer a Walker or other easy-gaited horse for my poor old body. Also we would be interested in one to drive. Special needs, such as older ones or those who need extra care in feeding and such are okay. We are in Alberta. We can't spend a lot of money but would provide a good home."

DENNIS NIEDERMOSER, ROCKY MTN HOUSE, writes, "Would you please send the *Walking Horse News* to Robert Britten of Rocky Mtn House with my compliments? He is the proud owner of Ora's Smokey Fancy Gen, a big horse for a big man. May they have many, many great miles together."

From HILTON HACK, CALGARY, "Here at CALTA STABLES we are busy training and getting going with lessons again. Jessica Sparrow and Jami Morgan took in the 'Gait from the Ground Up' clinic at Klondike Victory Farm on May 11-12 with two of our 'for sale' TWH, Calta Lady Morganna and Calta Calais. Below are 'Anna' and Jessica at the clinic.



KARLA FREEMAN, PONOKA, congratulates Ron Goehring of Bentley, new owner of the young buckskin gelding, Karlas Flash of Lightning, below. "Wishing you many smooth trails ahead!"



ONTARIO NEWS

Unexpected Benefits by Angie Jansen, Zepher, ON

When Sharon Turkevich first brought her boy "Ice" home, we had hoped he would be able to stay here on my farm. Unfortunately, my gelding, Dex, having been a stud for many years, was quite put out at the idea of sharing his herd with another. (All my other horses are mares). After trying to keep him here, with Ice putting up with more than his share of bites and relentless isolation from the herd, Sharon decided to move him to a more 'inviting' place.

Now Sharon and I ride together often. We had hoped time would 'heal all wounds', but Dex and Ice continued to have a 'cold' relationship. There were dirty looks, pinned ears, instances of purposefully cutting off the other horse on the trail, and threats of kicks. There was no love lost between these two.

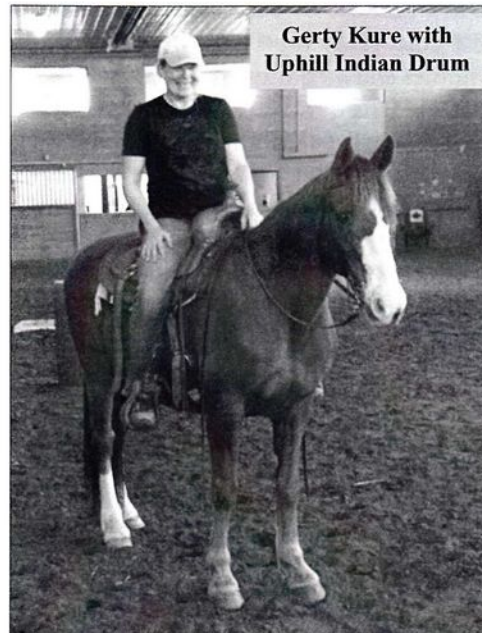
Then came the weekend of the clinic. I thought it might be okay to put them in a paddock together, feeling that without Dex's 'ladies' present, he would be less likely to put up any fuss with Ice. Two horses taken to a strange place and nothing recognizable or familiar... except each other. Now a herd of two against the world, Ice and Dex found comfort in each others company.

Today Sharon and I went for a trail ride. When we prepared to mount, the two horses touched noses and there was none of that usual 'tension'. They seemed genuinely happy to see each other. On the trail there was none of the dirty looks and no ear pinning. When they got into a tight spot there was no 'pushing and shoving' each other off the path or interfering with each others passing.

And joy of joys! When we rode side by side ... nothing. Just two horses lazily making their way down a winding path with the sounds of the forest all around them. There was nothing I could have learned at the clinic that could have given me more pleasure than seeing all of the new friendships forged, both the human... and especially this equine kind!

From SUE GAMBLE, SWASTIKA, "I've been really enjoying the set of Kalley Krickeberg DVD's "The Sport of Liberty with Multiple Horses" that I just received. Kalley answered a couple of serious questions I had, such as when the horses get overly playful or dominant, if you want to call it that. The answer is to make sure that they respect your space! It is good to know that mine have always respected my space no matter how chaotic my "classroom" has become at times."

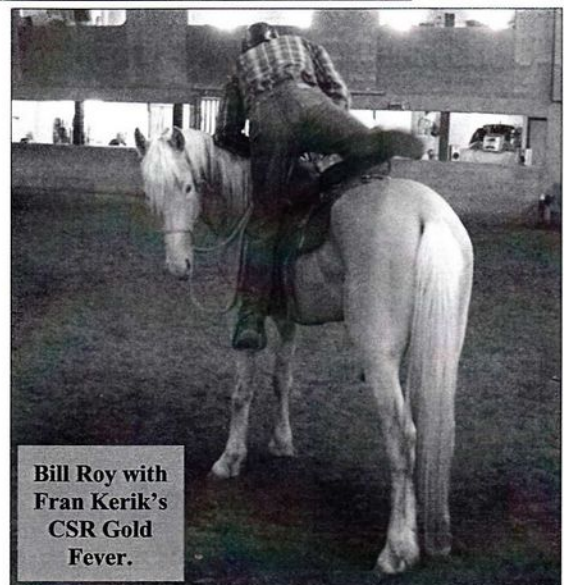
"I also learned that I need to work for harmony between the two horses which is something I knew intuitively, but had not seen demonstrated and verbalized. Harmony is going to be a challenge with these two dominant types, as the reason Koki was for sale in the first place was that he was never going to be happy driving double, according to his previous owner. Koki didn't like putting up with another horse, especially one that was green at driving. I notice my two "first cousins" don't have much tolerance for each other sometimes, yet at other times they can stand and groom each other for hours! These two people-loving, Lucky Koko Prince descendents might be a "strange brew" to pick if you were starting out to do liberty with multiple horses, but hey, you work with what you have!"



Gerty Kure with Uphill Indian Drum

Two more photos from the 'GAIT FROM THE GROUND UP' CLINIC.

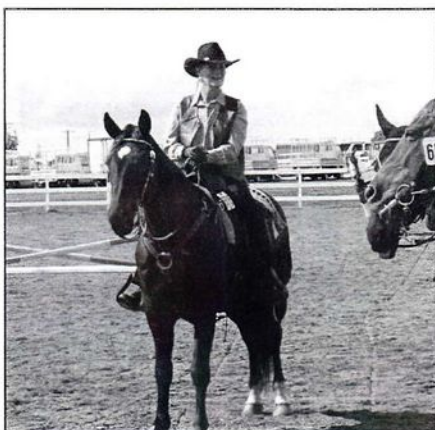
Thank you to Ralph Livingston & Sue Gamble for the pictures.



Bill Roy with Fran Kerik's CSR Gold Fever.

TODDY'S APOLLO - *Where are his offspring?*

by Lissa Townsend



As a matter of curiosity only, I would be very interested to hear from anybody who may have one of the offspring of my horse, TODDY'S APOLLO.

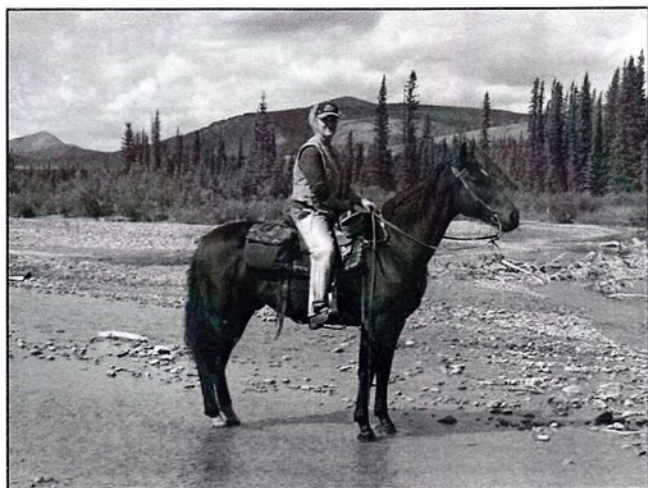
He was a breeding stallion for John and Christine Kobza for a number of years before I purchased him. He's just celebrated his 19th birthday and even though the internet shows quite a few babies by him, I have only ever contacted one person who bred a mare to him, and got a stud colt from that union, that he no longer owns.

Apollo is my 'heart horse', and I would be so pleased to see photos or records of his babies, or hear from anyone who may have one.

Thank you in advance, Lissa Townsend

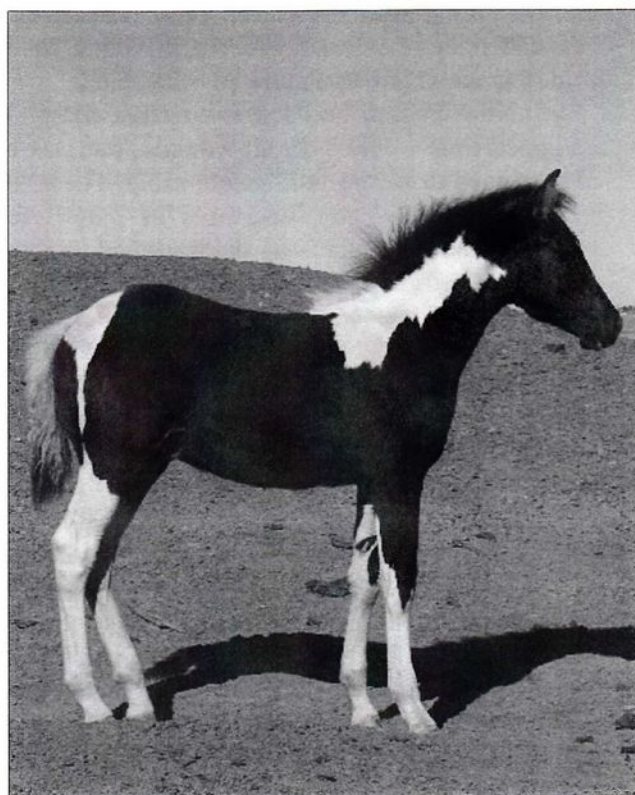
Email lissad@xplornet.com or whn@telus.net.

TODDY'S APOLLO was sired by Viggo Sorensen's well known and popular stallion, Midnight Toddy out of the Kobza's excellent mare, Thing's Diamond Lil. His CRTWH offspring include
APOLLO THREATS SMOKY 2001-[CAN]2654-
APOLLO'S ALTAIR 1999-[CAN]2270-
APOLLO'S ANDANTE 2000-[CAN]2540-
APOLLO'S EVENING STAR 2002-[CAN]2859-
APOLLO'S HYACINTH BAY 1999-[CAN]2296-
APOLLO'S MYSTER COOL 2000-[CAN]2541-
MYSTER BOJANGLES 1999-[CAN]2297-



BRITISH COLUMBIA NEWS

From JO-ANNE MCDONALD, MCDONALD FARMS, POUCE COUPE, "Congratulations to Ed Bruneau of Innisfail, AB who has purchased Victory's Reward, a 2012 black and white tobiano colt by Sunny's Greatest Glory out of Victorian Quatro Luna from us. We wish them many fine black and white foals from their tobiano mares and this youngster when he matures."



GENEVIEVE AMY, SKYKEEP IN THE CARIBOO, writes, "Can't believe we almost let our subscription slip! I'll be sending a cheque right away. There have been a lot of changes in the last few months. In early November, we went down to the coast for a few days, and I had my last ride out of Deb and Dave Smith's place. They moved out in December. It was the end of an era; goodbye to the best trails I have ever ridden, and the best riding buddies I have ever ridden with."

"Then at the end of November, both Sandy and Boomer (Dark Tom's Strutter) retired. Boomer now has a lovely home with two Standardbreds and a Mini that looks like a bear, on 40 acres of ranch land. I also sold Luna, the grey Standardbred, to a very good horsewoman farther north who is already riding her. So we are down to the three mares, Darkstar Delite, Finally, and my Standardbred, Merry Ann."

READERS WRITE

ELDON EADIE, TURNER VALLEY AB on Genetic Test for Gaitedness, p.16, April/2013 *WHN*:

I read with great interest your note on the research into the gene that causes gait done by the Swedish team of scientists at Uppsala University. The original research was published in the August 2012 edition of *Nature* magazine. Already their findings are being misquoted and misunderstood on the Internet, so it is important to refer to this article. What they found is that there is a single mutated gene on chromosome 23 that is always present in horses that are gaited. The wild type trotters are always homozygous for the normal gene C/C (or common/common). Horses that demonstrate gait but cannot pace are usually C/A (or common/anomaly). Horses that pace are always homozygous for the mutant gene (A/A, or anomaly/anomaly). The mutant gene has been given the designation DMRT3. If you google this designation you will come up with almost everything that is on the Internet about it.

The researchers tested 352 Icelandic horses and found, with only one exception, that the pacers (five gaited) were A/A. The one exception was considered to be misclassified. Most of the four gaited horses were C/A but a number of them were A/A. More specific information is needed here but we know that training plays a very significant part in developing the middle gaits. What I find very significant is that horses that were good at pacing and preferred to pace were always A/A. None of the C/C horses showed much gait. They could tolt but not very fast.

They also tested a number of Standardbred trotters and pacers. This breed is considered to be non-gaited but they found that 100 percent of both American trotters and pacers were A/A. The DMRT3 gene expresses itself by inhibiting the ability to transition into the gallop. This was clearly demonstrated by the results of the testing of DMRT3 mice. DMRT3 homozygous mice ran in much the same way as a Peruvian Paso canters, which is to say with numerous misfires and great amounts of discord.

The most exciting news is that there is now a genetic test for gait. It even has a trade name 'SynchroGait' and is available from U.C.Davis. Capilet Genetics is in Sweden. UC Davis has the license for North America. The cost is prohibitive at \$350.00 US but in time this will come down. Nobody should breed to a stallion that is not tested and soon it will be necessary to test your mares as well.

This information explains so much in the history of the TWH. In the early days when a natural gaited horse was king, the best method of producing a gaited horse was recognized as breeding a trotter to a pacer. By the 50's when the big lick started the method switched to breeding pacer to pacer because this was the type of horse that responded best to soring.

Personally I find this very gratifying because it proves that work that I did 30 years ago was correct. We still need more research because many questions remain. I still think that there is another gene or group of genes that impact gait. Among the C/A horses there is a variation in the strength of gait. Some don't need any training to develop gait and others are very hard to start. At any rate I never once thought that I would live to see the day when this gene was found. It is a great day. *Eldon Eadie*

SynchroGait™ \$350

SynchroGait is a diagnostic DNA test for a genetic variant (A) that has a major impact on the gait and coordination of horses. The discovery by researchers in Sweden showed that the mutation "facilitates lateral gaits, ambling and pace, and inhibits the transition from trot or pace to gallop". The gait A variant has been identified as a major genetic factor for performance in trotting horses and ability to perform the additional "flying pace" in Icelandic horses.

With **SynchroGait** owners can identify the innate ability of young horses for gait performance which facilitates decisions regarding investment in future training. Testing of breeding stock allows breeders to predict likely genotypes of offspring and to select optimal mates to maximize production of foals with the gait mutation. In breeds used for dressage or show jumping, where pacing is not a favorable trait, **SynchroGait** can be used to eliminate the pacing variant.

Benefits of the variant A in gaited breeds are:

Standardbreds: AA horses are more likely to race professionally; they earn more money and have higher breeding value for racing performance than CA and CC horses. **SynchroGait** test is particularly applicable to horses that have French Standardbred blood lines.

Other gaited breeds: presence of the A variant predisposes horses to perform alternative gaits. CC horses are three-gaited. Breeds that can benefit from **SynchroGait** test include Tennessee Walking Horses.

For more information on **SynchroGait**, visit <http://www.capiletgenetics.com/en/start>.



FOAL CALL



SORREL SABINO COLT (Toddy's Royal Image x Chief's Paint Brush) "Imagine my chagrin when I looked out my window at 6 am on April 11 and saw this little creature lying in a 6 inch deep puddle of water. Temperature was 15 degrees. I yelled loudly enough to wake Greg, and within a short time we got the baby into the shop and warmed him up, milked the mare, and had him on his feet by noon. Just another day in paradise! Now it's day 4 and Rascal is coming along. Becky took a few photos today, and I think you will agree that he is looking better. He's still big and gangly but a real little sweetie." Maureen & Greg Germscheid, Magnolia Meadows, Evansburg, AB



FILLY SCW FRENCH DELIGHT (Delight's Midnight Legend x SCW Penelope Candice) "This the FIRST Tennessee Walking Horse foal born in FRANCE. She is eligible for certification with the Heritage Society. She will be part of Dora Flament's breeding program for sound, natural TWH's in France. She is exquisite! Delight's Midnight Legend stands at Slush Creek Walkers in Montana where SCW Penelope Candice was born and bred prior to leaving for France. *Below left.* We also have new foals at the ranch. They are



BAY COLT- SCW
Barnabas Sackett (Slush Creeks Jubal S x Ostella Sara Lady) born 4-11-2013.

SORREL SABINO COLT
SCW Kin-Ring Sackett (Slush Creeks Jubal S x Glory's Elegant Angel).
Photo left. Born 2-15-13

Both are eligible for certification with the Heritage Society."
Shellie & Mark Pacovsky,
Slush Creek Walkers,
Bainville, MT



BLACK FILLY star (Ultra's Major Threat x Storms Ebony Miss)
BLACK FILLY (Aprils Artic Storm x Major's Whispering Willow)
BLACK COLT (Ultra's Major Threat x Painted Power) (possibly minimal sabino) Jana Jacobsen JRJ Fencing, Cranbrook, BC

PALOMINO COLT *Photo left.* (Agoldn Mastrpiece Edition x Pride's Generatin a Future) born April 1. Lisa Lambert, Pride's Noble Walkers, Perryvale, AB has several more foals coming. The colts will be for sale.

PALOMINO FILLY (x Golden Dreams Delight).
SORREL FILLY (x Walkien Victory)

Lesa Luchak, Maple Lane Acres, Two Hills, AB is very pleased with her first two foals by DARKIE'S LAST CHANCE. (*Palomino filly shown right.*)



Shirley Wesslen, Blackfalds, AB phoned with news of her two new foals.
SORREL FILLY (Northfork Top Traveller x Walkien Starlite Gem)
SORREL COLT (I didn't get Daddy's name but Mama is Gem's daughter!)

NEWS from our U.S. SUBSCRIBERS

From GRACE LARSON, FORSYTH, MT, "Arrow's Walkers of Arapahoe, CO is now the very pleased owner of over 20 years of the *Walking Horse News*. Delene Walsh said she is so glad to have these magazines with all of their Walking Horse history. She commented on the beauty and conformation of the Walkers in the *WHN* articles. She may become a new subscriber too; I sure hope so. I am thankful for a good home for the magazines. My children aren't interested in horses so the magazines would have had no value to them. Now, I am still looking for homes for the many issues of *The Walking Horse Journal* and some other horse items I still have."

"Our herd is going to be down to Fawn soon. Marigold is getting so crippled. This breaks our hearts but it is part of caring for horses. I see so many thin older horses; just hide stretched over bone, and they are out on the range in the cold wind. I sure feel sad for them and wish their owners knew how much they suffer in the cold. Marigold will go with plenty to eat and never knowing that kind of hardship."

"Our medical visits went well in MN; mine at Mayo and his at the Edina Pain Clinic. Lyle goes for another treatment on the 16th and we will both have appointments in mid-July."

"The pastures are green now and the horses are sure enjoying the green grass. It has been so dry that I am not concerned about founder. If the rains start then we will allow brief grazing. We have had great weather but we sure need rain. We have had very little moisture and a lot of wind. We missed the storms that were south and east of us."

"It is said that horses don't think ahead. From my experience I know they do (and mules are *always* thinking)! Another that I think is a myth is that horses are color blind. Our stallions could tell color. One of Chief's daughters was his very image. When her owners brought her to our Goldust, he immediately thought she *was* Chief. We had to refer them to another stallion!"

BRENDA W. IMUS

Brenda W. Imus, 61, of Kennedy, N.Y., passed away Saturday, March 23, 2013.

She was an advocate for the sound and humane treatment of gaited horses and was a lifetime member of Friends of Sound Horses.

She wrote and published five books including Gaits of Gold and most recently The Gaited Horse Bible.

ALLANNA JACKSON, LAKESIDE, AZ writes, "The report on the "Synchrogait" test is quite interesting, though not quite what I'd guessed they might find from observing gaited horses. I'm not sure whether the finding that TWH have the same gait gene as Icelandics tells us anything useful about breeding running walk when we don't know what the gait behavior of the TWH they tested is. As Victor Burton correctly noted, the TWH has been bred for stepping pace (amble) and rack, not running walk, for several decades now so finding the same gene in TWH as Icelandics merely confirms what we could tell by observation about the TWH having been bred for pace and rack. It doesn't really tell me what this gene has to do with breeding a square running walk."

"Just for curiosity I looked up the web site you listed in the article, though the synchrogait test is also available in the USA from UC Davis. Cost is \$350 from UC Davis! That's a bit stiff for a test that at this time still leaves me needing to observe the horse moving to tell whether it does the gait I want or not. The web site says the homozygous form of the gait gene permits pace and the heterozygous form doesn't. If I'm understanding the website correctly it appears that I can deduce from watching them at liberty, without spending any money at all, that both Velvet and Cinnamon are probably homozygous for the gait gene since both are capable of racking and pacing, whereas Koko was probably heterozygous for gait because he couldn't pace. That hints that the heterozygosity of the gait gene is better for running walk, which would fit the inconsistencies about the inheritance of running walk that have been frustrating breeders for decades. Obviously they've just barely found the tip of the iceberg on genetics of gait and there's lots more to learn."

"The question about which saddles people are using on TWH may find a different answer for every horse! It's my observation that the TWH is not consistent enough in phenotype to allow us to rely on what somebody else uses as a guide for which saddle will fit your horse."

"By the way, can Canadians order from the SmarkPaks company? They've got the Source seaweed based supplement that Jo Kingsland was recommending in a couple of different formulations and in smartpaks or buckets available for shipment anywhere in the USA."

EUGENE PETERS, VAUGHN, MT (Ph. 899-0917) has to disperse his TWH, a 30 plus herd, due to ill health, and is looking for good homes for them. His two herd sires are EMP'S Lovely Spirit and an old bay stallion, Centennial Paard, going back to Blue Namron.

STONEWALL ALLEN (aka 'CHAMPION') by Franne Brandon

The foal that arrived on March 20, 1934, was indeed a well-bred one, even though on the day of his foaling, there was no established association to record the quality of his pedigree. His sire was a stallion known as Brown Allen, a handsome son of Burt Hunter's Allen that stood at the S.W. Beech farm near the small community of Belfast, Tennessee. Despite his name, Brown Allen was a regal black stallion with a "look-at-me" attitude. The mother of the new baby was a mare called Nell. Nell was a bay mare with both hind and off fore socks, plus a star. She was a Hal mare, one of many descendants of the famous Hal bloodline living in Tennessee in the thirties. Nell also passed on the bloodlines of the Denmark line of American Saddle Horses through the sire of her dam, and the Brooks line through her second dam. The Brooks stallion that sired Nell's second dam was a son of Brown Pilot, who was a son of a Canadian Pilot. The colt had been bred by S.W. Beech at the farm where Brown Allen stood.

The colt that arrived on March 20th did not hit the ground in Marshall County, Tennessee, however. The mare had been sold after she settled in foal, and the new youngster made an appearance on a farm about 25 miles from the Beech farm. Columnist Dick Poplin, writing in *Scraps of Poplin* in *The Shelbyville Times-Gazette* on October 14, 1998, recounts the history of the early years of this colt, including his ownership at the time of foaling by Spence Clardy, who owned a farm on the Unionville Highway, which is U.S. 41-A, part of the route from Shelbyville to Nashville in the days before the construction of the U.S. interstate highway system.

The colt was handsome, flashy, and a lucky one. One year after his early spring foaling, a breeders' association was organized in Lewisburg, Tennessee, to record the pedigrees and promote the good qualities of Tennessee's uniquely gaited saddle horse. When the colt was a two year old stallion, both he and Nell were registered with the infant Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders Association of America. The colt was recorded first as Stonewall Allen, 360159. S.W. Beech was listed as the breeder, but the owner of record at the time of registration was Grainger Williams of Nashville, Tennessee. Nell Hal received registration number 360160, but by this time her owner was George T. Peters of Knoxville, Tennessee.

(The Register of the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders Association of America, 1938, p. 91)

Dick Poplin records in his 1998 column that in 1938, sixty years prior to the column's appearance, Hollywood celebrity cowboy Gene Autry had come to Nashville, Tennessee, to make some personal appearances. Poplin requested information from his readership on the famous cowboy star and a local walking horse, and received a copy of an old clipping from Jane Davis of Unionville, dated Dec 16, 1938.

The clipping reported that while Autry was in the area, he also tried out Tennessee Walking Horses with the intention of selecting one for a personal mount. Autry had brought along the famous bridle with the colt revolvers for bit shanks and the silver mounted saddle that appear in all of his western movies.

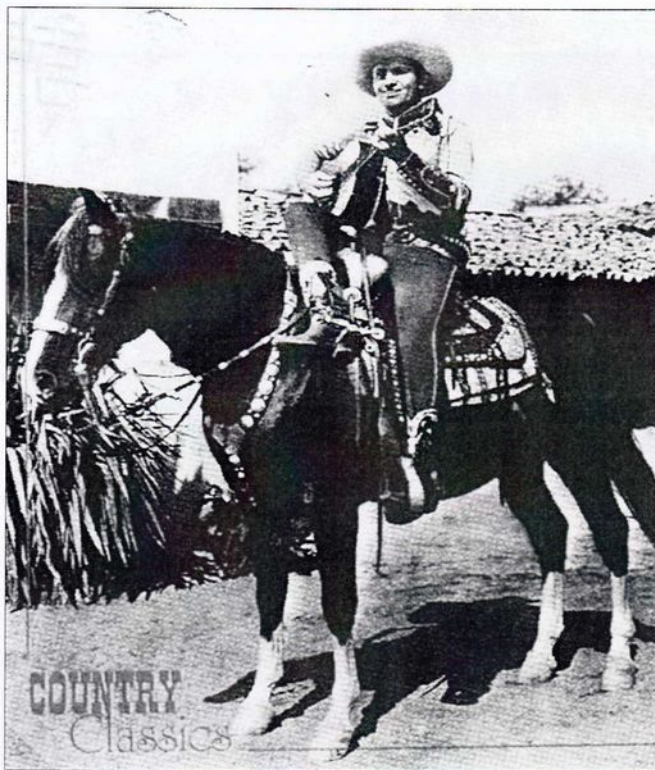
Davis' old clipping reads,

"News of the Tennessee Walking Horse has traveled far and wide, so when Gene Autry, famous star of stage and screen, came from Hollywood to make a series of personal appearances on the stage at Nashville last week, he promptly made arrangements to see and ride some of the better horses of the now famous breed."

"His choice of the lot was the fine chestnut stallion, Stonewall Allen, bred in Bedford County by Spence Clardy, who lives near Unionville, and owned by Grainger Williams of Nashville."

"Stonewall, who appears with Gene in the above picture, is sired by Brown Allen well known to all the walking horse fraternity, and is out of Mr. Clardy's fine mare Nell Hal by Hal Sumner."

According to the 1998 Poplin column, Stonewall Allen received the stage name of Champion Jr., as Autry reported in an article which he wrote for the 1941 *Blue Ribbon* magazine, the yearbook of the 1941 Celebration. However, an internet search on www.autry.com/champion, "The Official Website for Gene Autry", reveals that there were a number of Champions through the years, but the only one identified as a registered Tennessee Walking Horse was the one with the barn name of Lindy Champion. Photos of all the horses that had been 'Champion' across the years as well as capsule biographies of these sorrel horses' accomplishments provide interesting reading at this site.



The caption under this 10 X 12 photo says that this horse is Champion, bought in Nashville from Grainger Williams, who was the owner of record when Stonewall Allen was registered. The caption goes on "In a letter to the TIMES-GAZETTE, Autry wrote 'He was truly one of the finest animals I ever owned and perhaps the most talented and easiest to train... I used him primarily for my state appearances and in parades because he was so even-tempered and well-behaved.'"

Because Champion was a registered Tennessee Walking Horse (like the equally famous Trigger Jr., known in TWHBEA records as Allen's Gold Zephyr) Stonewall Allen died leaving descendants whose pedigrees were retained in breed records. While Trigger Jr. has hundreds of living registered walking horses tracing to him in both Canada and the United States, Stonewall Allen sired only thirty-eight foals, twenty-two fillies and sixteen colts, all of which were registered between 1938 and 1946.

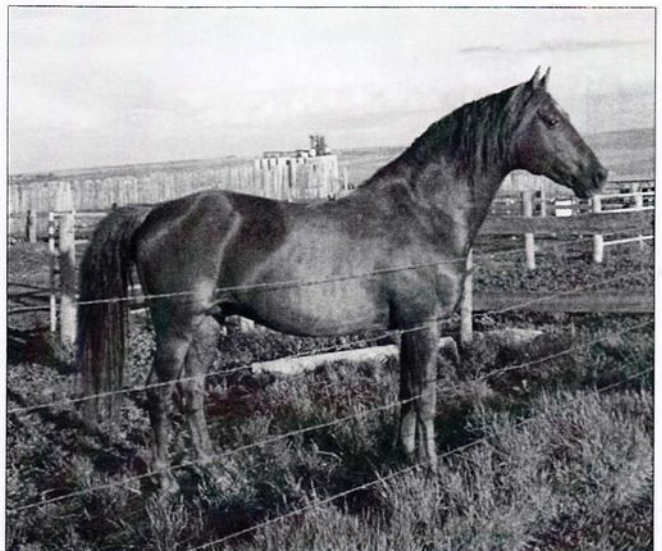
Many of these fillies and colts have no recorded offspring. The mare Top Flight, though, produced a son named The Red Knight who sired a filly named Bright Midnight Star. The Star name continued forward through a line of fillies to a gray mare named Duchess of Silver 981047, who has had one foal.

Stonewall's Fancy 390746 had three foals, one of which, Lewis Society Girl, by the World Champion Society Man, (photo on page 15) had twelve foals by some noted sires of the fifties, sixties, and seventies, among them Midnight Sun, Merry Go Boy, Sun's Eldorado, Sun's Delight D., and Ebony's Senator.

Lulu's Lady Girl 991947 did not receive a registration number in her day, but she was bred to Midnight of Oakwood to produce a registered daughter, My Lover Lately. The line of Stonewall Allen through granddaughter My Lover Lately traces forward to the twentieth century to a mare named Gold Duke's Lulu, who produced twelve foals, all but one of them sired by Williams King. Among these twelve are Lexie Cole's Williams Kodiak, who sired forty TWHBEA-registered foals before his retirement from the stud. Younger than Kodiak, Red Rock Evangelista has raised several foals, the youngest among them Tsuniah Red Willsons Echo. Both Evangelista and her 2012 foal by Society's Duke Allen bring the Stonewall Allen line to Canada through the ownership of Roberta Brebner. In Whitehall, Wisconsin, Northern Foundations Farm features Junior Stallion NFF Wilson's Society King, whose dam Williams Annabelle also resides on the farm.

Most Tennessee Walking Horses are catapulted to fame through excellence in the show ring. In the case of Stonewall Allen, it was not a connection to the show ring, but the widespread appeal of Show Biz that made his stage name of Champion a household word and inspired many youngsters to hold on to that dream of one day owning and riding horses of their own.

Below: Lexie Cole's Williams Kodiak, a Champion descendant, who sired forty TWHBEA-registered foals before his retirement from the stud.



Author's note: Franne writes, "The credit for the genesis of this article goes to Miss Elizabeth Fay Sain, who sent me a 1981 Celebration Souvenir edition from the ShelbyvilleTimes-Gazette for my files, plus the information from the Dick Poplin column from a 1998 edition of the Times-Gazette. Gene Autry with Champion was King of the Cowboys in Miss Sain's opinion, and she wanted me to write about the tradition."



CANADIAN REGISTRY

OF THE

TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – May 11, 2013

I'd like to thank everyone for coming tonight. We've had a busy and fruitful year. We had a major update to our website, making it easier to navigate, attractive and engaging.

Our facebook page is a big hit! We've reached 265 'likes', far more than we envisioned when we started it. It has been a wonderful medium for all of us TWH enthusiasts to share our horses and bring our small community closer together.

Our booth at the Mane Event was very attractive with lots of visitors, and our riders did us proud with a wonderful demonstration of what our CRTWH can do. We also hosted a very well received clinic in conjunction with our AGM last year.

The registry offered a Registration Amnesty in 2012. This enabled owners to "catch-up" on late registrations, or horses with no registrations. Some of the cases took a bit of detective work, but we got quite a few horses registered.

The Program For Excellence and The Training Levels evaluations can now be evaluated early for an extra fee. This will help members who wish to advertise their horses' accomplishments before the New Year. We also made a change to the requirements of the Platinum Stallion. With consideration of the new horse market, a stallion can get his Platinum with a fewer number of gold offspring, and if he himself is a Gold that will count towards his numbers.

We've had some wonderful donations this past year as well. Grace Larson of Montana, whose mother, Marie McBroom, had a strong influence on many of our western TWH, has donated the contents of her website to us to share the history of many great horses. Bill Howes, Stony Plain, AB has donated his copies of the original TWHAA stud books, seven in all, I believe.

I believe that with the foresight and vision of our founding board members that we are now able to progress into 2013 with dedication towards naturally bred, raised and trained Canadian Registered Tennessee Walking Horses.

Respectfully yours,

Fran Kerik, President

Board Members at the 2013 AGM: *Left to right:*

Hilton Hack, Bill Roy, Leslie Hunchuk, Fran Kerik, Dianne Little, Ralph Livingston





The Canadian Walker

Volume 12, Issue 3

www.crtwh.ca

www.facebook.com/crtwh

June, 2013

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CRTWH Spring Activities

MANE EVENT - April 26-28

The past few months have been busy ones for CRTWH. A new booth display at Mane Event in Red Deer at the end of March was very well received by the public. Thank you to Dianne Little for organizing it, and to all the folks who sent "between the ears" photos, helped set it up and volunteered their time to man the booth. And thank you, Leslie, for the original photo that inspired it! *Left to right: Dianne Little, Geoffrey Yau, Bill Roy, Karla Freeman, Claire Christensen & Leslie Hunchuk.*



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - May 11

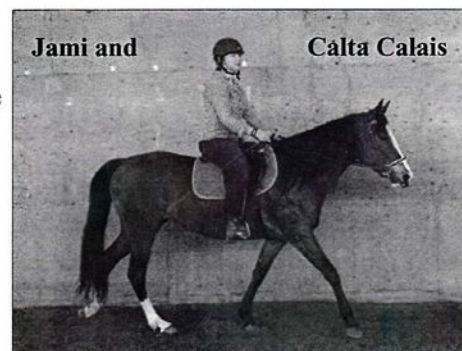


According to all reports the AGM had a good turnout and went very well. Six of the nine Directors were present. *(See photo on facing page.)* The regular business was followed by awards for those horses whose owners had entered them in one of the Canadian Triple Challenge Programs. The Program For Excellence horses and the levels they achieved are shown on page 14. in this issue. The Ride/Drive/ALT (an acronym for Agility, Liberty and Trick training) award and certificates were also presented to the rider with the most hours. This year that award went to Bill Roy *(photo above receiving his certificate from Leslie Hunchuk and President Fran Kerik.)* Bill had 513 hours in the saddle, with junior rider, Jami Morgan, *(below)* coming in next with a whopping 225 hours! The meeting ended with supper, a delicious dessert selection and a chance to visit.

GAIT FROM THE GROUND UP CLINIC - May 11-12

This popular clinic was booked even before we got our advertising in full swing, so an 'Encore' clinic has been organized for the end of May. Riders and horses alike seemed to enjoy the two days and were happy with what they learned from Clinicians Bill Roy and Dianne Little.

CRTWH would like to thank Klondike Victory Farms for their warm hospitality. We are very fortunate to be able use this wonderful, centrally located facility. *More clinic pics on page 5.*





CANADIAN REGISTRY

OF THE

TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE



TRIPLE CHALLENGE ACHIEVEMENTS as of MAY 11, 2013

Congratulations to all these horses and their owners!

PROGRAM FOR EXCELLENCE

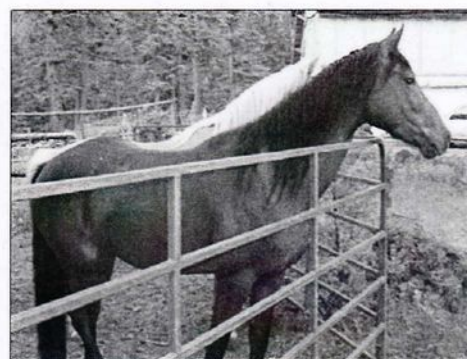
BRONZE AWARDS 2012



Ringo Starr – 3463 –
owned by Jessica Chappell



Doc Walker – 3611 –
owned by Randy Widmer
and Rhonda Lemmon.



Zepher Shadow Ridge –
3415 – owned by
Diane McCannel



Ari's Park Avenue Diamond –
2916 –
owned by Elizabeth J. Chivers

Dude's Ragtime Man –
3492 –
owned by
Rhonda Lemmon

(Photo right)

GOLD AWARDS 2012



**Summer Design
One O One** – 3139 –
owned by Elizabeth J. Chivers



*To see these award winning
horses in colour,
and check out their pedigrees,
go to www.crtwh.ca
The Canadian Triple Challenge -
Program For Excellence.*

ASK A TRAINER

A QUESTION OF BITS

I recently purchased a fifteen-year-old mare that has traveled some since she left our farm as a weanling. She was started under saddle at age four, and I do not know the bit used by the trainer, although I suspect it may have been a Wonder bit, which was very popular with the country trainer who started her in Tennessee.

When she was doing trails as a young mare, she worked in an old-fashioned S-shaped TWH bit which you see in old pictures from the thirties and forties. (Photo right, showing Society Man in one of those bits.)



After raising three foals and doing very little else as part of a broodmare operation, her gentle nature persuaded a new owner to acquire her. For his family, she worked in a Tom Thumb bit.

As a rider, I do not like either Wonder bits or Tom Thumb bits. The mare is gentle and responsive, but I do not know what sort of bit would be best suited to her at the start of our new relationship. Any help you can provide would be appreciated.

Thank you.

Bill replies:

As with nearly everything with horses, it all depends on many things. What kind of activities are you wanting to do with your horse? What kind of a rider are you? Have you had your horse's teeth checked? How about the head stall?

I agree with you, I don't like the Tom Thumb bit either. I find they just confuse your horse; too many things happening in the mouth. I think they are one of the worst bits ever to become popular. I have used a Wonder bit on an older, finished horse for an hour or so, but get better results with consistent work in the snaffle now.

Mostly I use a rope halter or rope hackamore to ride and start young horses. Then depending on the horse, I may move to a bitless bridle. I like to teach the horse everything he needs with these tools before I move to a simple egg-butt, D-butt or bar snaffle, or an easy curb, *right*. I use the curb when I am ponying

another horse. With a curb you can ride with one hand while the other hand is occupied leading the ponied horse. If I'm going for a trail ride in heavy or difficult, rough going I will also use a curb. When I'm refining movement, I use a snaffle two-handed.

The snaffle and the curb should both be half an inch wider than the horse's mouth. The snaffle should create a wrinkle at the corner of the mouth; the curb should fit smoothly with no wrinkles.

I ride with my whole body - breathing, rhythm, timing, balance and release with the horse. When I am able to ride the same horse for any length of time I can usually ride without aids. You want to be riding a Walking Horse from the back to the front, engaging the hind quarters for a better walk. Thus your emphasis really should be on your seat and legs, as well as your hands to the head, equally used in rhythm with the movement of the horse.

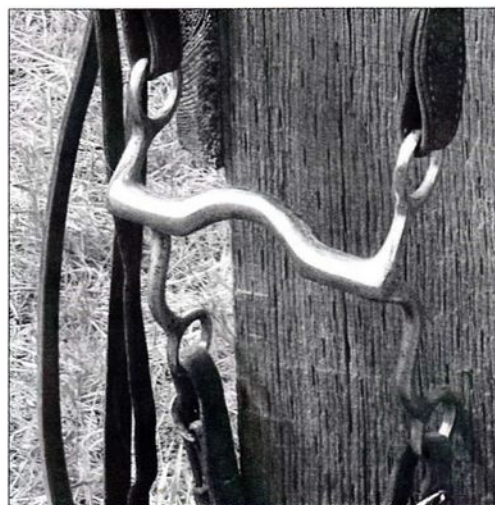
Have your horse's teeth checked if it starts having a negative reaction to the bit that wasn't there before.

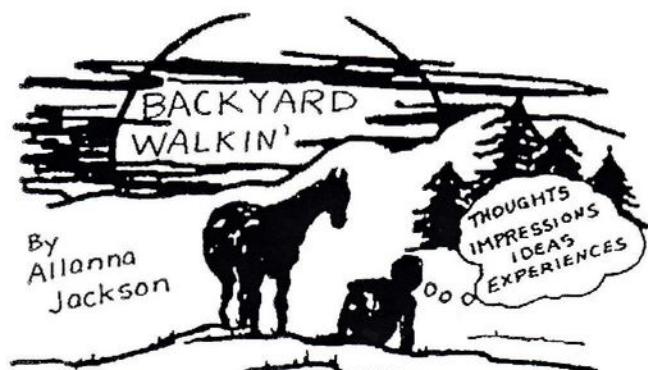
Check your head-stall. Many Walking Horses have nice broad foreheads so you don't want the brow band pinching the ears or the conches digging in. Is the throat latch too short and choking? Is the chin strap too tight? Can you fit two fingers between it and your horse's jaw?

Finally, I really can't say enough about the *best* bit being a bit of knowledge, a bit of ground work, a bit of practice, riding with your horse a bit each day. Remember, on the trail, in an arena or at a show, you are only going to get 80% of what you can get at home. So put in the time to get 100% or close to it at home. Work toward needing less and less aids for quicker, quieter results.

Bill

An easy curb is shown here. It should have a soft leather curb strap attached.





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

Part 3 Copyright August, 2012 by Allanna Lea Jackson

Identifying Good Training

There are dozens of methods for teaching horses the basic skills and every trainer and clinician has their own preferred technique. Every person and every horse are unique individuals so every horse-human partnership is unique. Consequently, there is no single training method that is perfect for every horse and owner. However, all good horsemanship shares some fundamental principles:

Respect for the innate physical and mental characteristics of horses as living animals.

Respect for the character, attributes and abilities of the individual horse.

Consideration of the horse's nature, capabilities and long-term physical and emotional welfare in management practices, performance expectations, choice of equipment and use of the horse.

Using a gentle, humane, horse-logical, step-by-step progression in training that starts with the most basic skills then uses them as the building blocks to more advanced skills.

Devoting the time and patience to progress when the horse is physically and mentally ready for the next step in training instead of forcing the horse to fit an arbitrary training schedule.

A commitment to using gentleness, patience, and fair, firm, consistent, horse-logical communication to develop a cooperative trusting relationship with the horse.

Shunning the temptation to conquer the horse through bullying, intimidation, domination, subjugation, fatigue, or the use of dangerous or harmful equipment and techniques as shortcuts in training. There are rare occasions when forceful coercion or restraint of the horse may be necessary but this is not training and should not be substituted for educating the horse.

Horse training methods fall into three broad categories: Negative reinforcement, positive reinforcement or a mix of negative and positive reinforcement.

Negative

Negative reinforcement training is the most common and is part of both classical horsemanship and natural horsemanship. Observers of feral horses have noted that horses use negative reinforcement on each other to maintain order within the herd. In negative reinforcement training the trainer applies an emotional or physical pressure to the horse which the horse tries to relieve by doing something. When the horse guesses the right answer the trainer releases the pressure to reward the horse.

Negative reinforcement may include inflicting mild pain on the horse momentarily. When using pain as a correction it should be mild, no more than a few seconds in duration, and never cause any injury or damage to the horse. The horse should know how to avoid the painful correction. The horse should be able to do something to easily and instantly relieve itself of the pain. Inflicting continuous pain, relentless pain, or injuring the horse is abuse not training.

Positive

A few animal behaviorists have developed purely positive reinforcement methods of horse training. Positive reinforcement relies on the use of rewards, including food, to entice the horse to engage in the desired behavior. Undesirable behavior is extinguished by simply ignoring it. Inflicting pain is never acceptable in purely positive reinforcement training.

The use of food rewards in horse training is controversial due to concerns about spoiling the horse

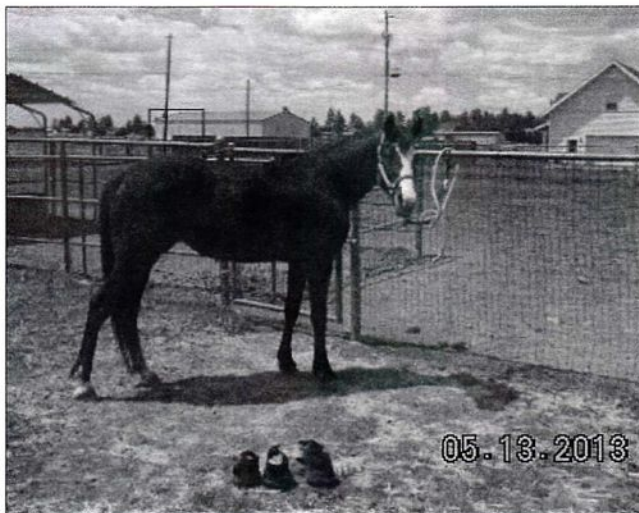
or teaching it to nip or bite. However, researchers have determined that horses do learn faster when given food rewards.

Advocates of purely positive reinforcement insist that correct timing of the reward and giving food only in connection with the desired behavior will avoid nipping and biting. Most trainers and handlers do not have the time or patience to apply pure positive reinforcement. Horses do use positive reinforcement on each other within the herd.

Negative And Positive

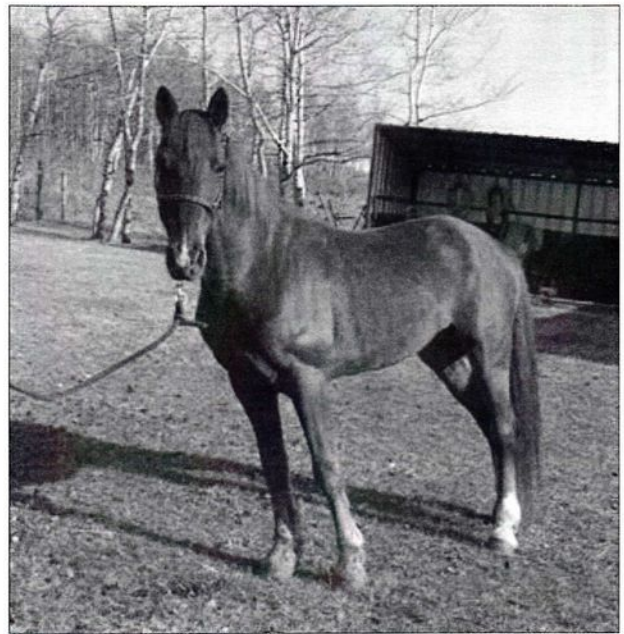
Most horse training methods rely on a mix of negative reinforcement and positive reinforcement to shape the horse's behavior and explain new skills to the horse. A good trainer will use a range of negative and positive forms of reinforcement, always looking for opportunities to reward desirable behavior while seeking to use the least and mildest form of negative enforcement that the horse will respond to. The exact balance between positive and negative reinforcement and the strength of each should be adjusted to suit the temperament of the individual horse.

The horse owner is the person ultimately responsible for providing humane training for the horse. When selecting a trainer the owner will want to hire someone who will provide good care for the horse and whose training philosophy and methods are compatible with the owner's values, preferred riding discipline and intended use of the horse.



Above: Cinnamon's 11th birthday portrait. Patient training and consistent handling since birth has transformed this young Walker into a reliable trail horse that is a pleasure to ride.

DO YOU RECOGNIZE THIS HORSE?



We purchased this approximately 15 hh, bright sorrel gelding from a man in Ardrossan, AB this last January. The gelding's barn name was 'Copper'.

According to our equine dentist he is 11 years old. Apparently the horse was sold once before and returned... but without his papers. If we could find out his registered name, it would be nice to get him back on track as far as his paper work is concerned.

Could we put out his photo and see if anyone may have some information? Thank you in advance!

Lissa Townsend

Editor's Note: Do you recognize this gelding? He was said to have Generator breeding on both sides.

With the faint double star and snip, his face is quite distinctive. His sock on the near side is higher on the outside.

If you have any information that might help identify him, please contact



lissad@xplornet.com or Marjorie at whn@telus.net.

THREE YANKEES AND A CANUCK GO SOUTH by Rachel Hill



So, what do you do when it's mid April and Old Man Winter refuses to hand over the season to Mr. Spring and you are *sooo* tired of the snow, ice, and cold? Well, you jump in a truck with three other northern friends and head south!

That is just what I did with my three friends Diane Sczepanski, Sheila Franck, and Julie Scott. It all started a few months earlier when Diane was planning a trip to Tennessee to drop off a young gelding and pick up a mare. She asked me if I would be interested in joining her on a road trip, and I just could not refuse. This was a chance to see the famous state that is the home our wonderful TN breed, and meet the knowledgeable people who were instrumental in keeping the old true bloodlines alive.

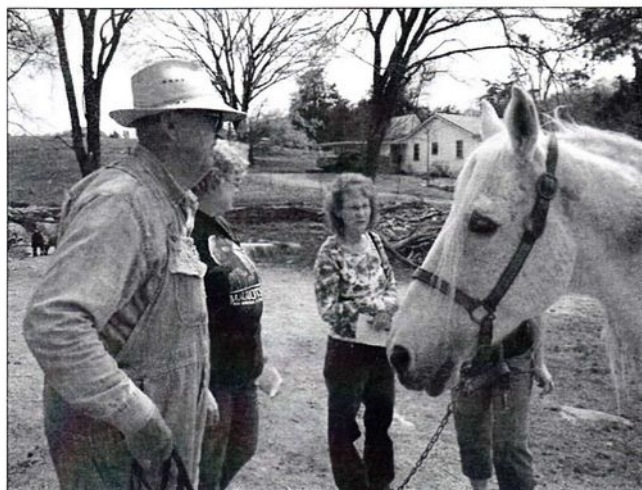
April 5th, I left Fort Frances, ON, and met Diane at her home in Whitehall, WI. The next day we met up with Sheila from Rochester, MN, and Julie from Warrens, WI. We loaded up NFF Society's Hawkeye Taylor, a lovely coming 2 year old from Diane's breeding. He walked on the trailer like a trooper and was a true gentleman all the way down. Our first stop was Effingham, IL, where Hawkeye got to stretch his legs and get some well-deserved rest. We were still a day's drive from our destination, but there was no snow and the hue of green was a delight for us northerners.

Day 2, we loaded up Hawkeye and headed south again. The further south we went, the greener it got, the more trees were in blossom, and at every gas stop we shed another layer of clothing. Before we knew it, we were in T-shirts and loving it. On the way down, we had many memorable moments and chuckles as often you do on a road trip. At one stop for gas, we decided to check the oil. The gal at the cash saw us with the truck hood up and was

incredibly apologetic to have to advise us that 'there were no men around' if we were in need of help. That had us laughing for some time.

It was a long day to Neal and Jeanine McPaul's in Sunbrite, TN, Hawkeye's new home. The area of Sunbrite is beautiful, lovely countryside and gorgeous views. We were quickly welcomed at Neal and Jeanine's. Sadly, Neal had lost his wonderful Walker gelding, Stormy, in a trail accident a few months earlier and was eagerly anticipating the arrival of Hawk. Hawk came off the trailer as easily as he'd loaded, and adjusted to his lovely new home. There was complete jaw dropping silence when Jeanine came out with a picture of Stormy. None of us could quite believe how much the two looked alike. This horse was clearly meant to be Neal's. The day was getting on and Neal and Jeanine kindly offered their house to us for the night. What a great decision it was to stay, as we got to visit with the most wonderful people.

Day 3, we headed over to Petersburg to the house that would be our lodging for the time there. Here we met up with Franne Brandon who was our gracious 'tour guide extraordinaire!' Franne has incredible knowledge, not only of horses but of the history of the area. We all headed over to Leon Oliver's at Brown Shop Road Farms where we met old Buds Sterling Bullet, Leon's 25 year old grey stallion who has sired many good heritage horses. (Below: L-R Leon, Diane, Franne and Bullet.)



Leon was a wonderful host and took delight at showing us his lovely horses, jacks, jennies, and fainting goats. (We all need to learn his trade mark 'whop whop whop' call for calling in his animals!)

Leon took us all out to a small local diner, and we sat and listened as he and Franne listed off the many horses, and who they were from, who owned them, what county they were from,... it was mind boggling how much information they have stored in their heads. And there is one thing that became apparent while we were there, everyone, like *EVERYONE* knows Leon. He is well known, respected, and liked by all. He sent us all home with a gift of locally made molasses. I can't wait to make my first gingerbread with it.

Day 4 our tour guide, Franne, arrived at our guest house with yummy fresh homemade sweet buns! Franne suggested we might like to see Bedford Tack so off we went to the town of Deason. Wow, what a tack store! This place was the size of a Walmart store and had just about every kind of tack could think of. A 'must stop' for anyone heading that way. Driving out to Deason, we passed a number of fancy big lick farms. Many were training their padded horses out in the fields as we drove by. If you haven't seen a padded horse move, it is the most unnatural thing. I recall the first time my gelding Ebony saw one under saddle at a show in MN, he did not even recognize it was a horse. The movement is so exaggerated, so unnatural. It's very sad.

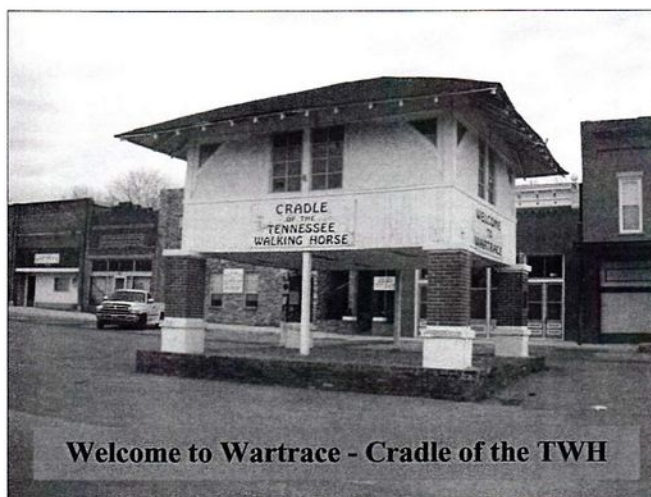
After lunch (and after waiting for Franne to plant onions in her garden - yep, they were well into gardening down there), we headed over to Billy Taylor's at Confederate Hills Farm. This was a highlight for me, as my Sunbeam gelding was bred and trained by Billy. Sunbeam (or Beamer) is the horse that has done so well for me in the sport of endurance. After sitting on a bucket for - what was it, Billy - 2 hours? he showed us his beautiful horses. I got to meet Echo's Lady Bug, Sunbeam's dam. This lovely red sabino mare could not get enough attention; she was so sweet and gentle. I could have just put her in my pocket. She is due to foal this spring, and I am eager to see what her foal will be like. We met Billy's stud, Society's Dan Allen, another wonderful horse with the most sheen on its coat for a sabino that I have ever seen, even during shedding time. Very nice.

We then got a tour of Danny Taylor's horses at Elk River Farm and the lovely mare Echo's Merry Lu that Diane has been so eager to purchase. Again the horses were very friendly, and all came around to meet us. It seemed they would stand forever to be petted. One such mare, Wilson's Ruby Road, was another gem Diane has had her eye on for a while. After convincing Danny that he should consider selling Ruby, too, (as after all it would not be right to

haul Merry Lu all the way home alone...), he decided that it would be a good idea to let her go, much to Diane's delight. We also got to meet Danny's stallion, Sun's Smokey Midnight, a solid, kind, and gentle stallion and again, a lovely black sabino with lots of chrome.

In the afternoon Billy was gracious enough to saddle up a horse for me and take me for a short ride in the Tennessee hills behind the Taylors' farms. What a treat this was, with great trails and great views. I could most certainly see how Beamer came by his endurance talent naturally with all the hill training Billy did with him. And these weren't even the mountains. The horse I rode was NFF's Chance's Gold Windwalker. He was so much like my Beamer, it was like I was riding him. Before we left, Billy kindly presented us all with copies of photos of Merry Boy, Paige's Echo, and for me some pictures of young Beamer, one of him as a yearling. Only horse people know how special that was.

Day 4, our knowledgeable tour guide took us to a historical site at Murfreesboro. The site of Stones River National Battlefield was the site of one of the bloodiest battles during the civil war. In 1862, the battle involved 81,000 soldiers for the control of central TN. Of the major battles of the Civil War, Stones River had the highest percentage of casualties on both sides. The tour was quite interesting, and it was hard to believe so many people died in such a small area. The area of central Tennessee has much history from the civil war; the area witnessed lots of conflict and much of the landscape is the same as it was, with the same roads and trails that were used and traveled by soldiers on both sides. As stated: "the civil war was a cavalry war, and the south was winning until it ran out of horses". I can't help but think how many foundation Walking Horses played a role in those conflicts.



That evening we all went out for dinner, one of many during our trip. Some memorable Tennessee tastes that we experienced on our trip: fried okra, fried green tomatoes, moon pies, turnip greens (a yellow flowering cover crop that was already growing and blooming there), and of course, Tennessee sipping whisky, the homemade kind.

Day 5, our yet again wonderful tour guide, Franne, took us to Wartrace to the Walking Horse Museum. It was this little place that was the home of Strolling Jim and the start of the first exhibitions of Walking Horses. From here we headed to the quaint small town of Bell Buckle where we had lunch and visited the many antique shops and old business establishments - like the ice cream shop that has been serving ice cream for over 100 years.

Bell Buckle was the site of the first TWH exhibitions. Judges would have stood in the middle while the horses circled around.

By Day 6, it was time to load up the mares and head home. We again made Effingham, IL, our half-way point, and the mares got a well deserved rest. On our trip back we continued to meet warm friendly people such as those who tripped over themselves trying to help us get back on the right road when we took a wrong turn and a guy who spotted us at the motel as 'horse people' and rushed back to his car to get his phone so he could show us pictures of his gaited mule.

As we traveled north, we said good bye to the South, the people, the scenery, and the.... green. It was still very much winter at home, and we had to rush to beat yet another snowstorm that greeted us upon our arrival.

It was a great trip and a perfect spring get-away. I learned so much about the horses, the state and some U.S. history. And I made new friendships with more horse folks, my favourite kind of friends. I would like to send a huge 'thank you' to Leon, Billy, Danny and especially Franne. You made our trip memorable. I would definitely make another trip to Tennessee.

Wartrace is home to the Walking Horse Museum. It was this little town that was the home of Strolling Jim and it's where he is buried.



READERS WRITE

VICTOR BURTON'S LETTER

FRANNE BRANDON, PETERSBURG, TN: I read Victor Burton's letter to Marty Irby, 2012 President of the TWHBEA, reprinted in the April, 2013, Walking Horse News, and I was surprised at his astute assessment of the gait situation illustrated by just one issue of the Voice of the Tennessee Walking Horse magazine. He is quite accurate about the photos used in the ads illustrating the stepping pace and not the evenly timed running walk.

Here in the South, we do use the term stepping pace and also the more colloquial term of 'saddle lick' for a variation on the stepping pace. The difference between the stepping pace as illustrated on Eldon Eadie's DVD (now available from CRTWH) and the one performed by the horses featured in the Voice magazine is that the old-fashioned stepping pace, along with the saddle lick trail gait, do not feature any sort of head nod or head shake.

I would guess that all the horses in the ads which Mr. Burton mentioned have head movement. And "if it's nodding, then it's walking". That is the ironclad rule that is being used to justify placing horses that are not performing an evenly timed running walk to the highest ribbons.

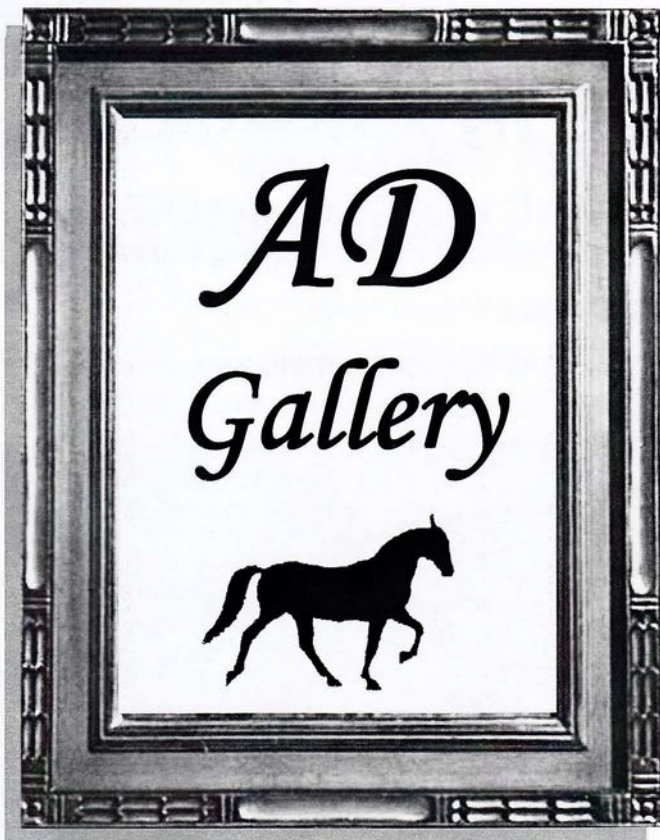
I don't agree with it, but this is what I see when I can make it to local horse shows.

TWH NATIONAL MUSEUM

PHILIP D GENTRY, WARTRACE, TN, President of the Tennessee Walking Horse National Museum wrote, "I understand there is an article in your publication about the Tennessee Walking Horse National Museum in Wartrace Tennessee. Can you email or send me a copy of the magazine?"

FRANNE BRANDON, PETERSBURG, TN, added, "They do welcome people to come see the museum. The old hotel that Floyd and Olive Carothers maintained, as well as Strolling Jim's grave, are just across the road from it. (See the photo left.) You can look them up on facebook/twhnm."

KEITH DOLL, DOUGLAS MB mentioned in a telephone call that he found the article about the Museum very interesting. It would be fun to go down to TN to see it sometime (preferably when they are warm and we are cold!)



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trims and shoes,
and has a great
disposition.
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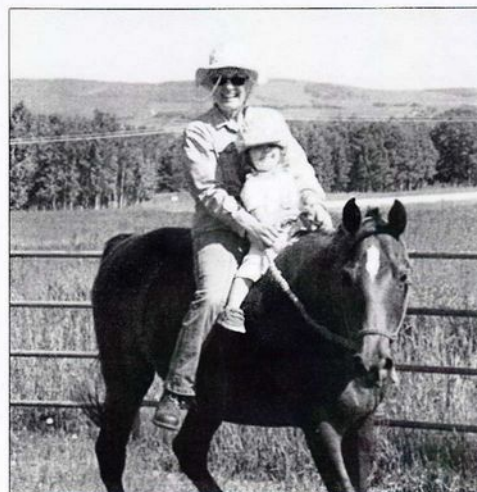
Left: This handsome
16.2 hh tobiano
is 9 years old.
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trails to ride and also
packs with ease. He
trims & shoes with
no problems
and has a great
disposition.
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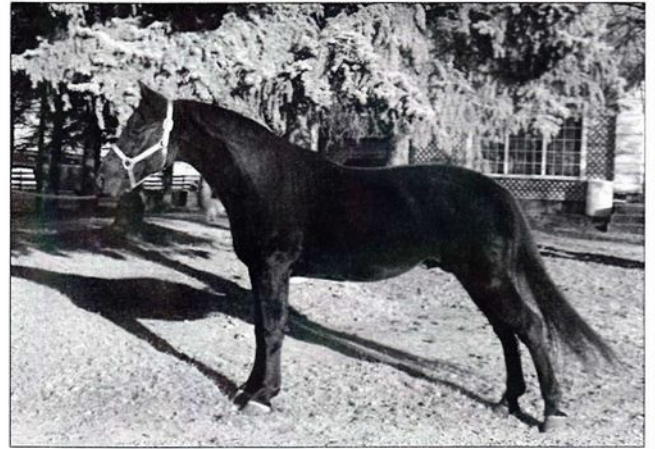
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More ads next page...

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AWHA WILD ROSE CLUB presents a Clinic with Bill Roy, June 15 & 16 with the rainout date the following weekend. It is at Dybergs' farm, and costs \$175.00 for the weekend (meals included); auditors \$20.00 per day. Call Lori Dyberg 780-352-3531 or e-mail dybergl@yahoo.ca.

PUBLICATIONS

THE WALKING HORSE JOURNAL - 6 issues per year, \$25 per year US, \$35 foreign. Also **BIOGRAPHY OF THE TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE**, the history of the breed, authorized, revised edition www.fourcraftsmen.com or email info@fourcraftsmen.com or phone 928-367-2076. WALKING HORSE JOURNAL, P. O. Box 177, Lakeside, AZ 85929-0177

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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. No one who trail rides on a Walker or other gaited horse should be without it!

THE ECHO OF HOOFBEATS - The History of the Tennessee Walking Horse by Bob Womack. Published by Dabora, Inc., Shelbyville, TN. Available at on-line bookstores.

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