

OCTOBER 2014  
VOLUME XXXVIII No. 5



# Walking Horse

# News



DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN - SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE SINCE 1977





# Walking Horse News

DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN-SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE IN CANADA

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## On Our Cover

What could  
set off  
a lovely fall day  
better than a  
cheeky chestnut filly  
showing off  
for the camera?  
Uphill Star  
(aka Sugarlump)  
poses  
for her portrait  
against the autumn  
gold of the aspens  
at Uphill Farm,  
Edson, AB.

*Photo by  
Charles Lacy.*

## 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  
SEPTEMBER 7

for Nov/Dec issue  
NOVEMBER 7

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Volume XXXVIII, # 5 September/October, 2014

Dear Subscribers,

Well, here in Alberta the first substantial snow of  
the season has come **and** gone, so perhaps now we can all  
relax and enjoy a long warm fall? One can always hope!

The regular deadline, October 30, for entries to the  
CRTWH Canadian Challenge, is fast approaching. There is  
still time to video your horse for one or more of the levels  
in the Program For Excellence (PFE) or Training Levels  
(TLC). A horse that has passed its Basic Skills in the TLC  
has demonstrated its trainability as a saddle prospect. So a  
video made for the TLC could also serve as a sales tool.  
Then, too, the PFE provides a trained judge's assessment of  
an animal, so severe conformational unsoundnesses will be  
weeded out. That alone can make these Programs worth-  
while for both breeders and buyers. Have a look at the Ca-  
nadian Challenge on the [crtwh.ca](http://crtwh.ca). They are excellent pro-  
grams that add value to your horses.

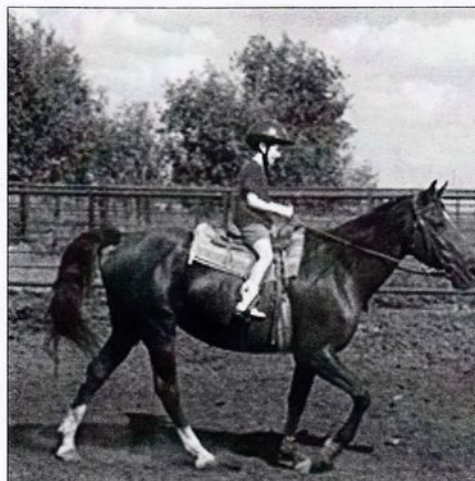
I am surprised that there were no more foals for this  
issue. Only 14 were reported to *WHN* this season. Are there  
really so few? Or haven't owners been sending in the 'birth  
announcements'? I did read that the number of registered  
TWH foals in the States has dropped from a high of 15,526  
in 2000 to just 3,358 in 2010. During that same period, the  
number of individual breeders fell from 9,306 to just 1,870.  
So are we seeing the same trend here in Canada?

This issue has stories, history, opinions, information,  
articles on saddle fitting and photographing your horse, plus  
a clinic report. There is also an article on How to Ruin A  
TWH. Yes, that's right... Read it for yourself!

Enjoy the magazine, and do enjoy your horses in this

beautiful  
autumn weather,  
"the best riding  
season",  
as Gen Amy  
says, and as  
Amelia  
McDonald is  
doing, riding  
Maybee, *left*.  
And I hope to  
hear from YOU  
for next time,

*Marjorie*





WHN makes a  
great gift!

# Walking Horse News

October, 2014

“DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN-SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE SINCE 1977”

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*How about some news and views from  
your place for next time?*

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*Thank You for Advertising in  
Walking Horse News, and  
Now's your chance to book a  
Cover ad for 2015! See page 24.*



## HISTORY & HERITAGE PROJECT

WALKING PONIES by Marjorie Lacy, Edson, AB

I had an interesting phone call from MARGIE PERRIN of MAPLE CREEK, SASKATCHEWAN shortly after she received the August magazine. She'd enjoyed reading my article, "Forty Years with Walkers", and was asking about Honey Boy's Rebel, one of the stallions we'd owned. Margie has one of Rebel's sons and has owned him since he was two. But 'Quincy' isn't a TWH. He is a 14 hh Walking Pony, a cross of Walker and Welsh. Margie says that he was a great little horse, just the right size for her and she rode Quincy for years. Despite his small stature, he could keep right up with the bigger horses. He is now semi-retired.

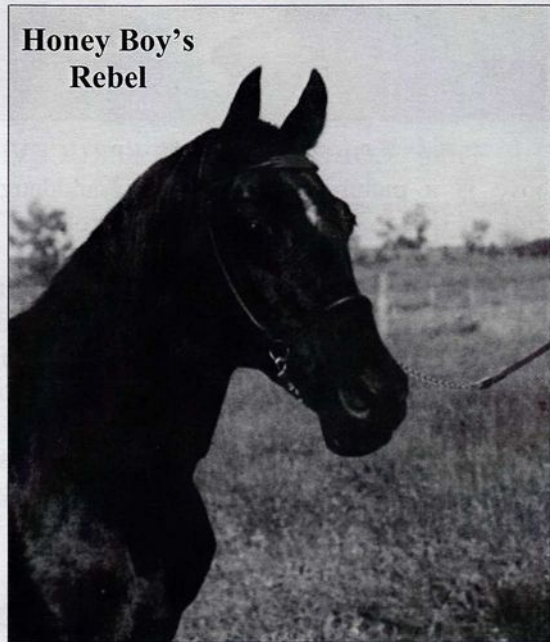
Quincy is one of the Walking Ponies bred by Mary Henderson of Tees, AB. When I looked up Rebel's record of progeny in the CLRC Electronic Herdbook, Quincy was not there but one of the 35 listed was Heatherbrook Penny, recorded in the Equine Canadian Identification Project (aka CAN I.D.). Heatherbrook was Mary's herd prefix, and Penny is also a Walking Pony, but with a difference. Her breeding shows that she was actually three-fourths TWH blood. Rebel was her sire, and her dam was by Lucky's Koko Prince out of a Welsh mare. I wonder how big she grew?

Equine CAN I.D. is Canadian Livestock Record Corporation's record for all non-purebred horses of all types. It is available to anyone who wants to record the breeding (or what they know of the breeding) of their non-purebred animals. In some cases the animals ARE purebred but their papers have been lost, or their owner didn't register them in time until it became simply too costly to do so. Equine CAN I.D. will record crossbreds, grades, and horses of unknown breeding. CAN I.D. stands for Canadian Identification, and that's just what these papers are - a record of what is known of the animal's breeding, gender, date of birth, with some form of identification and who recorded them and who now owns them (provided the papers are transferred). The identification can be by tattoo, microchip or photo.

The person applying can choose either a basic record or the deluxe version in colour. The

deluxe papers have an unique aspect - a photograph of the animal. The costs vary from \$10 for plain basic papers for animals with tattoos or microchips and no picture, to \$20 for papers with a colour photo and up to three generations of ancestors included. It all depends on what type of certificate the applicant requests. Look up CAN I.D. some time on the CLRC Electronic Herdbook, and see what is available at [www.clrc.ca](http://www.clrc.ca).

**Honey Boy's  
Rebel**



And what about Honey Boy's Rebel? He sired many half, three-fourths, and seven-eighths Walkers while at the Paynton Brothers Ranch in Southern Saskatchewan from around 1979 to 1985. Paynton Brothers had a large PMU herd and every few years dog trainer John Gardner, of Madison, Mississippi, would bring them a new TWH stallion. As they raised young grade Walkers as replacements for their mare band, the older sire would be sold. So in the late seventies John brought Rebel to southern Saskatchewan as their new TWH stallion.

Someday I'll write the story of that little black orphan foal from Mississippi's Matagorda Plantation who was traded to a dog trainer, went to Saskatchewan, then Alberta, and finally Manitoba, and left 34 CRTWH registered offspring and many more grade Walkers. It is quite a saga.



# NEWS - NEWS - NEWS

## ALBERTA NEWS



From COLIN KURE, SPRUCEVIEW, "Above is a picture of the fourth granddaughter, Naomi, to ride your good faithful "unbroke" TWH, Drummer (Uphill Indian Drum). They made a two-hour ride down the Red Deer River valley north of our house. Now I've only nine more grandkids to saddle him up for. I think we will put all eight of the smaller kids on at once; that'd make a good photo!"

"Gerty has turned your old pony into a free ranging animal without restraints. He just comes and goes as he wishes. He's very good at culling the clover from our front lawn. (Our summer has been wet with two hail storms)."

MAUREEN GERMSCHIED, MAGNOLIA MEADOWS, EVANSBURG, writes, "It has been a long summer. I am finally back on my feet (with crutches). Greg did a great job of showing and selling all the horses that I worked on all winter, and now he is working on the next batch. He took three of them as pack horses on his latest trip. What a great way for them to learn about scree slopes and river crossings without putting anyone in danger."

"I am hoping that we will find the time to video a couple of young horses for the CRTWH Program For Excellence before the October deadline."

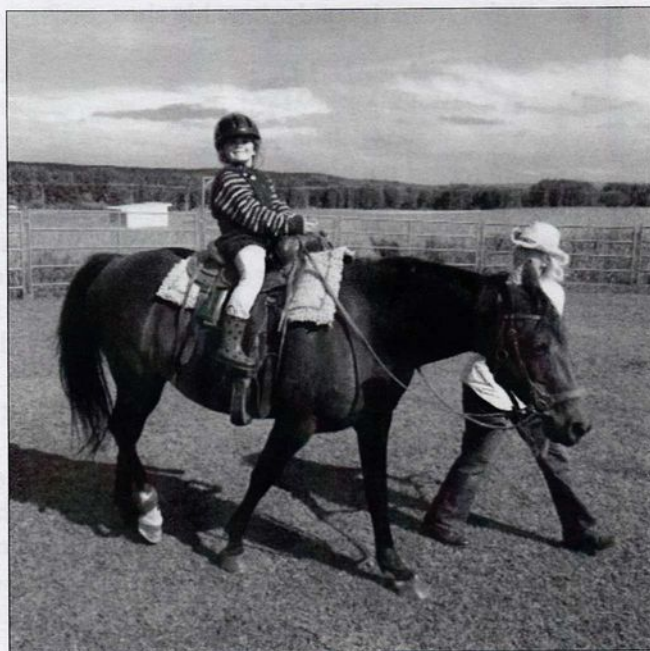
FRAN KERIK, CHYRSTAL STAR RANCH, TWO HILLS, writes, "I sold my mare, Mornin's Cuppa Koko, to Jennifer Schick, Kara Paisley's cousin. Jen rode Kara's horse, Markie, and fell in love with him, so now she is the proud owner of a Walker too. Congratulations! Please send Jen an introductory copy of the *WHN*."

BRENDA BAKER, CALGARY, writes, "I thought you'd like to see a new generation of the Baker family riding on a member of an old family of Canadian bred Tennessee Walking Horses! Lil Snappy is giving our five year old grand daughter their first ride together. Lil Snappy is by Calta Commander and out of Jester's Snappy Lil. Notice the big grin on Jerrika's face! That's what everyone does when they ride a TWH!"

"Jerrika enjoyed many nice gentle rides on Chicklette when she was little but the good old horse died a couple of years ago. Now we think we have her replacement for Jerrika."

"We originally raised Lil Snappy and sold her to a teenaged girl who enjoyed her for over six years, then outgrew her. We brought her back home last fall and she is still her good little self. I am riding her about three times a week out on the trails or in our outdoor arena if time is short. Jerrika is still happy in the round pen."

"Jester's Snappy Lil was my husband's horse for many years of mountain riding. Jerrika's Dad used her for 4-H once he outgrew his little mare. We raised some good foals from this old girl after she was semi retired: Flashback, Lil Snappy and Snappy's Lil Buddy. The Ebl family's girls enjoyed old Snappy during her late twenties once her foal raising days were over."



*Jester's Snappy Lil, dam of the above mare, was sired by Midnight Jester E. x Joe's Lil Queen (by Hey Joe).*



## ALBERTA NEWS

BRENDA WOODALL, LINDEN, writes, "This summer my husband Stephen, our 10 year old son Luke, and I had some marvelous rides in the Ya Ha Tinda. For those of you who are not familiar with this riding area, the YaHa Tinda is located in western Alberta along the Red Deer River, immediately outside the eastern boundary of Banff National Park. It consists of a broad, rolling plateau surrounded by



high mountain ridges. The area is federal Crown Land and it is known as the Ya Ha Tinda Ranch."

"We were fortunate enough to have a total of 28 days there over the months of July and August, and we were able to ride for 19 of them. We enjoyed a number of 'relaxing around the campfire' days, some rainy days, and even had our daughter's wedding there during that time! We are getting to know the trails there quite well and it is currently our favorite place to holiday. Our horses love it there as well because every trail holds a challenge of some sort and they are never bored. Thanks to our newly purchased GPS we even have a record of our trails that include our own maps as well as statistics. We covered 240 miles in 70 hours and had a total altitude gain of 20,000 feet. Some days we meandered through the lower mountain meadows, and other days we climbed 3,000 ft up for the majestic views."

One of the great bonuses of being there this summer was meeting all the great Walking horse people that we were introduced to, as well as riding with some of them. We had a whole week of riding and visiting with Bill Graham and his family from Saskatchewan. *Below right.*

Then we met Art and Bernice Scopick for the first time due to their truck sticker advertising "CMEGO" and had a short evening chat with them at their campfire. The next day we met a new camping neighbor who introduced himself as Ron Goehring, and showed us his two lovely Walker geldings; one from Karla Freeman and another from McDonald Farms."

"A few evenings



later while sitting around our campfire I heard the familiar beat of a Walker's feet along the road and I saw a blonde woman riding bareback past our campsite. Thinking I might know her, I took a chance and called out "Windi"! Lo and behold, I'd guessed right and Windi Derman and her lovely gelding Brick stopped and chatted for a bit. The next day Windi stopped by with Alynn Ward and her Walker gelding, Rocky, whom she had hooked to her buggy. They were heading up to Eagle Lake but they stopped to give Luke a ride in the cart (*photo below*) and say hello, and spent some fireside time visiting later on in the day."



From BILL HOWES, STONY PLAIN, "I have sold Cee Dee Merry's Topaz 2005-CAN 3136 (aka Larry) to Jeff and Darci DeJax of Sundre. Please welcome them to our Walking Horse world and send them a subscription to Walking Horse News with my compliments. They also bought a mare at Sherwood Park and two yearling colts from Brenda Baker. Darci and her daughter were out last night for a one and a half hour ride, trying out 'the glide ride'."

"Ninyo, our black gelding, is still awaiting the chiropractor's diagnosis after his accident earlier this year."

KARLA FREEMAN, PONOKA, says, "Well, here we are - in the snow again! I'm so glad our Walkers can take any kind of weather "in stride". Pat has bought a buggy with interchangeable wheels and skis, so now that we know there will be no lack of snow, I'm sure we'll be able to make good use of it."

"Merlin, Gypsy's and Hustler's 2014 foal, is growing fast and learning to lead nicely. A person can teach foals that age a lot if you go slowly."

"We had the pleasure of showing off the Walkers to guests from Chile, who also enjoyed a ride on Ken and Roy."

"I am very glad I got the winter supply of hay delivered and covered with tarps just before the snow-storm. We are trying the big square bales this year, about 1200 lbs each. I'm hoping they will be easier to feed, as they come apart in 'flakes', just like small square bales, but much bigger flakes."

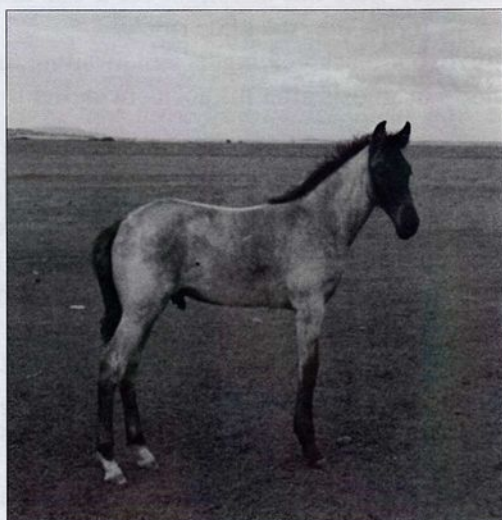


## BRITISH COLUMBIA NEWS



From JO-ANNE McDONALD, McDONALD FARMS, POUCE COUPE, "Above is the last colt by Canadian Shaker, who was black and from Blue and Blonde, a young mare we got in the States. She is genetically black too, but also carries the roan pattern and the silver dilution genes. So she is a most unique colour."

"Shown below is that same colt later this year. A few weeks ago I noticed that he seemed to have a white streak across his chest. I thought, "Oh he must have scraped himself and taken the hair off",



but I didn't think too much of it. Then it seemed that the white areas on him were getting bigger and bigger

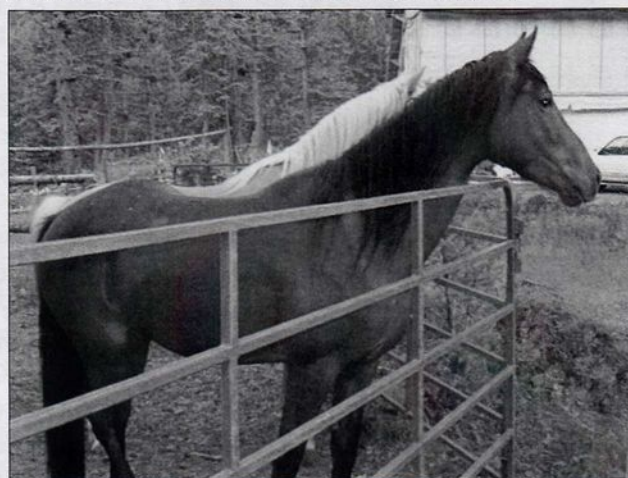
...  
and now this is what he looks

like! Obviously he has inherited the black colour from his parents, and also the roan patterning from his dam."

"I don't think he has the silver dilution gene because his mane, tail and face are still very black. But DNA testing at the Animal Genetics Lab in Florida will give us the definitive answer on silver."

DIANE McCANNEL, WIZARD RIDGE, WESTWOLD, emailed, "Things are fine here. Zepher (Zepher Shadow Ridge) below, is coming along. I've started riding him and hope to be out on the trail soon. I have a student and we are trying to get all three horses out on the trail."

(Zepher, Diane's bay gelding, was orphaned as a very young foal, and Diane did an amazing job of raising him to be a fine, strong horse. His half sister, Whisper, also helped, 'adopting' him and teaching him to be a horse. He is now six years old.)



GENEVIEVE AMY, LONE BUTTE, writes, "Our summer was not as bad as a lot of the rest of the country suffered, and now we are having a beautiful fall."

"I had the thrill of taking my granddaughter for rides on good old Finally late in August. See photo below. Also I have ridden Hanna quite a few times, and like her more every time. (I know - I bought her for Sandy, but when we ride together, Sandy rides Delite.)"

"Wishing everyone a wonderful fall - the best riding season! - and a Happy Halloween."





## SIR MAUGRAY - A Top Sire of the Foundation Era by Franne Brandon

With research assistance by Billy Taylor, Confederate Hills Farm, Winchester, TN

The equine fabric that became the Tennessee Walking Horse was woven from the DNA strands of many different breeds. The native Tennessee saddle stock with their smooth gaits and willing attitudes were blended with horses of Thoroughbred, Standardbred, Morgan and American Saddlebred blood, even a few purebred Arabians. The emphasis was a desire for horses that could perform the running walk gait, and no bloodlines - or lack of them (as in the case of the Gray John stallion foaled out of a Union Cavalry mare of undetermined origin), deterred breeders determined to fix this gait within a gene pool of horses found mainly in Middle Tennessee.

When James R. Brantley purchased Allan, a black Standardbred stallion out of Maggie Marshall, a mare of Morgan breeding, his influence on the Tennessee Plantation horses was felt before the end of his breeding career. The Allen stock became quite popular, with the two most prominent successors to the black Standardbred being the Brantley-bred Roan Allen, actually a red sabino, and the chestnut son that became known as Hunter's Allen. A mare raised by Franklin County breeder Auburn Gray, respected for his knowledge of the breed and his ability to produce the finest stock, would carry on the tradition of both these stallions. This mare would give the breed some excellent show horses as well as a son whose influence continues in solid pleasure riding horses to this day.

Maude Gray was a "roan" mare with both hind stockings and a blaze. Old black and white photos show that she was a chestnut sabino, like her sire Roan Allen F-38. Her dam was Minnie Black, by Hunter's Allen F-10. Maude was crossed with sons of both Roan Allen and Hunter's Allen to produce some outstanding show horses of the era. She was such a prominent brood matron that The Tennessee Walking Horse Magazine in April of 1946 gave her a half page obituary, listing all her the owners throughout her life and all her foals, along with their sires.

Maude Gray's 1937 foal that arrived on February first was sired by the famous chestnut stallion, Wilson's Allen. He had four socks, a blaze, and a flax mane and tail. He was named Sir MauGray, in honor of his dam. The late breeder and one-time walking horse trainer Jimmie Gray told Billy Taylor, who lives not far from the Gray home place, that his father, Auburn Gray, sold Sir MauGray for \$1800 as a

young horse. Jimmie had already started the horse under saddle, and found him to be very well-gaited.

Sir Maugray was not the noted show horse that his siblings were. As a son of the late, great Wilson's Allen, considered at the time to be the greatest sire of show horses in the breed, Sir MauGray was considered a top stallion prospect and his owners offered him at stud. The Tennessee Walking Horse magazine featured an ad for the flashy chestnut stallion, owned by Rabun Jones, standing at B & M Stables in Blanton, Mississippi, for a fee of \$50. The ad states that MauGray 'can running walk at 10 miles per hour'. (The Tennessee Walking Horse, April 1945, page 32)

The July, 1945 issue of the magazine reported the sale of Sir MauGray to Dr. and Mrs. Porter Rogers of Searcy, Arkansas. The stallion would remain in service at the property of Rabun Jones in Hollandale, Mississippi until September 1, 1945. (The Tennessee Walking Horse, page 40). The next year's July issue noted that MauGray was ranked #4 in the list of Celebration Sires 1944 (p. 27)

MauGray's next appearance in The Tennessee Walking Horse magazine was in January of 1946, where the ad notes that he was at stud in Shreveport, Louisiana at McCrary's Stock Farm with a continuing stud fee of \$50. (page 45). At the end of that year, Dr. Rogers sold the chestnut stallion to Mr. Hoyt McCrary, an event that was recorded in the back page ad. (*Below is part of an ad for Sir MauGray from the Tennessee Walking Horse magazine.*) ⇨

*It Pays to Breed to a Proven Sire!*



**Sir Mau**  
3703

SIRE: Wilson's Allen  
Allen F-38, by Allen

DAM: Maude Gray  
Allen F-38, by Allen

Without a doubt one  
of the Tennessee Wa  
Check his get, their  
selling prices.

*At S*  
**Fee S**

At Time of Breed  
Privilege for

**McCrary's Stock Farms**  
Mr. and Mrs. Hoyt McCrary and Jimmy, Owners

ROUTE 2, BOX 263—TELEPHONE 3-3763      **Shreveport, Louisiana**      MANSFIELD RD

PAGE 10      THE TENNESSEE WALK

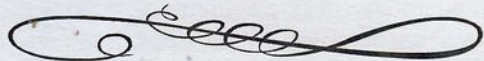


A few years passed, and in December of 1950, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Burgess, then the owners of Sir Maugray, advertised him at stud at their farm in Sherrill, Arkansas, with the continued stud fee of \$50. An ad in the 1955 Blue Ribbon showed that Sir Maugray was still at stud that year at the Burgess farm in Arkansas. The Burgesses were the last owners of the stallion, who sired a total of 531 registered foals in his breeding career. The last of these foals arrived in 1959.

Billy Taylor interviewed Mr. Jack Kincade, who knew a lot of the great foundation era horses, and Mr. Kincade shared his memories of Sir MauGray. He first saw the horse as a youngster at his breeder's farm. He remembers the colt under saddle as being "very well gaited, very attractive; he could running walk with good speed and a lot of head shake." Jack had the opportunity to ride the young stallion and found him very smooth. His personal comparison was the smoothness of a Cadillac car. As a young stallion, Sir MauGray was known for being very mean. It took four handlers to manage him for his duties in the stud. When he became the property of Rabun Jones in Hollandale, Mississippi, however, his attitude changed, and he became gentle and easy to handle. Jack Kincade also recalls picking up Sir MauGray at Water Proof, Louisiana, where H.C. Miller was standing him at stud, and transporting him to Shelby, Mississippi, to a farm owned by a Mr. Yancey, but this was not recorded in any of the ads for the horse.

Sir MauGray sired sons and daughters that continue his legacy to the present generation of living walking horses. Jimmie Gray, the son of his breeder, Auburn Gray, stood a black Sir MauGray grandson sired by Jones Sir Stargray 453689 and out of a three-quarter sister to Strolling Jim. This grandson, Star Gray Wilson, sired the dam of Echo's Star Gray Wilson, whose sons and daughters are actively producing foals today. Echo's Star Gray Wilson was bred by Danny Taylor of Winchester, Tennessee. Sir MauGray also sired Shepherd of the Hills, whose great-grandson sired Midnight Tango, now deceased, but whose palomino son Tango's Apollo was the first Tennessee Walking Horse stallion to be imported into Italy. Apollo is owned by Angelo Guerchi of Crema, Italy.

Sir MauGray was known as a top successor to the Wilson's Allen heritage in his lifetime, and today that heritage lives on in descendants in the United States, Canada, and in Europe.



## How to Ruin a Walking Horse *continued*

**Ignore the physical fact** that setting the horse's head restricts or changes the natural head motion that is created by the natural form of the gait. Ignore the fact that setting the horse's head will teach the horse to disconnect its head position from the rest of its posture, thus locking the rider out of some of the natural aids for humanely influencing the horse's gait.

**Never** waste time riding the horse at a walk that is slow enough to travel with non-gaited horses.

**Never** let the horse gallop and never teach it to canter.

**Never** attempt to teach your gaited horse to adjust speed or stride length within walk, gait, and canter.

**Ride only around in circles** in an arena or up and down a barn aisle. Ignore the fact that a horse that has never been worked outside a ring or barn won't be safe to ride anywhere *but* inside a ring or barn.

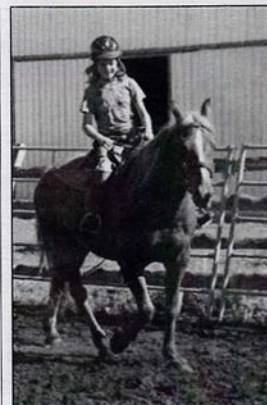
**Ride only once a week**, or once a month, or once a year.

**Treat the horse like a machine.** Ignore the fact that a horse is a thinking, feeling, living animal. Keep the horse confused about what you want by changing your expectations every time you work it. This combination of errors is likely to blow the horse's mind, or at least damage its attitude, as well as ruin its gaits.

**Never be satisfied** with the natural physical limits on the horse's speed and range of motion.

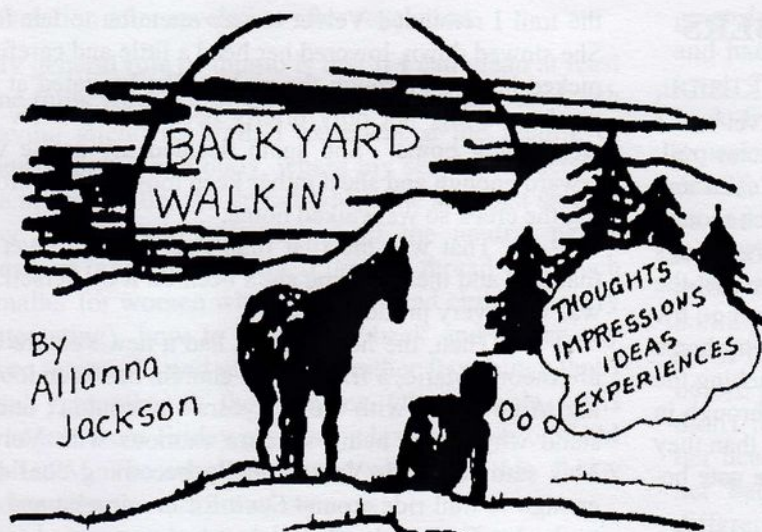
*Committing all of these errors will create severe and dangerous training problems in any horse. It doesn't take all of them to ruin the horse; doing only one or two of these things will have unintended negative consequences. A few of these tactics may only mess up the horse's gaits. Most of them are quite likely to permanently*

*compromise the horse's mental and physical soundness and usefulness as well.*



*Left: A lucky horse that has not been ruined, The General is ridden by Hannah McDonald at McDonald Farms near Pouce Coupe, BC.*





## How to RUIN a Walking Horse

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*In the last three issues of WHN I've discussed how to use your posture to influence the horse's posture to naturally and humanely influence which inherited gait the horse does.*

*Now I'll tell you how to ruin the running walk and make the horse unsafe to ride.*

*How many of these do you recognize as common practices and standard advice for training Tennessee Walking Horses?*

**Don't touch the horse** or do any ground training, except maybe the bare minimum of halter-breaking, from the time it's born until somebody wants to ride it at around 18 months of age.

**Don't give the horse** any preliminary schooling to prepare it for riding but do be sure it is shod before its first ride. As soon as the shoer leaves, saddle the horse and put a long-shanked curb bit or a Wonder bit into the its mouth. Get on the horse somehow. Steer by hauling its head around with the reins, because it hasn't been taught anything else. Make the horse do the fastest middle gait it can do, up and down a road or driveway, until the horse is lathered and exhausted. Use the barn wall or tie rack as a barrier to stop the horse. Jump off, strip off the saddle and bridle, then put the horse into a barn without cooling it out. Ride the horse this way for the 30 days, then sell it as "well broke".

**Change the horse's hoof angles** because whoever decided the horse needed shoes believes the lie that hoof angles can change, set, or fix gait.

**Use weighted shoes, heel caulked shoes, or action devices.** Ignore the fact that these shoes and devices are intended to disrupt the horse's natural stride which will place abnormal stress on joints, tendons, and ligaments, and will cause the hooves to hit the ground in abnormal and damaging ways. This will jeopardize the horse's long-term soundness but use of these devices and hoof angle changes indicate the user doesn't care whether the horse stays sound for most of its life or not.

**Demand impossible performance** from the horse. Require a "flat" walk of at least 10 mph and a "running walk" of at least 20 mph. Disregard the fact that these speeds are physically impossible for the horse. Ignore the fact that the flat-footed set down of hooves has a maximum physical speed limit of less than 6 mph. Ignore the fact that the two and three foot weight support of the stepping pace, running walk, foxtrot, and saddle rack becomes a singlefoot weight support gait at around 8 mph.

**Always ride the horse in the fastest middle gait it can do.** This will cause the horse to scramble around among at least three different middle gaits. Kick, spur, or whip the horse every time it tries to slow down. This will make the horse dangerous on the trail, and mess up the horse's natural gait behavior. It will also make it extremely difficult for buyers and breeders to determine what the horse's inherited gait preferences were before the horse was ridden speed crazy.

**Set the horse's head** with side reins or a biting rig. To do a more thorough job of ruining the horse, pull its head up as high as possible, use a curb bit when setting the horse's head, and leave the horse standing in a stall in the head set for hours at a time. This will create tension in the horse's jaw, poll, neck, and back. It also teaches the horse wrong responses to the bit. The result will be a false collection of the horse's posture that hinders the horse's engagement, balance, and correct form in gait.

*Concluded on page 8...*



## NEWS from our U.S. SUBSCRIBERS

From ALLANNA JACKSON, LAKESIDE, AZ, "It was gorgeous weather today, and Velvet and I had a nice trail ride around the Osprey Connector trail. Yes, VELVET! She did fantastic! She was calm and relaxed about leaving home and Cinnamon, even though Cinnamon whinnied. Velvet looked around at the doings at the stable as we went by. Out on the trail we met the dude string and had to get off the trail to let them go by. A couple of people exclaimed about what a pretty horse Velvet is. We met a second dude string approaching the gate at the back of Scott Reservoir and went through in front of them because Velvet walks a lot faster than they do. She spooked a little bit at the sound of the gate behind us, but settled promptly."

"I'd been planning to just ride to the Ice Cave,



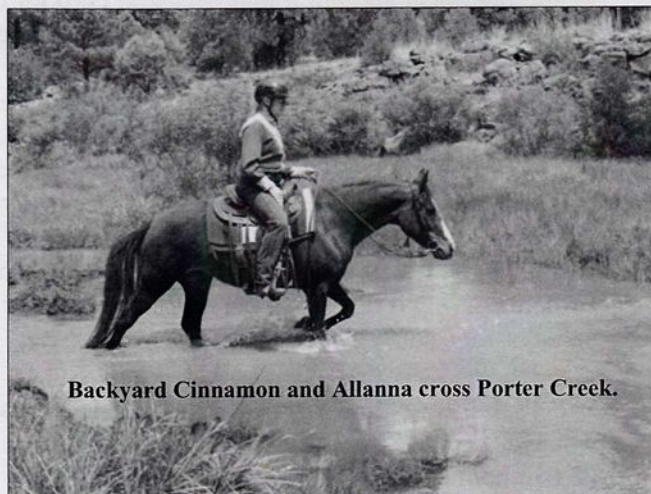
(where we are pictured above) but Velvet was doing so well we took the Osprey Connector instead. I'd ponied Velvet from Cinnamon on that trail several weeks ago and Velvet remembered. She strolled along calmly at a nice flat walk. She's learned her lesson from her fall on the rocks and paid attention to where she was putting her feet. I led Velvet through the two gates because she hasn't learned how to help me with them the way Cinnamon does. Velvet got a little anxious approaching the creek and hesitated, snuffing at it. I let her lower her head to look and reminded her that she'd followed Cinnamon across it and was fine. She looked and snuffed, then splashed across. I praised her and tried to offer her a treat but crossing the creek was slightly exciting so she needed to keep moving. She climbed out of the canyon nicely, but then got a little spooked by the sound of traffic crossing the cattle guard on Porter Mtn Rd. She again settled quickly and walked very nicely across the meadow. I led her through the horse gate beside the entrance road. As we approached the rockiest section of

the trail I reminded Velvet to pay attention to her feet. She slowed down, lowered her head a little and carefully picked her way through the rocks. She hesitated at the creek crossing, but only briefly because she knew we were going home. She again decided my praise was reward enough and she'd rather keep moving after crossing the creek so we walked home."

"That was the first time I've ridden Velvet on that trail and the first time she's been on it by herself. I was very, very proud of her!"

"Then, the horses and I had a new venture this afternoon. Marie, a friend from church, has been lobbying to go riding with me for years and couldn't understand why I was being so ultra cautious with Velvet. This summer, with Velvet finally becoming confident enough to trail ride around Scott Reservoir area and out to the Ice Cave, I decided Velvet had progressed to the point that it was time to trust my own training enough to let somebody else ride Cinnamon. This afternoon I invited Marie over to go riding. She helped with grooming and saddling Cinnamon while I groomed and saddled Velvet. We rode out to the Ice cave, with me on Velvet leading and Marie on Cinnamon. Cinnamon was a little independent minded about gaits, which she is with me, but gave Marie no trouble. Cinnamon wasn't really being naughty about gaits, she just kept having to do short spurts of ambling to keep up with Velvet's flat walk. Velvet is two inches taller and proportionally longer legged than Cinnamon so Velvet flat walks five mph without trying, whereas Cinnamon's comfortable flat walk speed is only 3 mph so it wasn't a surprise that Cinnamon did a middle gait to keep up. She trotted a little bit, but mostly ambled, which was easier on Marie. Velvet got kicked at by one of the dude string horses when she got too close behind him, but it didn't cause any serious problems for anybody and did give Velvet a 'horsish' explanation for why I was asking her to slow down and stay back."

*Editor's Note: I mistakenly showed Allanna riding Velvet in the CRTWH Ride Program last issue. Allanna's partner should have been Cinnamon. My apologies for the error.*



Backyard Cinnamon and Allanna cross Porter Creek.



## FINDING A MEMBER OR HORSE ON THE ELECTRONIC HERDBOOK

Type [clrc.ca](http://clrc.ca) into your search engine and Canadian Livestock Records Corporation will come up.

A list of choices will appear below that.

Click 'Members and Pedigrees' on the left side of the page.

When the drop-down box showing all breeds appears, scroll down to and click 'Tennessee Walking Horse'.

A number of options appear - search for a member by various ways, or search for a horse.

If you are looking for your own name, type it in exactly as it is on your membership card.

If you are looking for a horse, type its name exactly as it was registered. (For some reason, typing the name all in capital letters works best for me.) If you don't know the horse's full name, click the box that says 'search for any word in name', type in that word, press the 'search' box, and a list of horses whose name includes that word will come up. (Warning - here are pages and pages of names that include the word "Star"!)

Choose the one you are searching for.

The information on the horse will appear.

(If you don't know the correct name or part of the name, you can search for him through his breeder, his sire or dam, his registration number or his breeder's prefix.

Once you get to this point, there are many other options you may use to discover further information.

### **CHECK CRTWH.CA FOR THE FULL STORIES & PHOTOS OF THE NEW CENTURY PARTNERS, *below***

#### **DON McDONALD - CENTURY PARTNER**

I would like to nominate DON McDONALD of POUCE COUPE, BC and the stallion MISTY DARK DELITE M. CRTWH 1033, as Century Partners.

McDonald Farms has been home to Tennessee Walking Horses since 1974, and since that time over 150 purebred foals have been raised on the farm. Darkie was born there in 1982, and was kept as a stallion for his good looks and quiet disposition, also bringing in different bloodlines through his sire. He has 25 offspring registered with CRTWH. See his story and the story of how McDonald Farms got started with TWH on the CRTWH website soon.

To Don, who saw the potential in Darkie and gave him a chance, and to Darkie, for having the grit and good nature to overcome a severe setback as a foal to go on and make a contribution to the breed,

Congratulations. You deserve to be recognized as Century Partners!

*Marjorie Lacy*

*Left:  
Darkie  
in the  
snow*



#### **JAYNE WALKER - CENTURY PARTNER**



I would like to nominate JAYNE WALKER and NANCY'S SECRET PRIDE, *above*, as Century Partners.

Jayne purchased a promising young gelding, Nancy's Secret Pride, (Secret's Upstart x Little Nancy Go Go) in 1987 when he was three. Once Secret was trained, they went on many trail rides together. It was on one of the Great Cariboo Rides in central B.C. that a lady who had been admiring Secret from afar approached Jayne about purchasing him. As Jayne had recently acquired a stallion and was getting into breeding Walkers, she decided to let Secret go to a new home. Secret was out of Jayne's life for 15 years but when his now owner wanted to retire him she approached Jayne about giving him a final home back where he had originated. This was at least ten years ago. Secret has gone on many local rides since his return and has, because of his wonderful nature, taught many the joys of riding a Walking Horse. He is continuing on into his thirties, giving the occasional rides to those who appreciate that "glide ride".

*Jo-Anne McDonald*





## CANADIAN REGISTRY OF THE TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE

### SCHEDULE OF FEES August 1 to December 31, 2014

1. MEMBERSHIP	Fees	
a. Full Membership (Individual, Family, Corporation, Partnership - Canadian residents.) Voting, member fees apply	\$25.00/yr	
b. Individual Life Membership (Individual). Voting, member fee schedule applies	\$200.00	
c. Youth Membership (Individual, under 18 years of age). Non-voting, member fee schedule applies	\$10.00/yr.	
d. Associate Membership (Individuals, organization, groups - Canadian Residents). Non-voting, non-member fees	\$15.00/yr.	
e. Non-Canadian Resident Membership. Non-voting, member fee schedule applies	\$35.00/yr.	
f. Non-Canadian Resident Lifetime Membership. Non-voting, member fee schedule applies	\$250.00	
2. REGISTRATION OF FOALS or HORSES NOT ALREADY REGISTERED	Member Fees	Non-Member Fees
a. Within 12 months of foaling ( <b>PLUS</b> add DNA fee - see 6a below)	\$40.00	\$80.00
b. After 12 but less than 18 months of foaling ( <b>PLUS</b> add DNA fee - see 6a below)	\$60.00	\$120.00
c. After 18 but less than 24 months of foaling ( <b>PLUS</b> add DNA fee - see 6a below)	\$125.00	\$250.00
d. After 24 months of foaling: ( <b>PLUS</b> add DNA fee - see 6a below) <i>Non-refundable fee of \$125.00 if application is rejected.</i>	\$300.00	\$500.00
If the sire and/or dam of the unregistered foal (or horse) is not registered with CRTWH, submit a photocopy of both sides of the parent's U.S. registration certificate along with the foal's registration application.		
3. REGISTRATION OF HORSES ALREADY REGISTERED in U.S.	Member Fees	Non-Member Fees
<i>Applications must be accompanied by a photocopy of both sides of the U.S. certificate</i>	\$45.00	\$90.00
4. TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP - Special limited time offer. Additional transfer on same animal \$10.	Member Fees	Non-Member Fees
a. Within 1 month of date of sale	\$15.00	\$15.00
b. After 1, but before 3 months of date of sale	\$15.00	\$15.00
c. After 3 months of date of sale	\$15.00	\$15.00
5. ALTERATION OF CERTIFICATES ISSUED	Member Fees	Non-Member Fees
a. Change of colour	\$20.00	\$40.00
b. Change of gender (gelded) <i>No charge if requested at same time as paid transfer to a new owner.</i>	\$15.00	\$15.00
c. Death of a registered horse ( <i>certificate will be returned</i> )	\$5.00 credit	No charge
d. Change of Name: <i>Provided animal is no more than five (5) years of age and has no registered offspring. Subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. Submitted fees are non refundable if application is rejected.</i>	\$50.00	\$100.00
6. OTHER SERVICES	Member Fees	Non-Member Fees
a. DNA Hair Analysis Profiling for an unregistered foal. DNA kits are available from CLRC. Pay CLRC for DNA kit when registration application is submitted.	\$75.00	\$100.00
b. DNA Hair Analysis Profiling for a Registered animal: CLRC Request form for DNA kit is required. Pay CLRC when application for DNA kit is submitted to CLRC.	\$75.00	\$100.00
c. DNA Profiling for a Registered animal from blood stored at Maxxam Analytics. Submit fee with a letter of request stating the name & number of the animal to be DNA profiled, & the Blood Case # (where known).	\$57.00	\$57.00
d. Blood-typing/DNA updated certificate for mature horse.	\$10.00	\$25.00
e. Registration of Breeder's Prefix	\$45.00	\$90.00
f. Registration of Lease	\$20.00	\$40.00
g. List of Progeny of Individual Breeding Stock	\$20.00	\$40.00

*Fees are in Canadian currency, based upon postmark of the application and membership status of the applicant.*

**ALL REMITTANCES ARE PAYABLE TO CANADIAN LIVESTOCK RECORDS CORPORATION. (Visa & Master Card accepted.)**

*Please submit to:*

CLRC, 2417 Holly Lane, Ottawa, ON K1V 0M7 Fax 613-731-0704, Telephone **613-731-7110** Toll free **1-877-833-7110**.

The CRTWH accepts either Blood Typing or DNA Hair Analysis Profiling for parentage verification.

Both parents must have blood, or both must have DNA records on file for the foal to be parentage verified.

CLRC [www.clrc.ca](http://www.clrc.ca) CRTWH Home Page: <http://www.crtwh.ca> e-mail: [secretary@crtwh.ca](mailto:secretary@crtwh.ca)





# The Canadian Walker

Volume 13, Issue 5

[www.crtwh.ca](http://www.crtwh.ca)

[www.facebook.com/crtwh](http://www.facebook.com/crtwh)

October, 2014

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## The Canadian Registry of the Tennessee Walking Horse HELP MAKE THE REGISTRY RECORDS MORE ACCURATE

Members, YOU can help increase the accuracy of the CLRC Electronic Herdbook! First check your own membership record to be sure all the information is accurate and up to date. Then click the tab saying View Animals Owned. If there are any deceased horses in that list send their registration certificates in to CLRC with a note saying when they died and if you'd like their papers returned to you. (You will have \$5 credited to your account for each one.)

Secondly, check to see if there are horses on your list that have been sold but not transferred. You may own others that are not in your name yet. If so, *now* is the time to transfer them while there is a special cheaper fee for transfers, in effect only until Dec. 31/14.

### ASK REGIE

Dear Regie,

I would like to join the Walking Horse registry in Canada. However, all my horses are U.S. registered. How do I join CRTWH and can I register my horses in Canada?

*Signed, Canadian TWH Owner*

Dear Canadian Owner,

As a Canadian Resident you can join CRTWH for \$25 a year (or \$200 for a lifetime membership). To become a member, a person must have at least one Canadian registered horse. You can register your U.S. Walkers with CRTWH for \$45 each (member's fee) at the same time you apply for membership. What you are doing is importing the registration of the horse into the CRTWH.

It is simple. You must be shown as the owner of the horse on the back of its U.S. papers, or if not, you will need to include a copy of your properly filled out and signed Bill of Sale for the animal from the last recorded owner on its U.S. papers.

Send a copy of the front and back of your horse's US registration papers along with the 'U.S. to Canadian registration form' (found on the website) and the Bill of Sale if needed, to CLRC.

Now fill out the membership form (found on the website) and send it, along with the other papers and a cheque for the total fees made out to Canadian Livestock Records Corp, to CLRC, 2417 Holly Lane, Ottawa, ON K1V 0M7.

You may also join by phoning 1-877-833-7110 toll free and using your Visa or Master card, or by e-mailing [mavis.macdonald@clrc.ca](mailto:mavis.macdonald@clrc.ca) and joining that way.

Welcome!

*Signed,*

*Regie*

### Mission of the CANADIAN ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCE

There has been a rapid erosion of animal genetic diversity, including Canadian livestock. Recognizing this threat, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, in collaboration with the University of Saskatchewan, initiated the Canadian Animal Genetic Resource program in 2006. The CAGR's mission is to ensure the genetic diversity of Canadian livestock by acquiring, evaluating, and cryopreserving tissue and germplasm (sperm, embryos, oocytes).

#### Building a national cryobank:

To build this national germplasm repository, the CAGR is seeking donations from Canadian producers and industries. Sperm, embryos, gonad and somatic (skin) tissues can be collected and preserved following the standard procedures. Every donation is carefully evaluated and stored indefinitely. In addition, DNA analyses are conducted to evaluate the genetic diversity and determine relationships with other breeds of interest. The donated materials will not be released except in the eventuality of national emergency (disease outbreak) or a specific request by a breed association. Thus, this national cryobank is insurance for the Canadian livestock industry and the success of this repository depends on your contribution.

#### If you wish to contribute at this program

You can contact Dr Carl Lessard (306-956-7221; email: [carl.lessard@agr.gc.ca](mailto:carl.lessard@agr.gc.ca)) to discuss options to donate germplasm from your animals, or Crissandra Auckland (306-956-2906; [crissandra.auckland@agr.gc.ca](mailto:crissandra.auckland@agr.gc.ca)) or a member of the Rare Breeds Canada ([www.rarebreedsCanada.com](http://www.rarebreedsCanada.com)).

Horses are included. One TWH stallion is now represented in CAGR. Westridge Farms has donated frozen semen from Go Shadow Go.



## CONNECTED RIDING CLINIC FOR GAITED HORSES with DIANE SEPT

by Rhonda Lemmon and Paula Loewen

Wild Rose Walking Horse Association hosted a clinic featuring Diane Sept at Horse In Hand Ranch in



*Diane Sept, above, with Trinity.*

Blackfalds from August 22 - 24. The main focus of the clinic was on Connected Riding techniques for Gaited Horses. The clinic had the maximum participants that Diane would allow and a great time was had by all. 11 horses and 11 riders participated, and there were also a few auditors.

On Friday night, participants and auditors enjoyed a pizza dinner, and Diane Sept shared her passion for connected riding. Diane explained that it is essential for horses to move in self carriage, because physical and emotional balance go hand in hand. As well, self carriage is crucial for gaited horses to achieve a balanced and smooth intermediate gait. Diane also made it clear that riders need to find neutral pelvis in the saddle so that their horses can maintain self carriage. To this end, Diane spent an extended period of time helping each rider in the clinic find neutral pelvis – in a saddle on a saddle stand! Diane helped every rider find and feel neutral pelvis, and gave us all some “self checks” that we can use to determine if we are in neutral pelvis while we are riding.

Saturday morning, Diane did a riding demonstration: on Paula!! By “riding” a person, Diane showed what the horse feels when the rider is not in neutral – and showed how much happier and more able to move the horse is when the rider shifts to neutral pelvis. This was not your typical riding clinic, because after the “riding a person” demo, Diane hog tied all the participants, and had us practice leading each other. Everyone was amazed at the difference a few tips on leading made to how our human “horses” responded.

After practicing with people, it was time to bring the horses out. Diane had all of the horses come to the

indoor arena, and showed a simple technique for asking horses to rebalance and take their weight off the forehand. The exercise was simple, but not easy – for horses or humans. The people needed to practice focus and awareness, and the horses needed to be reminded often to rebalance and carry their weight off the forehand. But the changes in horses was quite amazing, even with this one simple exercise.

After lunch, the riders were split into two riding groups, and we had the opportunity to practice finding and re-finding neutral, and to ride in a more connected and balanced manner, and the focus carried into Sunday morning, when everyone rode again. Horses and riders all made amazing changes over the weekend, but I will let some of the participants share their success stories (see below).

The other great thing about the weekend was that Diane shared valuable information about saddle fit, bridle fit, bit choices, laminitis and horse handling and care. But most of all, Diane shared her passion and love for horses, and I think that was an inspiration to everyone.

A big THANK YOU to Jody Rawlyck for all of her hard work baking so many wonderful goodies. Everything from muffins, cookies, croissants, CHEESECAKE (yum yum) to scones and more muffins. Thank you to Dave for preparing our lunches and the Saturday night meal as well as picking up the pizza on Friday night for everyone. Thank you to the staff at Horse In Hand Ranch. The hospitality was second to none, with every need tended to and very courteous people. I can't say as I have ever received a horse treat goody bag on top of the bag of shavings in my horses' stall before when I arrived. It certainly gave the feeling of a horsey hotel. Thank you, Dianne Little, for arranging to have Diane Sept picked up and dropped off at the airport and thank you, Leslie Hunchuk, for bringing her to the venue. Thank you to the clean-up people (you all know who you are) and to the participants.

*Here are some more descriptions of the weekend clinic from participants:*

### **RHONDA LEMMON**

My personal experience of the clinic can truly be summed up in one word. WOW! My head is still swimming from all the information, tools and techniques I was given. It was a weekend of

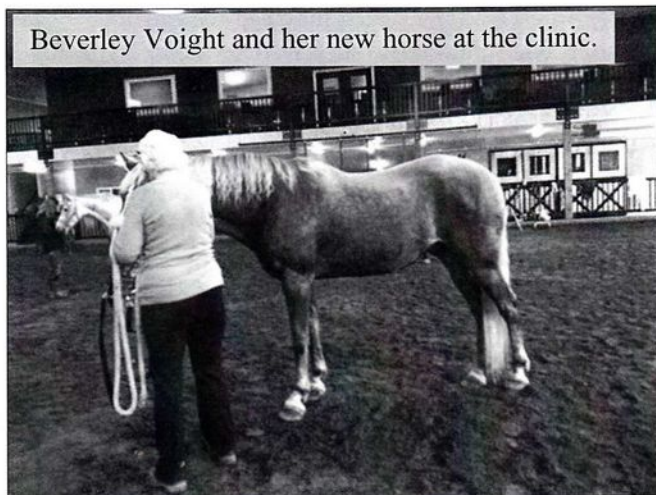


revelation after revelation after revelation.

My general rule of thumb is that if I can glean at least one thing from a clinic then the clinic was well worth having attended. Well, I experienced the feeling of neutral pelvis and buoy, where my seat bones need to be in the saddle, the thread where the slightest shift in my body would put me out of the neutral pelvis position (and how it seemed that the thread was much smaller for women who had never had children - very interesting), how to round my back and soften my core (stomach) and probably another few things that I can't remember at the moment. Okay people... this was just from Friday night which went from 6:30PM to 10PM. The whole weekend went like this. I saw horses change in front of my eyes.

My own horse, Legacy, a North American Single Footer thinks it is great fun to try and buck me off on occasion and spook at random things. He became so calm and relaxed that I had to ask Diane how to speed him up as now he was too slow for me. I had taken him because I had never really worked on getting him to gait in a correct frame in order to help him stay sound in his senior years. He is now 17 years old and I am starting to see some deterioration from years of gaiting inverted and I want to keep him pain free and going strong for many years to come. I also have three Missouri Fox Trotter weanlings that I wanted to get some tips on for getting them into their proper gait when it is time to start them. What Diane taught at this clinic will certainly help with this. It will help with all horses and all riders.

I have been training Tennessee Walking Horses for years and currently have a horse in for retraining. When I used some of the techniques Diane gave us during the clinic, I couldn't believe how this horse responded. She had come in extremely spooky and lacking confidence and although she had progressed a



Beverley Voight and her new horse at the clinic.

great deal before the clinic she was still quite spooky and had only improved marginally in her confidence level. The clinic was last week and tonight I just got back from a wonderful first trail ride with her. We experienced barking dogs, traffic, bush, trees, hills, dead fall, horses running free at us in a pasture beside us and she only slightly spooked twice on the whole ride. Once when another rider kicked their horse pretty hard right beside us and when my dog came barking at us from behind my truck. Had you asked me if I would be taking her out on a trail ride by now before the clinic I would have said probably not as I didn't think she would be ready. She was calm, had her head carried nice and low, she was moving using her back end and no longer inverted. Completely different horse!

Diane Sept ended up spending the Monday after the clinic giving a couple of us some extra lesson time and you were right Dianne Little, I will never regret having done that. I am sorry that you and Leslie were held captive all day and that all I fed you was junk food and coffee. Diane's teachings have skyrocketed my knowledge and the level of training I will be able to provide for my clients. Not to mention how this is going to impact my own horses. I have been trying for years to find out how to do get my horses truly moving on their hind end without gimmicks or devices as now I realize that pretty much every gaited horse I have seen is always on the forehand and that this is what causes bad behavior, spooky horses, poor gait, and the list goes on.

My only disappointment is that it took this long to get this caliber of clinician up here. I can't imagine how many horses I could have helped in years past knowing what I know now. Diane Sept, you are truly amazing and gifted! To those of you who could not make it to this clinic, you really missed out on life changing information. The good news is that I was there, I am committed to learning everything I can about these techniques and if anyone needs help with their horse, I am available for working with you and your horses to experience a much deeper relationship than you ever thought was possible.

#### **DEBRA BLOWER**

I loved the clinic. I got out of it exactly the sort of information and instruction AND the confirmation I needed about my riding. My request going into the clinic on what to focus on was seat seat seat - hands hands hands and Diane Sept more than delivered on that. Diane provided me with fundamental skills and information that I wished I'd had 30 years ago.



The lessons that Diane taught apply to every type of riding and every type of horse. It was just about good horsemanship. I found it particularly liberating to learn that - Yes - I am not ever going to have my legs straight down from the hip, heels down, back straight, etc - **BECAUSE I AM NOT BUILT FOR IT AND I DON'T NEED IT TO BE A GREAT RIDER!** OK - I will never be a GREAT rider, but gone is that depressing cloud of continuous disappointment that I am never going to be any good because I don't work out enough, am not tall enough, and am not thin enough.

Before I sound like I changed overnight into a fantastic rider with a great seat and a well balanced horse - I must point out that I may have seen a bit of light, but I am not out of the tunnel. It is very hard to change and very easy to fall back into old habits. Will I apply everything I learnt? Not likely, but I will try.

I would love to attend another Diane Sept clinic. I need more lessons on how to change my bad bossy



Billy into beautiful Billy the wonder mare.

#### JODY RAWLYK

What a wonderful weekend of learning, discovery and friendship that was! If there is an "afterglow", then I am still in it. And Jordan and Touch will

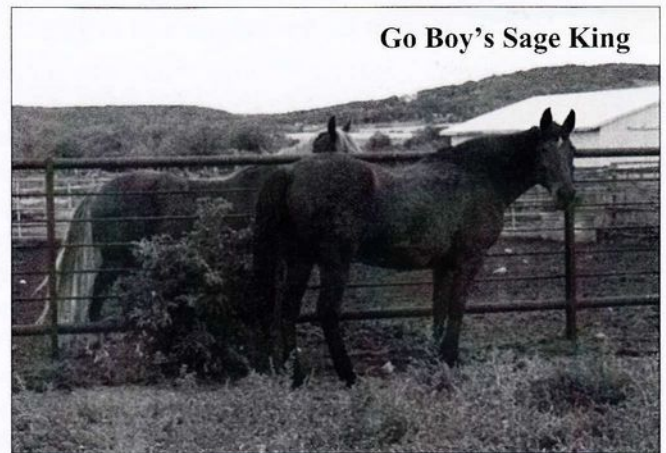
be the greatest beneficiaries. I have always approached them with caring and awe, but now I can ride and handle them with respect and compassion. Diane Sept clearly presented the rationale of Connected Riding with the skillful demonstration of cause and effect of body mechanics in relation to the impairment or freedom of movement in horse and rider. As a rider with entry level skills and knowledge, I greatly benefited from Diane's explanations of the necessity of correct and effectual groundwork to achieve proper frame, focus and engagement. Her teachings were reinforced with many quizzes of the students, so one could never be

elsewhere other than present!

My personal lesson to be learned was revealed by an unfortunate incident, but it proved to be the most helpful and appreciated... clear communication and boundaries. Diane gave me the tools to manage misbehavior. And her suggestion for practicing communication... that will be privy only to Diane and myself! LOL! A wonderful clinic and a wonderful weekend with friends.



#### LOOKING BACK by Jo-Anne McDonald



Go Boy's Sage King

We had a phone call from "out of the past" the other day. It got me thinking. Jan Maki who was moving to Anchorage from Ohio in 1992 contacted us looking for a Tennessee Walker. At the time we had a four-year-old gelding available, named Go Boy's Sage King. He was sired by Go Boy's Crown Royal and was out of the mare Miss Patience SC. The colt was a tall bay, good-natured and wonderfully gaited. Jan stopped in, tried him out, liked the horse, and away he went, headed north to Alaska.

I had not heard much in the ensuing 22 years so I was pleasantly surprised to hear from Jan the other day. She was looking for a place to overnight her horse. Jan is moving back to the "lower 48" (as she put it) and taking "King" with her. King is looking wonderful for a horse of that age in transit. He was not particularly happy with the move but was taking it all "in stride".

Jan just loves this horse and has given him the most wonderful home, and we thank her for that. What a privilege to get reacquainted with a horse that was born here so many years ago. In fact, for the night we just put him back into the pen in which he was born. How is that for "what goes around comes around"?



# THE IMPORTANCE OF SADDLE FITTING

## Part 1

by Jessica Sparrow

Saddle fitting can be a tiresome, tedious, and sometimes traumatic experience for any horse owner. There are all the hard decisions to make, like style, colour, brand, budget... and oh yeah - fit is important for both rider and horse too! We all hope to spend many hours in the saddle with our equine friends, but are they truly comfortable carrying us around?

Problems with poor saddle fit can sometimes be obvious (e.g. saddle sores), but they can also be more subtle as well. In fact, the equine back is not fundamentally designed to carry weight, and is better suited for pulling loads (Briggs, 2004). Typically, researchers agree that a horse can carry approximately 20% of its body weight (Briggs, 2004), though some articles have suggested an upper maximum of 29% (Lesté-Lasserre, 2013). In fact, the weakest part of the horse's back is directly where the saddle sits, making it prone to injury. An ill-fitting saddle can cause many behavioural problems such as biting, ear pinning, altered gait, resistance to work, etc. Saddle sores can also occur and can cause major setbacks to any training program.

The best saddle fit will distribute the riders weight evenly throughout the tree, without inhibiting the horse's movement. This can be especially challenging when working with TWH who are known for having a long and loose stride. Extra care should be taken throughout the shoulder area to make sure that the saddle does not interfere with movement. The saddle should not be too far forward to affect the latissimus dorsi muscles (which have a major role in pulling the horse forward when a fore leg is grounded).

Another consideration is how your horse's body will change over the years and how that will affect how your saddle fits. Can *you* still wear your favourite jacket from high school? Not many of us are quite so lucky. The same changes that we experience will affect our horses as well. A better conditioned horse will have more developed muscles throughout its shoulders and top line. If your equine partner has had a few months off exercise (or maybe it is in a rigorous training program), you should periodically check how your tack is fitting. The same principles should be applied to your aging horse, as they lose muscling throughout their top line, and a narrower tree may be necessary to avoid the saddle sitting on the withers or pinching at the shoulder.

Saddle fitting is quite an art and great care

should be taken to find a suitable saddle for your horse. Common saddle pressure points are often due to

Saddle too far forward

Tree too narrow

Tree short and/or saddle too far forward

Narrow gullet

Tree too wide

Rocking point near stirrup bars

Narrow panels

Rider's weight to rear and/or lack of stuffing in panel

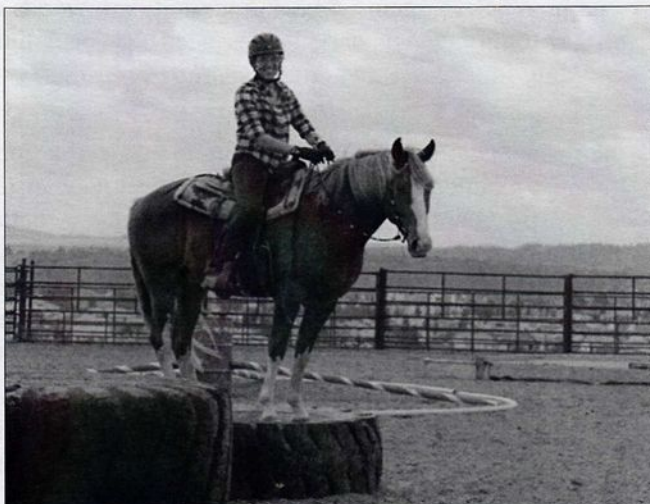
Saddle too long

We have a responsibility to our horses to ensure they are comfortable – so when was the last time you checked how well your saddle fits your horse?

### REFERENCES:

- The Right Saddle for the Job, by Les Sellnow (2003).  
Briggs, K. (2004) Beasts of burden. Retrieved from: <http://www.thehorse.com/articles/14640/beasts-of-burden>  
Lesté-Lasserre, C. (2011) Treeless vs. Conventional Saddles: Back Pressure Evaluated

*Jessica Sparrow has been working with TWH for many years at Calta Stables, Calgary. (See photo below). She is currently taking classes at the University of Guelph towards an Equine Science Diploma. Her final paper in the Anatomy Course was an extensive research project into the different types of saddles and their effect on the horse's back. Jessica says, "I was surprised to learn of so many unhealthy aspects of some saddles, and I am hoping to share this information with other horse enthusiasts and in particular those with gaited breeds."*



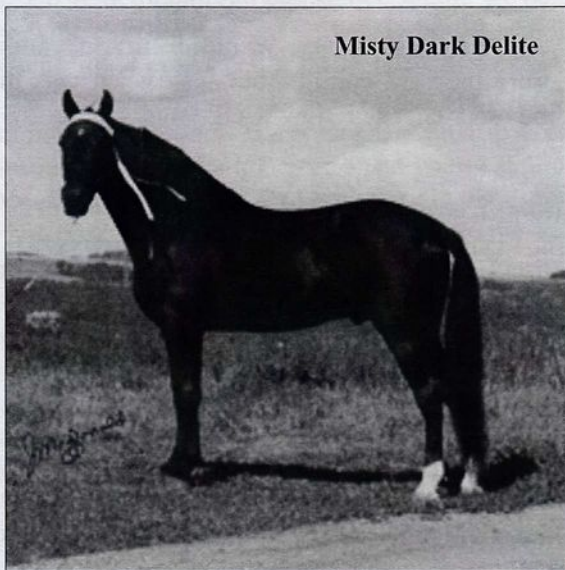


## CAMERA CALL by Marjorie Lacy

Photos by Jo-Anne McDonald

*I was going through some old WHN magazines and came across a 1996 article on taking photographs. It made some good points so I thought it might be worthwhile to run a 2014 version. It's surprising how much has changed with digital photography - but a lot is still the same.*

*It takes skill, attention to detail and patience to take good horse photos. But you can do it if you are willing to take the time. Here are some pointers to help you make your horse look its best in print (or on line!).*



1. Choose a level place for the photo shoot where there is a clear, uncluttered background or a spot where you have the sky behind the horse. The background can vary depending on the colour of the horse, but *uncluttered* goes for them all

You can get away with photographing light coloured horses against a background of dark woods or a dark building, but dark horses need sky or a light building for background. (See the illustrations.)

2. Pick a clear, sunny day. Sunlight shining on a burnished coat sets the tone. High noon is not a good time; it's better to have the light a little lower in the sky. Mid morning or afternoon is usually a better choice for light. Do I need to remind you that you must take the photo with the light coming from behind you? Taking it into the light will give you only silhouettes. But be careful that your shadow doesn't get into your photo or fall across the horse!

3. Clean and brush the horse. Tidy its mane and tail. Clean any white socks so there are no mud or manure stains showing. Make sure its feet are trimmed. Find a

nice looking, well-fitting halter to use. It doesn't have to be a show halter (but that wouldn't hurt).

4. Now you are going to need help. You'll either need someone to handle the horse, stand it up square or very slightly stretched *or* someone to take the pictures. It's important to have the horse standing level or with its forequarters a very little bit higher than the hindquarters. Having the horse stand 'downhill' will make the best conformed horse look awkward.

The camera should be aimed level with the horse's mid ribs, looking very slightly from behind the center of the animal, say approximately from the last rib. Unless you particularly want a profile, the head should be turned about 1/4 toward the camera..

5. Finally, you, the horse and your helper are all ready. The horse is standing in front of a pleasing background that it won't 'disappear' into. The sun is shining at your back. Now all you need is for the horse to stand up and look alert and interested, and for the photographer to make sure the whole horse is in the frame. (No cutting off ears or feet!) Don't stand too close to take the picture or you may end up with distortion. It's better to take the photo from farther away or with a telephoto lens and then crop it later.

Step back so the whole horse is in the photo and whistle, squeeze a squeaky toy or otherwise catch the horse's interest and ... snap! Your horse is immortalized in a prize worthy picture.

The hardest part is to get the horse to stand still once he's in that perfect position! Here's where a motor drive camera that takes a whole raft of pictures in seconds might come in handy.

Nowadays, with a digital camera, you aren't limited to a roll of 24 that all have to be developed before you can see what you've got. So take LOTS of pictures now that you've done all the preparation. If you get three or four really good ones, it will have been worth the time and work!





## READERS WRITE: Questions and Opinions

From **GRANT KIHN, DELBURNE, AB**: I just was going through the August *WHN* and feel compelled to respond to some of the points made in the "Ask Regie" article. At the risk of making a few enemies, I would like to share my point of view on the matter of registration papers.

I come from a background of hard working country folks that don't have a lot of money to throw around, so the money we had was only spent on the most important things. Registering non-breeding animals was rarely done, simply because what you see is what you get. No breed history is required as you are only dealing with the animal standing in front of you. Just because the animal is registered doesn't mean that it always exhibits the characteristics of its breed (I'm sure we can all attest to that in many instances).

I agree that generally one should pay less for an unregistered non-breeding animal unless it is more trained or skilled than its registered counterpart. Now I know that in more recent years it has become fashionable for people to buy geldings, for example, that have papers, mostly just as bragging rights to their friends that they own a registered gelding. Personally I would sooner buy an unregistered gelding that gaits than a registered one that does not. Do purebred breeders of cattle register their steers? I don't think so.

As for traceability, I don't feel that registration papers and numbers have much if any tie to a specific animal unless the animal itself is tattooed or micro chipped to tie that specific animal to the registration documents. There are a lot of chestnut horses out there with one or two hind socks that could fit the brief and often inaccurate markings noted on registration documents.

Comparing animal registration papers to human birth certificates is only accurate in one way - date of birth only. My birth certificate does not state my lineage nor my race. The advantage that humans have over the animal kingdom is that we can verify verbally that this is my son or daughter and this is my mother, father, grandmother and grandfather. When compared to registering your vehicle, your vehicle and most of its major components all have serial numbers; your horse does not (unless it is tattooed or micro chipped). Perhaps a good photo record in the case of a uniquely patterned coat would also help, but overall you are putting a fair degree of trust in the seller when it comes to papers.

I am a firm believer in good descriptions and detail on the bill of sale and we should make a habit of having copies of those bills of sale on hand when we haul our horses to shows, competitions and sales outlets.

I also get the fact that a breed registry has to survive, and its survival depends on members that routinely pay for registrations, transfers and the like. But personally, I still prefer to count my pennies and pay for what really counts - and to me that is the animal standing in front of me, papers or not.

**ALLANNA JACKSON, LAKESIDE, AZ** writes: I got my *WHN* yesterday. It was interesting to see Dr. Womack's article and think about what's changed, and what hasn't, among flat-shod horses in the last 27 years. I'm afraid the breed temperament is not as good now as it was then, at least among horses here in the USA. It seems like even the pleasure horses have gotten hotter, quirkiest and less suitable for trail riding. It's a good thing the Heritage Society is working so hard to preserve a mentally sound all-purpose type of Walker.

Regarding the question about the horse giving a "teeter totter" ride... An evenly timed singlefoot rack produces a front to back rocking motion for the rider. If an accurate clocking of the horse's speed is around 8 mph or faster when the teeter totter effect is happening I'd almost guarantee, without seeing the horse, that it's singlefoot racking. Slowing the horse down enough so it can do a true tri-foot weight support running walk will eliminate the teeter totter.

A lady whose name I recognize from our Four Craftsmen and WHJ mailing lists, posted a comment on the Heritage Society facebook expressing her frustration with multi-gaited TWH that only running walk when spooked, and with having to *train* a TWH to running walk. She's 65 and wants a calm horse that just does a running walk. She ended her comment with the question "Is that too much to ask for?" She's not the only buyer out there wanting that type of Walking Horse!

From **FRANNE BRANDON, PETERSBURG, TN**, Saw the announcement in the *WHN* and I would LOVE to go to one of Diane Sept's clinics. She catches everything so fast, and she articulates the problems and what needs to be done so clearly.



## SEARCHING FOR A TWH

*"I found your email address on the Canadian Tennessee Walking horse website and was hoping you could help me out in my search for a TWH. I am looking for a Sweet horse (likes people, good ground manners), that's Sane (no bite, kick, rear, buck or bolt), and Smooth (consistent gait that is nice to ride and easy to get). I have been riding and training horses for about 25 years and am an experienced handler/rider. I am however, not looking for a project horse anymore - getting too old for that! My friend and I have been trail riding together since we were teenagers and she just recently got a Tennessee Walker that my mare cannot keep up with without trotting the entire time."*

*"I would like to find a horse that is older than 5 but younger than 15 and has had some experience on the trails. We do about 20 km a week and do some camping in the summer. I will use the horse mainly as my own riding horse, but would like to be able to use him/her from time to time for other people that are a little less experienced. I prefer a forward horse that likes to go and can go all day - not that we ever really go all day!"*

*"I have 10 acres of pasture with a large cattle barn where the horses can come and go as they choose. I also keep my horses at my friend's place during the winter because she has a nice dry lot area where they can get out of the mud and also use the shelter when it rains. My horses get regular hoof care, and have free choice local hay and minerals 24/7, as well as pasture if the weather is good."*

*"Please let me know if you have anything that you think might be suitable."*

AND

*"We are looking for an older quiet horse that is well trained, easy to load, easy to catch, and has a good walk. I wonder if you have any like that for sale or know of any in this general area that are not too expensive? We are older riders and need something trustworthy and dependable. We will definitely give it a good home."*

At CRTWH we get lots of queries like these. And although there are many nice Walkers out there, ones this quiet, well trained, mature and experienced are only rarely for sale. If you add conditions about gender and colour, it becomes even more of a treasure hunt.

So let's look at what goes into the creation of such a horse.

The original TWH was noted for its good disposition, strong bone and feet, and easy ground-covering walk. Nowadays they vary a lot, physically as well as in temperament and personality. And, being horses, they will behave differently with different handlers.

Few are raising TWH specifically for the pleasure riding market. Even fewer are training horses to this level. So the first thing needed is to find a prospect that has the quiet, steady disposition that marks the good trail horse. Some folks breed their own, others go looking. Whichever you do, that's your first cost - buying or raising the horse. Let's pretend that you have bought a weanling or yearling.

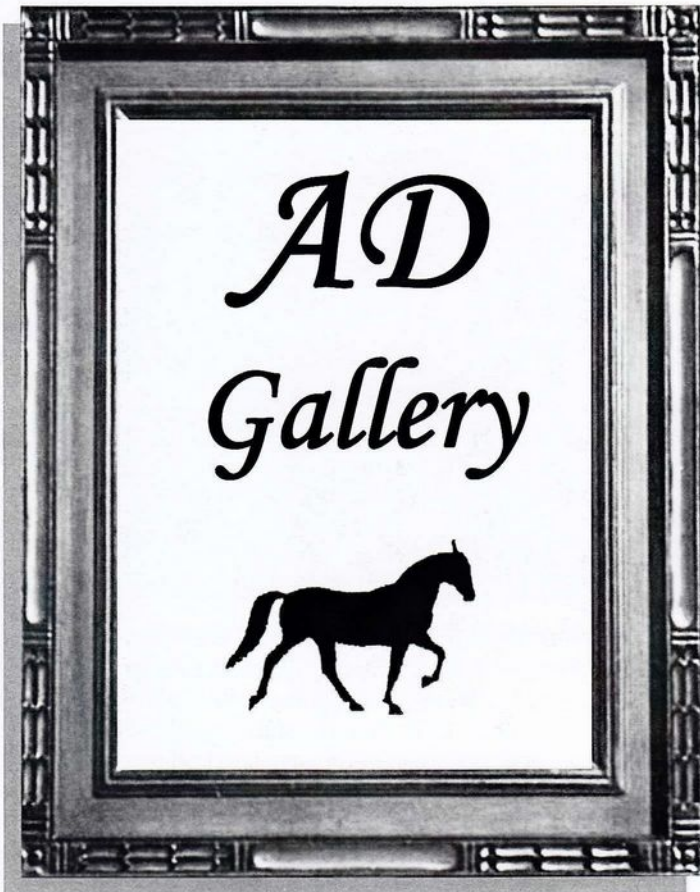
A good trail horse has to be easy to catch, well halter trained, and must learn to stand tied patiently. It will be required to pick up its feet readily and stand for the farrier. It must be trained to load into and out of a trailer safely, leave its friends and pasture mates without screaming or panicking, and be respectful of its handler. So that is already quite a list, and we haven't even begun any saddling or de-spooking work. How many hours of patient, gentle handling do you think that list would represent?

A young horse, up to two years old, can learn a lot of the above. Once it is three, it is mature enough to learn more ground work, giving to pressure, and respecting the handler as leader. The horse can become acquainted with saddle blankets, saddles, being ground driven and perhaps carrying a bit in its mouth. It could be ponied with a saddle or light pack saddle and learn to sidle up to a fence that the trainer is sitting on, but is really still too young for much more than a person sitting on its back. The younger the horse, the less confident it is and the more likely it is to be reactive. Notice nothing has been said about working in gait? Are you keeping a tally of the hours spent with this young TWH? Don't forget it has to be fed and its feet and health maintained too...

By four, most horses are mature enough to be worked seriously and learn about being good saddle horses. A confident and knowledgeable trainer can bring the horse along according to its temperament, maturity and ability to learn. It will probably vary for each individual, but once the horse knows the "theory", it will take many, many hours of riding for the good habits and responses to become second nature. And we still haven't discussed becoming set in its gait yet. A gentle, dependable, well trained horse is the result of many, many hours of skilled riding and varied experiences. A horse like this should be considered a rare jewel and be valued accordingly.

What do you think, Readers? MCL





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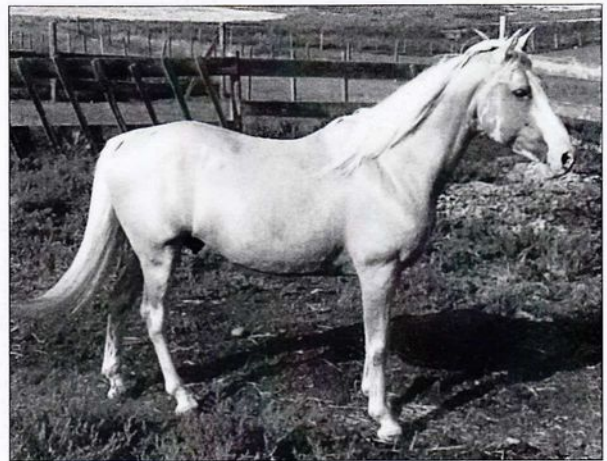
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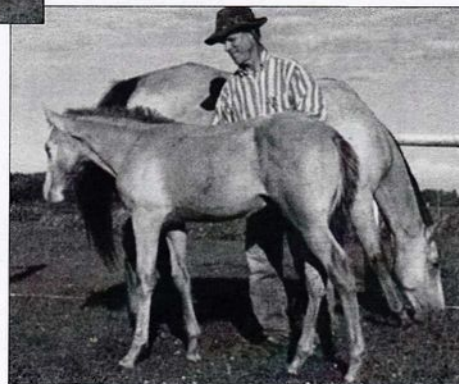
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## COMING EVENTS

### CRTWH PROGRAM FOR EXCELLENCE and

**TRAINING LEVELS** - Deadline for regular submission of video tests is October 30. Video your horse now in the nice weather, as soon as it is ready. You can send the tests in at any time before the deadline, or if after, you can still get them assessed for 2014 by paying a rush fee. Contact Dianne Little, CALGARY, AB at [ddlittle@telus.net](mailto:ddlittle@telus.net) or 403-271-7391.

## NEXT DEADLINE

# November 7, 2014

*Please mail your ads to*

**WHN,**

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

*with cheque or money order made out to  
Walking Horse News*