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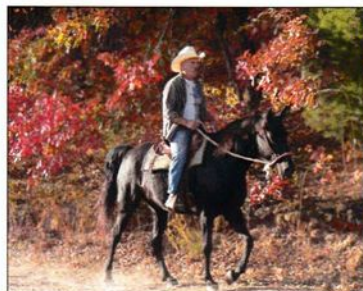
Walking Horse News



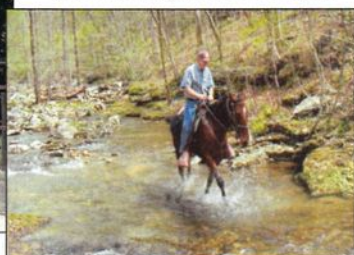
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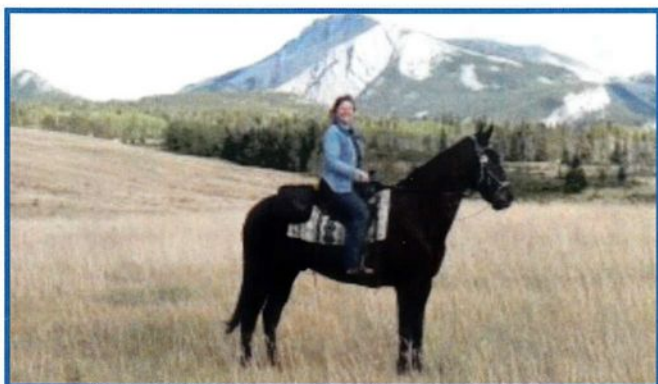


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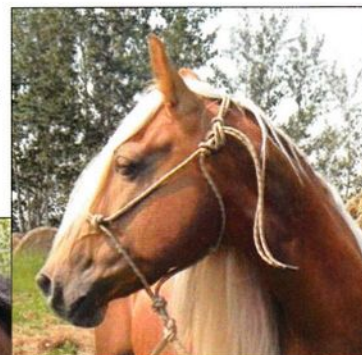
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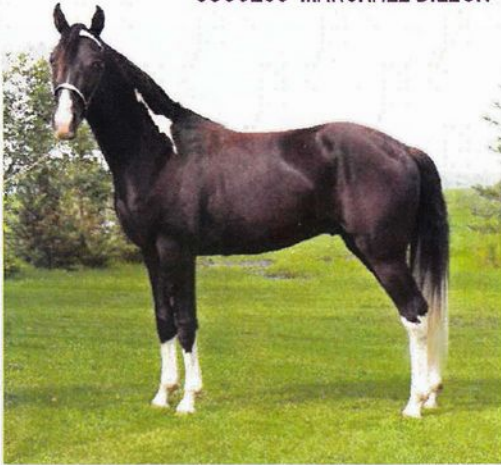
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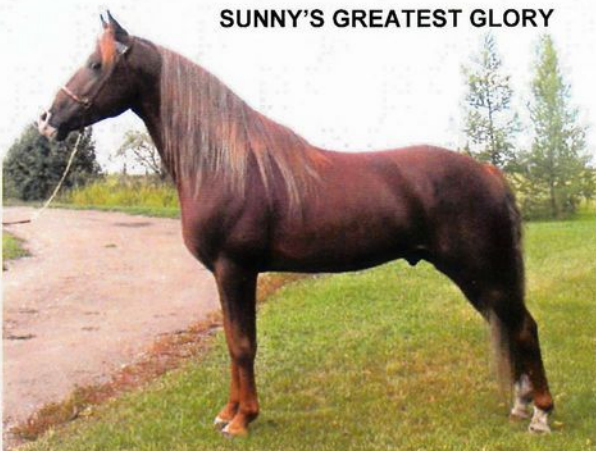
AT
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SURE SILVER

SUNNY'S GREATEST GLORY



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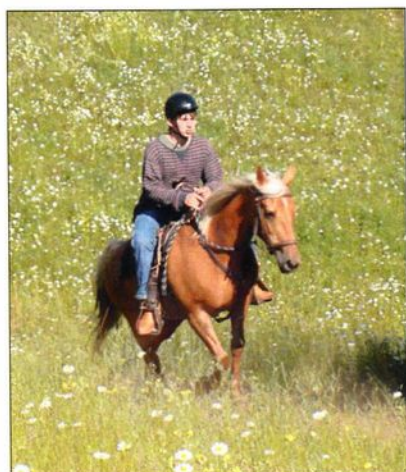
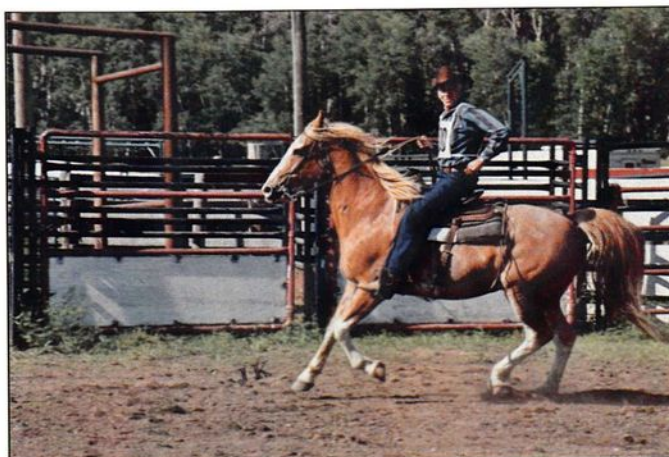


The CANADIAN REGISTRY of the TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE

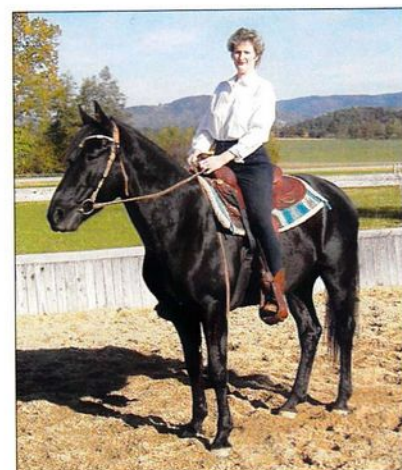


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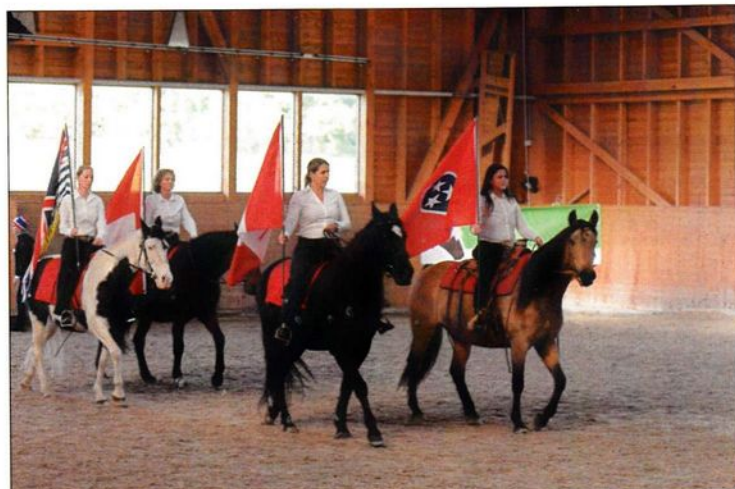
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Walking Horse News

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Allanna Jackson
and Back Yard
Cinnamon
2002-2827
exit

Porter Creek,
Lakeside,
Arizona, USA,
on

July 18, 2011.

*I thought everyone
would enjoy a nice warm,
green picture in February!*

Photo by

Martin Allan Jackson

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for Jan/Feb issue
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for Mar/Apr issue
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for May/June issue
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Volume XXXIX, # 1 January/February, 2015

Dear Subscribers,

We've had an amazingly warm January here in western Alberta - so no whining allowed. Just throw back our parka hoods and be grateful! It really helps conserve feed too. My horses are so happy pawing in the hayfields and finding those tasty green bits that they certainly don't rush over for their hay. "Ho hum ... Guess we'll wander over and eat it... since you've gone to the trouble of putting it out for us."

I hope you like the new cover ads. *And* support the advertisers! Thank you to all who advertised. We appreciate that you make it possible for *WHN* to have the colour covers that we all enjoy.

By the way, how many of the horses in the CRTWH ad can you identify? Do you know which ones are in Canada, and what other countries are represented? There are some clues in this issue, so keep your eyes open. And do you know any of the CRTWH horses on the 'Walkers Around the World' page?

Thank you to all who sent news and photos, articles and information for this issue. I certainly can't do it without you. Special thanks to Jo Kingsland, Dianne Little and Jo-Anne McDonald for all their help with finding the archival material and photographs for several articles, particularly the story and photos of Pearl Tompkins. It's hard to believe that she has been gone for 20 years.

Also thanks to everyone who sent ads. Ads are the lifeblood of a print magazine. So if you have a stallion at

stud, provide equine services, have a horse to sell or are searching for one, please think about advertising in *WHN*. We need your support. Enjoy the magazine, and I'll hope to hear from YOU for next time.

Let's have a great year
in 2015,

Marjorie



WHN makes a
great gift!

February, 2015

Walking Horse News

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

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OR VIEWS FROM YOUR PLACE?

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*Thank you for advertising in
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HISTORY & HERITAGE PROJECT

The article below, by Dianne Little, is from the 1999 *Canadian Times of the Tennessee Walking Horse*, a publication distributed at the CRTWH Futurities. The Futurity was held each year from 1982 to 2004, except for 2001 when 9/11 caused the cancellation of all flights, and our judge was unable to come. In 2005 the Futurity morphed into a "Virtual Futurity" - now the Program for Excellence and Training Levels. I hope you enjoy Pearl Tompkins' story and perhaps find some inspiration in her love of the Walking Horse and her breeding goals for the natural using TWH.

On the 20th Anniversary of 'The Canadian' Tennessee Walking Horse Futurity, CRTWH has chosen to honour not a Canadian, but an American - Pearl Tompkins. In 1993, the Canadian Registry of the Tennessee Walking Horse made Pearl Tompkins the first, and to date, only Honorary Member of the Association. Pearl is a legend - her life a testimony to her belief in the Tennessee Walking Horse. With the promotion of any breed, dedicated individuals make the difference and Pearl led the group in Canada and the Northwestern United States.

Many of today's Walking Horse owners and breeders may not be familiar with this outstanding lady from Montana. However, most Canadian TWH registration papers have at least one horse bred by Pearl on the pedigree. Her impact on the early Canadian TWH industry is unparalleled by any other individual. Many words have been used to describe Pearl - honest, straightforward, enthusiastic, committed, sincere, tenacious, and colourful. Without a doubt, Pearl was an unique individual with a sincere commitment to and love for the TWH.

In Pearl's words, "It's something my whole darn life is tied up in."

Her careful breeding, with a commitment to preserving the wonderful temperament and natural gaits of the Tennessee Walker, has placed an unmistakable stamp on her line.

In preparation of this edition of 'The Canadian Times' of the Tennessee Walking Horse, I researched numerous articles about Pearl. However, none presented the whole picture of Pearl. They only touched the surface just as I only touched the surface when I first met her. I had no idea of the influence she'd had on the breed: I just saw a dumpy, arthritic, wrinkled old lady with crusty opinions who had bred TWH. My perspective changed dramatically when I observed her sitting for hours in a stall with Go Shadow Go. She was transformed: the look on her face was angelic, peaceful and loving. The connection between the two was magical. All TWH enthusiasts can still learn a lot from Pearl. Here is Pearl in her own words.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A BREEDING STALLION

From a taped interview with Marjorie Lacy

"Well, Marjorie, you asked me to tell you what I look for in a breeding stallion."

"The first thing I look at in a horse, whether it's going to be a breeding stud, or a broodmare or whatever, I look at its head first. If he has a bad head, you don't want him no matter what the rest of him is."

"Unless some person who has been training the horse has spoiled his disposition, to look at a horse that hasn't been ruined, I just look at his head and I know what he is. His disposition shows right there."

"If he's got big eyes on the side of his face so he can really see like he ought to, he's got small ears, alert, and just a flat out pretty head, because his head tells you what his disposition is - his natural disposition - and unless he has a naturally good disposition, what good is he? You want him to pass that on?"

"So, pick him out with a good head.

And then he needs a short back, and above all, another thing I really look for is a long shoulder and that shoulder is supposed to start at the back of his withers. And then a slanted line up from the point of his shoulder. But the reason for that is because he needs that long shoulder, for we're talking here of a horse that's going to be real active. He needs to get that front end out from under him whether he's a show horse or chasing a cow or going down the road, he needs to be able to walk free and easy." "So with a long shoulder and a long hip he is going to have a short back, and a short back is what I look for. I just don't like long backs."

"Mr. Brantley and other good trainers in Tennessee have told me that a horse's neck is supposed to come up out of his shoulders. You just don't want a neck that kind of drops off in front of his shoulders. It's just as logical as anything. If he's got his head up in the air and he's got a good long shoulder, he can work his front end."

"If you just take a horse that's well proportioned - evenly - ... You don't want one with a long slim belly on him. He needs substance. I guess that's what you get if you pick one that's sort of compact."

“And you start there, and he’s got a pretty head, he’s got a good neck and a good shoulder and a good back and a good hind end, and his legs are straight and strong, then, of course, you want his way of going...” “But if he’s got the right conformation, I think he’ll have the right way of going. Usually he will.”

“I put that good disposition Number 1 – I wouldn’t have a mean stud, no matter how good he was. Then also I’d want him to have his natural way of going – Just that good easy way.”

“I don’t know how much more I can tell you. I can just see the picture in my mind. But I’ve tried to because you have a lot of good horses now up there in Canada. And we know there are a lot of them. But I would still say that a good head is essential – because that’s where his brains are – and that kind of goes along with disposition too. Wide between the eyes, and big eyes that look at you, and if somebody hasn’t already spoiled that horse, he’s just going to be alright.”

“You want a stallion’s colts to look like he looks, so when you are picking out a stud, pick one out that you think is consistently enough bred. Sometimes you’re lucky, even with a stud with a pedigree that, as the old saying goes, has “a dog from every town’ and all that stuff. Once in a while you’ve got that kind of a horse. But I’m a firm believer in bloodlines.”

TALES OF ONE WINTER - CHOOSING HER BLOOD LINES

“I guess I proved that when I studied in that isolated winter – I didn’t have any T.V. and I had very few callers that winter – kind of snowed in up there – and I really studied my books, all winter long, just concentrated on them until I knew that the bloodline I wanted was the Merry Boys.”

“And I’ll never forget, when I had studied all winter (You want to remember that was a darn long while ago) I called Mr. Brantley up – Mr. French Brantley – because I thought, after all that studying around, I thought who but Mr. Brantley would know? I knew he was honest; that is one thing I knew, that Mr. Brantley was strictly honest. I called him up and I said, ‘I want a stallion with all the Merry Boy blood I can get, and I don’t want a drop of Midnight Sun’ And I heard Mr. Brantley snort on the phone, because that was a radical thing to say. Midnight Sun was in his heyday at that same time and I understood that all right. Except that I did not want the bigger type: I wanted the little Merry Boy type.”

“And it just didn’t seem like I was going to get a stud that was all Merry Boy because Midnight Sun was really up there then. That was the time when he and Merry Go Boy were rivals and having their feuds, and sometimes one would win and sometimes the other, so there was no choice there. It just boiled down to the different types that they were. And Ben Green’s book was where I got really, really everything. I studied everything I could get and I was just nothing else but lucky when Mr. Brantley finally said, after we’d stood and talked for half an hour, (and he didn’t know who the dickens I was, up there in the frozen North) but finally, and I can hear his voice yet, he said, ‘You know, I’ve got a little stallion, but he’s awful small.’ And then he told me that the stud was all Merry Boy – and I bought him sight unseen. I sent Mr. Brantley a cheque for that stud.” *(Editor’s Note: That stud was Shadow’s Brantley.)*

“Now this is the most important thing. Just remember I had studied everything I could get my hands on and Merry Boy was the type I wanted. I knew very well that there were two types. I had no use for the bigger type – never did. And if you want to go back in your horse history also, here’s a thing that’s kind of funny. The old timers said, ‘No good little horse ever beat a good big one.’ Well, you know there’s a lot of logic there. But that is why, though, that little gem, is the reason I think that those boys in Tennessee would pick the bigger horse. Longer legs, and well naturally, it’s just as the old timers said. Just as true as it could be. But I wasn’t out for speed or something like that. It was disposition I was looking for and natural way of going. Like the book came out and said, Merry Go Boy travelled like the fairy in the dell. And he did, and he passed it on too.”

“And the reason I feel he passed it on pretty good is because he is pretty concentrated. There isn’t much of anything else in him.”

“I want everybody to understand, if they listen to anything I say, that I am NOT belittling Midnight Sun. I’ve got all the respect in the world for that old kid. It’s just that he was not my kind of horse. So if whoever wants that type of a horse, that is the type to go for.”

GOLDEN CROSS

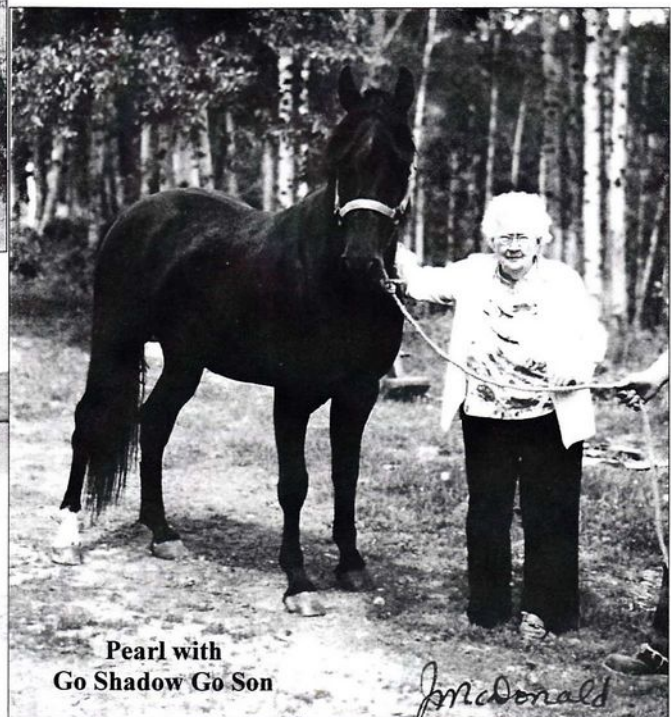
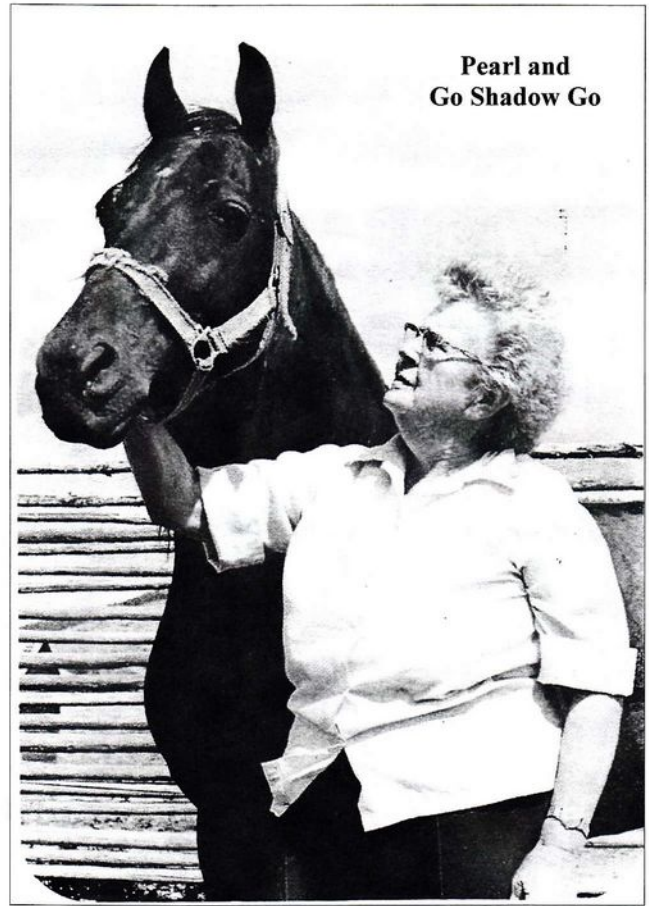
“So then you see, that was at the beginning, and then they found out that the colts from Go Boy and Midnight Sun were what they called a ‘golden cross’. They had Go Boy’s way of going and Midnight Sun’s power and size, and they put those two top notch ingredients together and, Boy, that’s where they had their ‘golden cross’.

“But I say that the bad thing about that was they just forgot all about trying to hang onto the Go Boy *OR* the Midnight Sun stuff. They just forgot all about that, and it got pretty darn hard to find a stud that WAS all one bloodline.”

“But anyway, I just happened to be plumb lucky – I don’t suppose that there was another stud in Tennessee that could say that he was Merry Boy on both sides.”

To be continued next issue.

Pearl and Some of her Stallions



ALBERTA NEWS

From LESA LUCHAK, MAPLE LANE ACRES, TWO HILLS, "I can't believe how fast time flies. Christmas and New Years have come and gone. Before we know it, spring will be here again. Yeah! I can't wait!"



"For months I have been meaning to write in about the last foal crop from Darkie's Last Chance. He was pretty productive in his last year; even if she took a while to catch, he settled every mare that was exposed to him in 2013. First a beautiful smokey black filly was foaled from CG's Golden Sweetheart. My Pals Silver Moonglow mare had a very nice sorrel colt, and a bred mare I sold also foaled. Last but not least, Moonlit Laughter, a 1990 foal herself, surprised us with a very nice colt on October 10th. (pictured) He is a dandy of a fellow. Moonlit Laughter's colt, Jack, is the last foal we will see from Darkie's Last Chance."

"I have a young stallion here, Carbonado's Chief Joseph, a bay 2011 Heritage bred colt I bought from Montana as a weanling. He has such a nice temperament. He gets a little excited about the mares, but otherwise is a big puppy dog. I exposed a couple of mares to him so hopefully they are in foal for 2015. I sure love having foals around - it is a hard addiction to give up."

"I would also like to congratulate Joyce Bianowski and John Thomas of Fort Saskatchewan, AB on the purchases of LL Chances Golden Honey, Chance's Last Sweetheart, and Alberta's Black Gold. Thank you both! Please send them a complimentary *WHN*. I've got a nice bunch of young horses now. Most were started under saddle last year, so now I need to put some miles on them in 2015."

"Happy Trails!"

BRENDA WOODALL, LINDEN, writes, "There is no official Driving Journal entry this month, although we have come a long ways in Grace's driving training progress. Bill Fraess has been over to help me fine tune both the cart and harness and give me a lesson in driving now that both Grace and I are relaxed and confident. I'm actually ready to video tape her Driving Level 2 for The Training Levels Challenge but either too much snow or icy ground keeps stopping it from happening."

"In the mean time I think I will start getting my other two geldings ready to be hooked to the cart as well. Grace could be ready for Driving Level 3 this summer and I know that Windi Derman and Alynn Ward are ready, so the three of us will try to have a public gathering in July so that can be accomplished. If there are others who are interested in challenging Driving Level 3, this would be the perfect time to get involved."

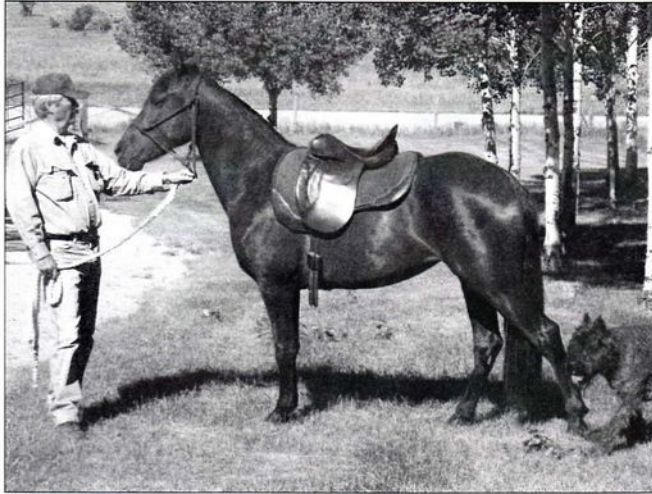
"Now that Christmas is over people are already starting to plan out their Spring and Summer trail rides. There appears to be no shortage of eager riders to join up with. I have a gelding that I am just starting to train that will be ready to do his Trail Challenge Levels this August while we are out enjoying some mountain scenery so I am looking forward to that."

"I am also interested in participating in parades this year. I know of some others who are also interested. Maybe if there are a few more interested people we'd have enough to participate in some of the larger parades, such as Klondike Days or the Calgary Stampede? I would appreciate those that have done this type of thing before or anyone who would like to do it this year to contact me so we can get organized."

From LISSA TOWNSEND and FRED DELF, COCHRANE, "Happy New Year to all! It's been quite some time since I've written. Last year was slow to start, what with the rain and all, but once it took off I managed to make the most of it. More than a few camping excursions (Little Elbow, Cut Off Creek, Ya Ha Tinda), a couple of clinics in the spring, and many day rides, a lot of them with Charis Cooper and her saucy little mare 'Trinket'. I am lucky to have a friend that wants to go as often as I do (probably more, but one of us still works). We made a lot of rides around her beautiful property, as well as at Sandy McNabb, Little Elbow, Mesa Butte and anywhere else we can get ourselves to."

"Fred and I spent ten days at Cut Off Creek where we picked up 'Ticket' (Toddy's Royal Image & Shogun's Cherry Blossom) a mare that we had in training with Wild Deuce Outfitters, where she learned to pack and got miles of trail exposure."

BRITISH COLUMBIA NEWS

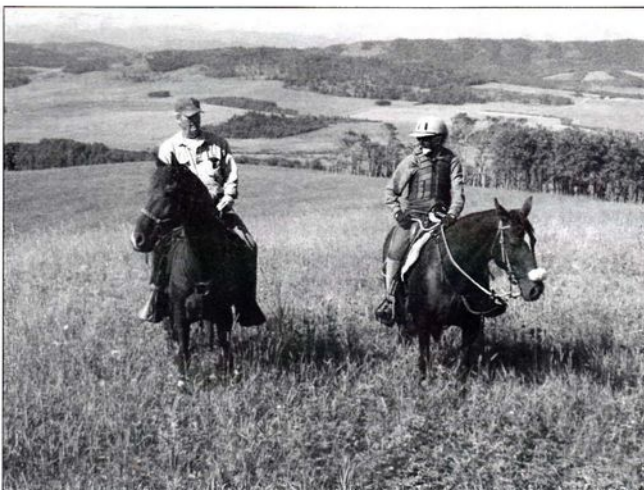


"We worked a lot with our little filly 'Cruiser' (Dude's Ragtime Man & Shadow's Double Luck), *above*. She turned two on June first, 2014. She is coming along very nicely, packs her own little saddle already, and she gets prettier every day."

"Fred has been working with a new challenge, a horse we call 'Rooster'. Through various sales prior to us his papers have been misplaced, but he is an interesting and educational addition to the farmyard. That said, we will probably downsize a couple of horses this spring, and hope to get Cruiser going gently under saddle. Our next step will be long lining her, so we have appreciated the driving articles from the Woodalls that have been included in the magazine recently. Already we looking forward to the upcoming riding season, but in the meantime it's pretty much arena/schooling time for the next couple of months."

"Thanks again for all you do; we love our *Walking Horse News*."

Below: Fred on Rooster with Charis on Trinkette.



NATALIE SPECKMAIER, VANCOUVER, writes, "I've devoured the latest *WHN* issue and looking forward to more. I read, and reread in case I missed something first go-round. Then I take it to Harrison to show to Debbie and Dave Smith as they're still interested in TWH even though they no longer have any. They're due back from Arizona this week and we'll be seeing them when we go to Harrison on the weekend. Here's to another excellent year for our favourite magazine. Thank you, Marjorie, for all your hard work getting it out to us eager readers."

"Today my barn buddy, Lynn, and I did a tack crawl. (That's something like a pub crawl, but without the alcohol...) We hit quite a few places and ended up with a total of three blankets, and a great Japanese lunch. Back to the barn to try the new duds on the kids. Well, one blanket was too big (and this on BIG Appy, Dakota) one blanket was too small (on petite golden girl) and one blanket was juuust right, so of course Goldilocks, I mean Trigger, got that one. It's so new and lovely that I'll save it for next winter as she has enough for now. A girl just can't have too many clothes, or shoes for that matter. That will be taken care of this week. Trigger only gets fronts now as she was pulling them off on a regular basis with her overstride. She seems fine with that."

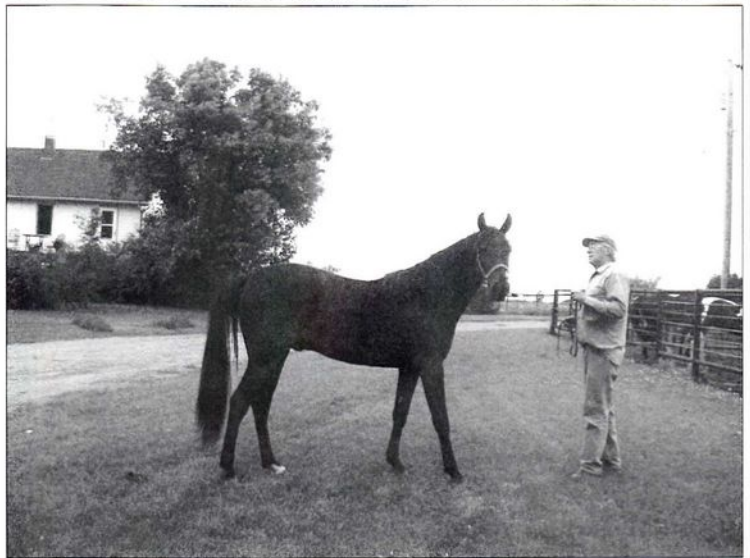
"I'm still not riding as I haven't finished with physio or chiropractor. In the meantime, our boarding barn owner works Trigger in the ring, on line and freestyle. Emelie has been training horses since she was a teenager and she's now of an age where she has her first child getting married. Trigger enjoys her workouts and for the past few months a friend of mine has been riding her every week or two. I am happy with both these arrangements as I don't have to worry that Trigger isn't getting enough exercise stimulation. She and Bev have connected very well and I sometimes think that Trigger loves Bev more than she loves me... Nah! I think she's happy to see me and have me fuss with her, doing her hair, picking hooves, giving a gentle brushing. Bev does the heavy duty stuff that I am still unable to do. Soft tissue injury takes forever to heal, so I take it easy or pay the price."

"I'm hoping that I'll be able to swing that synthetic saddle up on her come spring and go for a gentle ride up the trail with my riding buddies."

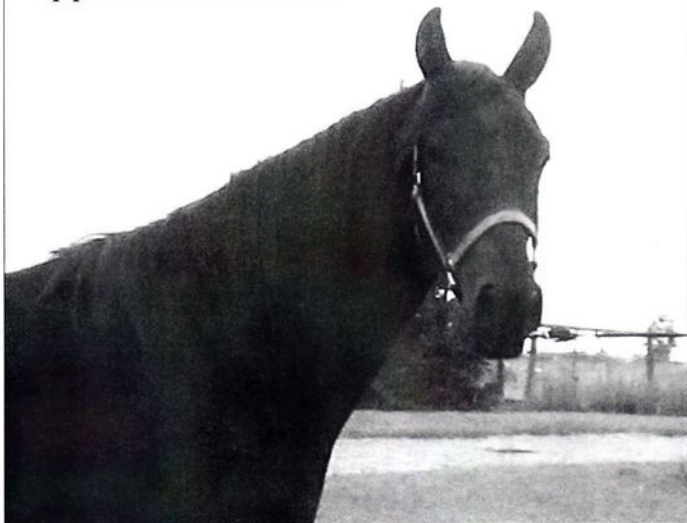
"Happy New Year to all, and happy trails as well."

CROPPING for GOOD PHOTOS

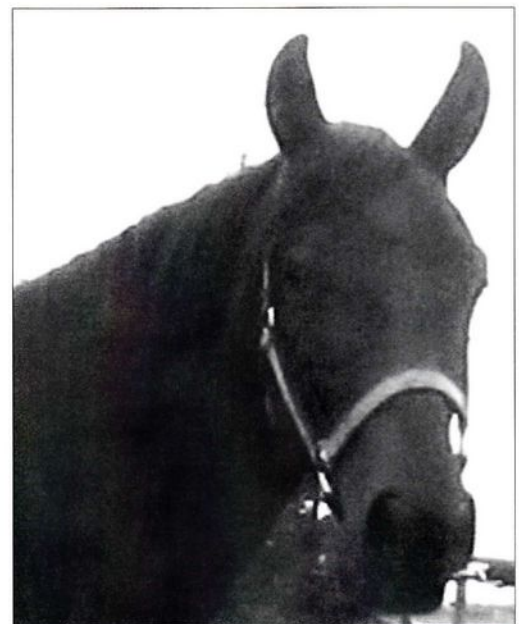
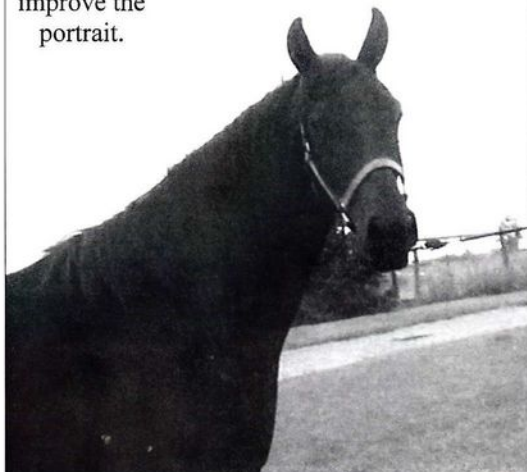
The photo, *right*, cannot be considered a good one. It does not present the horse in a pose that allows you to assess his conformation and there are background distractions. However, you might be able to salvage a decent head portrait from it by judicious cropping.



Here, just the horse's head has been cropped from the top photo. Now *that's* better.



Tilting may also improve the portrait.



Above, the same photo has been cropped... but far too tightly. You have cut away some distractions but now the horse looks like he is jammed into a box. That is not attractive either.

For good cropped pictures you need to start with high resolution photographs.

If you are trying for an attractive head portrait, don't crop too much of the horse's neck away. You don't want him looking like a taxidermy mount!

For any photo, good lighting is important, but for portraits it is crucial to bring out the details of the animal's face, eyes, and ears.

Always check to see where the light is coming from before taking your photos.

Never put a poor photo out in public. It's the one they'll remember!

Thank you to Jo-Anne McDonald for the above photos and advice.

MANITOBA NEWS

MARSHA TRINDER, T W RANCH, RUSSELL, writes, "It is definitely winter here; cold temperatures and increasing snow all the time. Horses are doing well, and the 2014 foal crop is growing like crazy."

"It was a different year in 2014. I was away from the ranch for almost two months. I had open heart surgery near the beginning of August and was in the Regina General Hospital for two weeks. Then I was away from the ranch for another month for recuperation. I still cannot do much lifting or carrying so am spending most of my time in front of a computer or putting together paperwork. I can hardly wait to get back on horseback!"

"Cliff is the animal care person for the winter; taking care of all the feeding and any required watering. It's a big workload on him with no one to help him. I do go outside to watch gates and put a can or two of oats out for Fantasy (our black stallion who lives right beside the house), but other than that ..."

"Horse sales during the year had horses going to Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, and Michigan. We have some really good horses for sale listed on our website and some really great younger geldings and some mares coming up!! I anticipate our Opening Day for 2015 as being May 1st."

"Unfortunately we were badly flooded all summer and could not get on some of the land until October. It certainly causes lots of work and heartbreak to see so much of your land not available for use."

"The ranch still runs a sizable cow-calf operation, which I enjoy. Predators (coyotes, wolves and bears) cause us a certain amount of problem."

"I have some positions available for the Ranch Team for this year. You may want to check out our classified ad for more information on working holidays if you might be interested in spending two to six months on a working cattle and horse ranch in Manitoba." *We hope you'll be riding again soon, Marsha.*

Best wishes also to KEITH DOLL, DOUGLAS, for a quick recovery from the surgery he had just before Christmas. Keith says his horses are all fat and sassy, so good luck getting back to riding this spring - before they get too fat to waddle!



DAN and PATRICIA SHWALUK, SHOAL LAKE, recently sent in a three year renewal to *WHN*. Their photo of Dan driving the Walker team, *above*, is still one of my favorite covers of all the *WHN* portfolio!

EL RANCHITO

has a good selection of

TENNESSEE WALKING HORSES FOR SALE

*Due to some health issues I need to reduce the herd.
Prices negotiable.*

2013 Gold/Amber Champagne Filly

(Arian's Jack Daniel's Z x Bionda's Empress Z).
Outstandingly gorgeous, superb gaits. Papers pending.

2012 Black Filly with blaze

(Tsuniah's Dark Delight x Shakin's Pet) Very gaited,
could mature around 15:3 hh. Papers pending.

Mares of various ages for sale,

mostly used for trail riding.

If you are looking for a riding horse or a brood mare
contact us for more information and pictures.

Tell us what you need.

We may be able to arrange for hauling.

P.O. Box 119, Riding Mountain, MB R0J 1T0

Phone **204-967-2630** or Text to **204-212-1960**

Ullu Velez (Facebook) e-mail kinchcreek@hotmail.ca.

DO I NEED A PREMISES IDENTIFICATION ACCOUNT AND NUMBER?

ALBERTA horse owners and operators of stables are being reminded about the requirement to register for Premises Identification (PID) and the importance of obtaining a PID Number. Registering is free, simple and helps protect your horse(s) in the event of an emergency such as a natural disaster or disease outbreak.

Premises Identification (PID), one of the pillars of traceability, links livestock (including horses) and poultry to land locations or premises. Alberta's PID Program was established to plan for, control, and prevent the spread of agricultural diseases. It is also used as an early warning system to notify animal owners of a natural disaster such as a flood or fire that could affect their animals or operations. Regulations requiring premises identification became law January 1, 2009 as part of the *Animal Health Act*.

Who Must Apply for PID Account?

All horse owners will need to have a PID Number to:

Horse Owners	If at any time during the year, your horse(s) is under your care and control at your farm or acreage, you must apply for a PID Account and obtain a PID Number for the land location where the horse(s) is located. If your horse(s) is only ever kept a commingling site (e.g. stable), you are not required to register for a PID Account. However, you will need to obtain the PID Number from the operator of the site.
Stable Operators	As an operator of a commingling site, you must apply for a PID Account and obtain a PID Number for each land location you operate a stable on. You must also provide the PID Number of the stable location to the horse owners who board their animal there.

Buy medication for your horse(s) and/or animal(s) at retail outlets (this requirement took effect on July 1, 2014 as part of amendments to the *Animal Health Act*).

Complete movement documents such as manifests and permits when transporting your horse(s) for sale or outside of the province.

Apply for many government sponsored agriculture grants and programs

For more information on the PID Program, call the Alberta Ag-Info Centre at **310-FARM (3276)** or visit Alberta Agriculture's website www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises to register online or download the application forms.

Traceability Protects! Your Animals – Your Livelihood – Our Future

MEXICO

BILL HOWES, "We got down here in 17 days. Crossed the Mexican border on Nov.03 and arrived here Nov. 14. U.S. customs never touched the trailer or truck. Mexican customs kept us worried for about 5 hours that we might have to unload the whole trailer; (it took almost 2 months to load it at home). However, we had to unload two boxes, paid about \$350.00 customs fee and then on to the Mexican permit offices where we had to pay bonds on the truck and trailer (about \$500.00)"

"I think (?) I finally have a means of communication that's affordable - email. We got hit with 'roaming' charges on the phone so I decided to wait until I could master the new laptop before I tried to get back in touch with everyone. Well, I never got the laptop figured out, (mostly because it's all in Spanish

and it is definitely different than using a keyboard and desk-type monitor.) I now have a 'notebook' with a screen about 5" x 8". The one redeeming feature is that most of my old info is here."

NEWS from our U.S. SUBSCRIBERS

From ALLANNA JACKSON, LAKESIDE, AZ
"We had two inches of rain here late last week so the horses are muddy and the corral is under water again. Velvet's now brave enough about going out on the trail that I've just bought her a set of Easyboot gloves of her own since Cinnamon's are too big for her. (Also, one set of gloves doesn't work on two horses when I'm taking them out together!) I've done that several times now that Velvet will pony behind Cinnamon out on the trail, or let me ride her on the trail while a friend rides Cinnamon. Cinnamon's still a little dubious about others riding her, but she's getting used to it."



CRTWH Directors 2015

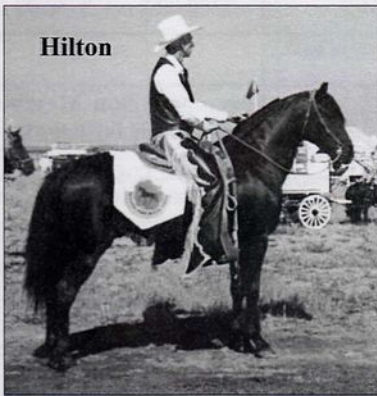


Bill

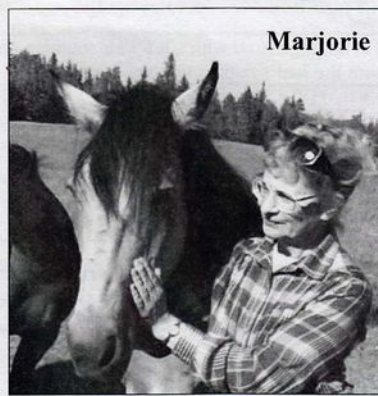
Ralph



Fran



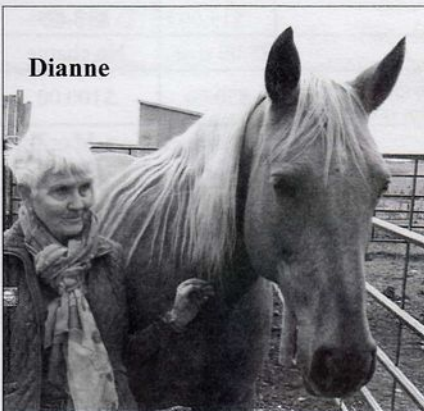
Hilton



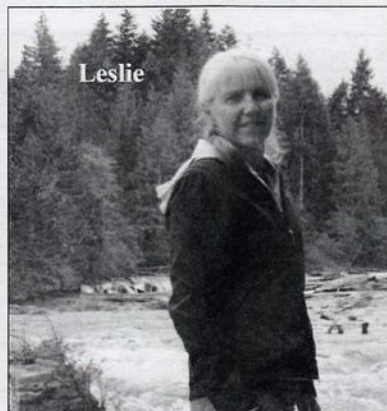
Marjorie



Karla



Dianne



Leslie



Sue

Directors at the 2013 Annual General Meeting.



Contact info for the Directors is on page 13.



CANADIAN REGISTRY OF THE TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE

CURRENT SCHEDULE OF FEES

1. MEMBERSHIP	Fees	
a. Full Membership (Individual, Family, Corporation, Partnership - Canadian residents.) Voting, member fees apply	\$25.00/yr	
b. Individual Life Membership (Individual). Voting, member fee schedule applies	\$200.00	
c. Youth Membership (Individual, under 18 years of age). Non-voting, member fee schedule applies	\$10.00/yr.	
d. Associate Membership (Individuals, organization, groups - Canadian Residents). Non-voting, non-member fees	\$15.00/yr.	
e. Non-Canadian Resident Membership. Non-voting, member fee schedule applies	\$35.00/yr.	
f. Non-Canadian Resident Lifetime Membership. Non-voting, member fee schedule applies	\$250.00	
2. REGISTRATION OF FOALS or HORSES NOT ALREADY REGISTERED	Member Fees	Non-Member Fees
a. Within 12 months of foaling (PLUS add DNA fee - see 6a below)	\$40.00	\$80.00
b. After 12 but less than 18 months of foaling (PLUS add DNA fee - see 6a below)	\$60.00	\$120.00
c. After 18 but less than 24 months of foaling (PLUS add DNA fee - see 6a below)	\$125.00	\$250.00
d. After 24 months of foaling: (PLUS add DNA fee - see 6a below) <i>Non-refundable fee of \$125.00 if application is rejected.</i>	\$300.00	\$500.00
If the sire and/or dam of the unregistered foal (or horse) is not registered with CRTWH, submit a photocopy of both sides of the parent's U.S. registration certificate along with the foal's registration application.		
3. REGISTRATION OF HORSES ALREADY REGISTERED in U.S.	Member Fees	Non-Member Fees
<i>Applications must be accompanied by a photocopy of both sides of the U.S. certificate</i>	\$45.00	\$90.00
4. TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP	Member Fees	Non-Member Fees
a. Within 1 month of date of sale	\$20.00	\$40.00
b. After 1, but before 3 months of date of sale	\$30.00	\$60.00
c. After 3 months of date of sale	\$50.00	\$100.00
5. ALTERATION OF CERTIFICATES ISSUED	Member Fees	Non-Member Fees
a. Change of colour	\$20.00	\$40.00
b. Change of gender (gelded)	\$15.00	\$15.00
c. Death of a registered horse (<i>certificate will be returned</i>)	\$5.00 credit	No charge
d. Change of Name: <i>Provided animal is no more than five (5) years of age and has no registered offspring. Subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. Submitted fees are non refundable if application is rejected.</i>	\$50.00	\$100.00
6. OTHER SERVICES	Member Fees	Non-Member Fees
a. DNA Hair Analysis Profiling for an unregistered foal. DNA kits are available from CLRC. Pay CLRC for DNA kit when registration application is submitted.	\$75.00	\$100.00
b. DNA Hair Analysis Profiling for a Registered animal: CLRC Request form for DNA kit is required. Pay CLRC when application for DNA kit is submitted to CLRC.	\$75.00	\$100.00
c. DNA Profiling for a Registered animal from blood stored at Maxxam Analytics. Submit fee with a letter of request stating the name & number of the animal to be DNA profiled, & the Blood Case # (where known).	\$57.00	\$57.00
d. Blood-typing/DNA updated certificate for mature horse.	\$10.00	\$25.00
e. Registration of Breeder's Prefix	\$45.00	\$90.00
f. Registration of Lease	\$20.00	\$40.00
g. List of Progeny of Individual Breeding Stock	\$20.00	\$40.00
h. Surcharge on incomplete or incorrect applications	\$20.00	\$40.00
i. Duplicate Certificate: <i>Shall be issued upon application by the registered owner accompanied by satisfactory proof of loss accompanied by a Statutory Declaration.</i>	\$40.00	\$80.00
j. Rush Fee	\$15.00	\$30.00

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

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

Please submit to:

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

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

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

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



The Canadian Walker

Volume 14, Issue 1

www.crtwh.ca

www.facebook.com/crtwh

February 2015

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1-780-603-3391

president@crtwh.ca

Vice-Presidents:

Western: Bill Roy, BC

250-379-2022

vice-president@crtwh.ca

Eastern: Sue Gamble, ON

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Secretary: Leslie Hunchuk AB

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secretary@crtwh.ca

Treasurer: Dianne Little, AB

403-271-7391

treasurer@crtwh.ca

BOARD MEMBERS

AB Karla Freeman

rideeasy@hotmail.ca

AB Hilton Hack

403-826-0308

AB Marjorie Lacy

780-723-2547

BC Ralph Livingston

250-764-4482



ASK REGIE

If you have a question about registration, please send it to us and we will Ask Regie to find you an answer. Regie is always ready to tackle another one. However, there is also a lot of information in the Schedule of Fees and there's a whole section of Ask Regie 'answered questions' already on the website under Registrations.

Here is a recent question: At what age must foals be registered, and should we be members to register foals? Our horses are currently registered with TWHBEA except for our two foals.

Before we Ask Regie, do YOU know the answers to the above questions? Check the Schedule of Fees on page 12 and see if you can find the answers if you don't already know.

ELECTIONS

The November nomination forms sent to all current CRTWH members in AB, MB and SK resulted in one Director elected by acclamation - Marjorie Lacy for AB. No nominations were received for MB or SK.

The current Board is pictured on page 11. The longest serving Director is Hilton followed by Dianne. Karla is the newest member of the Board.

BARGAIN TRANSFERS

The opportunity for anyone to update any transfer for only \$15 per animal, no matter how long the interval since it had been purchased, concluded on December 31. If your application was received postmarked by that date, you will still pay only that amount.

Now transfers revert to the original fees. See the Schedule of Fees on facing page.

I hope everyone with horses to transfer took the opportunity to bring their animals' registration papers up to date. It can make a real difference if you should have to sell, or want to breed your Walker.

REMINDER!

2015 Annual Memberships were due January 1. They are still only \$25 per year to CLRC, 2417 Holly Lane, Ottawa, ON K1V 0M7. Telephone **613-731-7110**; Toll free **1-877-833-7110**. Membership has advantages!

UPCOMING EVENTS

CRTWH BOOTH at MANE EVENT,

Red Deer, AB, April 24 to 26.

If you would like to help out at the booth or with setting up and taking down,

Contact Karla - **403-597-7991** or rideeasy@hotmail.ca or

Email Jessica at jlsparrow@shaw.ca

CRTWH

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2015 at Klondike Victory Farm, Sylvan Lake, AB.

Mark your calendar and see you there!

GAIT FROM THE GROUND UP CLINIC

May 9 & 10, 2015

at Klondike Victory Farm, Sylvan Lake, AB.

Bill Roy will be the clinician. This clinic is fully booked now, with two extras on the waiting list. If you would like to put your name on that list, or to arrange for a second clinic

Contact Bill at woodhill@telus.net

250-379-2022

or

Dianne Little at ddlittle@telus.net.

403-271-7391

ALBERTA WALKING HORSE ASSOC

Will be sponsoring a Diane Sept Clinic this summer. The date has not been finalized

See page 16 for more on the AWWHA and

details on membership.

AUTUMN CATTLE DRIVE

by Gen Amy, Lone Butte, BC

Sandy has been working for Pete this fall, haying and driving machinery. Pete is a local rancher who has sort of taken us under his wing. I think we amuse him. He had a cow that lost her calf this spring, and he had milked her all summer, generously giving milk to his friends. We enjoyed the fresh milk so much, that I, with great braggadocio, told Pete that I had milked cows as a kid, and would be happy to milk his cow if he needed a break. So Sandy and I went over one morning to learn the drill. Now this is no gentle Jersey or Holstein milk cow, this is a Hereford range girl, with smallish teats and a suspicious nature. She almost trusted Pete, and allowed me to touch her after he got the milk flowing. But it turns out, milking is *not* like riding a bike. I did not do so well. We went the next morning and Sandy tried, and did better than I did, but his hands hurt afterwards. Then I made another brash statement. If Pete needed help bringing his cows in, we would love to do that. He took us at our word, put a plate on his old stock trailer, and phoned us Saturday night. Would we like to ride tomorrow? Hell, yes.

And here is where the story really starts...

Sunday morning, after the breakfast rituals, we got Delite and Hanna groomed and saddled. I use a kitchen stool, the kind with two steps that fold out, to get on Hanna, so I was bringing that along. Sandy said he'd carry it up to the road, where we were meeting Pete and the trailer, so I planned on leading the two horses up. I was leading Hanna, went over and untied Delite, and asked them both to back up, whereupon Hanna bit me. It's the second time in my entire life that I have been bitten by a horse, and in the exact same place as the first. I have one of those hard lumps that never go away to mark the spot. Boy, that horse heard some good old Anglo-Saxon words as I swatted at her with the end of the lead rope. (I don't think I connected once. It is pretty hard to smack a horse that winces and shuts its eyes. I think she was actually aiming for Delite, but that is really not a good excuse.)

Anyway, they loaded into the stock trailer like pros with Pete's QH gelding, TeePee, and off we went, down to Horse Lake Road. Pete parked the trailer in a grassy clearing, we unloaded, put the bridles on and mounted up. Pete put on his gear, chinos, spurs, and felt hat. He explained to us that ranching in the Cariboo is different from prairie ranching. He does not ride in the bush without chaps, because the

dead pine have stiletos at the ends of their branches. The felt hat, when you put your head down and ride into live pine branches, rains the needles down either side, keeping them out of your collar.

We crossed the road, the two border collies ranging beside us, stepped delicately through the clear cut, into a stand of pines and down to the flat valley floor. We rode around, looking for signs of cattle, which were completely lacking, back up to the road, and back into the trailer. We drove back the way we had come, found a small group of cattle, parked as soon as Pete found a place (I've always wondered what those little turn-arounds off the main road were for) and rode the horses back to the herd.

I had speculated about what Delite and Hanna would do when they saw cows. They had obviously done this before, because they were not the slightest bit upset and seemed to know what to do. There was some serious bushwhacking a couple of times when the cattle veered off the road and up the ridge. The first time I asked Hanna to go out of sight of TeePee, she piaffed sideways (always love that) and called anxiously. I was too busy steering her between trees to worry much, and after a while, she decided she should listen and watch her feet. It was interesting how the horses communicated. There were six cattle in the first bunch, and while four of them stayed on the side of the road, the other two kept peeking off into the bush, so Pete was riding in the bush on the ridge, hazing the stubborn pair back to the road, and looking for more strays. Every few minutes, one of the horses would call, and the other two would answer, just checking their relative locations.

There was quite a bit of traffic, since it was Thanksgiving Sunday. Most of the cars slowed down, and the people smiled at us. One little kid had an expression of total disbelief, as Sandy said "gob-smacked". Most of the drivers were considerate and slowed down for the mob, but there were one or two who zoomed past, careless of four-legged life.

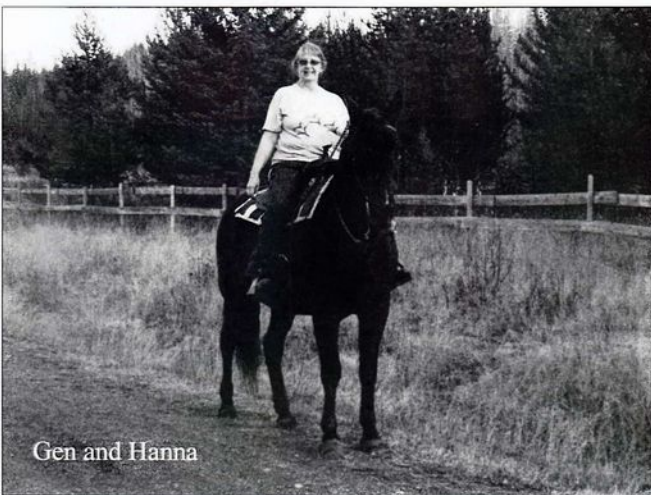


There is a private road off Horse Lake road, near the dump, that leads into Pete's ranch. The cows knew where they were going by then, and Pete said, just let them go. We rode on down the main road to where a bunch of 18 were hanging around, got behind them and headed them back to the private road. This was a rider's dream, clear trail, no traffic, beautiful fall day, a bit brisk, the herd of mostly red cattle ahead. Delite really wanted to get them: Sandy had to hold her back, as she would have liked to make them run.

Gradually, the trail deteriorated back into bush, and at one narrow place, the cattle balked, one large cow blocking the whole herd. Sandy and Pete made men noises, the cow looked at them and sneered. I hollered loudly, "Whoop! Whooooo!" and the cow looked at me in astonishment, turned and trotted up the trail, the rest of the herd in tow. The men looked at me in admiration. "Well done!" Sandy said.

All the way, Pete told us stories about the land and its history, the people who had worked it, and how they survived. We felt that we were seeing the country in a way that few ever experience, and we are truly grateful for the experience. We were still smiling the next day.

The horses don't seem any worse for the experience, and neither Sandy nor I are hurting today. Pete said, "It was a good day. We will do it again." And I said, "Okay!"



CATTLE DRIVE: THE SECOND ROUND

We went out again on Saturday the 18th. No drama getting ready. This time we started out on a logging road, but all too soon, Pete turned off into the bush. Now let me say here that I have known top riders in many disciplines, but I have never had so much

respect for any rider as for Pete, and the other infested pine range ranchers. My respect turned to awe on this ride, the toughest terrain Sandy and I have ever asked our horses to negotiate. Boggy creek bottoms, brutal climbs up 100 foot tall ridges riddled with downed dead pines, criss-crossed like pickup sticks.

We found a bunch of spooky cows and calves, and the instant they spotted us, off they went. I did not see them again until we got back to the trail. I wonder how they got there; probably by an easier route than we took. Hanna responded to very subtle neck reining, she had to, weaving through trees. I felt lucky that I did not lose a knee cap. I was wearing a hard hat, and I did get pine needles down my neck. At almost the top of the last ridge, a huge pine corpse blocked the way. Too high to step over, impossible to get around at either end, I finally managed to maneuver huge Hanna around one end, while Pete found a way through the brush, but by then Delite had had ENOUGH. Sandy went out of sight looking for an easier way. I did not see what happened, but he got knocked sideways by a branch, saddle and all. Fortunately Delite did not panic, and stood for Sandy to free himself from the saddle. It is probably just as well I could not see him. He led her up the steep slope and managed to persuade to her follow him around the end of the downed tree. Poor old Delite was pretty sweaty, but when Sandy got back up, and we got on a trail, away she went, determined to be ahead of everybody. I noticed she was lathered between her hind legs.

Once on the trail, we caught up to the cattle in a short while. They knew where they were going, and it was just a matter of following them home. At the gate to the home pasture, we found Nicki and two grandchildren waiting with the quad. Pete wanted to go back out and hunt for a pair of cows that were still out there, but I said, "Sorry, we have had enough for the day."

I used Delite's age as an excuse, but I could not have done another hour. Pete went back out alone but still did not find that last pair. There is a lot of grass in the creek bottoms, so they are camped out under a tree, only coming out to drink, Pete says, but at the first snow fall they will head for home.

I am still feeling slightly stunned at what we did yesterday. I don't think there could be anything at Twisted Terrain that could begin to compare with what we rode through. The amazing thing was, there was no fear. There was no time to be afraid, we just had to get through it, just do it.

But it was just another day at the ranch for Pete.

READERS WRITE

A big 'Thank you' to GAR BEACOM of CALGARY, who searched out some information for SUSAN JAEGER. He writes, "I sent a copy of the query from her (Aug *WHN*, page 4) to Earl Miller."

(Susan had asked if any of our readers from the field trial community might know the older gentleman and his 20-something son who picked her up outside Regina in 1970. He was driving a Cadillac and pulling a two-horse trailer. They were on their way to a field trial and had eight Pointers and two Walkers in the trailer. They let her ride one of the Walking Horses - "a great experience for me" and that was her introduction to the breed.)

Gar continues, "Earl has been involved with pointing dogs for a long time and in fact was a founding member of the Big Country Field Trial Club. You may remember that last year we had the 50th running of the Big Country trial and last weekend (Sept 13-14) this year's trial was held. Earl's recollections are below."

"The description fits J. D. Spears, though he was from Kansas, not Texas. He was the only one I can remember who hauled his Walkers with a car. The pros came up with heavy rigs, and any amateurs generally had beefed-up pickups if they hauled horses. J.D. ran in that era and came up a number of years to Alberta to the Big Country trials near Coronation and the Prairie Club trials on the Siksika reserve. He would finish by attending some of the Saskatchewan trials before heading back home." Earl Miller

ALBERTA WALKING HORSE ASSOCIATION

It is time again to renew your membership in the Alberta Walking Horse Association.

As you may have noticed, many traditional horse activities have changed.

As you also may have noticed some of us are getting older and are not as interested in the same activities as we used to be.

As you may have noticed as well, the AWhA has not been very active for the past year.

The world has changed in the past few years. Since 2008, there has been a decline in horse activities, horse owners and horse breeders. Many of the large breeders have sold their horses and property and there

are fewer people in the horse breeding business. The number of horses owned by individuals has changed and the profile of those owning horses has also changed. As we enter further into electronic communication, it is not necessary to visit in person or attend a horse show to communicate with friends and view horses. Facebook provides the opportunity to keep up with friends and their horses. Through video and YouTube we can watch more horses than one can imagine.

In response to these changes, The Alberta Walking Horse Association has changed. The Divisions voted to disband - no longer will you be a member of Wild Rose, Central Alberta, Easy Riders or Southern Alberta. Everyone will be a member of The Alberta Walking Horse Association. AWhA has returned to where they started in 1979 - one organization dedicated to the promotion and protection of the natural TWH in Alberta. AWhA will continue to be the recognized organization representing the Tennessee Walking Horse to the Alberta Government.

At the annual meeting last May, members of the AWhA in attendance voted to accept the dissolution of the 4 Divisions. To reflect the dissolution of the Divisions and the fact that all membership fees would go to AWhA, the members voted to reduce the fees. The membership fees for 2015 are:

- \$20 for a single membership
- \$30 for a family membership
- \$10 for a youth membership

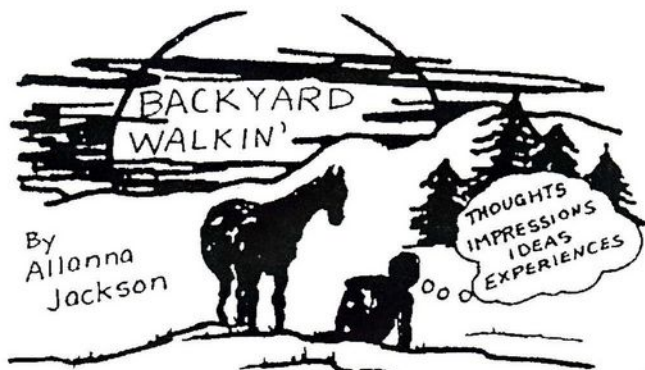
AWhA will sponsor a Diane Sept clinic this summer. Details are not yet finalized, but the location will be Central Alberta. If you are interested in attending, contact Rhonda Lemmon at 403-782-3118. Rider positions in this clinic are expected to fill quickly.

All suggestions and comments are welcome. If you are interested in a specific activity or clinic, contact: President Blair Dyberg (780-352-3531) or Secretary Shirley Wesslen (403-885-5290)

The **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS** will be held during the Canadian Registry of the Tennessee Walking Horse Association clinic at Klondike Victory Farms in Lacombe on May 9. Formal notice will be sent in April.

Thank you for supporting the efforts of the Alberta Walking Horse Association by renewing.

Membership Applications available by phoning President Blair Dyberg (780-352-3531) or Secretary Shirley Wesslen (403-885-5290)



MY "PERFECT" HORSE

Allanna Lea Jackson © Jan 2015

More than 33 years after I got involved with TWH the description of my perfect horse can still be summarized with the name of my first horse, SACIA'S PRIDE 745076, A.K.A. "SASSY."

Sassy was not perfect. The first couple of years there were several times when her behavior left me so scared, frustrated, and angry I very seriously considered selling her. The purebred TWH filly that I got as surprise 2-in-1 package when I bought Sassy was so frightening, frustrating, and infuriating I did sell her when she was 18 months old. Part of the problem with both horses was the fact that I was a total novice horse



owner with minimal experience and very limited means for obtaining instruction. I made the commitment to invest time and effort to improve Sassy's training and my skills instead of selling her and she became my perfect horse.

When I purchased Sassy I wanted a 7-10 year old, well-trained, palomino TWH mare with perfect manners and good conformation that I could trail ride in the mountains. My dream mare would also be good enough to show a little bit, ride in parades, and raise foals like herself. In my ignorance I assumed that all TWH automatically replace trot with running walk so I took it for granted that my dream horse would only walk, running walk, lope, and gallop.

When I bought her, the plain chestnut Sassy was

7 1/2 years old, green broke, half-blind, barefoot, and pregnant. Her ground manners were perfect. She was supremely gentle, very patient, honest, quiet, forgiving, tolerant, and trusting. She was also timid and easily spooked. Sassy's character made her the exception to the rule that novice riders and green horses can't teach each other. The surprise filly demonstrated the validity of that rule with her innate character that was not suitable for anyone's first attempt at raising a foal in the back yard with only mother mare.

Sassy and I did teach each other. I studied Johnny Berguson's "World's Most Complete Course in Horse Training", took a few riding lessons, took a college horsemanship class, read magazines and books, and corresponded with TWH owners all over the USA and Canada. Our learning process had its challenges and frustrations. Sassy *wasn't* sassy. Sassy was docile, obedient, willing, communicative,

intelligent, so eager to please she sometimes tried too hard, and was always focused on me. Sassy did not fight when my expectations and demands were unreasonable and my horsemanship lousy or worse. On the rare occasions when she did defend herself it was always my fault for provoking her.

Sassy gently convinced me of the error of my ways with her willingness. She forgave me and allowed me to correct my mistakes. She was willing to unlearn and re-learn, yet she also permanently retained and did what she'd been taught. Sassy was able to integrate new lessons with what she already knew and let go of what we didn't want. I did not realize how truly extraordinary this was until I acquired more typical horses who were not as trainable, consistent, and reliable as Sassy was. Sassy learned she didn't need to flee from every blowing leaf or falling pinecone. Sassy's trust and obedience overcame her timidity. We developed a rapport that gave her the confidence to go anywhere with me and do anything I

asked her to do. Sassy was the best horsemanship instructor I've ever had.

Sassy's unassuming demeanor and plain appearance disguised her functionally perfect conformation and superior athletic ability. In spite of being 80% blind in her left eye Sassy safely completed 22 parades and carried a flag in 13 of them. She won a lifetime total of 92 awards in various all-breed shows competing head to head with non-gaited horses under their judges. Her versatility earned her the reputation as "that blind Walker that does everything." Sassy safely carried me 10,000 miles on mountain trails. We went camping several times, including our two month trip to Alberta in 1992. Sassy gave children rides, and helped me raise foals.

Sassy taught me what the correct natural flat-foot walk and running walk are, after I'd messed up her running walk by following the advice of the professional TWH trainers. Her willingness to please demonstrated that the show standards were impossible. When I read "Biography of the Tennessee Walking Horse" I realized Sassy was an original, pre-TWHBAA Walking Horse whose natural gaits and style were perfect for what I wanted to do. Another remarkable thing about Sassy that I did not fully appreciate until I had other TWH, was her exceptional adjustability within and between gaits, especially flat walk and canter.

When you've got a perfect horse, breeding it is the obvious way to obtain another perfect horse. Ethna M. Friesen of Polson, Montana, had very carefully bred Sacia's Pride to be exactly what she was. Sassy was an excellent mother who produced four live foals between 1978 and 1982. I bred Sassy three times.

Corban, her 1989 colt by Mischievous Secret 684413, was killed by placentitis at 10 1/2 months gestation. Mischievous Secret was stolen before Corban died and was never found. Marjorie Lacy and I were both disappointed when Sassy's colt by Honey Boy's Rebel was stillborn in 1993. Sassy and Luckys Koko Prince had their fling in 1995 but Sassy went into menopause instead of conceiving. My dream of my perfect mare reproducing herself died and her line died with her.

I've owned nine more TWH since purchasing Sacia's Pride in Oct 1981. Some I kept only a few months. Others I worked with for several years before selling to other owners who, I hope, gave them good homes. One of them broke my arm, proving that evenness with speed in gait does not make a

perfect trail horse.

I enjoyed the stallion, Luckys Koko Prince for the last 7 years of his life and raised his last two foals.

The gelding, Midnights Little Chester, helped restore my confidence after my arm was broken and helped with Cinnamon's education by ponying her on trails and roads before suddenly dying of colic at 18.

April Velvet is sweet and has been a very educational mare to train.

Back Yard Cinnamon, Koko's last foal, is the first live foal I've gotten from a breeding I planned. I enjoy trail riding Cinnamon and am proud of her accomplishments in the Canadian Challenge.

I've loved and learned from every horse I've owned, yet Sacia's Pride remains my only "perfect" horse - one that became better than my dreams.



This photo, above, is from the 1991 Fourth of July Parade in Show Low, AZ. We were riding with the White Mountain Horseman's Association, leading the WMHA color guard with the Stars and Stripes. That might have been the year we carried the US flag because Sassy was the only flag-trained horse in the WMHA group that was willing to go forward toward the Shriners' camels in front of us.

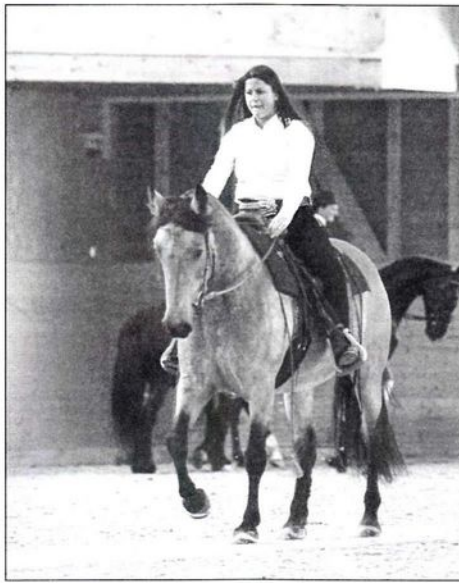
She didn't like camels any better than any of the other horses did, but when I told her it was okay she trusted me to take care of her and obediently did what I asked her to do.

Sassy learned that when she was worried about something she could trust me to keep her safe so she obeyed me even more precisely, which is quite extraordinary.

Canadian Walkers Around the World



Above: Switzerland



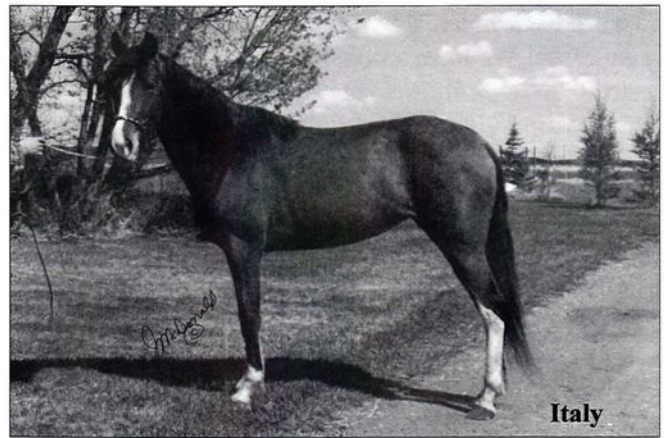
Switzerland



Austria



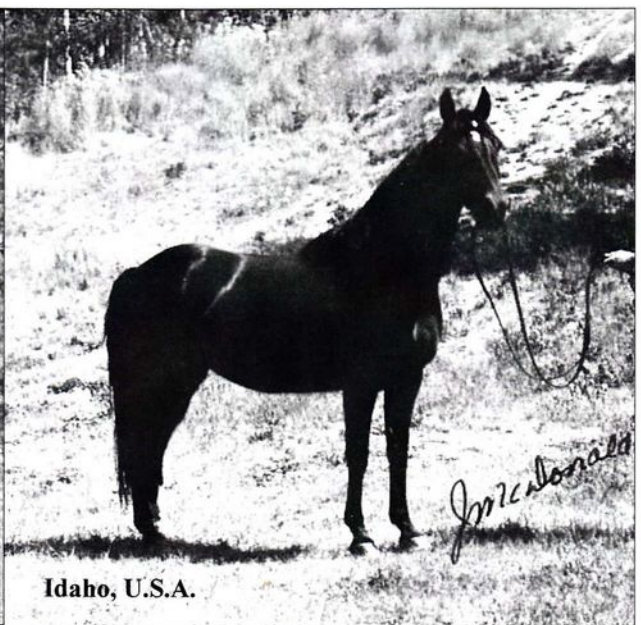
Montana, U.S.A



Italy



Switzerland



Idaho, U.S.A.

TO DREAM OF MY IDEAL HORSE *by Franne Brandon*

In late December of 2005, I conducted a cyber-search for a dream mare, one that would suit my needs as well as those of others in our broad family riding group. As an accidental result of the search, I found a lovely Ebony Masterpiece grand-daughter, a fine mare that is still with us, although advancing in years. She was not *my* personal perfect walking horse, however, and after reading the reprint of Dianne Little's article, "What is a Good Horse?", I decided to respond to the editor's December, 2014, question at the bottom of the reprint. Pen in hand, I jotted down the attributes of the perfect horse FOR ME, since as Dianne mentions, what is a good horse for one owner could be a disaster for another.

I am a mare person. I also like stallions, but lack the experience to deal with one as a personal riding horse. I have been attached to only one gelding, generally having little use for them. So for me, the dream horse will be the same as in my search nine years ago, a mare. I live on a small farm in Middle Tennessee. We have ample pasture, so I do not need a mare that is easily managed in a boarding situation. On the flip side of the coin, though, I do not want a horse that is afraid to be in a stall for longer than it takes to consume its daily feed. I like to be able to keep a horse stalled days when weather is bad, in the heat of summer with a fan running, or when vet conditions require it. I also no longer want an "easy keeper" horse, since this can lead to insulin resistance with its accompanying management issues.

My dream mare will be from 14.2 to 15 hands, because I have lost all desire to attempt to mount a tall horse every time I ride. She will be strong, with stout good bones, basically sound conformation, a wide chest and plenty of girth without being pudgy. The high headed horse so desired in the local show ring is not on my wish list; however, I do want a mare with the ability to perform a decent overstride on flat trails. I do not want a horse that is so round that she is unable to stride up under herself. The very round mare will probably also have a tendency toward insulin resistance issues, a second reason for preferring a leaner build in my new horse.

I would like an intelligent horse that is also responsive and willing to please. I agree totally with Dianne when she writes, "I enjoy and appreciate a 'fiery' horse, but I do not want to own one. I do not want a deadbeat, either. I don't consider it a pleasure to constantly encourage a horse to keep moving" (p. 19) This is probably a taller order than it seems, at

least if selecting horses from this area. Many people like horses that "look through the bridle" to travel on down the trail at a speed gait whenever possible. I do not want a horse like this. Neither do I want a lazy horse, many of which are anything but candidates to fill in my "willing" category. A laidback mare is fine, if she will respond to aids to increase speed without constant prodding on my part.

I happen to be a gait purist. I believe the infant breed association formed in 1935 was named "THE TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA" for a reason; that being that it was for horses which performed natural, inherited, running walk gaits. I love riding a running walk down a road or along a trail. I want my dream horse to demonstrate this gait under saddle when asked. I want my dream horse's default middle gait to be the running walk. I do not want a horse that foxtrots when asked for middle gait, or performs a saddle rack (called a "saddle lick" in this area). A rack is acceptable to me as an extended gait when pushed beyond the biological limits of the running walk, but I do not want a rack that replaces the running walk. I also want a horse that does a balanced canter on both leads, because I like to ride this gait, and it is essential to show in some classes as well. My running-walk-gaited walking horse does not have to possess the head pounding nod of some show ring competitors that I see around here. She probably won't have a 30 inch overstride, either, which is fun to ride but not found on that many horses walking naturally that have had no pace training.

Since I am not as tough as I was when I began writing this column over fifteen years ago, I will not select a dream mare from the ranks of nice youngsters that I have seen recently. Although I still have the "I'll swing up on almost anything" mentality that's been with me for decades, I am a grandmother now, and I can't afford to give in to impulse, no matter how nice the mare is or how much potential she has to develop. It's the "developing the potential" phase that I should not deal with any more. I will look for a mare that is at least five or six, with basic training essentials under her girth. This includes the handling essentials as well as the riding essentials. I can't abide an uncatchable horse that has to be lured into the barn area, then cornered in a small space for haltering. We have been blessed over the years with mares that came when called and fought to be the first to be haltered. I want another like this.

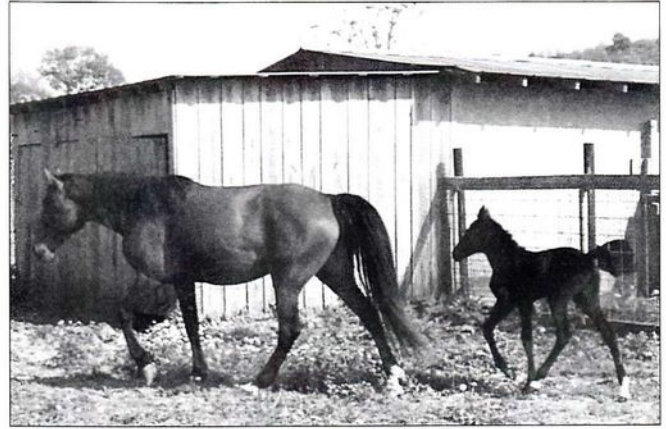
She should stand quietly in the crossies, tied to a fence post, or at the side of a trailer. She should bathe and clip with no resistance. My last show mare took naps when her ears were clipped. Doubt I will find one like that, but... Trailer loading should be second nature for her, and she should like to travel.

My dream mare will have been trained by a person knowledgeable of both general training basics and walking horse gaits. This will probably prove the most difficult criterion to find, unless I broaden the search outside of Tennessee. I do not want a show mare with no real-life trail experience. And most trails trainers where I live do not try to produce walking trail horses that really walk. The trail horse buying public is not really looking for walking horses that walk either, and the trainers work to develop stock for their general market. Over the years, we have taken fillies and colts to local trainers who produced very nice, if green, true walking horses for us. However, I do not recall ever looking at a ready-to-ride seasoned horse that did the running walk gait that I so love unless said horse was not for sale.

I am not saying that breeders are no longer breeding foals incapable of performing a running walk under saddle. I have seen many lovely babies traveling in gait at their dam's sides. However, the breed has become more multi-gaited than it was when I was younger, and if the young horses are not taught which gait to select, or if they are pushed for speed very early in saddle training, they do not ever "find" the running walk gait among the repertoire of four-beat movements that they have inherited.

My personal ideal horse is a strongly built mare with brains, a sweet and willing personality, and three sound walking horse gaits. Color, a deciding factor in so many sales over the last three decades, should be immaterial, but let me just say I would prefer not to find my dream lurking inside a carrot red or seal brown coat. Pedigree can also be affected by fads, but on the other hand, why do I want a registered mare of a specific breed if I do not appreciate bloodlines? There are certain modern show bloodlines I would avoid because too many trail riders have found these lines unsuitable for trail horses. I also do not want a horse too tightly line-bred to either show or pleasure stallions.

Defining a dream is a great pastime on cold, dreary gray winter days. It occupies the mind and actually provides characteristics to use in an actual search to avoid succumbing to emotions when selecting a horse. When spring comes, though, I will probably saddle up my Red Bud's Rascal daughter Redbird for myself or the growing grandchildren. And perhaps this spring, I will try to find the incredible natural running walk that she showed us as a baby but was never taught to do as an adult riding mare.



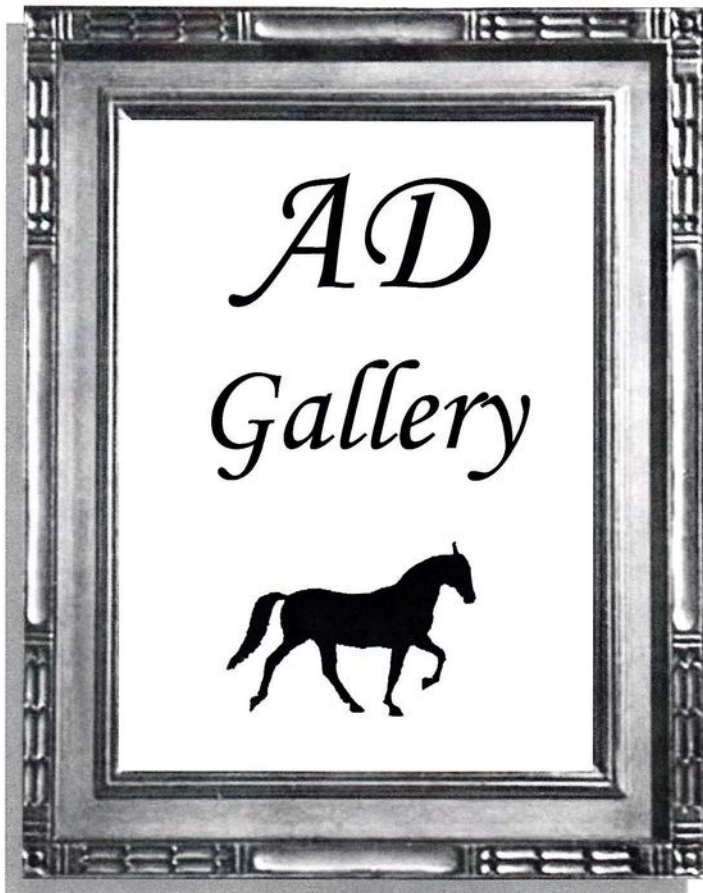
My beloved Molly (Red Bud's Lady Scarlet), trail mare deluxe and indifferent show mare, she showed a decided preference for raising foals. The filly is Sterling's Jolie Allure, by Buds Sterling Bullet.



Tanasi Gold, the mare I waited ten years to get, good on trails and happy on the rails, but a dismal failure at reproduction. Her one daughter, however, is the mother of herd sires.



My current riding mare, Redbird (Walk the Edge of Good-bye), Tanasi Gold's weaning mate, and the only one to get away that I ever got back. Safe and dependable, especially around the grandchildren.



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CHRYSTAL STAR RANCH is standing the black stallion, Allen's Midnight Rascal, & the gold champagne, CSR Gold Fever in 2015. We also have youngsters and trained horses for sale. For more info call Fran & Gord Kerik at **780-603-3391**, TWO HILLS, AB or go to our website at www.csrwalkers.com.

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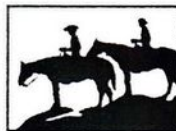
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PUBLICATIONS

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

FOSH'S COLLECTION of TRAINING ARTICLES - 23 of the best articles written on training Tennessee Walkers. Available for \$20 (US) including shipping from www.fosh.info or phone **1-800-788-4437**. Contact Friends Of Sound Horses, Inc. at 6614 Clayton Rd. #105, St. Louis, MO 63117.

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BIOGRAPHY OF THE TWH, Back Yard Walkin' Training Tips, or purchase downloadable PDFs of WHJ issues from the web site. Email info@fourcraftsmen, phone 928-367-2076, www.walkinghorsejournal.com. or mail to BYW, PO Box U, Lakeside, AZ 85929-0585, USA.

COMING EVENTS

B.C. EQUINE EDUCATION SUMMIT- March 13,14,15, at Radisson Hotel, Richmond, BC. See www.HCBC.ca

MANE EVENT, RED DEER, AB - April 24, 25, 26, 2015. Contact Karla Freeman at rideeasy@hotmail.ca re booth.

CRTWH AGM - KLONDIKE VICTORY STABLES, SYLVAN LAKE, AB. May 9, 2015. Fran Kerik, **780-603-3391**

'GAIT FROM THE GROUND UP' CLINIC - KLONDIKE VICTORY STABLES, SYLVAN LAKE, AB May 9-10/15. Contact Bill Roy at woodhill@telus.net or **250-379-2022**. To book your space call Dianne at **1-403-271-7391**

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