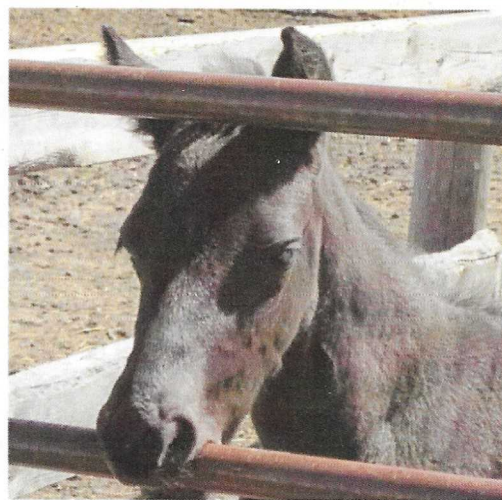
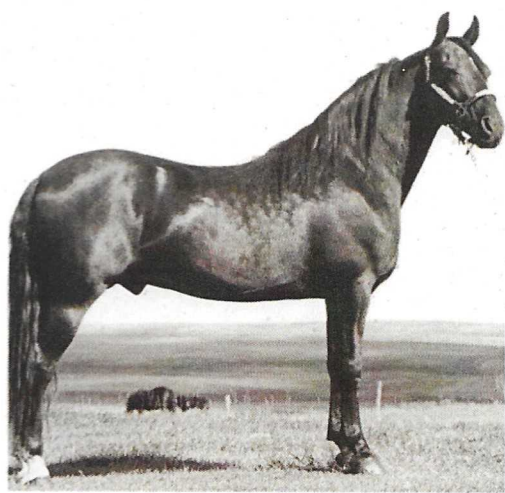




AUGUST 2015  
VOLUME XXXIX No. 4

# Walking



# Horse News

DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN - SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE SINCE 1977



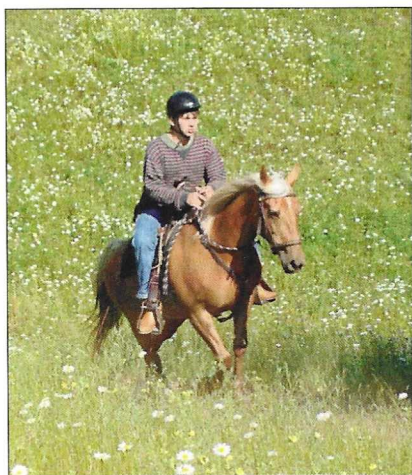
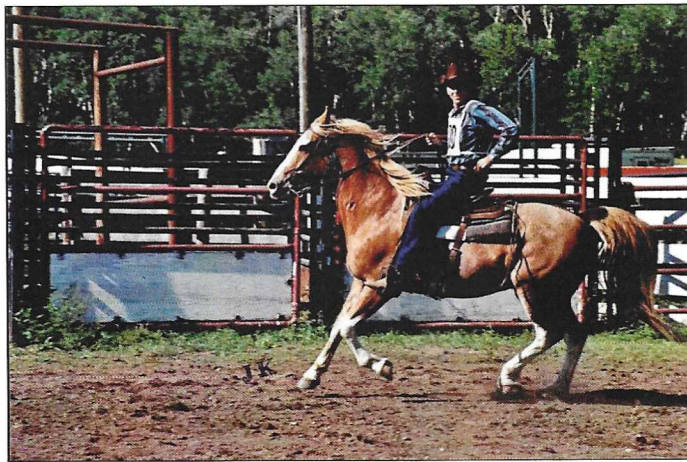


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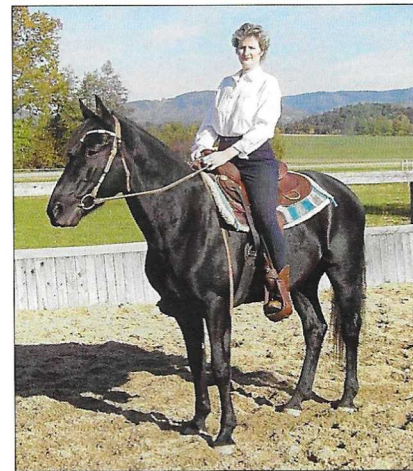


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# Walking Horse News

DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN-SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE SINCE 1977

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## On Our Cover

Pictured are the main  
players in the story of  
Buddy, pages 8-10.

An old photo of sire

Go Shadow Go  
is shown at top left..

It's Buddy himself  
in the top and lower  
right photos, while  
Uphill Penny By Chance,  
his dam, is in the picture  
with Buddy  
on the lower left.

*The cover collage  
was created by  
Leslie Hunchuk.*

*Photos courtesy Leslie,  
Dianne Little and  
Westridge Farms.*

## Deadline Dates

for Jan/Feb issue  
JANUARY 7

for Mar/Apr issue  
MARCH 7

for May/June issue  
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for July/Aug issue  
JULY 7

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Volume XXXIX, # 4 July/August, 2015

Dear Subscribers,

Did any of you notice an unusual entry in Foal  
Call on page 9 of the June issue? Perhaps you wondered  
how it could be that Go Shadow Go had sired one of the  
black colts pictured? He has been dead for many years  
after all... But yes, it is true!

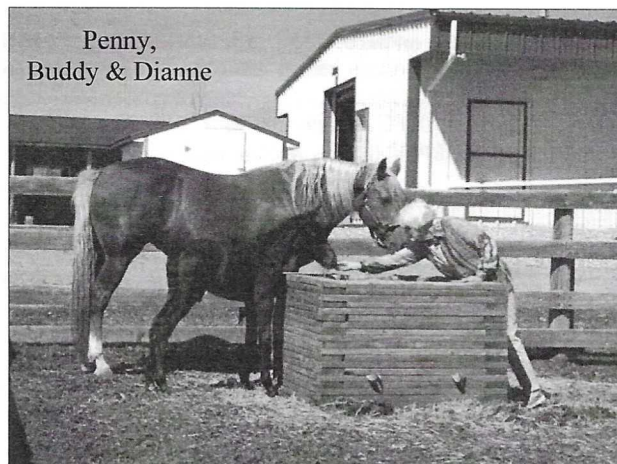
Buddy was born to his 16 year old mother Penny  
from semen collected 34 years ago. Imagine it still being  
viable after all those years of being frozen! With his  
mother a maiden mare of 15, with all the veterinary skill  
and procedures required, the need for careful handling of  
the frozen semen that had to be slowly thawed and the  
extender rinsed away, Little 'Buddy' is just a series of  
miracles to my mind. Read the story of this rare colt  
whose bloodline comes from decades ago thanks to own-  
er Dianne Little. *See below, pages 8-10 and the cover.*

Imagine if you could go back to the past for other  
rare sought-after bloodlines. What would you look for?  
Should we be preserving the genetics of some of the  
outstanding horses of rare lines that we have today?

I hope you enjoy the issue. Franne Brandon delves  
into some of the heirs of Merry Go Boy, Allanna Jackson  
points out the importance of what you put (or don't put)  
in the horse's mouth, and we have photos of one of the  
early TWH stallions in Canada, Billy's Little Pal, # 30 in  
the CLRC records, plus much more. Thank you to all our  
contributors. There's no *News* without you!

Happy Summer! Don't forget to write to us,

*Marjorie*



Penny,  
Buddy & Dianne

WHN makes a  
great gift!

August, 2015

# Walking Horse News

**"DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN-SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE SINCE 1977"**

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# HISTORY & HERITAGE PROJECT

## BILLY'S LITTLE PAL #30

A couple of years ago, a lady came to the CRTWH booth at Mane Event in Red Deer, AB asking if anyone knew of any descendants of her father's Tennessee Walking Horse stallion, BILLY'S LITTLE PAL. No one there had information on the horse or his offspring, but Dianne Little promised the lady, Katherine May, that she would inquire and see what could be found. This year Katherine brought photos of him.

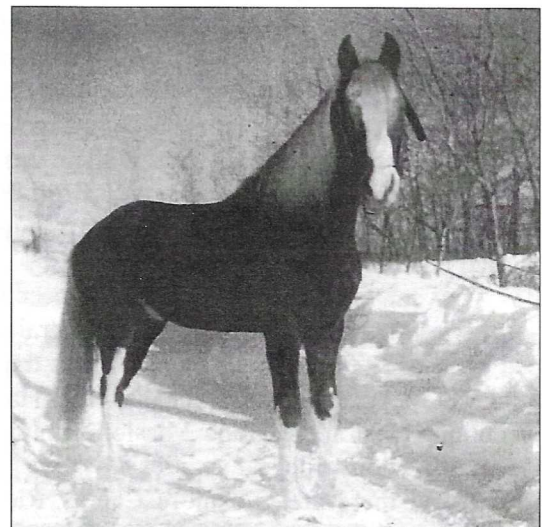
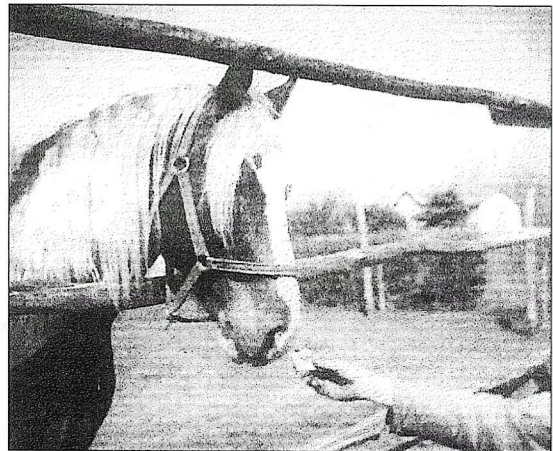
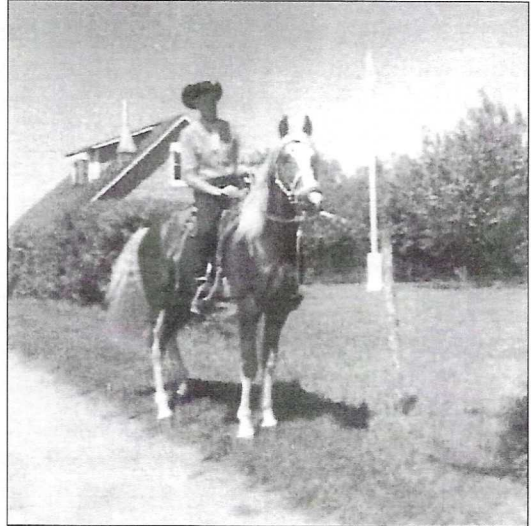
First we checked the CLRC records. Sure enough, there he was - sorrel stallion, number 30, registered in Canada in what would have been the General Stud and Herd Book at that time. His U.S. registration number was 610624. His date of death was listed as 1995, so if that is the actual date, he lived to be 35 years old! (It may just be the date the Registry was informed of his death.)

I was fortunate enough to have photocopies of the first 126 TWH registrations in Canada, courtesy of Eldon Eadie. I looked up Billy's Little Pal there and some more information came to light. He was indeed a sorrel, with white mane and tail, white stockings and bald face. He was bred by T.W. Bowling, Rossville, TN, born April 26/1960. His sire was Billy's Pal and his dam Polly Stonewall by Stonewall Allen 360159. (Remember the story about Gene Autrey's Walkers?)

The registration numbers of his parents, grandparents, and so on are all from the 30's and 40's, except for Hutton's Trixie F-58 and his grandsire Giovanni's parents, the two Saddlebreds, Dandy Jim 1531 ASR and Francesca 6949 ASR. He was acquired as a yearling by Irvin Kiehn, Jansen, SK in 1961. In 1964 Billy's Little Pal was sold to Katherine's dad, Gunther May of Elk Point, AB. He also bought two TWH mares from Irvin.

Katherine says that over the years, her dad had at least 15 to 20 foals by Billy's Little Pal. However when we searched the Canadian records for offspring, none were recorded. We also looked in the U.S. registry records but again, no offspring were shown there. It may be that although they were purebred, the foals were simply never registered. Or perhaps the mares were partbreds.

Readers, Do you any have more information?





## ALBERTA NEWS

RHONDA LEMMON, LACOMBE, writes, "My cheque is in the mail for a three year subscription. There's not much new at our place. We are expecting one foal at the end of June by our buckskin stallion, "Kentucky Hummer", so we are very much looking forward to that."

"I just competed in a 25 mile Competitive Trail Ride with Ragtime N' Melody this past weekend in Tees, after only having been able to ride her four times this year. She did fantastic and I think she could have kept going for another 25 miles... but I certainly couldn't have! I am looking forward to the next ride in Sundre in August. I hope to have many more miles put on her by then. "

Melody after completing the Tees ride.



From KIM PIELAK, NITON JUNCTION, "We have been busy here. We do have foals this year but none that are Walkers. We will wait for a while for more TWH foals. It will give us time to catch up on starting and working the young ones we have."

"I've been doing lots of riding this spring. Got a friend of mine into riding a couple years ago and I'm helping her with her first Walker this year. She bought a gelding named Tucker from Brenda Woodall. He happens to be a full brother to a gelding I acquired last fall."

"I went on the first Ride for Cancer of the season, on Drayton Valley's river side trails. We helped raise \$13,000 dollars. It was a great day for a trail ride. 80 people registered for that ride. Have another coming up for the Hope Mission on June 6th. That was a fabulous ride last year."

"And there are two more Cancer Rides for the Alberta Cancer Foundation in August, one of

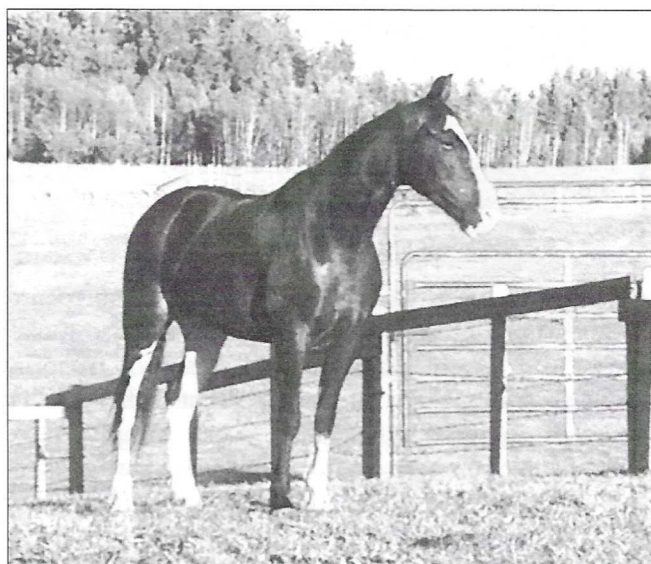
them being the WILD PINK YONDER RIDE. They are riding through Hinton to Edmonton from Aug 22-30. I'm going to join them for three of those days."

From TERI GREEN, CALGARY, AB, "Al Miller of Cochrane is the new owner of J.D., the nine year old bay gelding, Calta Keona Michaiah. Al is not a TWH rider - but he will be after working with Hilton for a month!"

SUE ANDERSEN, CARNWOOD RED ANGUS, DRAYTON VALLEY, writes, "I recently had to have my 15 year old Walker gelding, Jackson, put down due to founder. It was an extremely sad time for us. Jackson was one of very few horses I felt safe around and I was heartbroken."

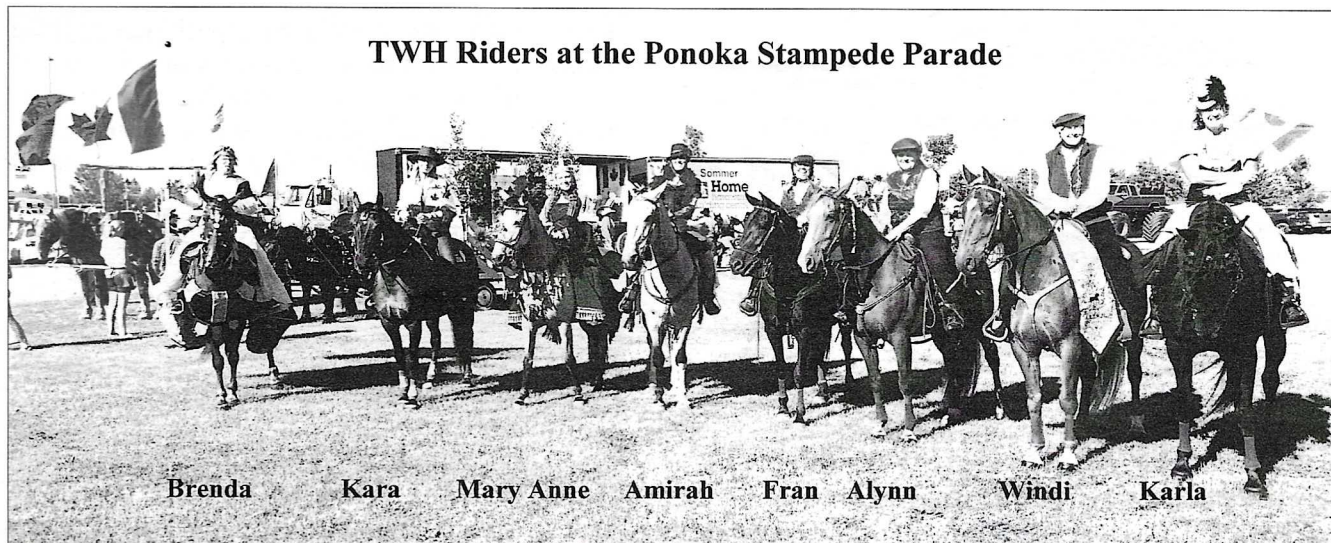
"When I felt like I wanted to look for another horse my husband called Marsha Trinder at TW Ranch. We'd seen the ad in your magazine and I picked a horse, Trinder's Opie, to look at. I went to Russell, MB in May and spent a few days getting to know Opie and we got along great."

"Trinder's Opie now lives with us in Drayton Valley! I've purchased horses before and was never pleased with the level of training claimed compared with the level displayed. I'm too old to mess with half broke horses and I can't tell you how happy I am with Opie! He is respectful, smart, alert, gentle, not spooky and yet has the 'go' when asked. If I ever look for another horse I'll be contacting TW Ranch for sure and I'd have no reservations recommending them to anyone. Marsha and the trainers there made sure Opie & I were a good match and I spent time learning from them what he was taught. I can't wait to get to know Opie as we check our cattle together and start trail riding again." *Trinder's Opie below.*





## TWH Riders at the Ponoka Stampede Parade



Brenda Kara Mary Anne Amirah Fran Alynn Windi Karla

KARLA HANSEN, PONOKA, writes, "Hello, fellow TWH lovers. It has been a super busy spring and already it's summer. I will be settling down just east of Ponoka, finally having found a place for the horses after moving them at least 13 times in three years. I am sure they will be happy to have a place to call home too! Plenty of fencing, fixing and renovating going on! However, I have been going out for quick rides down the road at the end of a busy day. Don't take the privilege of having your horses out your back door for granted."

"I am eagerly awaiting the arrival of Gypsy's foal. Should be soon. Gypsy's 2014 colt, Merlin, is getting big and is now a part of the herd."

"It seems like a long time ago, but the Mane Event was great again this year. Thank you to all the volunteers; *you* are the ones who make it a success. Let me know if you can help out next year. And thank you to all the members who send in pictures and come visit the booth!"

"I had a most excellent time at the Ponoka Stampede Parade on June 26 this year. The ladies *above*, with their Walkers, joined me in the parade. We had a great time getting our horses ready together and it was an absolutely perfect day for it. The parade route was three miles long. We really had a fun time. I plan on hosting for the Ponoka parade next year too... so if anyone wants to join in next year, give me a call."

"I hope you all have a great summer, and enjoy your fantastic Walking Horses! Happy Trails, Everyone!"

From LESA LUCHAK, TWO HILLS, "I hope everyone is enjoying the start of summer. Always lots going on around here! Between kids and horses,

I keep pretty busy. As always over the months, I have been enjoying reading the articles in the past *WHN* magazines."

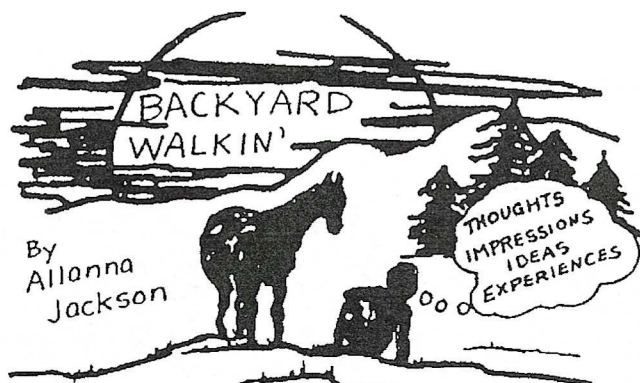
"Sadly we lost Moonlit Laughter this spring just before her 25th birthday. Dolly, as she was known, was with us for the past four and a half years or so. I have a son and a daughter of hers. Her daughter, Ruby, is the foal she was carrying when we bought her from the auction. Ruby is a 16 hh red lit-up sabino mare. Unfortunately, her well bred, gorgeous sabino sire was never registered, though at the sale the seller showed us a copy of his parent's TWHBEA papers. Her last foal by Darkie's Last Chance is a nice colt; I hope he will be stallion material to carry on the lines of both these fine horses. The colt's barn name is Jack. A friend's young son named him, and I love it since Jack Chapman was the breeder of Darkie's Last Chance."

"As I plan to downsize my mare herd I listed a few for sale and sold one. Walkien Victory, the second last foal sired by Northfork SkyWalker found a wonderful new home with Donna, out by Tomahawk. Thank you, Donna! Please send her a complimentary copy of the *WHN*."

"I had planned to send Carbonado's Chief Joseph back to MT for training for the last year. Austin Turley rides in field trials and I thought that kind of experience would be awesome for Chief. Then once Chief got to Montana, Austin offered to buy him back and I made the hard decision to take his offer."

"Golden Dreams Delight foaled a black filly, sired by Carbonado's Chief Joseph on April 21st. Seems like just yesterday, now it's almost July. Young horses are coming home from being started and receiving their spring refreshers, so it's time to get back in the saddle. Happy Trails!"





## Back Yard Walkin'

### EQUIPMENT HINDERING GAIT

© June 2015 By Allanna Lea Jackson

The running walk is a natural gait that horses inherit. It should not be a man-made movement manufactured with equipment. However, the running walk is only one of 13 different gaits in the TWH gene pool. The book *Biography of the TWH*, by Ben A. Green, reports that James Brantley was very proud of the fact that Roan Allen F-38 was trained to do seven gaits. In 2015 the average TWH does at least seven gaits quite easily. This multi-gaitedness is harmless to the horses who inherit it, but it can be quite frustrating for riders who just want a smooth, consistent middle gait.

The standard advice for controlling multi-gaitedness in horses focuses on biting, shoeing, and other equipment that will allegedly set the horse's gait. This quest for shoeing or equipment that will magically lock the horse into one middle gait is futile because the key to a horse's gait is in its back and balance, not its mouth nor its feet.

The posture and balance of both horse and rider, combined with the horse's inherited gait behavior and conformation determine what gait(s) the horse does. The terrain the horse is working on and the equipment that is used on the horse are additional variables that influence gait. The horse's back position determines gait so equipment can't lock the horse into gait. However, shoeing, tack and equipment may hinder the horse's gait(s).

The horse's back position dictates gait. The saddle sits on the horse's back. When we're riding the horse our seat has the most direct influence on which gait the horse does. This makes saddle fit extremely important. Any problem with the saddle will hinder the horse's gaits. The saddle may fit the horse perfectly but still hinder the horse's gait for reasons as simple as uneven stirrups or unevenly loaded saddle bags. These common and easily overlooked problems will cause the horse to travel crooked, create one-sided resistance, and may even create subtle lameness. Since gait is

determined by the horse's back position, anything that bothers the horse's back interferes with gait.

Bits are another variable that can either help or hinder the horse's gait. Surprisingly, some of the most commonly used bits, including some "Walking Horse" bits, may hinder gait. Every horse has its own unique mouth conformation, which is one of the reasons there are so many varieties of bits. There are also several types of bit-less head gear. Which one is best? The simple answer is - the one the horse likes best. But identifying the horse's favorite head gear can be difficult.

**Snaffle bits** are generally the mildest type of bit. Snaffles have no leverage so they provide a very simple and direct connection with the horse's mouth. Snaffles are useful for teaching the horse lateral flexion, and helping the horse learn balance and collection with a rider. There are many good reasons for starting young horses in snaffle bits, and for using snaffles for schooling and re-training. A pleasure horse may never need anything more than a snaffle bit. With all these benefits we may be surprised to discover that snaffle bits may hinder the running walk of some Walking Horses. Why?

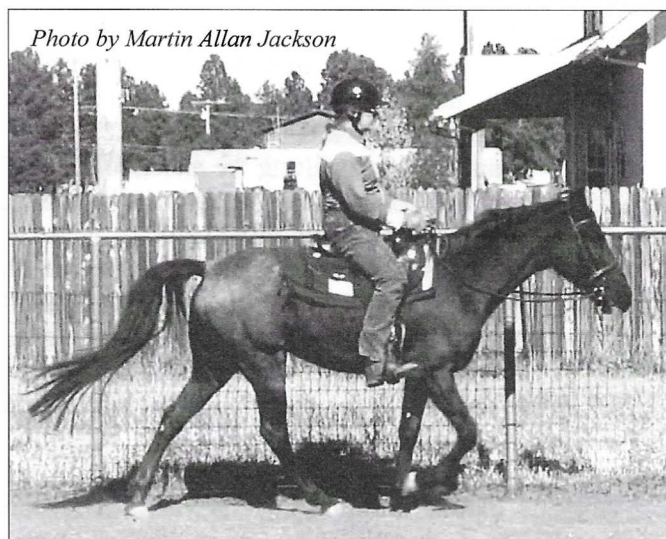


Photo by Martin Allan Jackson

*Velvet at a running walk in a snaffle bit she likes.*

Most snaffle bits have at least three moving parts: a joint in the middle of the mouthpiece and the two rings that the headstall and reins attach to. When horses walk they nod their head, and Walking Horses usually nod more than average. When this highly desirable head nod is combined with the joints of a snaffle bit, the bit may swing or flop as the horse moves. This type of bit motion is a meaningless but intense pressure for the horse.

Some sensitive horses find the extraneous bit motion so annoying they tense their neck and back. Tension in the horse's neck and back hinders or prevents



a running walk. Some horses may swing their heads in response to the movement of a jointed bit, which encourages the horse to stepping pace. Other horses will hold their head still, which may encourage trotting. A flopping bit may also encourage a horse to flip-flop between stepping pace and trot.

Cowboy snaffles, Tom Thumb bits, Argentine bits, Wonder bits, some types of pelhams, and some "Walking Horse" bits all have moving parts that wiggle, swing, or flop. Curb bits with jointed mouth pieces, loose jaws, swivel shanks, or sliding mouthpieces also move and may hinder the gaits of sensitive horses. Some Walking Horses like jointed bits and the bit motion may help them find and maintain their rhythm. A few horses don't seem to have a preference about bits.

Eliminating the bit does not necessarily prevent head gear from hindering gait. Some styles of mechanical **hackamores** have shanks that can swing, wiggle, flop, and bounce so much that they punish the horse for nodding its head.

Cinnamon  
in a  
sidepull  
that she  
likes  
better  
than  
snaffle  
bits.



*Photo by  
Ian Allan  
Jackson*

There are several types of bosals and they do not all function the same way. Some bosals lift the horse's head, which tends to hollow the horse's back and encourage pacing. Other types of bosals have a heel knot that acts as a weight on the bottom of the bosal.

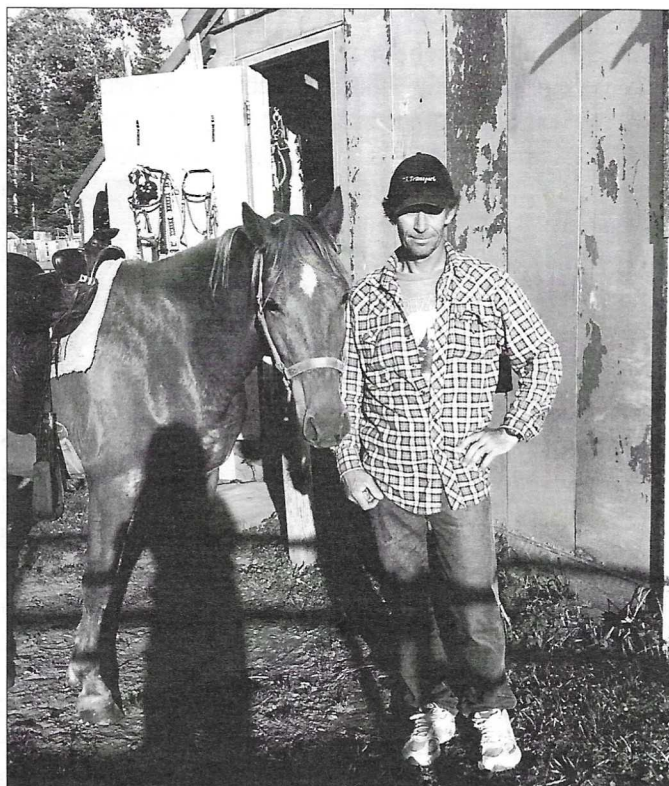
**Sidepulls** are a type of bosal that give a direct lateral signal similar to a snaffle bit. There are several types of bit-less bridles that apply pressure to the horse's head in different ways. We need to learn how each type of bit-less head gear is intended to function. We also need to assess how it is actually functioning on our Walking Horses. The horses respond to what they experience from the equipment, not to our theories about what the equipment does.

Every horse is an individual. The way to find out whether the bit or head gear is helping or hindering the horse's gait is to experiment with more than one type of head gear. That's the only way to see which yields the best communication between horse and rider, and the best performance from the horse.



## 'RIDE YOUR WALKER' PARTICIPANT

BILL PIELAK of Niton Junction, AB



*Congratulations on 60 hours logged in 2014!*

## SASKATCHEWAN NEWS

From LEXIE COLE, CABRI, "We are having a bad year here weather wise. Pastures are dried up, looking like they do at the end of August. There will be no hay this year. I am so glad we don't have to worry so much about that anymore – but I feel sorry for the ranchers and farmers. Not a good situation to be in. We had to put Playmans Fantastic Lady (Fanny) down late last fall. So we now have only Kodiak left. We got an old gelding from a friend to keep him company."

"Take care, and have a good summer."

BARRY WALL, DELISLE, has been working with his two young Walkers and writes, "I got Dexter, my four year old, started last year and he is coming along nicely."

## Words of Wisdom

**I'd rather have a horse with a perfect mind  
than a perfect head...**



## Respect the Past to Protect the Future

By Dianne Little

In 1981, a high school friend's husband purchased a Tennessee Walking Horse to use in field trials. She invited me to take riding lessons with her. At the first lesson, my mother's warnings of getting hurt overrode all my feelings of joy and I spent the lesson terrified. The idea of picking up those feet was a mental as well as physical challenge. I was relieved when the first lesson was over and was not sure I would return.

But return I did. There is no doubt that the passion and patience of the instructor, the atmosphere at the barn, and my stubbornness were the deciding factors in my decision. The dream overrode the terror. The influence of Helen B. Williamson, owner of Westridge Farms and Diane Sept the trainer and instructor injected me with their love for the Tennessee Walking Horse. Within four months I purchased a Tennessee Walking Horse and brought him to board at Westridge Farms. From that day forward, my life was entwined with that of Helen and Diane. This journey continues today even though Helen is deceased and Diane lives in the United States.

In 1981, Helen Williamson, Claudia and Hilton Hack, Marlin and Henry Matechuk, Diane Sept, Larry Malick, Sue Marsland and Doris Long founded the Canadian Walking Horse Association. The new Association was incorporated under the Animal Pedigree Act. In accordance with the Act, the Association became the representative of the Tennessee Walking Horse in Canada and was responsible for registering purebred Tennessee Walking Horses in Canada. Today, this Association is the Canadian Registry of the Tennessee Walking Horse. It was through the example of, and encouragement from, Helen that I became involved and joined the Board in 1984.

Helen Williamson was an unique individual. Her love of the TWH and of all things equine was evident. Her passion for the ethical treatment of all animals was well known in the horse world. I was privileged to ride weekday mornings, arriving in time for coffee or tea and discussion of all things equine. No subject was too hot as we were anxious to express our perspectives. I was challenged and invigorated to move forward in my journey.

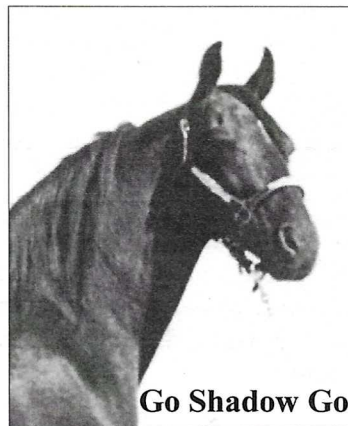
Helen was a woman of vision. She recognized that the future was rooted in the past, and growth would

depend upon the lessons learned from the past. Not only did Helen recognize the problems of the TWH in the United States, but she actively fought to ensure that the TWH in Canada would not face the same levels of abuse. Helen was a breeder and stood two stallions: Go Shadow Go bred by Pearl Tompkins of Montana and Shaker's Royal Heir imported in utero. Not everyone would agree with Helen's breeding decisions, but everyone respected her dedication to improve the breed.



Frozen Semen has been used with cattle for over 100 years, but was introduced into the equine world about 50 years ago. When Helen became aware that semen could be successfully frozen, she investigated and decided to collect and freeze from both stallions. There were and continue to be problems associated with frozen semen: not all stallions have semen that will freeze successfully, conception rates for AI with frozen semen are a little lower, the process to freeze semen is expensive, and there is an ongoing cost of storing the semen. In 1981 most registries would not register foals from frozen semen or AI out of herd.

None of these factors deterred Helen – she believed in the genetics at Westridge Farms and believed they



should be kept for future use. Semen was collected from both stallions in 1981 and 1984. About the same time, Dr. Taylor of Montana collected semen from Shadow Mountain and Pride's Black Shadow. Rick Weis of Montana currently has this semen in his



possession. Hilton Hack of Calta Stables and a founding member of CRTWH owns frozen semen from his stallions Calta Midnight Victory and Calta Caligula. To the best of my knowledge these were the first collections of semen from Tennessee Walking Horses to be frozen, and the first to be recognized by CRTWH and TWHBEA.

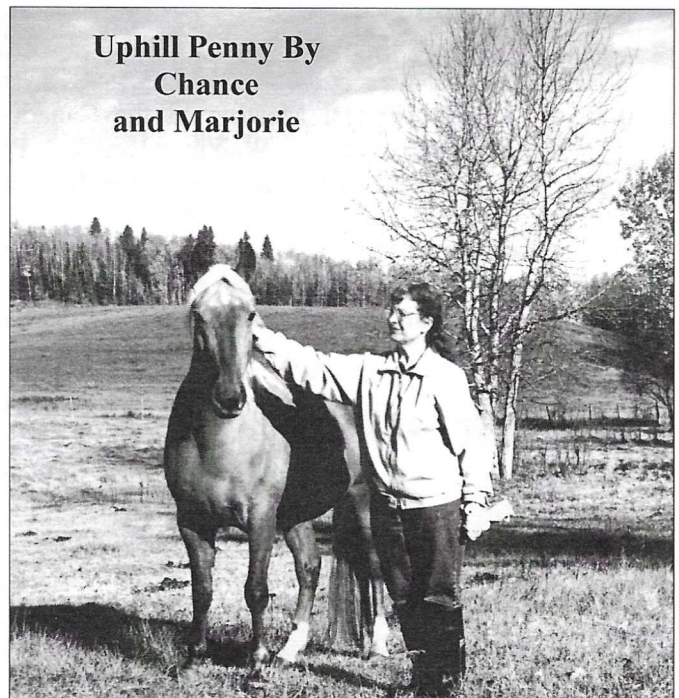
I have been a member of the Westridge Farm family since 1981. In April of 2014, Carol Hall, Helen's daughter, approached me on behalf of the Williamson family regarding the semen that had been in storage since 1981. It had been used 11 years previously and in 2004, the last foal by Go Shadow Go was born. The family did not know if it was still viable or of any use in the TWH world. I believed the semen was viable and was of value. During the CLRC annual meeting in Calgary, mention was made of the Canadian Animal Genetic Resource Program. This program was collecting, storing and protecting older Canadian genetics of crops and livestock. I contacted the Director of the Program to see if they were interested in this semen. The response was positive – yes, they would like to have the semen. At this time we did not know how many straws were available or if the semen was viable. I decided to become an active participant in proving the semen.

### MY JOURNEY - BECOMING A BREEDER

When Carol and I discussed the frozen semen, I was determined that it be used in a manner that Helen would approve. I believed it should be used as a tribute to Helen and her vision. I considered Helen's values and those of Pearl Tompkins, the breeder of Go Shadow Go. They believed in thoughtful breeding for temperament and movement. They knew what they wanted and chose the bloodlines carefully to result in a foal that they hoped would be an improvement upon both sire and dam. Helen and Pearl had the greatest respect for Marjorie Lacy. Helen, Pearl and Marjorie maintained a friendship and shared values. Not only did Marjorie breed with thoughtful consideration, but her determination and tenacity in the production of *Walking Horse News* was proof of her belief in the Flat Shod TWH. I concluded that Helen and Pearl would be honored if a foal was the result of the breeding philosophies of Marjorie and Helen, two women who put the horse first and influenced the TWH in Canada.

Once I determined that the frozen semen would be used with a mare bred at Uphill Farm, I decided I should be the person who tested the viability of the semen. I looked for a potential mare, overlooking the fact that I already owned a potential mare, Uphill

Penny By Chance. Penny was a maiden mare and because of her age (15) was not considered the best candidate for successful breeding. I realize many people do not consider 15 too old for breeding but in the world of frozen semen, it is not the optimum age. The only way to find out for certain was a reproductive examination of the mare. I contacted Dr. Cris Berezowski at Moore Equine Reproductive Centre and arranged for the assessment on May 18, 2014. Penny was examined and found to be in good health with no problems that should affect pregnancy. I decided to continue the journey to determine if the semen was viable.



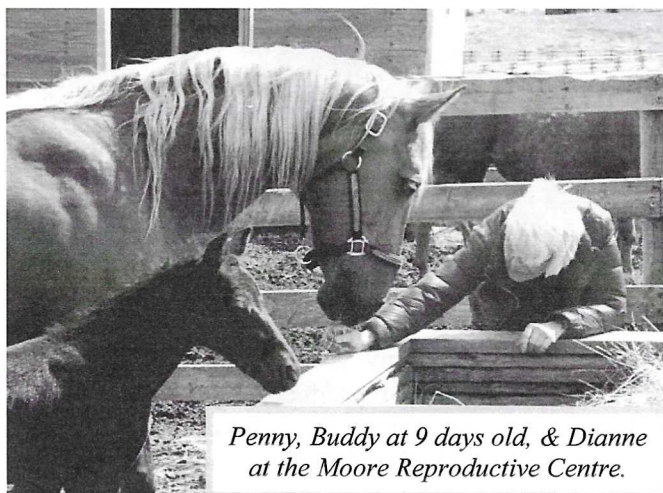
With the help of my good friend Leslie Hunchuk, Penny visited the reproductive centre clinic three times over the next month. When conditions were right, Penny stayed at the clinic and was inseminated on June 6. The next few weeks were full of trepidation and excitement in equal measure. We returned to the clinic July 18 for another ultrasound. To our shock and delight, we were able to view the embryo – Penny was successfully in foal after one breeding. The frozen semen was viable. We returned to Westridge with exciting news for the Williamson family.

Although I had been optimistic about the viability of the semen, I wanted confirmation of the pregnancy so Penny returned to the clinic in September for further proof of pregnancy. Once again to our shock and delight, Penny was still in foal. It was time for secret celebration. For the next few months, Penny was



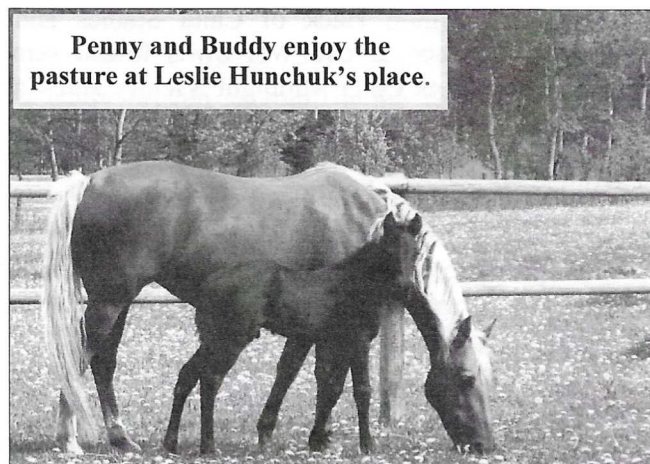
treated as mothers-to-be were always treated at Westridge Farms. As time passed, it became increasingly difficult to keep the secret of the pregnancy.

Penny's due date was May 13, a date close to the CRTWH clinic and Annual Meeting. I remembered that Helen believed that most of the Westridge foals were born under the influence of the full moon. After checking moon positions (and Leslie's and my schedules) I decided it would be wise for foaling to occur at the Moore Reproduction Centre. Penny arrived at the maternity ward on May 4. On May 9, between 2 and 3 am, a small, very black colt was born. As members of the CRTWH Board, Leslie and I were both at the clinic and AGM. I believe it was significant that the foal was born on the same day as the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Registry of the Tennessee Walking Horse. The semen was collected in the same year the Registry was incorporated. The semen frozen 34 years previously was proven viable on the 34<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Registry. How fitting, and a tribute to one of the founding members. Maybe the full moon was Helen's smile.



*Penny, Buddy at 9 days old, & Dianne at the Moore Reproductive Centre.*

Although a healthy foal was the desired result, I had secretly wished for a filly I could name Hanna. That was a term of endearment used for her by Helen's grandchildren. When I first saw the foal, all I could think of was 'George', the name of my black standard poodle because they were about the same size! The foal is now called Buddy, the grandchildren's name for their Grampa, Ron Williamson. The name suits. I have not determined a registered name, but have many suggestions, all of which are appropriate for this special foal.



**Penny and Buddy enjoy the pasture at Leslie Hunchuk's place.**

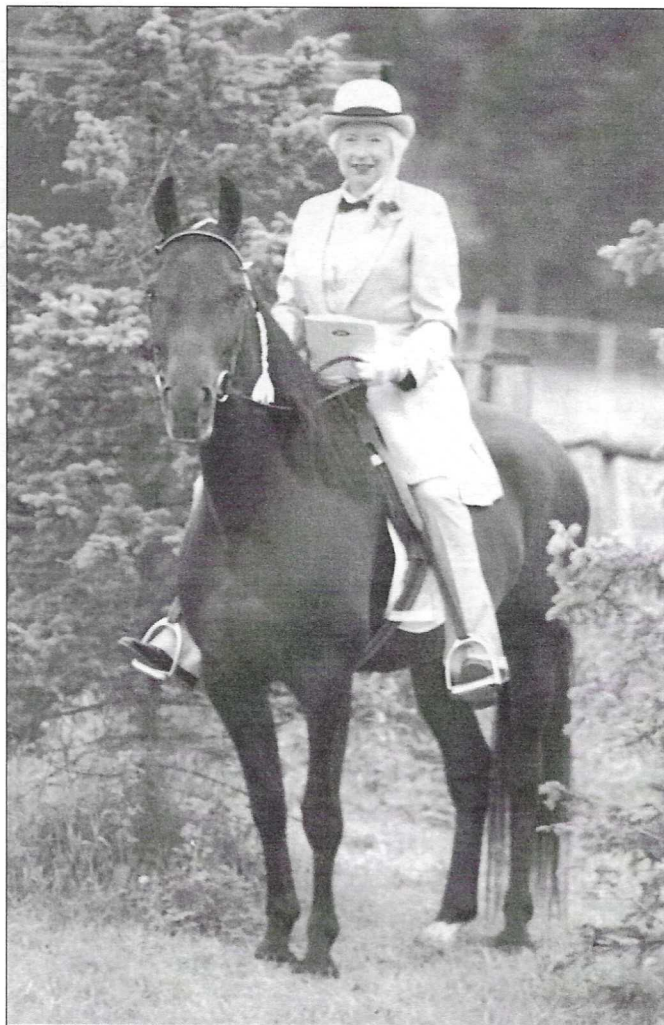
Every foal is special and precious. Using semen frozen 34 years ago to create a new life is extra special, but so are the genetics of Go Shadow Go and Uphill Penny By Chance. The impregnation of an older maiden mare with 34 year old frozen semen was a gamble, but the result was a foal that proves the viability of that specific frozen semen. Buddy carries genes from both sire and dam. It makes me smile to watch him mature and play. I never expected to be a breeder, but Buddy proves that I am. The breeding strategies and philosophies of Helen Williamson and Marjorie Lacy are combined in Buddy. Like all breeders, I hope that he fulfills the dreams of breeders everywhere.

Helen died 15 years ago, but her influence continues. There are still TWH at Westridge Farms. As long as I own a TWH, it will be boarded at Westridge Farms. Ron her husband, Carol her daughter, and Sarah her granddaughter ensure that the philosophy at Westridge Farms puts the welfare of the horse first – the principles that Helen established are not compromised. The Canadian Registry of the Tennessee Walking Horse continues to demonstrate the philosophy of the founders, to register horses with integrity and accuracy and develop programs that educate and benefit breeders and owners. Helen's influence on the TWH in Canada continues today. Helen's vision and foresight will continue to influence the TWH in Canada through the use of semen from Go Shadow Go collected in 1981. The semen has been proven viable after 34 years of storage. In 2014, 181 straws were donated by the Williamson Family to the Canadian Animal Genetic Resource Program. It will be stored and available for use in times of national disaster, or times when it is deemed necessary to infuse older bloodlines into the TWH in Canada.

Thank you, Helen,  
for Respecting the Past to Influence the Future.



*Below: Helen riding Celtis-G, a Go Shadow Go son bred, raised and trained at Westridge Farms.*

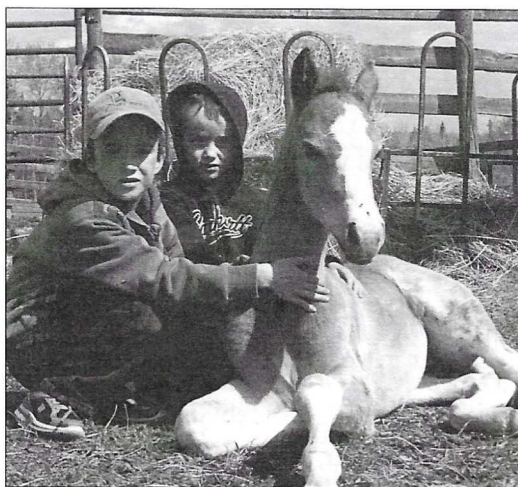


*\*Helen B. Williamson was the major factor in my decision to become involved in the Canadian Registry of the Tennessee Walking Horse. I am thankful for our meeting in 1981 and the deep and respectful friendship we shared. I met Marjorie Lacy in 1984 and our friendship has deepened over the ensuing 31 years. My respect for her dedication to "doing what is right" in the face of opposition is proof that she practices the values that are expressed in Walking Horse News. There is something beyond tenacity about both these women, qualities that I admire and respect.*

*I never imagined the depth of the journey I would begin with my introduction to the Tennessee Walking Horse, Westridge Farms, Helen Williamson, Diane Sept and Marjorie Lacy. These women have never been deterred from the ethical path of honesty and integrity. I could never have imagined the satisfaction I have gained from my involvement with the Tennessee Walking Horse.*

*Dianne Little*

## FOAL CALL



SORREL FILLY *above* (Toddy's Royal Image x Chief's Paint Brush)

BUCKSKIN FILLY (Toddy's Royal Image x Spirit) *middle photo below*



BAY FILLY (Toddy's Royal Image x Chance of Rainbow) *above*

Above 3 owned by  
Greg & Maureen Germscheid,  
Magnolia Meadows, Evansburg, AB





# FOAL CALL



SORREL FILLY *Right* (Northfork Patch of Gold x Absaroka Dani ) at 30 hours of age, born May 27, 2015.

Look at that walk! I think the picture tells it all!

Brenda Baker, Triangle B, Calgary, AB.

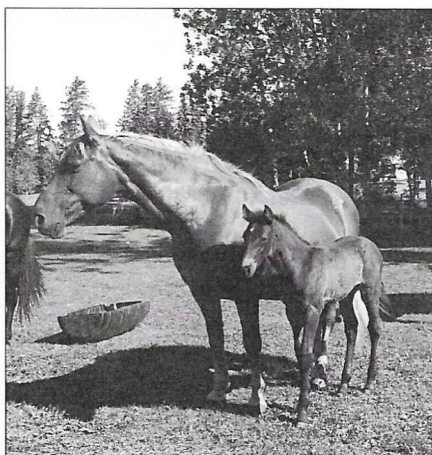
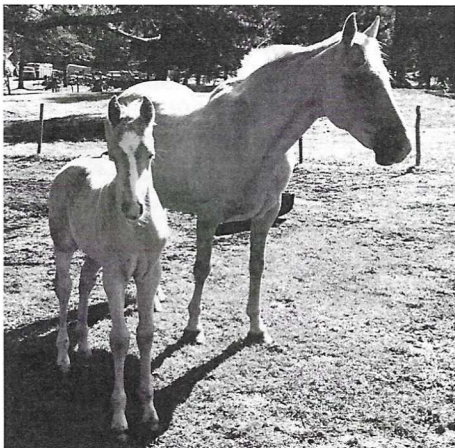


BLACK COLT *Below right*.

(Northfork Top Traveller x Shana's Cherokee Flair)

GOLD CHAMPAGNE COLT (Northfork Top Traveller x Neitak's Golden Stardust) *below*.

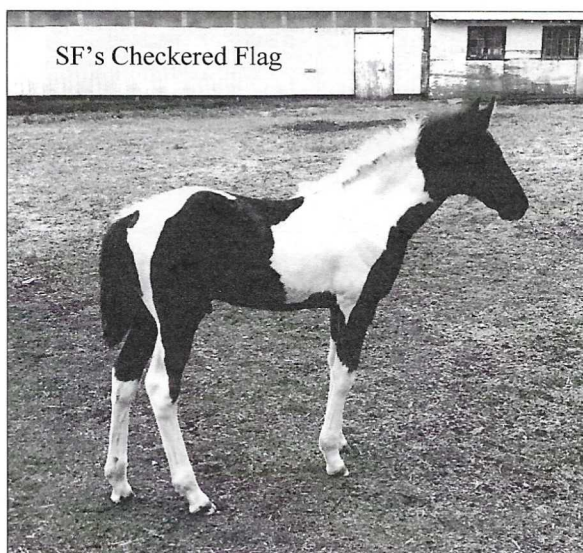
Jack Gurnett, Northfork Farm, Bluffton, AB



BLACK FILLY  
(Carbonado's Chief Joseph  
x Golden Dreams Delight)  
on April 21st. *(no photo)*

Lesa Luchak,  
Maple Lane Walkers,  
Two Hills, AB.

BLACK TOBIANO COLT – SF's Checkered Flag  
pending) *Below* (Ebony's Big Easy x Mystery of  
Cash). Judy Cook, New Sarepta, AB



CHESTNUT COLT *above*  
(Sunny's Greatest Glory  
x Royal Class My Lacy Lady) June 10.  
Don & Jo-Anne, McDonald Farms,





# The Canadian Walker

Volume 14, Issue 4

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

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

August, 2015

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## 'THE CANADIAN' TRIPLE CHALLENGE

Just a reminder that if you would like to participate in one of these programs, now is the time to start. The Ride/Drive/ALT Program is in full swing, with people logging their hours. Brenda Woodall is the co-ordinator at [thewoodalls3@gmail.com](mailto:thewoodalls3@gmail.com)

You can also be working on the Training Levels and/or Program For Excellence in the nice weather so your video will be ready by the October 15 deadline. See page 24.

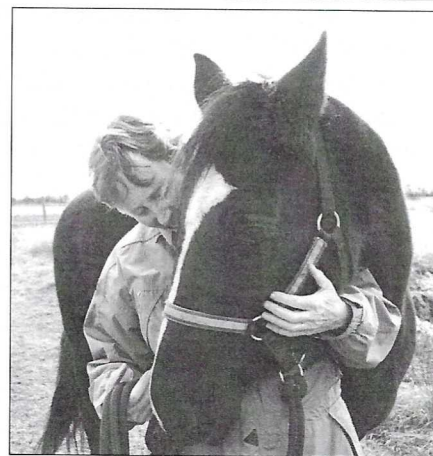
## CENTURY PARTNERS NOMINATIONS - Stories to follow.

I am very pleased to nominate NATALIE SPECKMAIER and her mare, 'MY GAL TRIGGER' (aka Uphill Dusty Gold) as Century Partners as of this spring, 2015.

Natalie contacted us at Uphill Farm back in 2000, hoping to find a palomino descendant of Roy Rogers' Trigger Jr. (Allen's Gold Zephyr 431975). As a child she'd been a big fan of Roy's and already owned a palomino gelding, My Pal Trigger. So she was thrilled to discover that Uphill Dusty Gold was indeed a descendant.

Natalie and 'My Gal Trigger' have been partners now for 15 years, and have ridden the beaches and mountain park trails around Vancouver. We wish them all the best as their partnership continues on past the century mark.

*Marjorie Lacy*



I wish to nominate KATHY MINOR and ROCK'S FLICKA of Kars, Ontario for the Century Partners recognition award.

Kathy and Flicka rode the trails together for over ten years. Flicka would willingly go wherever Kathy asked her to go, whether that be farmer's fields, wooded trails, or more challenging environments. Recently Kathy has shared the now 26 year old Flicka with a ten year old girl who has developed a great bond with her. The pair ride out with Kathy and her new horse regularly, and the foursome can be seen riding the trails together.

Congratulations, Kathy and Flicka, on your successful partnership and ongoing journey!

*Sue Gamble*



# COME RIDE THE PINK TRAIL

By Jane Hurl, Trail Boss, Wild Pink Yonder Charitable Society

Wild Pink Yonder is an annual trail ride that is a fundraiser for breast cancer research. (Most of our funds are raised by the ride here in Alberta, so that money goes to the Alberta Cancer Foundation; but smaller amounts are raised by our sponsors in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, so those funds stay in those provinces.)

We're proud to tell you that this ride is unique in the entire world! We go for 23 days straight and visit 23 towns. We ride about 500 kilometers every year. Up to 30 riders are allowed to join us on any given day. Some riders come for a day. Others come for a weekend or a week. The intrepid ones come for the whole ride. They are our much-loved "Longriders". The cost? \$50 to register. After that, each rider must fund-raise at least \$100 for every day he or she wants to join us. (100% of the money raised goes directly to Alberta Cancer Foundation.) Once that's done, everything is included: 3 meals a day for riders, hay and Nutrena SafeChoice for equines, entertainment in the evenings and a safe place to camp. What more could you ask for? All you do is bring your truck, trailer, equine and camping accommodations. (And maybe a toothbrush and change of underwear!)

When we visit the towns, often it's a party! Sometimes it comes complete with a parade – and we're in it! Our riders put on their best pink duds, paint their horses' hooves pink, paint pink breast cancer ribbons on their horses' bums, shoulders and necks -- and I've even seen a pink cowboy hat with holes cut in it for a horse's ears!

The towns try to win our contest for the "Pinkest Little Town in the West". To do that, they must raise more money (per capita) than the other 22 towns we visit and they must paint their town pinker – literally! You would not believe some of the "pinkifications" we've seen!

This whole event is truly unique, and often touching and inspiring!

Every year, Wild Pink Yonder gets a wide-ranging assortment of riders. We get children as young as 12 and adults of all ages. On one memorable day in 2014 we had a lovely gentleman of 84 riding with us. We also get every size and breed of horse. We've had everything from minis pulling mini wagons to a woman riding a mule to draft

horses – some driven, others being ridden.

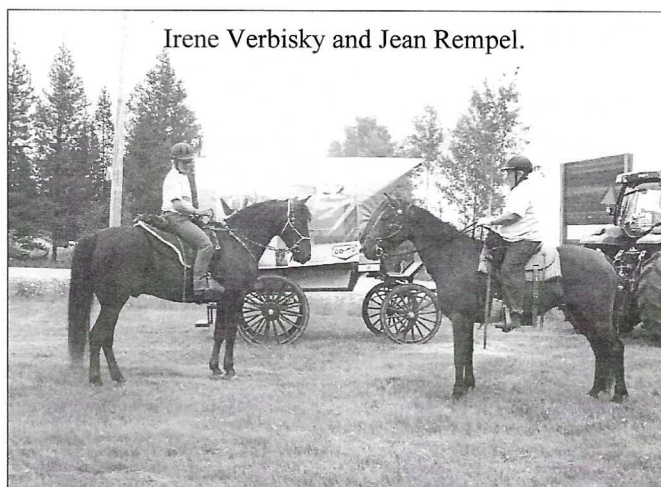
I am particularly drawn to the gaited horses that come with us. It seems the gaited horse of choice in Alberta is the Tennessee Walking Horse. Whether you're talking the big, tough Walkers with the long, ground-eating over-reach, or the smaller ones with a shorter stride that makes for less of that "swimming" motion, the Tennessee Walkers that come on The Pink Trail with us tend to be calm personalities, and yet, they sure can motor!

There are likely others who have brought their Walkers on this ride, but the ones I recall are Hugh Ashwell from Edson and Elmer Buchberger from Grande Prairie (both these gents are Longriders this year), Fran Kerik from Two Hills, her friend, Irene Verbisky, from Vilna, Theresa Burke from Eckville (who used an easy entry cart to drive her black beauty) and Morris Hall from Millet (who drove a magnificent pair of champagne Tennessee Walkers pulling a democrat with a pink surrey top).

If you're planning to have some fun with your horse this summer, plan to join us. We're starting on August 7<sup>th</sup> with a party in Fort Macleod. Then we're off to ride the mountains at Waterton Lakes. After that we're working our way north along the eastern slopes of the Rockies to Hinton and then east to Edmonton.

The theme is pink. The cause is important. The camaraderie, both on the trail and around camp, is fantastic. Join us! For details visit [www.WildPinkYonder.com](http://www.WildPinkYonder.com).

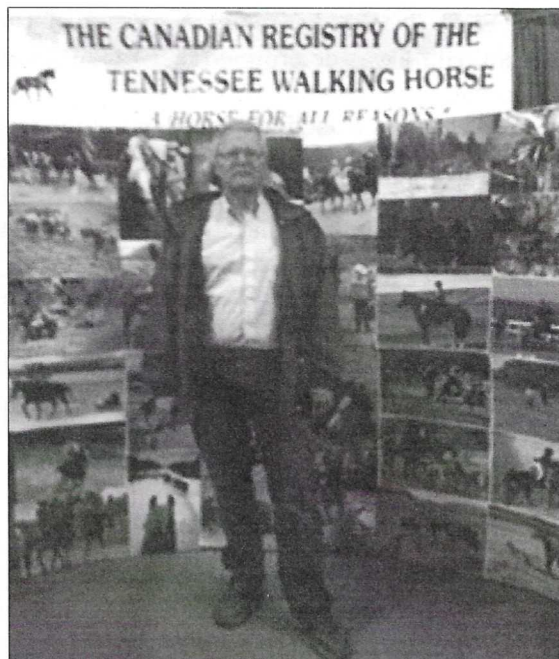
*Below: Two Walking Horse owners who took part in 2009.*



Irene Verbisky and Jean Rempel.



# What Do Walker Owners Do?



*Above:* Brenda Baker visits with Stan Walchuk at Mane Event in April.

Stan is the author of Cordillera!  
 "One man's wilderness odyssey across the entire North American mountain system".

*Left:* Stu Pritchard, a past president of CRTWH, checked out the Canadian booth at Mane Event.

*Below:* Tanya Johnston and her daughters attended the Gait From the Ground Up clinic in May, and posed for this family portrait.



*Left:* Karla Hansen Freeman took 'Ken' (aka Karlas Special Knight) to The Calgary Stampede this July as an ambassador for the TWH breed. He appears to be doing a good job of it too!





## READERS WRITE

**HERE ARE MY THOUGHTS** on the new IHWHA registry announced in the last issue of the *WHN*. It is a very good idea to encourage TWH breeders to preserve and promote the fine old bloodlines that a growing number of people are starting to desire.

The Canadian Registry of the Tennessee Walking Horse has been an international registry for over 30 years, but in a very quiet way. Because Canada never did allow big shoes and all the trappings that go with extreme animation in its TWH shows, the "performance" horse had no real use here.

I would wager that 50% or more foals registered with the CRTWH in the last 10 years would qualify as "heritage" TWH based on pedigree. I suspect many more than 50% of the first 1000 TWH registered with the CRTWH would also qualify!

Instead of inspections to determine if our purebred, parent verified Tennessee Walking Horses are "good enough" to be included in the registry, we have 'The Canadian' Triple Challenge, which is comprised of "The Program for Excellence", The Training Levels and the Ride/Drive/ALT programs. These serve as a means for owners of horses already registered with the CRTWH to work for awards for quality, disposition, gait and training.

This program was introduced a number of years ago and anyone with a CRTWH registered horse may participate. I was favorably impressed by the growing number of enthusiastic participants as demonstrated at the Annual General Meeting of the CRTWH in May.

For more information on the CRTWH and its Triple Challenge programs, please visit [www.crtwh.ca](http://www.crtwh.ca).

From BRENDA L. BAKER, CALGARY, AB

## COLORBLIND

I have to admit, I have always been a little prejudiced against sorrels. I *love* color - loud, splashy broken coat color patterns, and even at that, sorrel and white was my least favorite. I have gravitated toward the color breeds, adoring Pinto and Appaloosa horses. For a little over 25 years, you would not have seen me on a 'plain brown' horse.

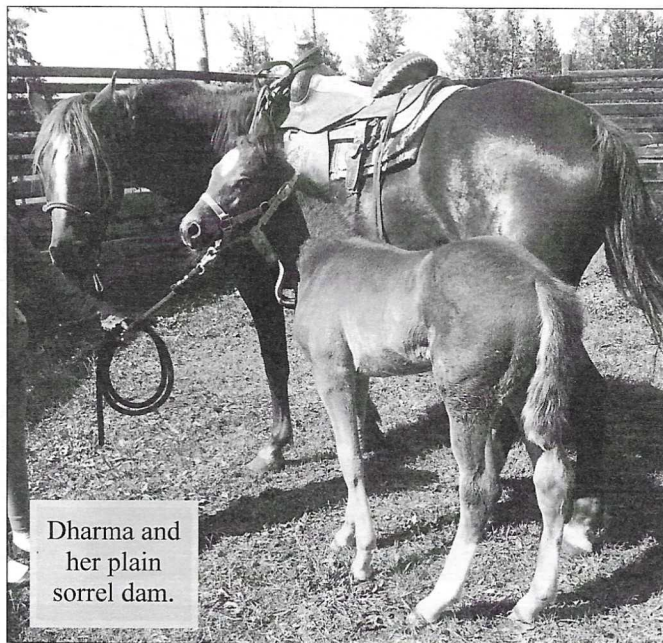
Then I had an accident. One of those that an experienced horse person should have seen coming a mile away and prevented long before it happened. I refer to it as a 'less than ideal dismount', resulting in

a badly broken sacrum. In the first few months of recovery, too many people told me about folks they knew in a similar circumstance who were never able to ride horses again. The prospect broke my heart and some days I was sure my heart ached more than my derriere as I watched my family riding their mounts. My brother, a doctor, told me to expect two years for recovery back to the best it was going to be, and whether I'd be able to handle riding horses would be seen. The first winter, I often sat bareback on my Pinto mare in the barn and cried for the pain it brought. But I was determined that I would become a rider again.

Thus I was introduced to the world of Tennessee Walkers. My Pinto mare has some Walker far back in her lineage but her smoother movements attest to the strength of that influence and opened the door for my consideration of the breed. That year, I purchased two registered Walker mares, one a roany black and the other one - the dreaded sorrel color. The black was young and not old enough to start, but the sorrel was covered by our Appaloosa stallion and sent out for saddle training. My intention was to get a loud colored Walkaloosa to share my future with.

But something began to change over the months and in spending time riding this 'plain brown' mare, I have found myself becoming color blind. Her foal is nearly six weeks old now, a sorrel filly without a single dot of white on her rump. Her face however, has a shape that looks considerably like the Chinese Yin Yang symbol, which roughly represents balance. I think I'll name her Dharma. (*Pictured below.*)

From DONNA GOODE, TOMAHAWK, AB



Dharma and  
her plain  
sorrel dam.



# WHAT DO YOU DO WITH YOUR FOALS?



Karla handled this filly from the first moment she was born.



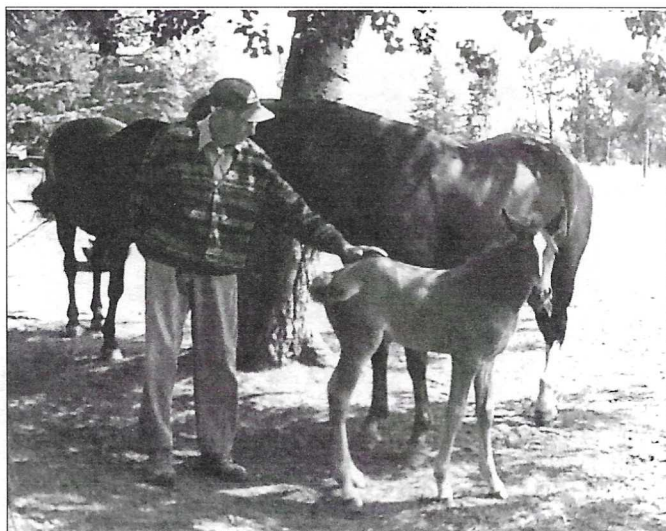
*Above* Karla with the filly minutes after birth, and *above right* at about a week of age.

SORREL FILLY (Karlas Hustler x Karlas Black Gypsy Charm) born July 1.  
Karla Hansen Freeman, Ponoka, AB.

PALOMINO FILLY (*right*)  
(Uphill Heir Trigger x Karla's Karmel)  
Born June 30. Owned by  
Tammy Walker, Lacombe, AB.  
Shown here at a few hours old learning about  
human touch from Karla .

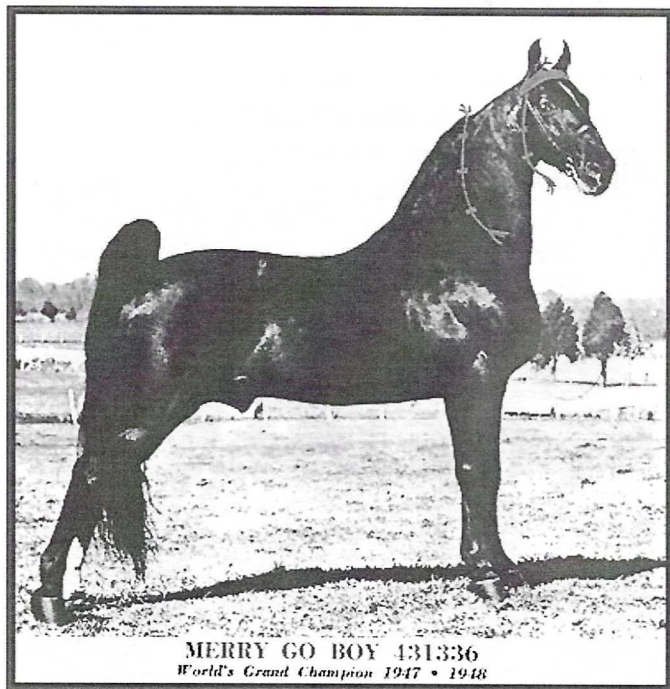


SORREL FILLY (*left*)  
(Uphill Heir Trigger x Northfork She'za Legacy  
by Walkien Jesse Skywalker)  
Bred by Jack Gurnett, Northfork Farm,  
Bluffton, AB  
owned by Marjorie Lacy, Uphill Farm, Edson, AB  
Here Jack teaches her  
how good it feels to be scratched!





## THE 'GO BOY' HEIRS by Franne Brandon



In the mid to late forties, two black stallions rose to prominence in the walking horse breed due to their performances in competition at the breed's new showcase, Shelbyville's Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration. Representing the Wilson's Allen line was the great black stallion named Midnight Sun. Smaller, fine, and very pretty, Merry Go Boy gave him competition from the young stallion's three year old year as he carried the genes of sire Merry Boy into the contest. These two then became, when retired, the premier stallions of the breed, Midnight Sun standing at Harlinsdale Farm in Franklin, Tennessee, while Merry Go Boy reigned supreme at the S.W. Beech Stables near Belfast, Tennessee.

In 1965 Midnight Sun was gone, but Merry Go Boy continued to hold court at Beech Stables. In the county where I was growing up, not even the center of Tennessee Walking Horse activity, no less than three sons of Merry Go Boy were being offered at public stud: handsome red Go Boy's Aristocrat, black Go Boy Determination, and blue sabino Merry Swordsman. Yet today, forty years later, no male descendants of these three are standing at stud. The same can be said in most areas of the United States. A significant stallion in the development of the breed after the formation of a breeder's association, Merry Go Boy has become a relatively rare bloodline in the 21st century. Heirs to the Merry Go Boy legacy are now more abundant in Canada than in the United States where they once were many.

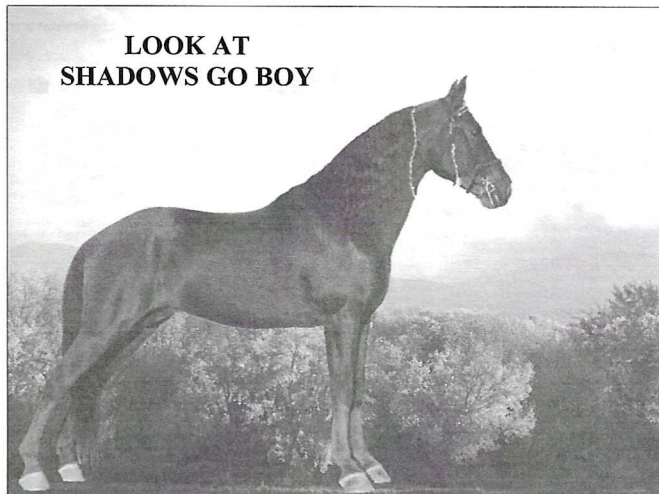
One prominent young son of Merry Go Boy made his way across the Canadian border to establish himself as a leading Canadian sire. Go Boy's Crown Royal\* was the World Grand Champion Weanling in 1968. In Canada, he stood at stud at several farms, and sired sons who continued in the stud. Among these was Kit's Royal Pride, a big, handsome black. When Pride was 25 years old, his owners divorced, and the stallion became, in essence, homeless. That is when Amy Lauzon of Cayley, Alberta, just south of Calgary, stepped in to provide a home for Pride. Amy says "My Go Boy stallion (Kit's Royal Pride) came to us on lease in January 2012 (he was 25 at the time; he was deemed homeless, a consequence of divorce). Pride was a true black, 16 hh and all of 1500 lbs. Truly a gentle giant! Very Puppy-dog-like; there was nothing more magical than riding/handling him; a true gentleman in and out of the breeding pen!" However, Amy took her time learning the ropes of stallion management. She bred only one mare in the spring of 2012, the palomino This Ones for U, Lexie Cole. A red filly, Kit's Ruby Tuesday, arrived the following spring. Severe flooding to the area in the spring of 2013 prompted her decision to pasture breed the mares that year. She recalls "All mares were successfully confirmed in foal. Not too bad for a 27 year old who had always been hand bred!"

Although two colts and four fillies, half black, half red, arrived in the spring of 2014, sadly their sire did not live to see them grow up. Due to his passing in 2013 and other factors, including the deaths of two good mares, Amy has decided to sell her Merry Go Boy heirs, including a yearling stallion prospect out of a Williams Kodiak mare, leaving it to others to maintain the legacy into future generations.





## LOOK AT SHADOWS GO BOY



In the western United States, Diane Bromenschekel of Nampa, Idaho, travelled from her home state to Deep Creek Walkers in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina to look at a grandson of Merry Go Boy named Look at Shadows Go Boy and to meet his owner and breeder. She was not pleased with the fine bone structure of the modern show lines, or the way so many modern-bred horses that she saw toed out. She also firmly believed that gait should be bred in, not created through clinics or trainer's tricks. Diane was pleased with what she saw in this fifteen hand son of Claim Adjuster. She writes "His elegant canter at liberty, his reaching stride behind at a walk, his short back, heavy bone, hard healthy feet, straight legs, and sensible mind, were what I was seeking." She also liked his 28 year old dam, Shadow's Look at Me, by Shadow's High and Mighty, and his get that were available to see. She purchased the teen-aged stallion that had never left the farm where he had been foaled, and had him transported 2,550 miles back to Idaho. Because she wanted to have him Heritage certified, she had Idaho trainer Nya Bates of Bates Gaited Horses in Melba, Idaho, start the stallion under saddle.

Diane remembers that "I bred Red the summer of 2010 to 3 mares and we had 3 nice foals born the following year. In the spring of 2012 we had 2 foals, one out of a William's King daughter and the other out of our Heritage mare, Star's Lady Chocolate (Cricket), a daughter of King Pin. Midnight's Merry Co-Ed (a Heritage mare) foaled a filly this year. Several mares are in foal now for 2016 babies. I plan to show a bit and get my foals where folks can see what a good walking horse is. I look back to the gaited clinics I attended over the years... a well bred TWH doesn't need gait correction training if they do it naturally. My goal is a horse with beautiful conformation and a natural gait."

While Kit's Royal Pride and Look at Shadows Go Boy are top line grandsons of Merry Go Boy, perhaps the very youngest of the Merry Go Heirs was sired by a great-grandson, Go Shadow Go, double bred to the most famous of the Merry Go Boy sons to win the World Grand Championship, Go Boy's Shadow. Dianne Little of Calgary is a well-known clinician and a lover of all breeds of horses. Her personal riding mare, Uphill Penny By Chance, meets all her criteria for an ideal riding horse. And Dianne firmly believes that the best mares should have the chance to pass on their genetic legacies. In the early summer of 2014, Dianne bred her palomino mare, from the Trigger Jr. lines, to a stallion that she had known and loved when boarding many decades ago, a stallion that is now deceased, but whose genetic legacy lives on in semen frozen before his passing (see article on pages 8-11). Go Shadow Go was a black stallion by Shadow's Brantley, a Go Boy's Shadow son, and out of a Go Boy's Shadow mare. He is intensely linebred to Merry Go Boy, with a pedigree similar to that of Look at Shadows Go Boy. Penny foaled a jet black colt, one that has captured the attention of everyone at the barn where the mare and foal board.

Dianne has yet to register the young foal. His barn name is Buddy. She says "He is in my opinion (and that is a very biased opinion) a very fine foal. His disposition is wonderful as is his acceptance of the world and people. He has been handled in quiet ways. I am fortunate that my dear friend Leslie Hunchuk is allowing Penny and Buddy to live with her during these formative times. Leslie is the best aunt one could hope for... Buddy has had a lot of people watching his every move each day since birth. He is used to being the star attraction." Buddy's future is as yet undecided. If Dianne keeps him he will be gelded, since boarding barns generally do not accommodate stallions. (See Buddy on pages 1,10 & cover.)

Kit's Royal Pride, Look at Shadows Go Boy, and Go Shadow Go continue forward the legacy left behind at the death of Merry Go Boy in the summer of 1969. For those who favor the looks, style, and attitude that Merry Go Boy represented, their descendants will be some of the last of the Merry Go Heirs. Hopefully, other breeders will carry on the tradition, so that the famous Merry Go Boy bloodline will flourish in the future instead of becoming just a memory of the past.

\*We will feature the story of GO BOY'S CROWN ROYAL in our next issue. He left many more 'Go Boy Heirs', mostly sired when owned by Jayne Walker, under the management of the McDonalds in Pouce Coupe, BC.



## HONEY BABE'S STORY by Susan Jaeger

HONEY BABE was foaled June 2, 1995, out of the Welsh Pony mare, Diamond's Snowbird and sired by the TWH stallion, Honey Boy's Rebel. Mary Henderson of Tees, AB registered her as an American Walking Pony. A solid bay, 13:3 hh mare, Babe was sold as a four year old, but proved to be too much pony for her inexperienced lady rider. She was turned out on pasture with a Mammoth Jack. She never did get in foal but unfortunately foundered on the grass.

In the spring of 2004 I saw Babe in the small pen where she had been kept for a number of years. Badly foundered, she had very long "Turkish slippers" on all four feet and the hind hooves also grew out over 12 inches - sideways! Always up for a challenge, I brought her home. By the end of the summer she was almost sound. By Christmas I was riding her regularly, and by the next spring her feet were completely normal. But she always had to be kept off grass, and in 2006 I sent her to my friend Joyanne as a companion to a foundered Morgan mare. Joyanne managed the two perfectly, and Babe became the favorite Pony Club mount for her two sons, Spencer and Nicholas. With her speed and agility she really excelled in games. In 2009 she was selected by the Australian team as one of their mounts for the International Prince Philip Games in Calgary, which they won.

Now 20 years old, Babe is still used regularly in Pony Club (she can jump 3' 3") and Mounted Games. Although she never showed any sign of gait, she has a huge forward walk and trot, and a bold, "never-say-die" attitude that keeps her as a favorite ride. Babe now lives with the Goodliffe family near Busby, AB, with an assortment of other ponies and horses.

*Below and above right: Babe with Morwenna Goodliffe competing at Mounted Games.*



### A SIDE NOTE ON FOUNDER

I have seen many foundered horses and ponies in my forty plus years as a farrier, and I can honestly say that most can be brought back to soundness with correct feeding and management, combined with regular correct trimming.

Foundered horses are high maintenance and should never be turned out on grass again, even for short periods (except in winter). So the main problem I face is convincing the owners to keep the foundered horse off pasture in spring, summer and fall. This can be tough – who wants to buy feed with all that grass out there? And it is just so much easier to turn them out.

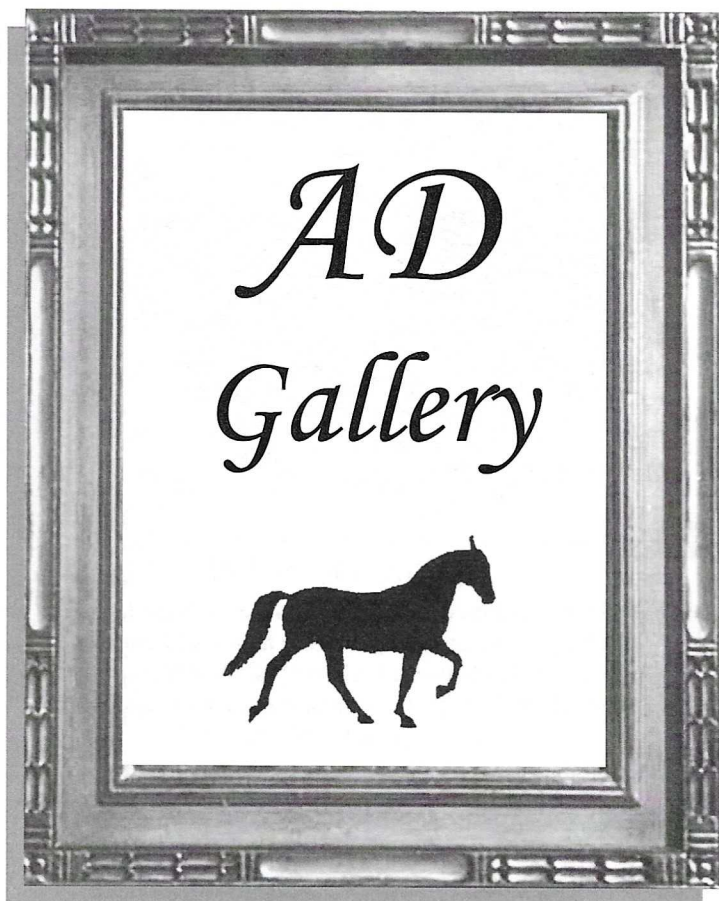
But even horses that have never foundered can get too fat and are often in a constant state of 'micro-founder'. It doesn't take much - just a little rain, then a couple of days of sunshine to load that grass with sugars, and tip them over the edge into full-blown laminitis.

So my advice to horse owners is - save your pasture for the winter, and feed low sugar hay or cubes the rest of the year. Your horse will stay sound and you won't have to deal with the long-term heartache and effects of founder.

*Susan Jaeger has been a farrier for over 40 years and has seen and treated many cases of founder.*

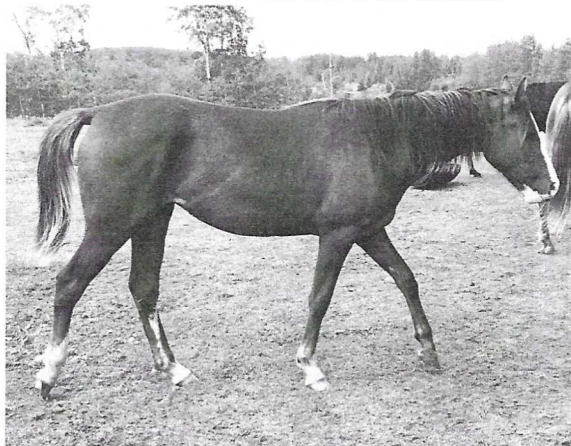
PS: Further to the History and Heritage articles in the Feb & April WHN, I was looking through an old *Western Horseman* (January 1974) and the very first ad in the 'Horses for Sale and at Stud' column was Pearl Tompkins advertising Shadow's Brantley and Go Shadow Go! S.J.





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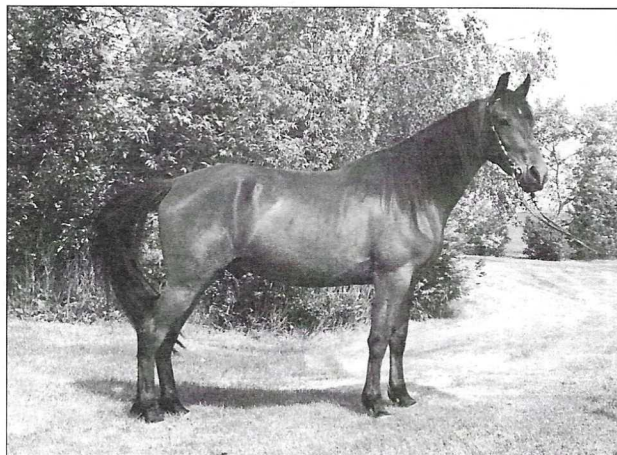
(Above right.) 8 years old, 15:2 hh.

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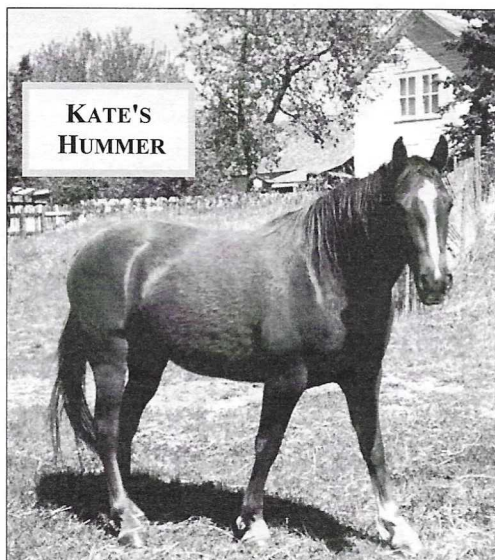
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(If this one does not suit you we have another big four year old  
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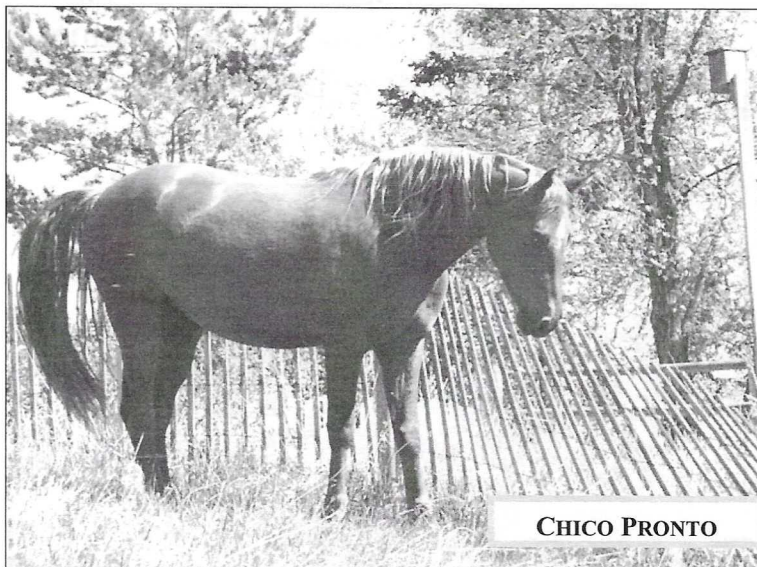
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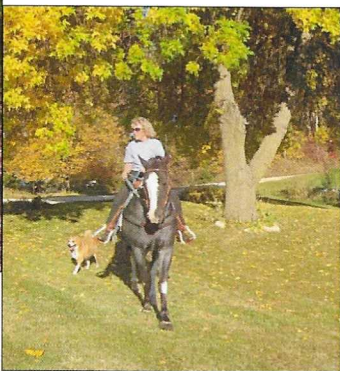
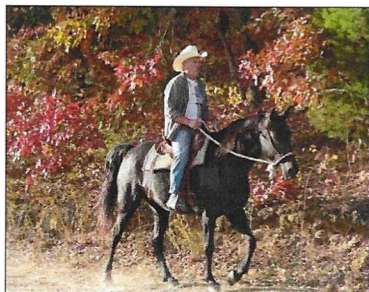
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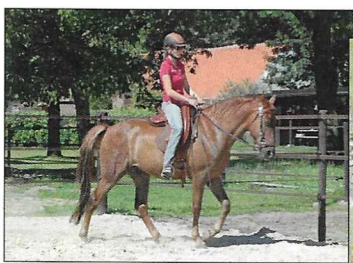


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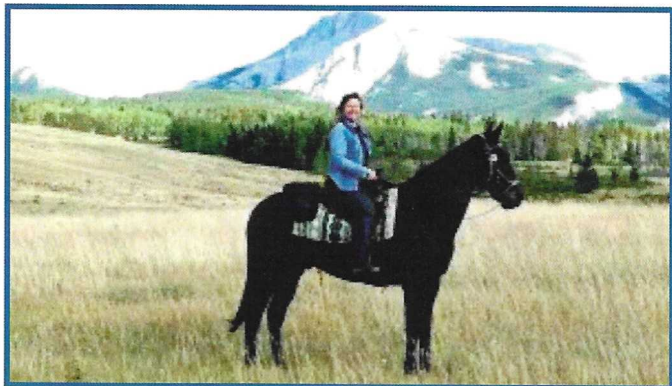
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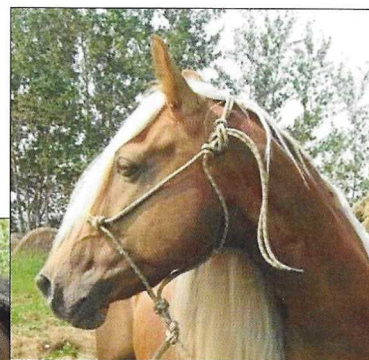
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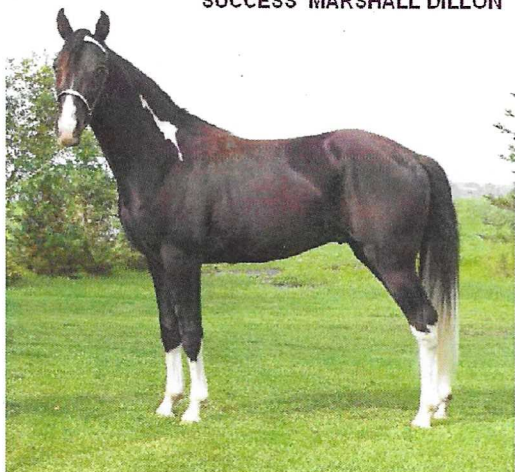
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