



APRIL 2015
VOLUME XXXIX No. 2

Walking Horse News



DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN - SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE SINCE 1977



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On Our Cover

Hannah McDonald,
Pouce Coupe, BC
has a "fence chat" with
Victorian
Quatro Luna Z,
a 2006 bay
tobiano mare.
Luna seems just
as curious about this
"human foal"
as Hannah is
about Luna.
See page 15 for more
pictures of
"Fun on the Farm".

Photo courtesy of
Jo-Anne McDonald

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for Mar/Apr issue
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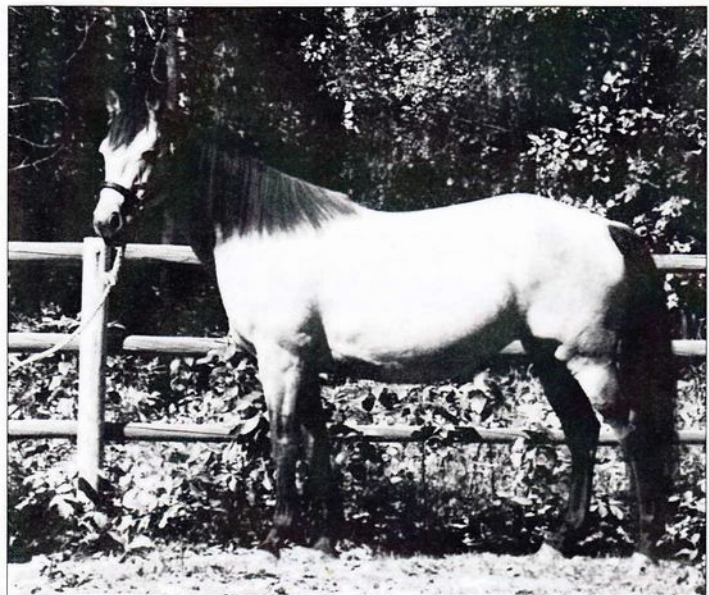
Dear Subscribers,

It is (supposed to be) the first day of spring as I write, and it is snowing as if it's never going to stop. Just another of Nature's little jokes, I guess, after an unseasonably mild March. We don't have to worry about getting bored with the weather here in the Alberta foothills!

I always enjoy the connections that come up as I put together an issue. This time, for example, Topaz Merry Go was mentioned in the News - and then in came an ad for one of his sons from Gale Allan. The story from Fran Brandon about Grey John, foaled 'way back in 1863 led to Allanna Jackson's story of his descendant, Mischievous Secret, and to Honey Boy's Rebel, a 1976 born stallion that we owned. Below is one of his daughters, still living here at Uphill Farm with two of *her* daughters. And the gelding,, Northfork Sundancer, that Jack Gurnett just lost, was a son of Rebel's and thus traces back to Grey John as well. To me, connections like this are one of the fascinations of registered horses.

We have a great mix of training, health, history, how-to, plus news, fun photos and ads, so hope you enjoy the issue. Thank you to everyone who contributed. Let's have a note, question or opinion from your place for next time. I'll look forward to hearing from you.

Marjorie



WHN makes a
great gift!

April, 2015

Walking Horse News

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

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*ANY NEWS AT YOUR PLACE?
Sold a horses, new foals? Let's hear from you!*

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*Thank you for advertising in
WALKING HORSE NEWS!*

HISTORY & HERITAGE PROJECT

MORE ON PEARL TOMPKINS from *The Canadian Times of the TWH* by Dianne Little

PEARL & the BREEDER'S ASSOCIATION

Pearl did more than a favour for the future of the Walking Horse in her area. As she relates the story of her first trip to Tennessee, the colour rises in her cheeks and her voice becomes strong and resonant. Although she can't recall exactly when that historic meeting with the Board of Directors of the Breeder's Association took place, she remembers well what brought her there.

"The first meeting I went to in Tennessee, I went down there because that outfit in Tennessee was going to fix it so we up there in Montana didn't have any registered horses. There was only one thing for anybody to do in our bunch, and I got elected to go down there and meet 'em. They didn't have any more idea how big this country is than flying. When they found out we were trying to get our colts registered up there where I was, in the frozen north, they told us what we ought to do."

"They said, 'You just get a couple of guys together and go out and bring in all them horses and we'll just send our crew up there, a couple of guys in a pickup, and you just bring all your horses to this one place and then we'll inspect 'em and we'll register them and everythin' just goin'ta be hunky dory."

"Imagine!"

"I said, 'If you guys do what you think you're going to do, you're going to kill the Walking Horse in our country and Canada. And they said, 'Oh, we don't have to worry about Canada..'"

"That's what they said, right there in that meeting. They didn't have any idea what they were talking about. And look what Canada's done."

Apparently, Pearl made her point. Those fellows in the pickup truck never did show up in Montana.

(Pearl bought her first registered TWH in 1957.)

GEMS FROM PEARL

Pearl once said, "It (breeding Walkers) is something my whole darn life is tied up in."

"I'm a firm believer in bloodlines."

"I saw a two year old filly that was good enough to be a 'suitcase' to bring up a Go Boy's Shadow horse," Pearl said.

"I knew you could get a monstrosity when you bred that close, but I could afford to knock one in the head. You can ask any of the ole time breeders and they'll tell you that if you hit it, you hit the jackpot."

"The mark of a good stallion is his colts as a rule," Pearl says "I never envisioned in my wildest dream having the horses I now have," she said, "but Shadow's Brantley was the greatest thing that happened to my business, because if it wasn't for him I would never have had any of my four studs. He didn't look like much, he was a little thin," Pearl said, "but I fattened him up until I darn near killed him!"



Pearl and Helen Williamson in 1988 when Pearl's friends, Jo-Anne McDonald & Jo Kingsland took her on a Canadian Tour to visit 'her' horses. Jo-Anne took Pearl north & Jo drove her home to MT.

“I think it’s the best place in the world to raise ‘em (foals)”. You don’t have near the problems you have down south, particularly worms and face flies. Also you have trouble getting mares in foal down there. I think the national average is 50% or 60%, but here I hardly ever lose a colt.”

“In all the years I’ve raised horses I’ve never yet had a vet have to help a colt out of a mare. Exercise is what they have to have,” she pointed out. “The ones that have trouble are the ones kept in a small lot, and can’t get out and exercise,” Pearl added. “And I’ll tell you another theory you can read in the books that is wrong,” she emphasized, “They say this mare’s going to have a colt, so she’s gone off and hid herself. Mares don’t go off and hide, not many, every once in a while one will. Most of them want to be right there where the rest of the mares are, because those others will protect her. I’ve had dozens of instances to prove that.”

When asked why she gelded a particular horse, she replied simply, “Well you don’t keep *all* studs.”

“They (TWH) make just darned good cow horses. They can do anything any Quarter Horse can do, only they do it easier. That’s what I’ve always said – they just do it easier. And if you’ve never ridden a real good cow horse, well, you’ve still got the biggest thrill of your life comin’.”

DR. BOB WOMACK ON PEARL TOMPKINS

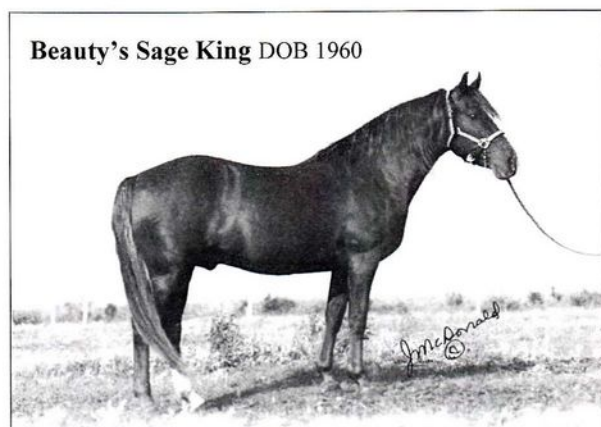
“As I see it, Pearl Tompkins was one of the main outlets for the Walking Horse in the Northwest,” said Dr. Bob Womack. She was one of the first to import Walking Horses into that area on a pretty good scale. And it goes without saying that she has the reputation of being honest in her dealings with horses. She used to come back (to Tennessee) to buy horses that she would take back to Montana. She always tried to get those horses into the hands of people who would appreciate them. She engineered the horse pretty well up in that area. When she put her approval on a horse, it meant something. She has certainly played a prominent role. Pearl Tompkins truly loves the Walking Horse. I believe she feels she does people a favour by introducing them to the Walking Horse. And she rejoices with the owner when she sells a colt and it’s a success.”

Just a few of the horses Pearl bred that had a strong influence on the Tennessee Walkers in Western Canada.



**Laddie's
Monte Ray**
DOB 1968

Ray went from Pearl’s to Allan Ball in Saskatchewan first, then to Chapmans in Alberta, and finally to McDonalds in BC. He has 24 offspring listed in the Canadian Registry, among them sons Kary’s Jeepers and Prairie Breeze.

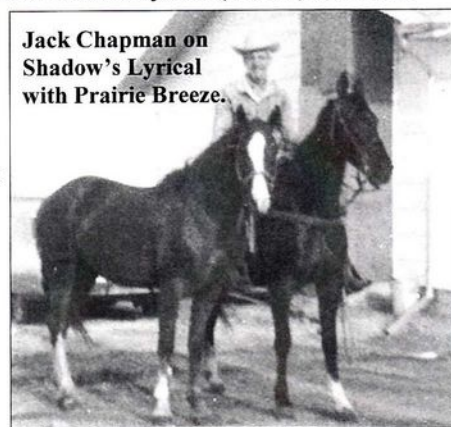


Beauty's Sage King DOB 1960

King went from Montana to the Stanley-Clarks in BC and then to McDonald Farms in northern BC. King has 28 offspring registered with CRTWH.

The mare Shadow’s Lyrical (Darkie) DOB 1969

had several sons that became important sires, such as Darkie’s Last Chance, Chapie’s Shadow King, Chapie’s Topper & more.



**Jack Chapman on
Shadow's Lyrical
with Prairie Breeze.**

ALBERTA NEWS

BRENDA BAKER, CALGARY, writes, "You asked your readers in the December *WHN* what an ideal horse was to us. This is a picture of Charis Cooper and her TWH mare, Trinkette, up on the hill overlooking Mesa Butte west of Millarville. This mare by Topaz Merry Go and out of Chicklette was raised on our place where I started her myself, riding her for about three years in the mountains before Charis Cooper decided she belonged on her place."



"Trinkette is exactly what I like in a riding horse BUT I am far too big to look right on her! No one laughed at me while I was riding her but I'm sure all my riding partners were being polite. As you can see above, Charis looks just right on her."

"Yet another horse I really liked riding and who was the right size for me, was Hombre. He would even try to "help" me get up onto his back by cocking his near hind leg so he wouldn't seem as tall as his 15.2 hh."

From DENNIS NIEDERMOSER, ORAS TENNESSEE WALKERS, ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE, "Please send Bonnie Desmet of Stony Plain a year's subscription to *WHN*, and I would like to renew mine for another two years. Bonnie purchased a very sweet filly with lots of chrome. Of course it goes very well with the rest of her seeing as she is black. I hope they have lots and lots of miles together. A very nice horse for a very nice lady!"

From KARLA HANSEN-FREEMAN, PONOKA, "Well here it is, Spring! and daylight saving time change already! I had back surgery last fall, and am happy to be back in the saddle at last, even though it's still SO very icy out there. But the days are longer and have been warmer around here."

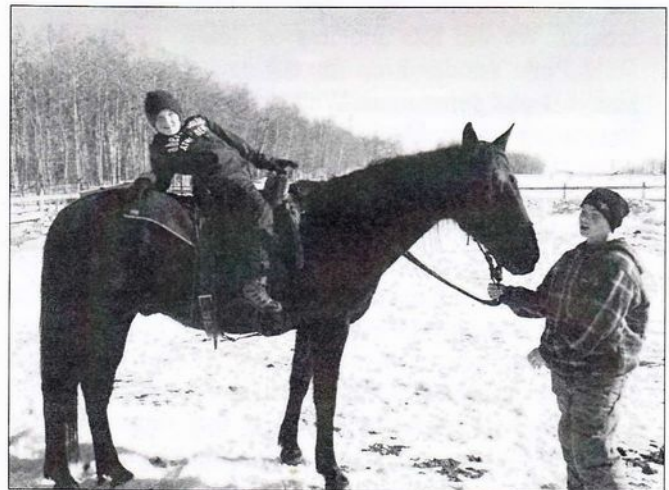
"I sure enjoyed the Alberta Breeders and Owners conference - that was all the way back in early January. I especially liked the seminar on the science of how the horse's brain works. The speaker debunked many commonly held fallacies. I found it interesting to learn that horses Do Not have a frontal lobe, so they don't have the capacity to plan ahead... or be sneaky and get you back (although I still think Mules must have that). I found it interesting that the reason why the methods of training I use work is because of the way the horse's brain works, and that basically they strive to do nothing except be comfortable and eat. Also, the need people seem to have to personify their animals is one of our (humans) great faults. Oh yes, and that horses have a temperature range where they are not hot or cold, just in balance where they are not losing energy keeping warm. Of course sick or debilitated animals are exceptions. So just because we think they should be cold, doesn't mean they are."

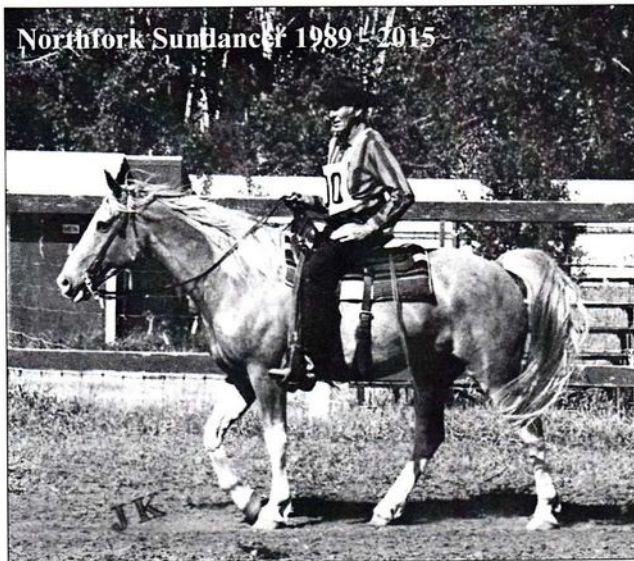
I have been enjoying my 2014 colt, Merlin. He is learning so quickly and easily. It is clear to me why I enjoy raising Walkers and how I became so enthralled with this fabulous breed."

"I am looking forward to the Mane Event April 24 to 26 this spring, and hope to see you there."

"I have had the pleasure of giving some youngsters lessons with the horses this winter, and it always makes me happy to see the enjoyment the horses bring out, and the kids' wonderful enthusiasm."

Below are brothers Matthew and Anthony with Ken (Karlas Special Knight)."





JACK GURNETT, NORTHFORK FARM, BLUFFTON, wrote, "Thank you for putting the picture of Northfork Sundancer #760 at the Tees Festival on the Registry page. Sadly, he went on to greener pastures yesterday, March 4. Sundancer was one month short of 26 years of a good life."

"Together we had fun at functions like the Festival of Gaits as shown in the photo; we enjoyed working with cattle in the sorting pens and on the trail, and we stood in awe and appreciation as high mountains and deep valleys unfolded before us from our high pass vantage point."

"Sundancer was a good horse and will be missed."

FRAN KERIK, TWO HILLS, writes, "Spring seems just around the corner with above zero temperatures by the second week of March. Let's hope it stays! We kidded out almost 50 goats; 90 plus babies during the cold spell at the end of February. Let me tell you, I don't want to do that again!"

"Had a fantastic summer last year on the ranch. A wonderful young lady from Holland joined us for three months; she was a total joy to have around. We did lots and lots of riding, including the Wild Pink Yonder Ride for six days with Irene Verbisky. I met some more Walker owners, including the top money raiser. Hugh is 76 years young and rides a very large Walker gelding. Apparently he's being joined for this year's ride by another senior who also rides a large Walking horse gelding."

"Plans for this year are taking shape. I will be at The Canadian Registry Booth for all three days of the Mane Event, and look forward to meeting you there. The Registry is also hosting another clinic with Bill Roy in May at Klondike Victory Stables, and CRTWH will have our AGM at that time. Brenda Woodall-Reimer and I will be outside helping anyone who wants to do their video taping for the Training

Levels and/or the Program For Excellence (Bronze, Silver, Gold)."

"I have a few horses to start - one 10 year old mare, and one young mare (LOL) and need to put trail miles on the rest. I have just sent one mare to the feedlot rider to get some hours on her. They get exposure to EVERYTHING there, and come back pretty unflappable."

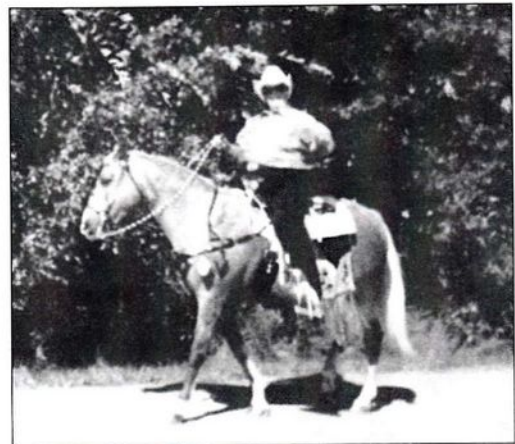
"We (Brenda and I) are planning a trip to the Ya Ha Tinda the second week in August. I am planning to get some of the trail challenge miles in and the obstacles videoed with Brenda's help. We are inviting everyone to join us, whether you want to get some taping done, or just take in some awesome riding. We are planning a pot luck supper and hope someone will bring instruments for campfire singing."

"Allen's Midnight Rascal, my senior stallion, has gone to live with Shawna Kully for a few years. He is going to enjoy being spoiled by her! He will have a large pasture to run in and will also have some mares to court."

"I am expecting two foals this spring, one from Rascal and one from Mel (CSR Gold Fever)."

"I also sold CSR Rascal's NorthernStar to Katrin Lehman of Valleyview, AB. She was very excited to buy this good black gelding and I trust that they will have very many happy trails together. Two youngsters also left my ranch for a new home. Joyce Bianoski purchased the black filly, CSR Flicker of Light, and the gold champagne colt, CSR Golden Dream Catcher. Congratulations on these fine young horses. Please send a copy of the WHN to these new TWH owners."

JOAN PENNER



We are very sad to tell you that Joan Penner passed away on January 5, 2015. A celebration of her life was held on January 19 at Evansburg, AB.

Joan owned TWH for many years. I believe her first one was Willy Walk Zepher, a 1989 red chestnut son of Go Shadow Go x Zepher's First Lady #100.

More recently she enjoyed riding her palomino mare Walkaway Golden Honey in parades, *above*.

OUR DRIVING JOURNAL

Entry 5 by Brenda and Stephen Woodall

Most of this past winter was spent educating the driver rather than the horse. Once Grace had her first six driving sessions under her belt she was traveling along like an old pro and the only major challenges encountered were driver and cart issues. So it was time for *me* to go to school as well as start shopping for a proper driving cart.

My first resource for help was Bill Fraess. He spent a number of hours with me to fine-tune the fit of my harness to my horse, and then helped me drive with gentle steady hands. I sure appreciate all of the time that Bill has invested in helping me drive; without him I wouldn't have gotten this far in this time frame.

I then took part in a beginner driving clinic in Olds, hosted by the Chinook Carriage Driving club.

I was very excited about this opportunity to ask others all the questions I had been

formulating over the past months. I arrived with my note pad of questions, my clip board and pen, and was all ears. The one day clinic was designed as an introduction to driving and most of it was done in a classroom setting. We were taught about harness and carriage parts, rein handling, how to properly fit a harness, vehicle balance, and overall safety. Everyone in the club was very helpful and encouraging to the new drivers. I highly recommend that all new drivers get involved with a club to increase your resources for information. Just like riding, the more you learn the more you realize how much there is to learn. The two biggest things that I personally took away from the clinic were:

Harness Fit: It can take hours to fine tune the adjustments on your harness for a proper fit. Take your time and make sure it is right.

Vehicles: There are a lot of vehicle choices. I need to decide where and how I enjoy driving so that I can choose the vehicle best suited for that activity.

I had taken my harness along with me to the clinic and I was assured that it was suitable for the driving I would be doing if it was adjusted properly to my horse. But I still needed to decide upon a cart and decide where I wanted to do my driving. At the clinic they showed pictures of club members participating in driving competitions of various styles and that really piqued my interest. Where I live the only driving available would be down an open dirt road and that does not interest me, but setting up a cone course in my horse pasture to practice for future competitions does. I can clearly see myself spending my free time at home cruising around a pasture obstacle course in a cart with a big smile on my face. Deciding what type of driving I wanted to do suddenly became a big catalyst to my learning because up until then I really didn't know how this experience of learning to drive

was going to look once both my horse and I were safe to leave the yard. My motivation increased dramatically once that idea was planted in my mind.



Many different carts are suitable for the driving competitions but some will hold up better than others. This helped me eliminate a few of my low priced options while my budget weeded out many of the fancier options that the more experienced drivers might be using. So I was now looking for a sturdy, well balanced, easy-entry and budget friendly cart.

As part of my education and cart shopping I spent time at two different locations that sell harnesses, carts, and carriages - Cloverbar Carriages in Sherwood Park, AB and Equi-Market Harness and Tack in Okotoks, AB. Each of these locations taught me something new about the fit of my harness and gave helpful tips for adjusting the fit plus small things to purchase for added safety features. Both locations also promoted the Roberts exercise cart which was a vehicle already recommended to me by a fellow driver. I then called around to a number of Alberta's other carriage suppliers and searched the internet for cart options available through them. There are many fabulous options, so narrowing down what you want

to accomplish and how much you can spend before you start looking makes it less overwhelming.

And then as a final check I also used fellow driving acquaintances as a resource for choosing a driving cart. Alynn Ward, a fellow Tennessee Walker owner, was driving the very same Roberts cart that I was considering buying when I met her at the Ya-Ha-Tinda. She was able to give me first hand pro's and con's of the vehicle. I discussed this cart with a member of the Chinook Driving Club and then I also ran the choice past Windi Derman as she has a wide range of experience and she has also seen the cart in action. All my resources agreed that it was a great cart for my budget so I moved forward with my purchase with confidence. I won't have the cart in my possession until April and I hope that the weather allows me to use it by then as well. I'm actually extremely excited about this purchase; it feels like "Christmas in Spring"!



Above: Alynn Ward driving Rocky using a Roberts cart like I bought; Windi Derman on Brick.

Along with all this education I was taking in, I did do a small amount of driving with Grace in the training cart. I took the tractor out to the horse pasture and cleared snow, making an outside ring path, then two circles of 20 meters inside of that. This allowed us to practice the skills required for the Level 2 Driving Challenge in the training cart despite the snow. Then with Stephen's assistance, we videoed the pattern we had practiced. We went on to try the skills required for Level 3 but here we ran into too many challenges with our cart set-up, and decided that it was best to wait until the new cart could be used.

I am excited about this upcoming summer and all the opportunities I hope to have, learning more about driving and participating with other drivers in competitions as well as leisure activities. There are so many clinics and events to attend that a person could book themselves for every weekend in summer!

BRITISH COLUMBIA NEWS

JUDY TAYLOR, PRITCHARD, writes, "I can't believe how I've let this subscription lapse. Please send me the Jan/Feb 2015 issue – I don't want to miss a one. I'd intended to send a photo from last summer of my old horse, but it's not where it's supposed to be. He's had a good winter, thanks in part to the mild temperatures and his soaked feed (beet pulp and hay cubes), with added Senior pellets and vitamin and mineral supplements. His teeth are too worn for a strictly hay diet."

ONTARIO NEWS

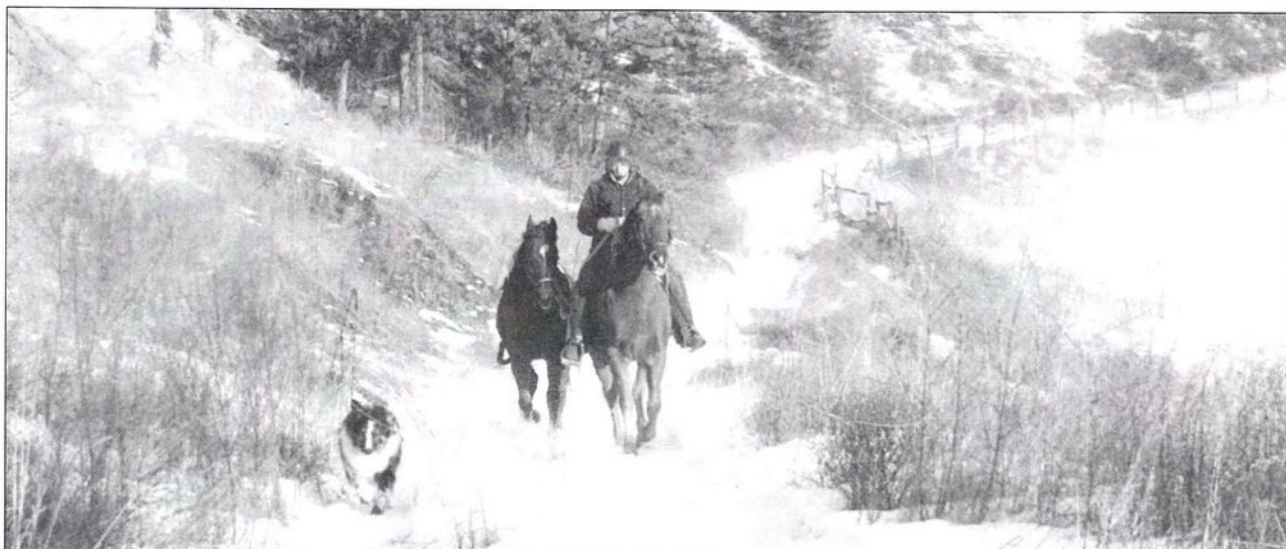
From DENISE HAM, DORION, "Please renew my subscription and the one for Linda Pearen. Couldn't live without the *Walking Horse News*! One day I will start writing some 'News from Ontario' stories! We are busier than ever. My step-daughter has been training some Walking Horses and my seven year old daughter also rides one (my 27-soon-to-be 28-year-old mare from the Johnsons (in Lethbridge, AB?). The girls drag me out riding, rain or shine! Happy 2015 to all."

SASKATCHEWAN NEWS

GALE ALLAN, STOUGHTON, writes, "It has been quite a while since I wrote *WHN* so here is a catch-up note. In October 2012 I went to a Larry Surret School in Minnesota, taking a five year old gelding. His only training was that he'd had his feet trimmed twice and was slightly halter trained. This was a three week course. The first two weeks were school work and ground work, starting at 8:00 am and finishing at 5 to 6 pm each day. At the end of two weeks we were able to get on our horses and be ponied out on trails in a wildlife park. By the end of that ride my horse was willing and confident going through water, over bridges, up and down steep hills and over logs. Most of the last week was more riding and ground work and two more rides into the park."

The nice part about this training was that after a winter of no riding, I was able to take this horse on a three day trail ride in June of 2013 and still feel safe. It also gave me the know-how to keep this horse moving forward."

"In the spring of 2014 I sold most of my horses (eleven) to Marsha Trinder. Thanks, Marsha. I still have eight horses and am looking for homes for four of them. I have decided to do more trail riding and visiting with friends, and less chores!"



'SPRING TRAINING CAMP' FOR HORSES AND RIDERS by Bill Roy

With the coming of spring, lots of us start looking forward to trail riding. However, many of us, due to the weather conditions, are not able to keep our horses or ourselves in trail riding condition over winter. So *now* is the time to start.

While you are cleaning your tack, check for wear and mend or replace the worn pieces. It's also better to get your horse's regular health maintenance - shots, parasite control and dental maintenance - over with before the hard work begins. This is also a good time to get your farrier or barefoot trimmer out to trim hooves, catching any problems now so you have time to fix them before the trails open.

Does your saddle fit? Check it now *before* it can cause problems.

With their winter hair falling out, horses get itchy and love to be brushed. This is a great chance to check your horse out. Be thorough, take your time, and look on the grooming as part of the training and bonding between you. The grooming should give you a good idea of what conditioning and training needs to be done.

Not all horses winter the same. Some come through the winter fat, others lose weight in the spring ignoring their hay in order to get those first blades of green grass. Now is a good time to start adjusting diet and supplements to support training and weight management. But be sure to start any change in diet slowly, and work up to the change.

Don't expect your horse to start off in the spring exactly where you left off in the fall. Even if you've been able to ride some in the winter, it is not the same as putting in a couple hours in the hills.

Try to start with ground work, then more ground work. Add a short ride, then several short rides. Incorporate some of the challenges you are going to meet on the trails, if you can.

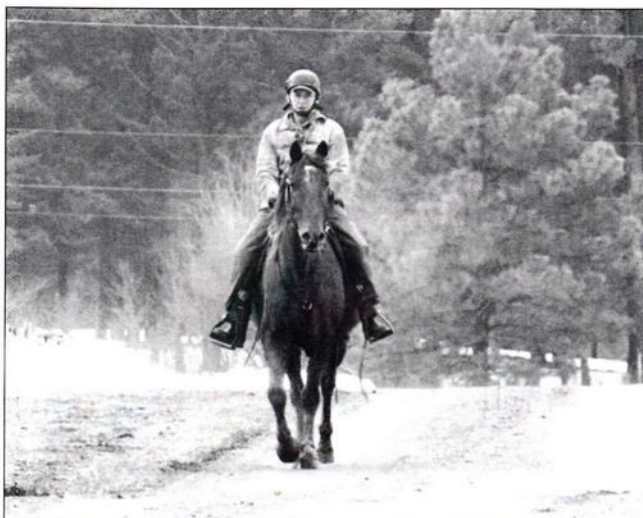
Take your horse for a walk if it is too icy to ride safely.

Ride the road if that's all you have (*below*).

Ponying can help you get two horses in shape, or get the second one in shape after you have the first one started. (*See photo above.*)

Now, how about YOU, the rider? If you haven't ridden all winter, it is important to look at your own conditioning. Get your mind and body ready for the trail. Walk, exercise, do some yoga or stretches. If your horse comes up lame on the trail could you walk home if you had to?

I have an exercise machine but as soon as I can, I'm out checking the trails, walking with my dog, getting my exercise, and staying in shape for when I can ride more. It should be enjoyable, so have fun. Start now, and you and your horse will have lots of happy trails together.



THE PUZZLE OF BOONE'S GREY JOHN:

Challenging the History Records *by Franne Brandon*

The rural counties of Middle Tennessee have been nurseries for the production of fine horse stock for a couple of centuries. The countryside being rugged, full of woods, hills, and rock, it was not the sort of terrain to support a horse that was fragile in nature. The horses bred in this area went to war with their masters when the State of Tennessee seceded from the Union in 1861. Due to its central inland geography and the influence of several rivers, the state was the site of many battles in the middle and western sections. On February 25, 1862, Nashville fell to Union forces, the first state capital of the Confederate States to do so, and after that, most of the area was a conquered territory with Union troops traveling freely from one point to another.

Lincoln County, Tennessee, is a border county with the state of Alabama to its south. Nestled in the north of Lincoln County in 1863 was a small community called Booneville, named, according to J.D. Luna of nearby Petersburg, Tennessee, for a Captain Nathaniel Boone who served as horse master under General Nathan Bedford Forrest. In an article which appeared in The Shelbyville Times-Gazette on August 31, 1939, a week before the very first Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration would be held in Shelbyville on September 7, 8, and 9, Mr. Luna recounted the history of the most famous walking horse foundation stallion that had come from that small town.

According to Mr. Luna, in mid-March of 1863, when Middle Tennessee saw Union activity, a group of Union soldiers passed through the community of Booneville. This group had in its possession a mare of excellent quality, so heavy in foal that she was impeding their movements. Stopping at the Boone farm, the Union men left the mare, took another horse, and rode away. No mention is made in the story of what sort of riding horse the soldiers took with them, other than that the replacement animal was a young one.

Three and a half weeks later, the mare abandoned by the Union cavalry dropped the foal that had slowed her progress. Described as a "blue possum" by the young black boy that announced the foal's arrival to Mrs. Boone, the colt met the approval of her soldier husband when he returned on furlough. Captain Boone is reported to have said "Just let it alone and we will see what kind of horse a damned Yankee colt will make." (Biography of the Tennessee Walking Horse, p. 15). History would prove the wisdom of Captain Boone's decision, for the colt changed from a 'blue possum' to a fine gray stallion that won the approval of many mare owners in the area of Lincoln and Bedford

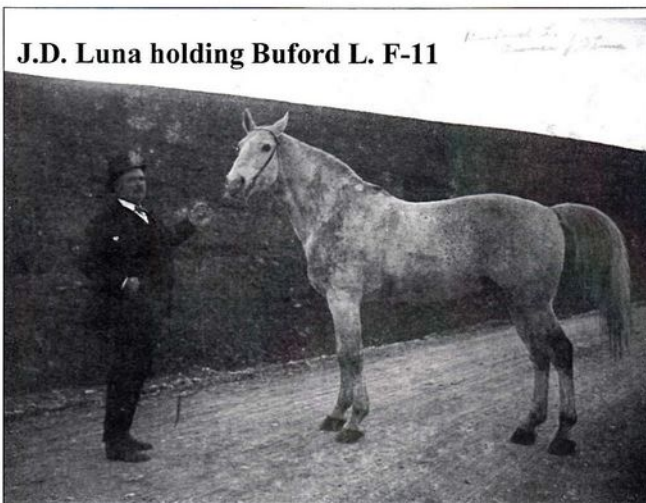
Counties. The stallion spent most of his career in the stud at Booneville, but also stood a season at Petersburg, from which resulted the gray son Buford L., given foundation number F-11 when the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders Association of America was organized in 1935. Luna describes Grey John as "...the walkingest reachy, springy saddlehorse that I have ever seen or heard of." (Biography, p. 15) Captain Boone reported that it took the gray stallion only an hour to walk the eight miles from his home in Booneville to Fayetteville, the Lincoln County seat.

Because Boone's Grey John was a wartime foal, of essentially unknown ancestry, he was without recorded pedigree and was denied a place in the list of Tennessee Walking Horse Foundation Sires and Dams. Ben A. Green, writing in Biography of the Tennessee Walking Horse, records that "...legends say that Grey John was a product of Northern bloodlines." (p. 16)

Billy Taylor of Confederate Hills Farms, owner of a number of horses that trace multiple times to the Grey John line, and also a student of the War Between the States, has studied the history of his area during that period. He insists "The articles that I've read about Boone's Grey John indicate that his dam was from one of the Northern states, brought to Tennessee by the Northern Army during the Civil War. I don't think she ever breathed any Northern air. The Northern Army occupied this part of Tennessee from the summer of 1863 until the end of the war. The Yankees came through this area, taking anything of value from the people, including horses. I think Boone's Grey John's dam was taken from a farm, in this area, and used until she was of no value to them. They dropped her off at the Boone farm, heavy in foal, and she had her foal a short time later, that was named Boone's Grey John. He was a horse that was considered to be the best running walk horse of his time."

Nancy Bergman of Whitehall, Wisconsin, raised in the Midwest and current President of the Trempleau County Historical Society, agrees with Billy. She says, "I doubt that a cavalryman from either army would have been riding a pregnant mare. Gaited horses were not a northern taste, as far as I can determine. People who liked to have fine buggy horses wanted fast trotters. During the war, the North seemed to have a bigger supply of mounts, but the South was noted for its fine, blooded horses. Midwest farmers wanted horses that were drafty, able to break sod and yank out tree stumps."

No one will ever know what bloodlines produced the grey colt that arrived at the Boone Farm in the spring of 1863. Because the war ended two years later, the colt was able to grow up on that farm and become a noted sire that attracted mares from great distances in an era when mares usually visited the courts of the stallions closest to their farms. Biography states that "Such travel was often difficult but owners thought the trips worth the trouble." (p. 16). Undoubtedly, when a fast, eight miles per hour running walk was the desired gait of the saddle horse that was used daily, Grey John contributed what the mare owners sought to reproduce. Denied foundation status due to the unknown pedigree, Old Grey John was still honored by having his son Buford L. and his grandson Bramlett chosen as the eleventh and ninth Foundation Sires. Although other bloodlines have surged into popularity in recent decades, horses still preserving the genes and sometimes the gray color of Old Grey John continue to contribute their fine qualities to the Tennessee Walking Horse breed.



J.D. Luna holding Buford L. F-11

Albert Dement incorporated the Grey John line into his program through use of the stallion Grey Lad. Grey Lad was crossed with Merry Legs F-4 to produce Snip, whose three most noted offspring were Eagle Chase, June Knight, and Snip's Chance. June Knight, by the Saddlebred, Giovanni, produced the mares Moonlight Romance and Gypsy Hytone, along with stallions Midnight Secret and Midnight On Parade K. Snip's Chance was bred to Wilson's Dean to produce Wilson's Snip's Chance, dam of Sun's Delight D., as well as other notable fillies.

While these and other descendants of Buford L. and Bramlett are found in show horse pedigrees, they are also found in pleasure lines as well from Tennessee to Canada. Uphill Farm's Honey Boy's Rebel was an example. His fourth dam was

Renegar's Walking Lady, who has Grey John stallions on her papers four times. His fifth dam, Della Reese, was from the Bramlett line carried forward by Jake Reese, the black breeder from

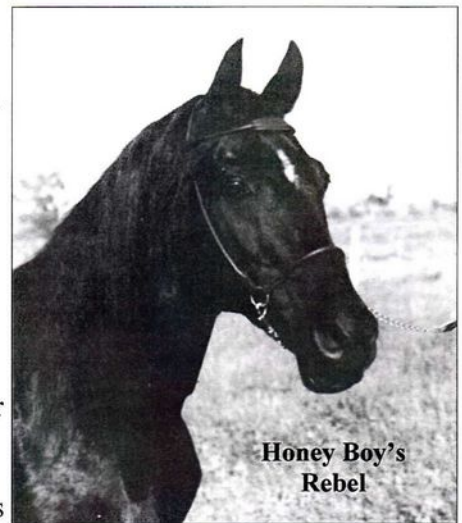
Lincoln County.

Leon Oliver has two mares whose third dam IS Della Reese.

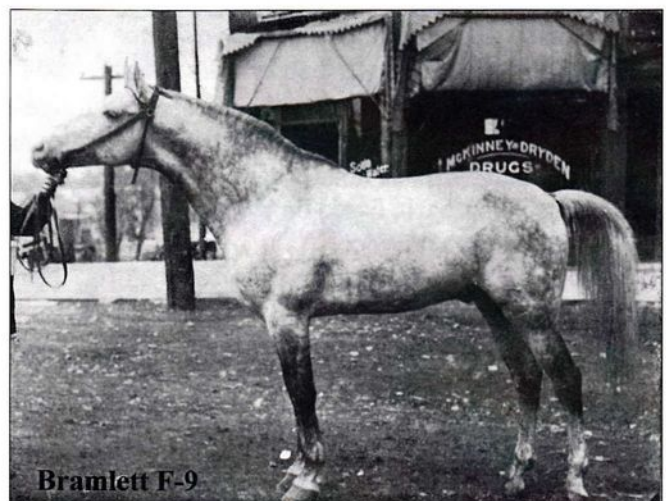
Their dam, Mayflower's Lady, came off the Jake Reese farm, sold after his death.

And the Paige's Echo line of pleasure horses, found in Alabama, California, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Tennessee, Virginia, and Wisconsin, as well as in British Columbia, traces to Grey John through another mare line sired by Red Boy Keith.

The Grey John horses were among the finest walking horses ever produced in Middle Tennessee when good moving horses with plenty of brains were essential for the Southern farmer's lifestyle as well as his livelihood. These lines will continue to persevere within the walking horse breed as long as owners and breeders select descendants possessing the traits that Boone's Gray John, that "walkingest" stallion, passed on to the foals that he sired.



Honey Boy's Rebel



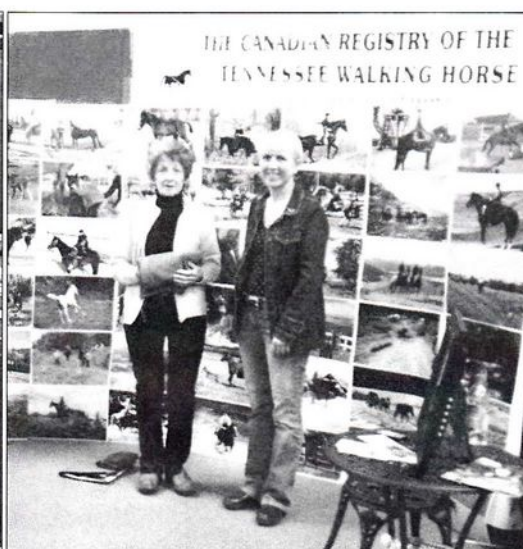
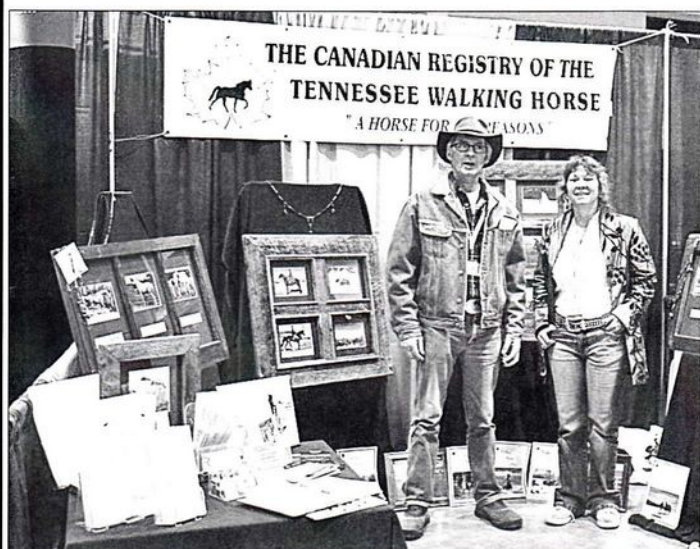
Bramlett F-9

CRTWH BOOTH at MANE EVENT,

Red Deer, AB, April 24 to 26.

Would you like to help out at the booth? Help set it up on the 23rd or take it down on the 26th? Karla and Jessica need help and look forward to hearing from you!

Contact **Karla** at 403-597-7991 or rideeasy@hotmail.ca or email **Jessica** at jlsparrow@shaw.ca
Here are photos of the CRTWH booth and volunteers from past Mane Events.



DIANE SEPT CONNECTED RIDING CLINIC

The dates are June 26, 27 and 28 with private lessons being held for those interested on the Monday the 29th.

The Friday, Saturday and Sunday will be held at Klondike Victory Stables just outside Sylvan Lake and the lessons on Monday will be held at Noisy Hollow Acres.

The 12 rider spots have been filled but we are currently accepting names to be added to our wait list in case of cancellations. Auditors are welcome at \$60 for the weekend for non AWHHA members and \$40 for AWHHA members. Food will be available for an additional fee. Anyone wanting more information can contact me at 403-782-3118 or yonafeda@gmail.com.

Diane's Thoughts on the Gaited Horse

Gaited horse owners have been told for years that shank bits, long toes, weighted shoes, cutback saddles and action devices can correct a horse's gait. Diane's philosophy is a more natural approach, based on balance and elastic connection between horse and rider.

She says "anything else is a quick fix, throwing the horse into just enough imbalances that it has to do some form of a four beat gait. Both the horse and rider end up stiff and sore. Smooth gaited horses are bred with wonderful dispositions and to give us a smooth gait. We must take the responsibility to help them find self-carriage to allow the natural gait and nature to come through."





The Canadian Walker

Volume 14, Issue 2

www.crtwh.ca

www.facebook.com/crtwh

April, 2015

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CRTWH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2015 at 5:30 pm
at Klondike Victory Farm, Sylvan Lake, AB.

Formal notices by letter or email will be sent out to all members by mid April.

A BILL ROY 'GAIT FROM THE GROUND UP' CLINIC

May 9 & 10, 2015 at Klondike Victory Farm, Sylvan Lake, AB.

The clinic is fully booked but we are accepting names in case of cancellations or for a 2nd clinic.

Contact Dianne Little at **403-271-7391** or ddlittle@telus.net.

ASK REGIE

Dear Reggie,

I have many registered horses and I always wonder what happens to the registration papers if I pass away and I don't have a will leaving the horses to someone, and the transfers of course aren't signed.

How do I go about giving someone I trust signing authority for my horses' registration papers?

Do I have to go to a lawyer and have papers stating such drawn up?

Lesa Luchak

Dear Lesa,

That's a very good question and one that most of us don't think about (or just don't WANT to think about).

The answer is that you need to make a will and in it state what you want done with your horses. For example, if you leave everything to one person, the horses, as part of your estate, go to that person. Your executor then has the authority to sign the papers and transfer the animals.

Your Executor must send the CLRC office a certified copy of the will, that shows the name(s) of the Executor(s),

and a certified copy of the death certificate. Registration papers can not be transferred before CLRC has a copy of the Will showing the name of the Executor and a copy of the death certificate.

Even if you do not have a will, the horses are still part of your estate. The estate would be settled according to the laws of your province. Without a will, you will have no say in what happens to the horses. The registration papers may be simply overlooked when the horses are sold or given away.

You could leave instructions with someone you trust as to what you'd like done with the horses, but this will not be legally binding. Again, whoever is the appointed executor would be able to sign the transfers for the horses.

Regie

P.S. How many of you were able find the answers to the questions in the last issue?

1. At what age must foals be registered? *By one year of age would be most economical, but you can register later. It'll just cost more.*

2. Should we be members to register them? *Members are entitled to cheaper fees.*

3. Can we register foals if the parents are U.S. papered? *Yes, you just fill out a regular registration application, but must also include photocopies of both sides of each parent's papers.*

READERS WRITE

Hi,

I have a Pentax Kr camera. My question is: how do I compress movies taken on this camera so that I can send them via email?

Also, how do I submit them to Youtube? As it stands now, I can send only a few seconds of a video which is no good for trying to sell a horse or submit video of a horse for the CRTWH Triple Challenge.

Thanks,

Jo-Anne McDonald

We asked Brandon Dodds, a knowledgeable and talented photographer for his advice. Here is his answer.

Hello Jo-Anne,

Let's split your questions into two parts.

HOW DO I COMPRESS MOVIES SO THEY CAN BE SENT VIA EMAIL?

There are many different programs and ways to compress videos. As a general rule, for taking videos I like to record them in pieces and keep them under a minute or two. It makes sending a whole lot faster, and this way if something happens when recording (especially something as unpredictable as a horse; if it happens to spook for example) you just need to redo that segment and not the entire video.

To make video easier to send you can change the video quality in the Camera settings before recording. To do this go into the camera's main settings, click "video settings", then "Recording settings" "Recording Pixels" or something similar to it. A few sets of numbers should show up. It's best to click the middle option; the middle number keeps the quality but makes it a more email and loading friendly size. On your Pentax Kr it should say "1.6" "0.9" and "0.3", so go with the "0.9" option. It will vary for other cameras but it should be something similar.

To compress the video you need some time of editing program. One of the most popular and easiest is Windows Movie Maker. To start with Windows Movie Maker, open it, import the video file, drag it to the timeline that is on the bottom, click "File", choose a location for the file and then click "Save Movie

File". Go through the rest of the saving process until you see the Movie Setting Section. When you see this, hit the "Other Settings" option and go to "Video for Broadband" and Select 340 kpbs. Finish Saving and you are done!

There are many other programs available; some free and others you buy. The best way to find information on them is to research online. There are many good sites with rundowns on lots of different programs.

As far as I know, and what I found online, is that the size restriction for Youtube is 20GB but you can get up to 128GB if needed. 15 minutes and under is the time limit, but again you can use more if needed; you just need to follow the steps that come up.

HOW DO I POST VIDEOS OF MY HORSES ON YOUTUBE?

YouTube is a great way for you to advertise your business, as people all over the world can view it, and what makes it even better is how user friendly it is. The first step is creating a gmail account (free email from google). If you don't already have one it is a quick and easy process. Then go to Youtube and in the top right corner there should be something that says "sign in". Use your gmail address and password here.

From there you can create a profile or "channel" by following the instructions and answering the basic questions that come up. You can always change the look of your channel whenever you like. Then all you need to do is click upload, select the video you wish to use, add a title, description and tag it so people can find it. In a few moments your first video will be up. (There are copyright rules regarding the use of music and other things in videos so make sure you read up on those.)

"Tagging" just means what the video is about, so people can search for it. "Tennessee Walking Horse", "Running Walk", "TWH", "Woodhill Walkers" are just some examples. If I were putting up a video of Bill riding Penny, for example, it could be called something like "Running Walk of a Tennessee Walking Horse" and you would tag it with "Horse" "TWH" "Gold Award" "CRTWH" "Bill Roy" and words like that, and then the video would come up when people searched "Bill Roy". I hope that makes sense!

Have fun with it and good luck

Brandon Dodds

Fun on the Farm with Our Walkers

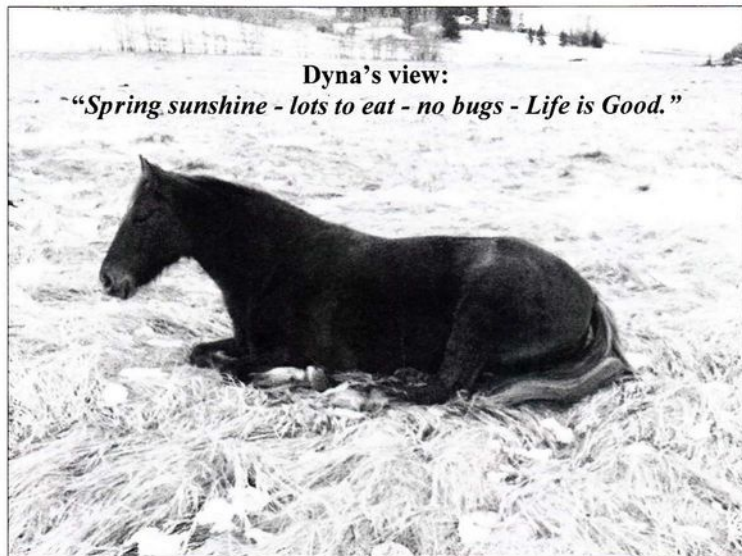


Some people pursue a hobby. Others are pursued by theirs!



Roy says,

Who said horses can't communicate?



Dyna's view:

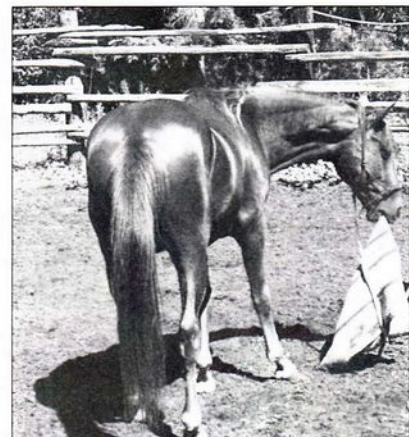
"Spring sunshine - lots to eat - no bugs - Life is Good."



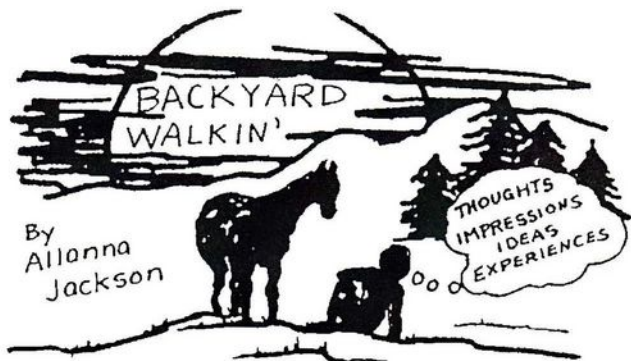
Jesse says, What's this all about?



I don't think that needs to be there...



Good - It comes off easily!



Back Yard Walkin'

My Perfect Stallion

© By Allanna Lea Jackson March 3, 2015

My specifications for my ideal mate for Sacia's Pride included a relaxed disposition, correct conformation, and an inherited preference for running walk. I didn't specify color, but didn't want grey or other light colors that would be hard to keep looking decent when kept outdoors all the time. After 7 years of pedigree research, I had determined that my Sassy fit the descriptions of the Hal family of Walkers and was comparable to the best mares of the era from 1900-1944. My research indicated Wilson's Allen and the Grey John line produced the type of horse I wanted and I wanted zero Merry Boy. I found the stallion I sought in the January, 1988, issue of Cristine Holt's *Walking Way* magazine.

Mischievous Secret 684413, known as Chief, foaled Sept 8, 1968, was the 8th generation of grey descended from BOONE'S GREY JOHN. His dam was Gray Velvet 490863 (Gray Wilson 432210 x Queen Cristonia 421723) owned by E. J. Edwards, Shawnee Mission, Kansas. His sire was Midnight Secret 501167 (Midnight Sun 410751 x June Knight 350036) owned by McFarland Farms, Topeka, Kansas. Shortly after the breeding, Gray Velvet was sold to Mr. Lynn E. Morrison of Springfield, Illinois.

Chief was born the property of Mr. Morrison. He had a bald face and white right front fetlock and was registered blue roan as a foal, but quickly turned white. He grew to be 16 hands.

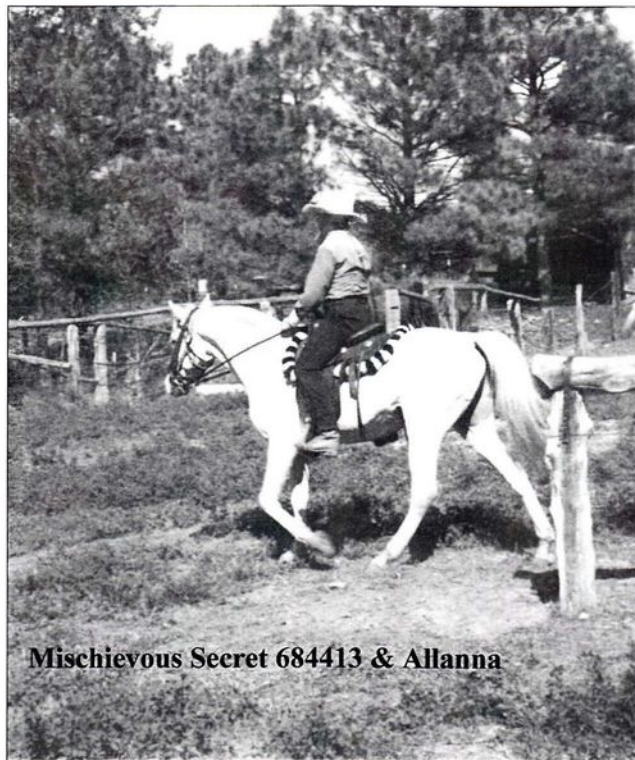
In 1983 Pearson Crosby, who was living in Illinois, bought a huge grey gelding Mischievous Secret. This horse so impressed him he bought mares by the same sire and began a Walking Horse breeding program. Mr. Crosby coveted Chief and spent five years trying to buy him, but the stallion was not for sale at any price. Mr. Crosby moved to a ranch in Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, taking a few of Chief's daughters with him.

By January, 1988, Mr. Morrison's health had deteriorated to the point that he could no longer keep his beloved stallion. Pearson Crosby paid \$10,000 for the 19-year-old Mischievous Secret, who was halter-broke only. Chief was immediately moved to New Mexico and advertised in *Walking Way*. God

drew my attention to the ad for Mischievous Secret, then arranged a nearly impossible array of circumstances to get the two horses together for breeding. I prayed extensively and had decided several years before that the first foal from a breeding I planned would be dedicated to God.

When I inquired about Chief and whether it would be possible to ride him, Pearson Crosby informed me that Chief was not broke to ride but he wanted to bet that Chief would be very easy to start. I told him I don't bet so never mind about riding Chief. That

summer Mr. Crosby had his ranch foreman ride the nearly 20-year-old stallion. The trainer tied Chief to a post in the center of a round pen and saddled him. Chief pulled back once, discovered he was tied and accepted the situation with no further protest. He was bridled and ridden around the round pen with no resistance. That went so well he was ridden around the corral. Chief took that in stride so he was ridden



Mischievous Secret 684413 & Allanna

in the pasture. Chief was so nonchalant about it he was pronounced broke to ride, though he was only ridden once or twice more that we know of.

In late August, 1988, Pearson Crosby brought Chief over to Arizona to breed Sassy. Both horses were kept at Robert Ott's Walking Horse Acres, in Linden, Arizona, for three weeks. Mr. Crosby encouraged me to go ahead and ride Chief so I rode him once using Sassy's tack.

Chief had the quietest temperament of any horse I've met. He viewed life with a casual alertness that allowed him to take in everything without getting excited by it. When he was unsure of something he stopped and looked it over but that one look was all it took to resolve the concern. On the rare instances when he did spook it was only a matter of seconds before he was over it. For all his quietness he was not lacking in ambition.

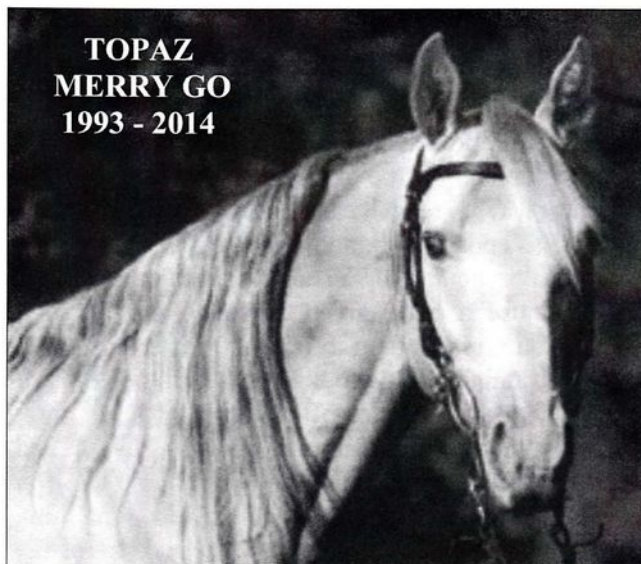
When I rode Chief it might have been his third time under saddle but this didn't bother him very much. His lack of education made guiding him a minor problem but once we got that sorted out I took him out to a quiet stretch of road to see what he'd do. The exceptionally loose flat-foot walk I'd seen in the pasture was there under saddle and he had such a big loose stride it was an entirely new experience, yet his flat walk was perfectly smooth. Out on the road he immediately hit a running walk. The big loose stride just got bigger and he came up so high in front that at first I thought he'd reared except that we were going down the road... fast! He was smooth as silk and nodding nicely. It was all pure, inherited ability. Chief hadn't had any gait training. I held him in a little because I wasn't sure that letting a stallion that green open up all the way was a smart or safe thing to do. I took him back into the pasture, and when he went downhill toward Sassy with me sitting on him in a way that hollowed out his posture he paced a few steps but when I corrected my position he instantly reverted to his perfect running walk. Except for his color, Chief was my ideal stallion.

Sassy and Chief pasture bred. My trip hauling Chief back to Truth Or Consequences had its adventures when my 1971 truck burned up its differential in Omega, New Mexico, which really is the middle of nowhere, on a Sunday afternoon. God provided everything we needed to solve the problem and return Chief to Pearson Crosby in excellent condition only 24 hours later than planned.

To be concluded next issue.

NEWS FROM MEXICO

From BILL HOWES, "I received the *W.H.News* today, Feb.04, here in MERIDA, YUCATAN, MEXICO. It's always a pleasure to hear what old friends and acquaintances are up to. Sure admire that Charis Cooper! Quite a mane on that Heir Trigger horse of yours, Marjorie. Keep on doing what you do, promoting our great breed of horse."



**TOPAZ
MERRY GO
1993 - 2014**

"I received the receipts today for the costs of Topaz's treatment prior to his demise last fall. Still find it heart breaking when I recall all the plans I had to play with him down here in Mexico. The vet's diagnosis was malnutrition but it was too late by the time I got the vet there. The vet personally delivered a bale of high quality hay to him, but he choked twice, and the second time was fatal (the blockage was too high up in the throat to clear through to the stomach) and he had to be put down. If there's a lesson to be learned here it's that someone leasing a horse should maintain regular visits to it and check often on its care at the farm or place of the lessee. When Topaz was in Alberta in 2007 he was still looking great."

"It's been in the high 20's or mid 30's every day, although today I did see rain during the day for the first time. It rained about every three or four nights during December and January."

"The trip down was pretty 'hair raising'. They advise against driving at night - and now I know why! It's because of all the transport trucks, and road conditions that constantly change without notice. Also signage is poor for someone new to the country who doesn't know the town or city names when left with no highway numbers or names."



FIRST LESSONS

by Ron Meredith, President, Meredith Manor International Equestrian Centre

One of the reasons it's so hard to write about training horses is that everyone wants a recipe.

Do this, then that, then this other thing.

Use such and such equipment, do so and so exercises a certain number of times.

Follow the right steps and you're guaranteed a trained horse.

The problem is that the main ingredients in the recipe - the horse and the handler - are never the same. Horses have different personalities. People have different personalities. Even the same horse and the same handler can be different from day to day. So the only way a recipe can work is if a particular handler has enough common sense to adapt the recipe to where a particular horse is on a particular day.

I'll use a baby green horse getting his first lessons about responding to pressures as an example. My first training goal is to create a feeling of rhythm and relaxation in the horse by keeping his attention quietly on me as I move and breathe with rhythm and relaxation. I like to turn an uninitiated horse loose in an enclosed area. I put a drop noseband or something similar on the horse to stabilize his jaw so that the game of nipping or mouthing me just never even gets started. I like pens with corners because I can use the corners to teach the horse turning and stopping pressures more easily. The size doesn't matter just so it's not too small. So I start by turning him loose in a pen he's never seen before.

One kind of horse will just want to investigate and I just let him. After he's had a chance to investigate for awhile, he'll start being aware of things going on occasionally but not continuously. Eventually, he'll stop to smell a place. Without being predatory or attacking him in any way, I'll just make as little a fuss as I have to get his attention and I put some pressure on him to keep walking. My goal is to get his attention in the quietest, most comfortable way. I want him to be aware of my presence in the pen. But I don't want to startle him or build any emotional charge in him at all.

Now another kind of horse won't follow that recipe. He goes into that same pen the first time all charged up to start with and feels like he needs to run. So I'll turn him loose and just stand in the middle of the pen and watch him play until he gets rid of his energy drive. If he gets all hot and sweaty that first time, I'll just wait until he'll allow me to approach

him, then I'll catch him and put him away. If I think a horse is going to run so much that he's going to be hard to catch, I may leave the lead rope hooked to his halter. Stepping on the lead rope interrupts his feeling of total freedom to escape. This doesn't work on some really smart horses that learn to carry their head to the side so the rope trails beside them and they don't step on it. But it works for most.

If he just plays a little and doesn't get all sweaty and worked up, I'll wait until he stops acting up so much and slows down to a walk. At that point I circle behind him and start following him on his primary line (the line of attention that runs from the horse's ears to his tail and out the front and back as far as he's aware of it). I don't use any kind of predatory posture. I don't swing anything at him.

I just walk along behind him on that primary line and experiment with his attention at this step. If I move to the left of the primary line, he should move his head to the left so he can continue to see me as he's walking along. If I move to the right of the primary line, he should move his head to the right a little bit.

If my presence behind him startles him so he starts running again, I got too close. If the horse doesn't interact with me in any way, I know I'm too far behind his primary line. My presence isn't putting any pressure on him at all. So I walk a little faster to shorten the distance between us and increase the pressure. I don't move up in any kind of a predatory way. I'm not chasing him or hunting him. I move up as though I'm watching the birds or enjoying the weather. I don't want to force the horse to pay attention to me. I just want to develop his awareness of me. The more he becomes aware of me, the more he'll check back with me and the more control I'll start to get over every individual stride. That's my goal.

More than likely what the horse will do as he gets more and more comfortable with my presence is that he'll approach the gate and look out the direction he came from. Now he's at the same point as the first type of green horse and now I'm going to make the first little fuss to ask him to keep walking.

Just as with the more laid back horse we talked about first, I don't want to do anything that startles the horse or changes his emotional level. I want to make as little a fuss as it takes to get his attention

back on me. I may bump the wall or make a little noise or slap my thigh or wiggle the tip of a whip or put a little sway in a lead rope. I'll experiment and use the least pressure I can. Every horse has its own personality and its own instincts and its own previous memories. So the pressure that one horse doesn't notice at all might make another horse flee the county. So I start quiet and small and build up if I have to. I see what it takes to get the horse to go back to a casual walk and look mode. If I were to do something huge and sudden in order to make the point that I'm bigger and badder and I can get the horse moving again if I want, I would have lost an opportunity to figure out how to subtly influence that particular horse. That's another goal at this stage.

So I can tell you what the goals are at this point but I can't give you a recipe for exactly what things you should do to reach them. I can tell you that what worked the first day might not work the second day. I can tell you that as the horse learns to become aware of you and understands that your pressures are a language he can learn and be rewarded for learning, that you'll have a huge sense of accomplishment. It's going to look really boring to somebody watching you but you and the horse will know exactly what's going on.

I can also tell you that horses are patternistic. If you teach a horse that every time you take him into the pen he's going to get to run and play, he's going to start to anticipate that. You'll teach him that every time he sees you, he gets to explode. Instead, you want him to start anticipating that any interaction he has with you is relaxed and rhythmic. You want him to see you as a safe, comfortable place to be so you want to develop a relaxed, rhythmic pattern to your workouts that the horse can become familiar with and be comfortable with.

Instructor and trainer Ron Meredith has refined his "horse logical" methods for communicating with equines over 30 years as president of Meredith Manor International Equestrian Centre, (Route 1, Box 66, Waverly, WV 26184; 1-304-679-3128; <http://www.meredithmanor.com>), an ACCET accredited equestrian educational institution.

This article was published in WHN ten years ago. I thought it was worth repeating as we get back to 'riding weather'

Famous Quotes: "Don't give your son money. As far as you can afford it, give him horses. No one ever came to grief – except honorable grief – through riding horses. No hour of life is lost that is spent in the saddle. Young men have often been ruined through owning horses, or through backing horses, but never through riding them; unless of course they break their necks, which, taken at a gallop, is a very good death to die."

Sir Winston Churchill, *My Early Life*

WATCH OUT FOR GRASS FOUNDER!

Putting winter weary, hay-fed horses out on lush pasture in spring or early summer can be a "recipe for disaster". It can lead to grass founder (laminitis), and anyone who has ever dealt with this problem will tell you that preventing it is far preferable than having to deal with it.

I took this information from an article by Deb Harrison-Steele DVM.

The horses most at risk are overweight with a cresty neck, excessive fat deposits on either side of the tail head and behind the shoulder. This is actually known as Equine Metabolic syndrome, also known as peripheral Cushings syndrome, hypothyroidism or insulin resistance.

Treatment consists of diet (NO grain, molasses or sweet feed) and *from limited to no grazing on lush grass*. The horse should be exercised if it is sound enough and trimmed and/or shod with care to address the laminitis, if that has developed.

Barb Fenwick has dealt with laminitis in two of her horses and says, "We all need to be concerned with hoof health, not just for those with hoof problems but ultimately to prevent any problems in young and older horses and offer them a life with sound, strong and natural feet."

"As I came to learn, both horses were predisposed to the health issues that can lead to founder. "Easy keepers", they both were living in lush pastures and in winter had rich alfalfa hay and grain. They didn't have enough need for movement and not enough regular exercise from winter to early spring. This is a recipe for founder."

And it's not *only* the fat cresty ones at risk. Watch for symptoms: lameness, feet hot, with an increased pulse to them. Affected horses tend to have a typical stance, placing their front feet forward and rocking backwards in order to try to decrease the weight on their front legs. They also often take short, choppy steps described as 'walking on egg shells'.

Grace Larson did this to keep her two older mares healthy. She said, "Fawn and Marigold are wearing muzzles to prevent founder on all the green grass. Marigold doesn't mind the muzzle but Fawn doesn't like it at all. I bring them in days and give them some hay; that way they can be free of the muzzles for a while and in the shade. The aging process isn't any better for horses than for people. They need to eat less ...and we have to watch what they eat!"

Keep a close eye on your horses and the condition of their pasture. Don't let the pain and heartbreak of founder happen to *any* of them. *M. Lacy*

AWAKENING NEWBORN “DUMMY” FOALS

Dr. Christa Harder

I recently attended a large equine veterinary conference in Salt Lake City, Utah where I listened to an intriguing lecture by Dr. John Madigan, a professor at the University of California, Davis. During his time at UC Davis he had stumbled upon an interesting concept involving fetal consciousness in and out of utero and how we can manipulate it in non-invasive ways.

For many years we have thought that neonatal maladjustment syndrome or “dummy foal syndrome” is caused by lack of oxygen during the birthing process. This sometimes results in foals that appear to be unable to nurse, don’t have any interest in their mother, wander, and have altered levels of consciousness. Typically 80% of dummy foals will have a full recovery but it may take days of hard work to keep them alive.

As Madigan studied further what caused this dummy foal syndrome he began looking at neurosteroids. These neurosteroids were released in high levels by the dam’s uterus which they found help keep the foal in a quiet state while in utero to prevent damage to the mare. In normal foals at about 1 hour before birth and in the following 24 hours after birth these neurosteroids decrease rapidly. In dummy foals the levels of neurosteroids remain elevated, often due to some abnormalities during the birthing process (passing very rapidly through the birth canal, C-section, etc.).

Madigan looked at various ways of decreasing these neurosteroids in dummy foals and finally found that if he could squeeze the foal in a way to re-create the birthing process he could bring these foals out of their “dummy state”. This signaled to the foals that they were ready to stand, nurse and run. Madigan called this technique “squeeze induced somnolence” which is done by apply ropes around the chest. You can view videos on how to perform this technique at

[http://](http://www.equineneonatalmanual.com/#!foalsqueezing/c1r2z)

[www.equineneonatalmanual.com/#!
foalsqueezing/c1r2z.](http://www.equineneonatalmanual.com/#!foalsqueezing/c1r2z)

The foal is “squeezed” tight for 20 minutes which typically causes the foal to lie down, relax and often fall asleep. This needs to be performed

within 7 days of birth for it to be effective. In many of the “dummy foals” that didn’t know what to do with their mothers or how to nurse, once they woke up from their squeeze they were immediately more alert, coordinated, acknowledged their mothers and figured out how to suck. It was really quite remarkable to watch!

The squeeze technique is also a useful way to quietly work on a foal in the first week of life without having to sedate it with drugs.

This technique seems to work on multiple species and including humans. There have been several reports of premature babies pronounced dead by doctors that began breathing and awakened after being held and squeezed by their mothers.

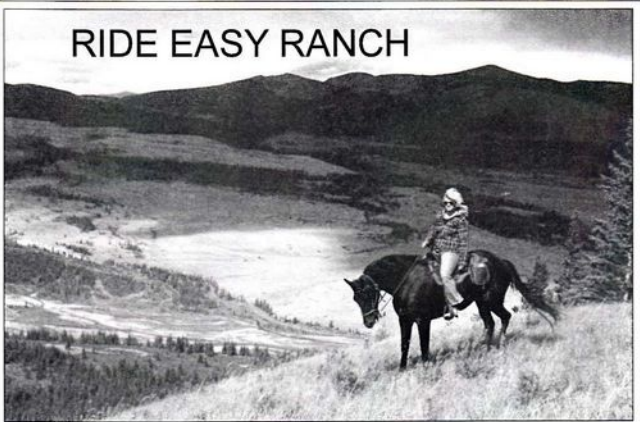
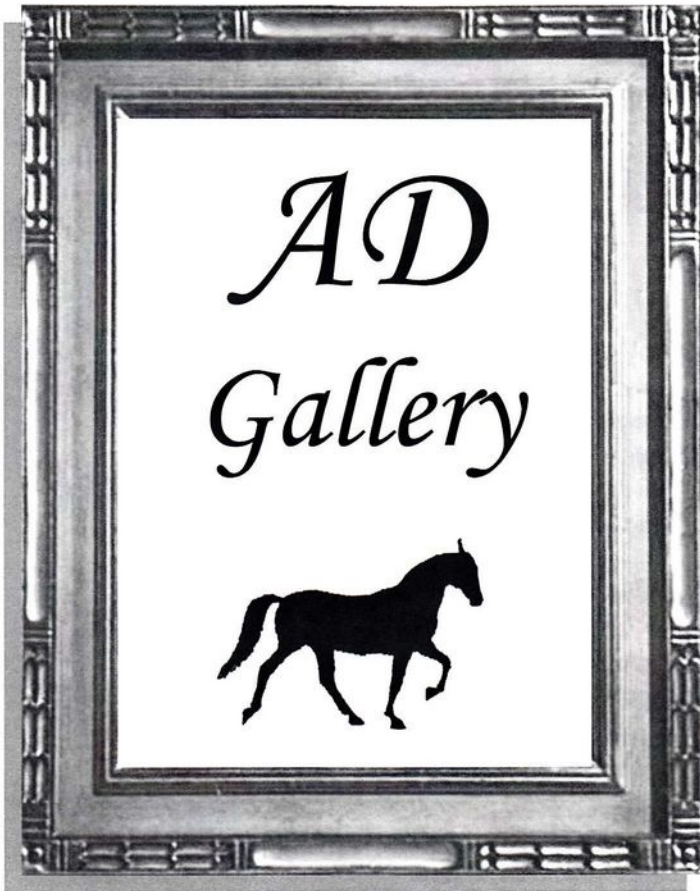
Calving season will be here likely sooner than foaling season; therefore if you have a “dummy calf” that might qualify for the squeeze technique I would encourage you to give it a try. Dr. Madigan has just started a research trial on it in calves but is quite optimistic it will work as well.

If you have further questions about this technique please let me know at the

Dawson Creek Veterinary Clinic,
238 – 116th Ave, Dawson Creek BC V1G 3C8
or if you try it on one of your newborns this spring let me know what your results are.

Wishing you all the best for the coming year and also best wishes for the coming calving and foaling season!





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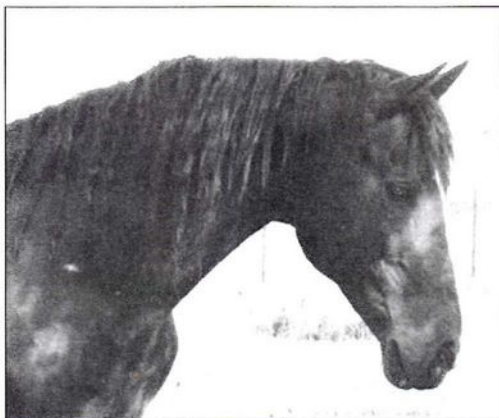
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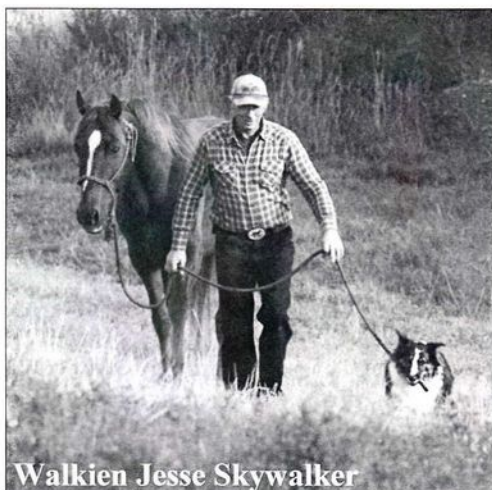
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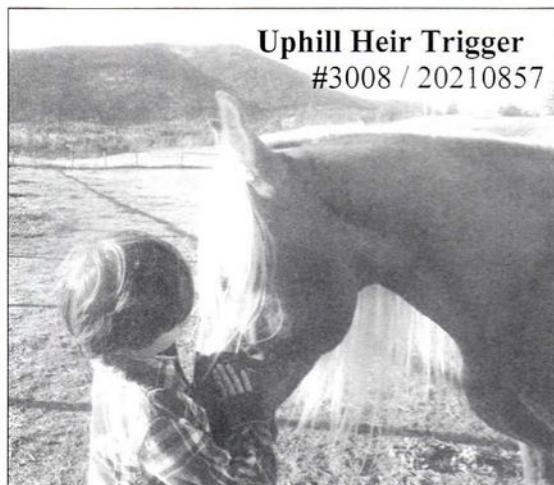


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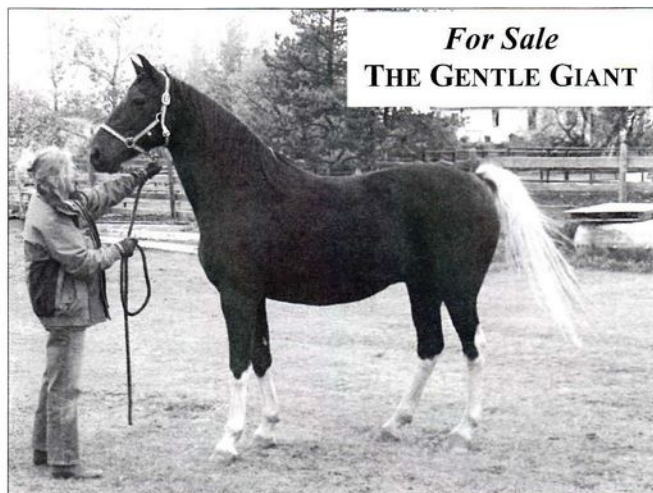
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