

DECEMBER 2015
VOLUME XXXIX, No. 6



Walking Horse News



DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN-SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE SINCE 1977



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On Our Cover

This is the view
across the paddocks
at McDonald Farms
on a beautiful
frosty winter
morning
in the Peace.
The picture
was taken
looking southeast
from their deck.

Photo by
Jo-Anne McDonald

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Volume XXXIX, # 6 November/December, 2015

Dear Subscribers,

It's the last issue of *Walking Horse News* for 2015 and that means ... time to ask you to consider advertising on the cover for next year! The people who take out these ads make the colour covers, that we all enjoy, possible. And they are also being recorded in TWH history in Canada by having their ads there. Two pages are still open, so please check page 24 and contact me about your ad as soon as possible.

We have a varied menu for you in this issue, from personal stories of life with Walkers to training them and playing with them. Franne Brandon discusses the colour 'red' in Walkers and Keith Doll adds some more details to the life story of 'Crown Royal'. Donna Edwards and Shadow's Koko Boy are our newest Century Partners and their nomination and story is included on pages 14 to 16. Alynn Ward and Allanna Jackson both discuss the Canadian Triple Challenge and its advantages for people who aspire to train their own horse. Hope each of you find something interesting and/or inspirational here.

Winter is here at Uphill Farm as I write this. There is snow on the ground and a 'snowfall warning' is forecast for tonight and tomorrow. I hope I can get into town to the printing plant, and get home again!

It seems too early but... Happy New Year for 2016, and may it be a happy, healthy and horse-filled year for you! All the best, *Marjorie*

Below: BIG Ontario snowflakes land on Koki & Fixie.
Photo courtesy Sue Gamble



WHN makes a
great gift!

December, 2015

Walking Horse News

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

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IN THIS ISSUE – November/December, 2015

LIST OF CONTENTS

History and Heritage - 40 Years....by Keith Doll	3,4
News	5, 7, 18
What Do You Do? by Trish McCarthy.....	6
2015 - Good & Bad by R. Hill.....	8, 9,10
Alberta Horse Breeders Conference.....	10
Foal Call.....	11
CRTWH Triple Challenge by Alynn Ward.....	12
The Canadian Walker.....	13
Century Partners: Donna and Koko.....	14, 15, 16
Foundations: A Red by Any Other...by Franne Brandon...	17,18
What Do You Do?.....	19
Backyard Walkin' by A. Jackson.....	20, 21
Ad Gallery starts on page.....	22
Classified ads.....	23
Business Cards, Publications & Coming Events.....	24

ADVERTISER'S INDEX

Argot's Gold With Splash - Ullu Velez.....	22
Calta Stables.....	22
Calta Walking Horses - Jessica Sparrow.....	24
Chrystal Star Ranch	Inside Front Cover
CRTWH.....	Inside Back Cover
Grace Larson - True Montana Stories.....	24
Maple Lane Acres.....	24
McDonald Farms.....	Inside Front Cover
Northfork Farm.....	24
Ride Easy Ranch.....	Outside Back Cover
Trinders Tennessee Walking Horses.....	Inside Front Cover
TWH Heritage Society.....	Outside Back Cover
Uphill Farm.....	Outside Back Cover
Woodhill Walkers.....	Outside Back Cover

*ANY NEWS FROM YOUR PLACE?
How about some advertising?*

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HISTORY & HERITAGE PROJECT

GO BOY'S CROWN ROYAL and MY 40 YEARS WITH WALKERS

By Keith Doll, Douglas, Manitoba

Even though I haven't been contributing much to *Walking Horse News* doesn't mean I have forgotten. I read every issue front to back. I have every issue of *WHN* from the very first one in 1977. Several of the articles started me reminiscing, as I owned some of those horses. The one on Go Boy's Crown Royal in particular made me think back to when we imported him from Ohio in 1979.

My wife, Marge, and I bought our first Walkers in Prince George in 1975. Midnight Star FF (aka Beauty) was a big beautiful black mare, line bred Midnight Sun. She was bred by Friesen Farms, Savannah, B.C. Flash's Easy Aces (aka Ace) was a very refined Merry Boy line sorrel mare bred by Pearl

Tompkins of Montana. Ace had a black foal at side sired by Shadow's Super Seven, who was owned by the Coburns of Prince George. That colt, Pee Gee Pepper, was sold to the Tutte family of Upper Mud River where I understand he lived out his life.

In 1978 we moved back to Manitoba, bought a five acre property and the adjoining lot. We also brought our mares with us. Ace was again in foal to Super Seven. She foaled a lit-up strawberry sabino colt. He was sold to John Unrau of Hamiota where he went on to sire many foals.

Seeing as how this was such 'horsey' country, we decided to get a stud of our own. Mae Dunlop of Castleton, Ontario was advertising her breeding program. Her stallion was the retired show horse, Go Boy's Crown Royal 681170, a son of Merry Go Boy and grandson of Midnight Sun. We contacted Mae to see if she had any offspring for sale. Now, you must realize that back then there was no such thing as *fast* contact. Everything was

slow regular mail. I went back through all the letters to refresh my memory and this was Mae's response: She had no offspring for sale. She had leased Royal, then bought him. Two years, breeding of 34 mares, had produced 32 foals. She had then married a cattle farmer named Dingwall, and became pregnant. Her new husband wasn't interested in horses, she was in no condition to

continue with them, so she dispersed her herd. Royal had been sent back to Dale and Denise Rowland Stables in Kensington, Ohio, pending sale, and the price was right. Slow mail or not, it didn't take long for us to put our name on his registration papers. Then

came transportation... He was in Ohio, we were in Manitoba!

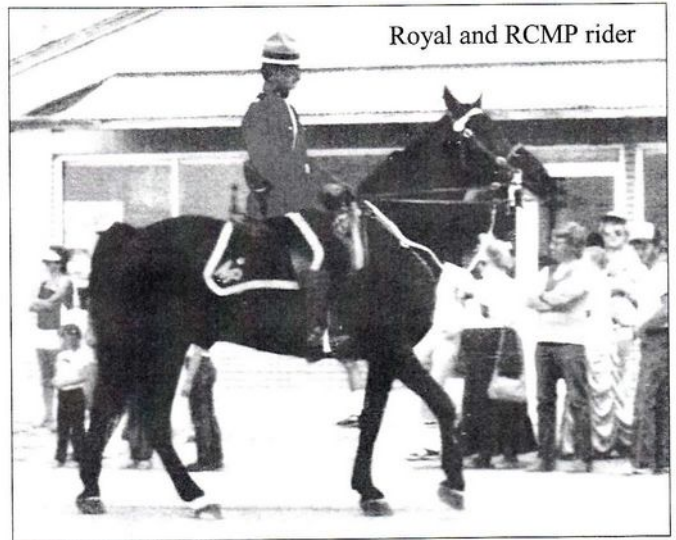
Fortunately our good friends, Bill and Bea, had friends in Toronto, so they took our truck and trailer, had a holiday in Toronto, then drove down to Kensington and brought Royal home. There were a couple of interesting events on that trip. Apparently Royal's feet had not been well maintained. Bill made the folks at the stable whap off a whole lot of overgrown hoof so the poor beggar would be able to stand for the trip home. Also in those days there was no GPS, just road maps. Bill, as the driver, wanted to take the bypasses around the cities. Bea wanted to see downtown Chicago. And she was the navigator. By the time she informed Bill as to where they were, he was too busy driving to comment. But I'll bet there were some unrepeatable comments later!

At this point all we knew about Walkers was that we had two gorgeous mares and they were



Go Boy's Crown Royal and Keith at the 1982 Manitoba All Breed Show.

smooth. We were totally naïve about the “big lick” and all that is associated with it. Boy, were our eyes opened when that big horse stepped off the trailer. He had more scars than War Horse! Thank goodness Bill had made them trim his feet before hauling him. They were still atrocious, about eight inches long, looking like fish scales. They were all flared out on the outside and straight up on the inside, this a result of the inside heels pounded up into the pastern. There were calluses the size of your finger across each foot above the coronary band. Mae had commented that when she got him he’d had calluses the size of golf balls under the pasterns. She had gone to the race track for a concoction to dissolve them. He had big white patches on the tendons and those big feet were rotten with thrush. His back feet had been trimmed so straight up and down that he had to be careful not to roll over at the ankles. He also had big calluses on the insides of the back legs. The tendons of his tail had been cut so it could be put up in a tail set. He could wiggle the stub but the rest of the tail was limp. But despite all of this he was as gentle as a lamb.



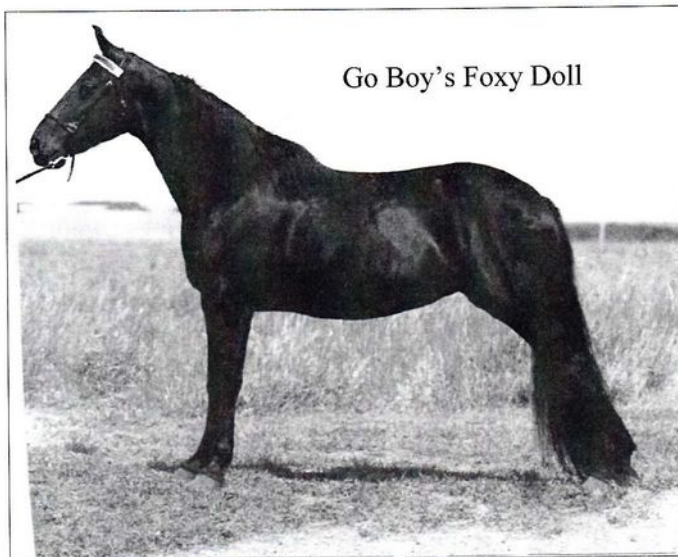
Royal and RCMP rider

Later that same summer I showed Royal at the Manitoba all Breed show in Boissevain. I cringe now when I think back. I was totally inexperienced at showing and the only showing Royal had done was on a quarter mile track, weighted to the hilt and full bore ahead! We had very poor co-ordination in that little ring!

When we advertised Royal for sale we got some weird responses. It seemed that everybody looking for a stud preferred to go South and buy a son of the current, ‘modern’ World Champion. They weren’t interested in this ‘old tyme’ boy. Eventually we got a sale for him that we thought would be a good home. (Unfortunately it didn’t turn out that way. But once again, luck was on Royal’s side when Jane Walker discovered and bought him, then established him at McDonald Farms near Dawson Creek where he was truly appreciated. He lived to be 26 years of age)

I still have two of his great granddaughters here, through his feisty bay daughter, Flash of Diamonds. They are China Doll and Rebel’s Fancy Lady. Over the years since I’ve had various other bloodlines, mostly Montana and North Dakota ranch bred horses. (I never wanted big name, big lick horses after seeing the abuse Royal had endured in the show ring.)

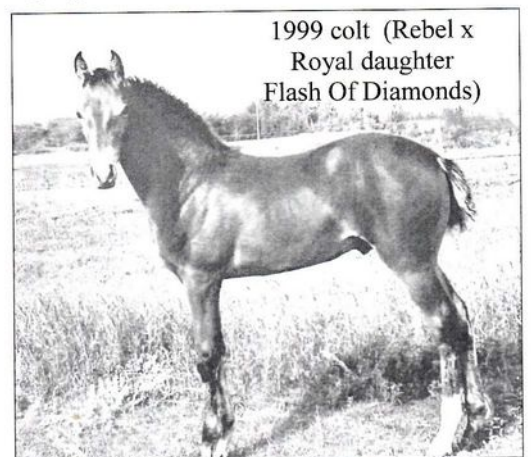
And I must not forget, last but not least, the little black ‘Bird Dog’ horse, Honey Boy’s Rebel.



Go Boy’s Foxy Doll

In 1981 Royal sired two gorgeous fillies, a black we named Go Boy’s Foxy Doll, from Beauty, and a bay, Flash of Diamonds from Ace. Then disaster struck. Bank interest rates rose to 25 percent and the Dolls were in a dilemma. There was no alternative – the horses had to be sold. Foxy and Beauty went to Betty Motherwell of Quesnel, BC and Ace went to Matechuks of Cochrane, AB. Seeing as we didn’t need the pasture any more, we sold the other lot and bade ‘Adios’ to the money-hungry bank.

In 1982 the little town of Douglas celebrated its 100th birthday with a big parade. A local man and RCMP officer had been in the Musical Ride so he donned his red serge and led the Douglas Centennial Parade in 1982 mounted on Royal. (Photo top right.)

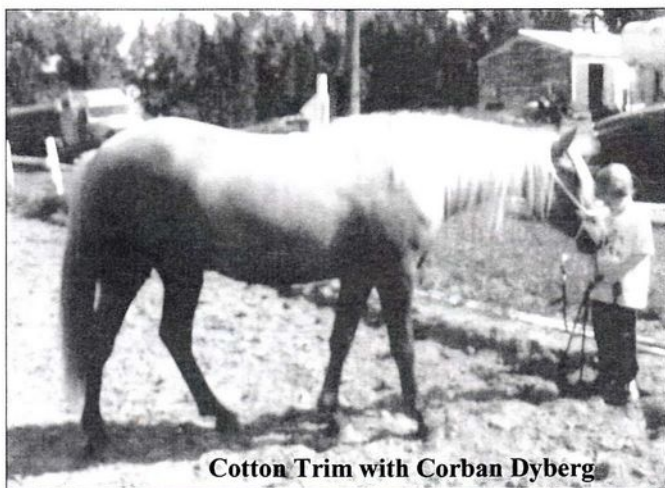


1999 colt (Rebel x Royal daughter Flash Of Diamonds)

NEWS - NEWS - NEWS

JOYCE BIANOWSKI, DREAMCATCHER MEADOWS INC., FORT SASKATCHEWAN, AB writes, "The name of our farm is registered under Dreamcatcher Meadows Inc. now and soon we'll have our business cards. That was a good picture of our mare, Fancy, and her filly in Foal Call of the October issue. We are calling the filly 'Breezy' for now; haven't fully decided on a registered name yet. I do know the filly will be taller than her mom who is around 15.2. Looks like Levi (Rhonda's stud) will throw some size in his babies. I have bred my red roan Walker to him ... now to wait and see my present."

From LORI DYBERG, WETASKIWIN, AB, "Sunday around noon Blair was combining around the outside of the field and took a second to honk to the three year olds in the pasture. Cotton Trim was lying down by the fence and did not look up. After the third honk Blair noticed the wires on the fence bounce when she lifted her head. She was cast under the fence! Blair went to her, thinking he could roll her over himself, but soon realised he needed help. When my son and daughter-in-law and I arrived we placed ropes on her and started to pull. She gave a big groan and laid still for us. I was not sure if it was a sign of shock or of giving herself over to us, but I lay by her head and neck, talked to her and she NEVER fought us or the fence. After we'd pulled her out she walked a few feet away and then exploded in kicks and bucks of joy. I sat with her for a while to make sure she would not get "shocky" but she showed no signs of distress. All she had were a few little scratches on her down side. What a mind on that little one! It could have been so much worse."



Cotton Trim with Corban Dyberg



BRENDA BAKER, CALGARY, AB writes, "Above is one of several photos I took of Bill Fraess after a two hour ride he took with Gar Beacom, from Gar's place near Calgary. The fine old gelding he's riding is Toddys Skyhawk, born in 1994, by Midnight Toddy x Sunday Morning Girl."

GALE ALLAN of STOUGHTON, SK has sold A&B Strawberry Jennie #2728 and A&B Star Light Star Bright #2990 to a family with youngsters who are enjoying these two easy-going mares. She also sold a yearling filly to Brad and Tara Body of Luseland, SK who are getting back into Walkers.

MARJORIE FABRO, KIMBERLEY, BC, phoned on October 13 with sad news. She'd had to make the painful decision to have her stallion, ULTRA'S MAJOR THREAT [US] 898333- put down that day. He had become very unsteady in his hind end and was having a hard time getting around. He had congestive heart failure too but the vet also suspected a tumour of the spine. As Marjorie said, it was time to let him to go, but it is still a wrenching decision to have to make. They bought Major as a two year old, so have owned him for 25 years. Once he was trained, she rode him exclusively, and they have been riding partners for over twenty years. Ultra's Major Threat was a black stallion by Pride's Ultra Threat out of Pride's Mystery Lady. He was foaled on April 30, 1989. Major left many fine offspring, mainly in BC and AB, and was always a major contender in any show he entered.

Congratulations to the WHEALES of WINFIELD, AB, new owners of the big sorrel mare, Shana's Cherokee Flair, purchased from Jack Gurnett at Northfork Farm, Bluffton, AB.

What Do You Do With Your Walkers?



Photo courtesy cameraone.ca, Regina, SK

I hope that you have all had a wonderful riding and driving season. Yesterday (Nov. 5th) we received the picture (*above*) from our photographer and I want to share it. You see, we had a family portrait taken recently for our 21st wedding anniversary. In this picture, we (Art Howell, my husband and I) are in the field where we have our most relaxing times together as a couple (The portrait was taken by a wonderful fellow named Craig Clendening of cameraone.ca, Regina). Being out in nature is so renewing and exciting and romantic for us.

About the snappy looking cart: when I drove my truck to Ontario for my mother's 80th birthday party in mid-August 2014, I bought and brought back the new cart displayed here in the portrait. It was made by our Amish wheelwright friend, Wayne Kuepfer of Creekside Carriages (7014 Perth Road, 121, P.O. Box 173, Millbank, Ontario N0K 1L0 (519) 595 - 8838). This new cart is a huge improvement over the rickety antique one we bought for the same price in 2005 near Cayuga, Ontario for our horse Majesty (1988 - 2007) who was our first beloved Tennessee Walking Horse.

"Characters" in the Picture: Muffin is our 9 year old Cocki-shon dog who is sitting on my lap. Moses is looking a little sullen here because he is having to stand around. He'd rather be exploring, which is when we call out encouraging words to him. When a ride or drive is done, I let him enjoy his "salad" in the rich, thick grass near the gravel road or in unfenced areas on or near Roy and Bev Belof's farm in White City where we board him. Then before I let him go, I whisper sweet nothings in his ear. Moses (A.K.A. Dusty's Touch and Go) bought from Keith Doll of Douglas, MB, has turned into a very responsive and fun discovery companion. I am not sure why he always has mud in his ears though. (Comments?) but he looks pretty good here. This is what we do with our Tennessee Walking Horse!

Trish McCarthy with husband, Art Howell, Regina, SK



From PAIGE STERN, BLUFFTON, AB, "I would like to congratulate Michaela Martin on her recent purchase of two beautiful mares, Northfork Black Gem and her daughter Black Gems Xena, *above*. Thank you for giving them a wonderful home. I wish you all the best in working with them!"

NATALIE SPECKMAIER, VANCOUVER, BC, writes, "Trigger has a new spot at her place and new roommates. She likes the former but is not sure of the latter. Remember her sheep phobia? Last year she was going out to pasture with a ram and a goat and put up with the indignity pretty well. This time she's sharing her paddock with the ram and his girlfriend. She's okay with it but early on she let them know not to go near her food and to stay out of her shelter. They have their own little house so the arrangement seems to be working. Her shelter is part of the barn and she has a Dutch door that enables her to view any activities going on in the barn. The paddock looks out on the tack & feed room so there's a lot to watch there as well. Also, she can join us for coffee as the seating for that is right outside the gate. A win, win situation, she figures."

"I still go to the barn twice a week, weather permitting (i.e. no hurricane winds or torrential rain), and do a bit of grooming. I was hoping to get back to riding this summer, or at least this fall, but my chiropractor is not allowing it yet. Sigh! Oh well, I can live vicariously through *WHN* articles and stories from my horsey friends."

"Happy trails will be mine again soon, I hope."

GRACE LARSON, writes, "Since I moved to KALISPELL I have been writing books. The first, An Immigrant, A Homesteader and Sheep, is about my mother, Marie McBroom's, parents, her brothers who worked in Glacier and Alaska, and her sister Fay Haynes who bred and sold AQHA horses, some to Canadian buyers. Mom was the person who brought Silvertip-Rickey and Richardson's Honey Chile to Montana, and also bought Tom Moss's Rafter 33 Walkers: Black Beauty Allen, Ruby Jones, Patty LaMarr, Margaret LaMarr, Baby Kay II and Ruby Jones. She also got Pearl Tompkins started in Walkers from those bloodlines. Mom is also in the book."

"Once In A Lifetime Comes A Man, is in memory of my husband, Lyle Larson. We raised and sold TWH at our place near Forsyth, MT. Lyle passed away on December 16, 2013. Both of these are available as E Books as well as in paperback."

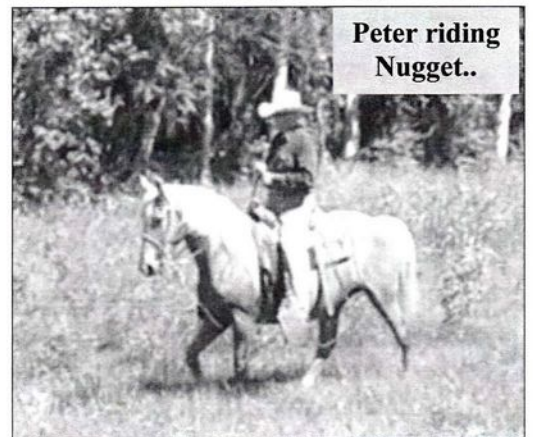
"The third book, The Making Of A Con, is about an old convict who was on my 11 inmate crew when I was the supervisor of the MT Prison's inmate paint crew. That was in 1978. Grant Hamilton's life was so unreal that I decided to write a story about him. What he told me is verified by his Rap Sheet. This is also in Audio as well as E Book and paperback."

"The last, Bum Lambs, is a children's book. It is also available from Amazon and other on-line book stores, and my web site. It is not in an E Book yet. My author web site is www.montanagrancelarson.com."

"I decided to get into writing full time, and it has helped me with the loss of Lyle and in moving from our place. My last mare, Tegun's MT Fawn, had to be put down due to a bout with colic. I miss the foals most of all. I want to add that there will never be another horse to equal our 1947 stallion, Silvertip-Rickey. He was smooth, fast, could turn on a dime, and was gentle enough for my sister and me to ride when we were children, thanks to Mom's training."

GLENDIA HEISLER of POUCE COUPE, BC has purchased her first Walking Horses from Peter Symons of Dawson Creek. Nancy's Nugget is a six year old

palomino
mare
and
Nanette's
Norma
Ray
is a
three
year
old
chestnut.



Peter riding
Nugget..

2015 - BOTH A GOOD & BAD YEAR

by Rachel Hill

Dakota's Ransom

'RANSOM'



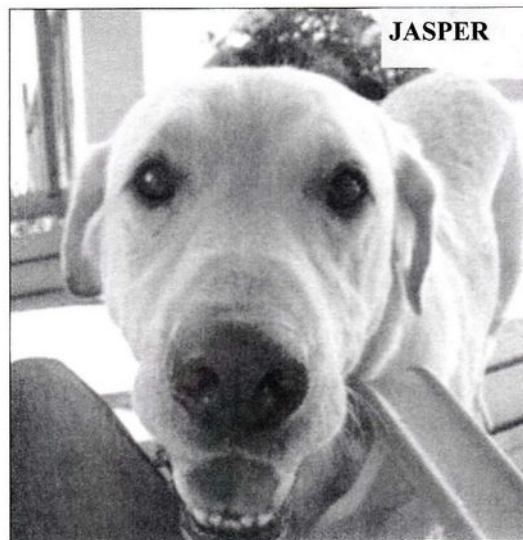
Photo R. Hartley

2015 has been both a good and bad year for me. In January my beloved Dakota's Ransom took suddenly ill with what we thought were ulcers. It was a strange thing, as Ransom had handled many challenges that come with the sport of endurance, that would have, or rather should have triggered ulcers if he was prone. But early this winter, he showed basic symptoms of stomach ulcers, something I had not experienced. Our vets are not equipped with scoping equipment, so he was never diagnosed, but he responded to ulcer medication so we were hopeful we could move on. Then one bitterly cold day late January while I was away for work he suddenly relapsed and took very ill. After a discussion with the vet over the phone, we made the call to have him put down. I will never really know what it was, but the vet suspects it was an abdominal tumour that likely ruptured. My husband Mark, took amazingly good care of my boy, while I was away and did all the right things. But I still feel a strange loss, not being able to say good bye to my good friend, that I had done so many things with, and had so many firsts with. My first 25 and 50 mile endurance rides, my first competitive trail rides, my first camping adventures. All the early morning training rides we did together alone, in the rain, in the fog, in the heat, in the sleet. He was my first project that I took from baby to bomb-proof. He taught me so much. He left me far too soon.

Then in August, I had to put down my beloved Jasper, a yellow lab I rescued eight years ago. Over the past year, Jasper developed laryngeal paralysis and his breathing gradually became more and more diffi-

cult, especially in the hot humid weather. If there was ever an animal who loved life, it was my Jammy. He was forever grateful and had a perpetual tail wag no matter what the circumstance. I arranged for the vet to make a farm call, to make the day as typical and normal as we could for him. He wagged that big ole lab tail right up until he passed. And I just buried my face in his fur and let out all my pain.

Another friend, companion and partner that left me too soon.

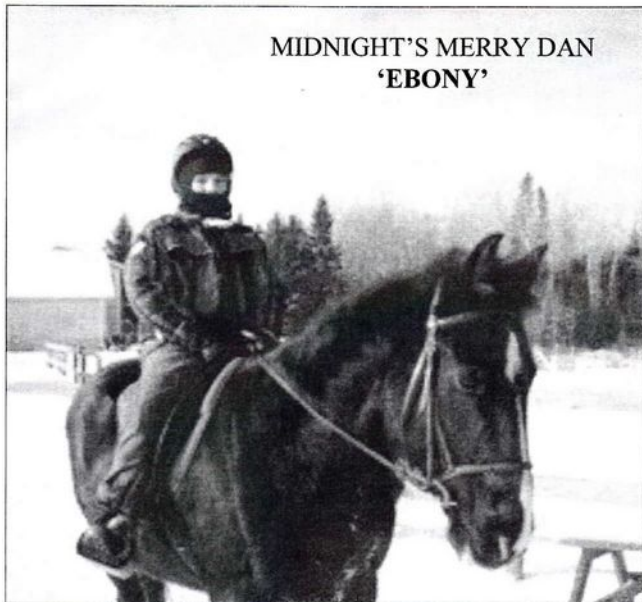


Then the Saturday of Labour Day weekend, I brought my horses in for their morning breakfast, and for the first time in 28 years my old Ebony did not eat.

My heart sank, I knew something was wrong. Although Ebony was going into his 29th year, he was in amazing shape. He had good body condition, a lovely shiny healthy coat, his teeth were great, he was not arthritic and he was always game for a ride. I had only just ridden him a few weeks earlier and he gaited up the trails like he always did. I was not expecting this. After checking his vitals, which were all normal, I made a call to my vet. She advised that there was nothing else she could do without blood work, which could not happen until Tuesday.

I continued to watch him carefully all day and a clue to his illness came when I could see his urine was very dark, the colour of black tea. Another call to my vet and she confirmed it could be organ failure, likely his liver shutting down. A quick google search revealed many of the symptoms matched. Amazingly, horses will not show symptoms until there is 75% loss of liver function. Mark and I discussed the option of hauling him to Winnipeg where he could get immediate treatment, but it was 30 degrees Celsius and would be about a 5 hour

MIDNIGHT'S MERRY DAN
'EBONY'

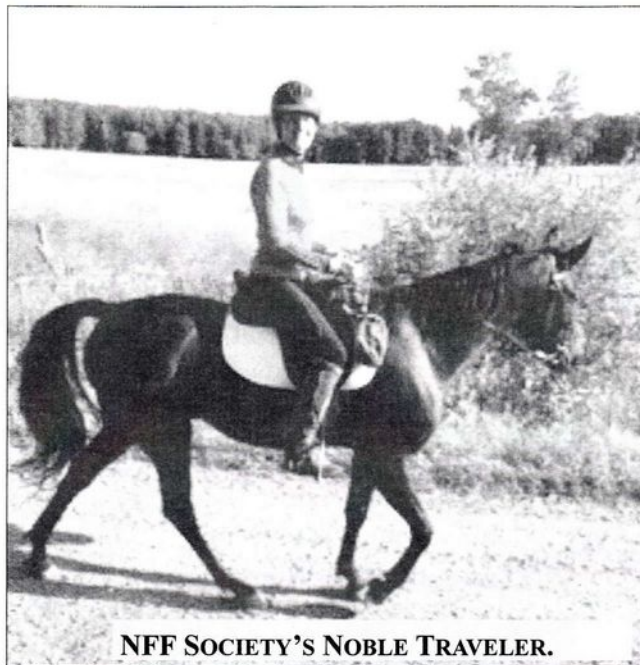


haul to the clinic. I decided keep him home and make him as comfortable as possible, with the hope he would make a turn, but it was not to be. Instead he separated himself from the others, wanted nothing to do with the herd and only wanted my company. Looking back at it now, I think he was preparing himself. I spent the next few days offering him sips of water, giving him electrolytes and vitamins and hours grooming him, and just spending time with him. I'd had this horse half my life and saying good bye was incredibly difficult. We had been through a lot together and he had been with me every step of the way. He got me through my bout of depression when I lost my job in '96. He got my niece through her troubled teen years. He was not just a teacher to people, but he was a rock to many horses too, giving them confidence when they needed it. He was a great herd boss, but in his older years he was the horse I put in with new arrivals. He was kind and patient and would take care of the most nervous of newbies. He was an ambassador for the breed and introduced many to the world of gaited horses. He was never sick and always sound. I just expected him to be there always, and never thought he wouldn't be. I miss him so.

I have had many animals in my lifetime, and of course many losses come with that. And the one thing I have learned is that you cannot predict how you will feel with any of them when they go. It doesn't matter if you have had them a short time, or a long time. They are all special and each of them takes a piece of our hearts and holds different memories for us. So, to all reading this, take the time to acknowledge the soft nicker you get at feeding time and the warm spot by the door from the body that has been there all day waiting for you. Because one day they won't be there and you will miss them.

On a positive note, I have had a great year with my young horse NFF Society's Noble Traveler, below. This year was the first year I really got him going under saddle. We did a number of road trips and have had some adventures and he has truly lived up to his heritage walking horse reputation. He has been a solid boy with whatever I have thrown at him. I am very much looking forward to next riding season, where we can step up his game.

I also did something very different this year. I purchased an... Arabian. It shocked a lot of people and I still have a hard time believing it myself. This breed was never, ever on my radar before. Before I got into endurance, that is. If anyone has done endurance, they know how predominant this breed is in the sport. The breed out ranks any other breed by far. It is obvious when you see them, how they are very efficient at cooling, on the hottest humid days. They were after all, originally bred for the desert and adapted to deal with the heat and work that was asked of them. I have sat back and observed them, and have admired their agile ability, their stamina, their ability to cover 50 miles with ease. But I have also observed their flightiness, their fear of things and of course, that bouncy trot. Factors that had me saying I would never trade in my faithful, predictable, smooth, dependable Walkers for the greatest heart rate in the world.



NFF SOCIETY'S NOBLE TRAVELER.

Ransom and Beamer were two very wonderful horses that have taken me higher than I could have ever dreamed I could go in the sport of endurance. Especially Beamer who is by all accounts, the biggest underdog of all with his size being a huge

handicap. Many vets told me he was the biggest horse they had vetted in. But he proved many wrong who doubted him, and showed time and time again that he was a contender for the sport.

The thinned skinned, fine boned Arabs definitely have an advantage at cooling faster, and if you know endurance, you know it's all about having that horse with the low heart rate at the finish line. Everyone races to their buckets and sponges at the vetting station to help to bring that heart rate down. With Beamer, I had three times more horse to sponge than anyone else did! But he always came down within seconds of them. Quite a feat for the big guy.

My biggest hurdle with my Walkers was the trot out. If the vet judge was a horse vet, I had less issues. But a cow vet? Seeing a gaited horse for the first time, was usually a head scratcher for them. There is quite a bit of breed prejudice in the sport of endurance, and I have found that non Arab horses are not always judged fairly.

So, one day whilst scanning the kijiji site I came upon this nice looking two year old Arab gelding, who was located 15 miles down the road. I thought it could not hurt to just go look at him. Immediately the good breeding of the horses at this farm was evident. I did not see any dished in heads, no crooked legs, no spindly builds. The farm is run by a mother/daughter team, still building their breeding program. "We don't breed for show, we breed for performance," they told me. And that was evident. Many people can remember when prices for Arabians catapulted in the 70-80's. And the market was flooded with inferior horses. This, along with the extreme breeding for the 'show look' has changed the breed from what it was originally intended for.

Is this all sounding a bit familiar to anyone?

This mother/daughter team has made a great effort to find the right breeding stock. It has meant researching and patiently importing the right mares and stallions. They breed straight Russian horses (of which I'd never heard). Russian Arabians are actually the best of the Polish horses which were taken after WW II. The Russians saw the value in these horses, and through a stringent culling regime, filtered out the best of the best. The result is an Arab that was bred to work and has a brain. We also have to remember that the Arab was one of the breeds that influenced our breed. And sometimes when I see my horses running around the pasture, my Echo bred Walkers have more of an Arab tail than the Arab does!


I did not know much about the Arabian breed, or the different types of breeding. I just knew I liked

the look of this horse. But I can't help but feel there are some amazing parallels here. That is - the value of keeping horses true to what they should be means going back to the roots of what they were bred for in the first place. When I look at Fabian's papers (I called him Fabian, as in Fabian the Arabian), all his lines are from the 1940's and 50's. Essentially, he is a heritage bred Arab!

Whether or not Fabian will be my 100 mile endurance horse is yet to be determined. The sport demands a lot and just because he is an Arab does not guarantee anything. And I am not the young, fearless person I used to be. But so far I see a brave horse with a good mind, and a good build. He also has the best teachers in the world to learn from. Beamer and Traveler give him great confidence, set a good example for him, and he leans on them a lot.

Which is why I'll never, ever, not have my Walkers.





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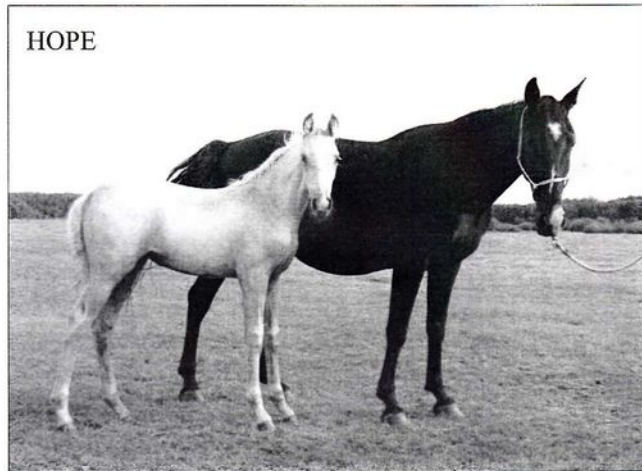
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FOAL CALL

Trinder's HOPE - Palomino Filly (SCW What are the Chances x Trinder's Charity) May 29, 2015 *(below)*



Trinder's LONDON - Buckskin Filly (SCW What are the Chances {aka Dusty} x Trinder's Sydney) June 12, 2015

Trinder's ELLIE - Palomino filly (SCW Delights Prairie Moon x Trinder's Osibian) June 1, 2015

Trinder's HAVEN - Sorrel Sabino Filly (SCW What are the Chances x Trinder's Angel)

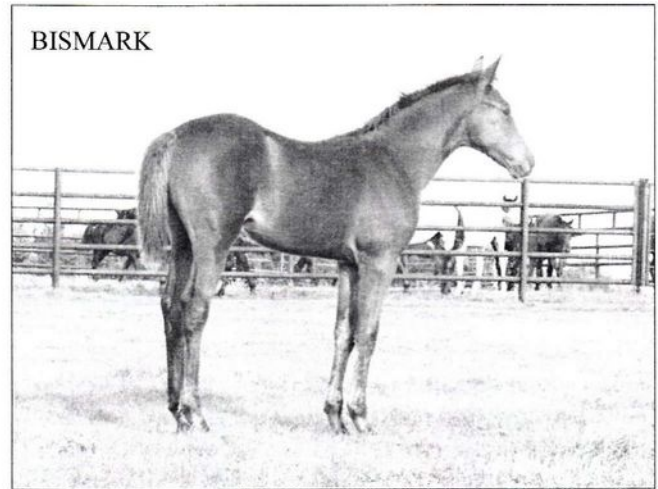
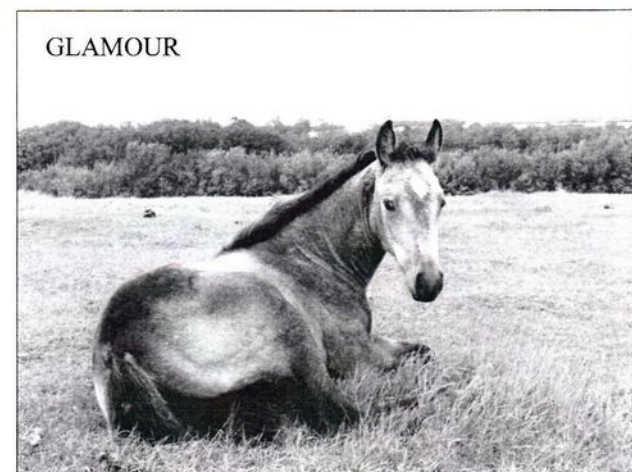
Trinder's GALE - Sorrel Sabino Filly (NFF It's Murphy's Law (Duffy) x Trinder's Typhoon) May 31, 2015

Trinder's CHAMP - Buckskin Colt (SCW What are the Chances x Trinder's Charm) June 10, 2015

Trinder's FIDDLE - Black Colt (SCW Silk Satin & Pride (Rio) x Trinder's Heiress) June 13, 2015

Trinder's FAITH - Palomino Filly (Trinder's Beacon x A&B Kirby's Blessing) May 21, 2015

Trinder's GLAMOUR - Buckskin Filly (SCW Silk Satin & Pride (Rio) x Trinder's Shimmer) June 8, 2015 *(below)*

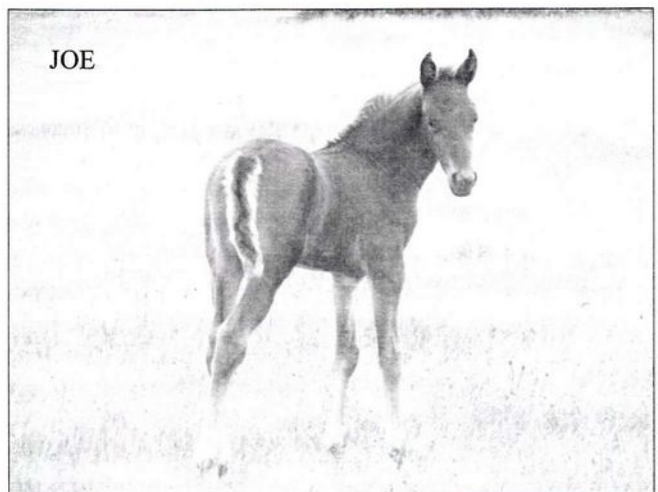


Trinder's BISMARK - Bay Colt (NFF It's Murphy's Law x Trinder's Dakota) May 30, 2015 *(above)*

Trinder's EASY - Bay Filly (Doubleplay Genius Edition (Eddy) x Trinder's Minu) May 23, 2015

Trinder's DANDY - Buckskin Filly (SCW What are the Chances x Trinder's Bambi) June 20, 2015

Trinder's CLYDE - Bay Colt (NFF It's Murphy's Law x Trinder's Muffin) June 15, 2015



Trinder's JOE - Chestnut Colt (Trinder's Caesar x Trinder's Jazira) May 30, 2015 *(above)*

Trinder's CHEROKEE - Buckskin Filly (SCW Silk Satin & Pride x Trinder's Cheyenne) May 22, 2015

Trinder's ALASKA - Sorrel Colt (Trinder's Beacon x Trinder's Utah) June 6, 2015

Trinder's CARGO - Sorrel Colt (NFF It's Murphy's Law (Duffy) x Trinder's Nahanni) May 26, 2015

Trinder's BLOSSOM - Sorrel Sabino Filly (NFF It's Murphy's Law x Trinder's Summer) June 2, 2015

All owned by Cliff & Marsha, Trinders TWH, Russell, MB

CRTWH TRIPLE CHALLENGE

by Alynn Ward, Whitecourt, AB

After many years of trail riding but no formal training I finally found an inexpensive program that gives me direction, allows me to work at my own pace and encourages me to do better for my horse and myself. I never realized how much there is for me to learn and how much fun it can be.

Five years ago in 2010 I had a very bad fall from a horse and broke my pelvis in three places. This left me with a tough decision to make. Do I get rid of my horses or was it time to buck up and admit that my horses and I had no real training? I used to ride all day in the bush, relying on the good nature of my horse, my ability to stay on, and hoping all went well. Now, if I was going to continue riding into my golden years, it was time to set some goals and do some learning. The horse I had come off had to be sold; my husband Mark was just too nervous to have him around. If I went out to ride, Mark wanted to be there to make sure I was safe. I have to admit, I had never taken the time to bond with the horse and had only had him a short time. I found a good home for him and he went to a very experienced trainer and rider.

A while before my accident I had bought a two year old TWH named Rocky. My daughter had come across him while looking at another horse and told me that she had found my horse for me. She was right. I fell in love the first day I saw him. There was no way I was going to give up on this horse! He was my incentive to heal and get healthier. One day I wanted to ride this awesome gelding. This time I was going to do it right. I had heard about the CRTWH Triple Challenge and did some reading on what it was about on the [website http://www.crtwh.ca/programs/the-canadian-triple-challenge/](http://www.crtwh.ca/programs/the-canadian-triple-challenge/) The Training Level Challenge was exactly what I was looking for. It states each task that must be completed to achieve each level for driving, trail riding, horsemanship and alternate activities. To achieve the Training Level Challenge you need to complete the horsemanship challenge and two of the other three challenges. I enjoy setting goals although I do not enjoy competition as I'm just not that great a rider. This could be done at my own pace. It was not going to be easy, as I was going to have to learn about the breed, get training for myself and for my horse.

My first adventure with Rocky in 2012 would be to drive him as I was still not physically able to ride. In 2011 and 2012 I had knee surgeries. I was walking with a cane so training him myself was out of the question. My friend Windi has many years of experience training TWHs so after some preliminary training in riding, Windi started driving Rocky in late 2012. She was very apprehensive when she gave me my first driving lessons with Rocky - green horse and green driver! I still chuckle when I think back on those times. Rocky and I both loved to go - I'm

sure we just about gave Windi a heart attack! We didn't get much driving in that year, but what we did do, I loved!

In 2013 I was wanting to start the Triple Challenge but I was intimidated. I had never done anything like this. I continued learning about driving and joined the Alberta Carriage Driving Association. Still healing from my previous physical challenges, I left riding as a goal for the future. I learned a lot about driving by attending some of the functions of the ACDA. You can volunteer to help out with their functions to see if it is something you would enjoy. They have a number of clubs in different areas and a wealth of information. Their website is <http://www.albertadriving-acda.ca>

When 2014 rolled around Windi and I agreed to work together to get Level 1 and 2 Driving. This is what I needed. Someone to give me the encouragement to do this. I managed to get my Basic Skills and Level 1 and 2 completed - and it really was not intimidating at all! What it did was give me a whole bunch of confidence in what I was doing and really helped me create a bond and communication with my horse. I was learning to give clear instruction to Rocky to obtain desired results. Why hadn't I learned this 30 years ago? Just bush riding would no longer satisfy me; now I needed to improve my horsemanship. In 2015 I completed my Driving Level 3 and I finally was getting back into riding. I had ridden my granddaughter's horse a few times in 2014 and was now ready to take on Rocky. We completed our Trail Riding to Level 3.

My goal for 2016 is to achieve my Level 1 and 2 Horsemanship. My final goal is to achieve Ultimate Horse with Rocky by completing all three components of the Triple Challenge, the Program for Excellence and the Ride/Drive program.

This program has been an amazing journey for me. At 59 years old I am finally learning about horsemanship. While I have always loved horses my mentality has gone from being an owner of a horse to having a partnership with my horse, and I am having so much fun. Thank you CRTWH for this! I highly recommend this program for all ages. There is also a Facebook support page (CRTWH Triple Challenge Support Group) that you can access with any questions you may have or input you have. Come join us!



Alynn
and
Rocky
driving.



The Canadian Walker

Volume 14, Issue 6

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December, 2015

CRTWH EXECUTIVE

President:

Sue Gamble, ON
705-642-3746
president@crtwh.ca

Vice-Presidents:

Marjorie Lacy, AB
780-723-2547
vice-president@crtwh.ca

Secretary:

Leslie Hunchuk AB
403-931-2105
secretary@crtwh.ca

Treasurer:

Dianne Little, AB
403-271-7391
treasurer@crtwh.ca

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Nomination for Century Partner: CHARIS COOPER & TRINKETTE

When the Century Partner program was conceived, it was not anticipated that one person could qualify with more than one horse. When Charis came to visit with Buddy this summer, we naturally discussed riding. As Charis and I talked, I realized that although Charis still rode Peppi for short periods a couple of times a week, Trinkette was now her primary horse. Charis bought Trinkette a number of years ago when Peppi was no longer up to the amount of riding that Charis was used to.



Photo courtesy Brenda Baker.

My memory of Trinkette was as a young filly in "The Canadian Futurity". I had not realized how many years had passed and was not aware that Charis would now qualify as a Century Partner with Trinkette.

I would like to nominate Charis Cooper and Trinkette as Century Partners. This remarkable combination would be the first double nominee and the first CRTWH Futurity horse to attain this honor.

Respectfully,

Dianne Little

Charis Cooper and Trinkette (Topaz Merry Go x Chicklette) on the hill overlooking Mesa Butte west of Millarville, AB. Trinkette was bred and raised at Bakers' Triangle B Walkers.

WHERE CAN I FIND A WALKER?

Some of the listings on the "Where Can I Find a Walker Near Me" feature on our CRTWH website are no longer current.

Therefore we will be up-dating it for 2016 and we need your help. This is a service for members, and it is purely voluntary on your part. Please contact us if you want to be included.

If you will be a member next year, go to www.crtwh.ca to check that your listing is correct. If it is not, please contact me with the corrections. If you are not listed but would like to be, email me and I'll send you the form to fill out.

It seems to be a popular site for would-be TWH buyers to check. Contact me at whn@telus.net or call 780-723-2547.

Marjorie Lacy

Board Nominations

Nomination forms, a letter and a list of your provincial members were sent out on October 29. The following nominations have been received up to Nov. 23:

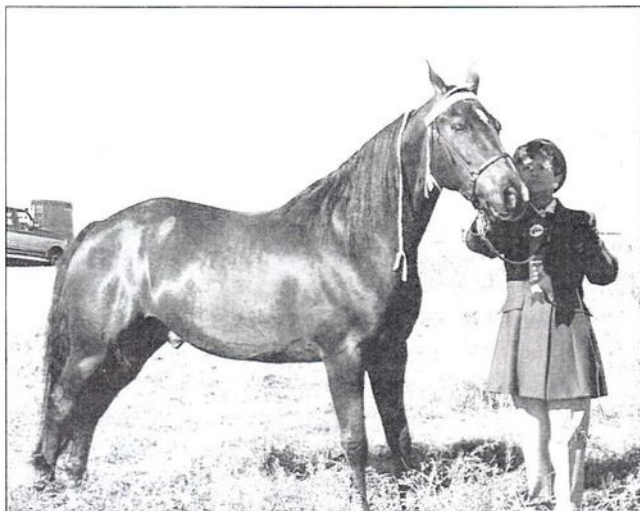
- For BC - Jo-Anne McDonald
For AB - Leslie Hunchuk
For MB and SK - None

Late Entries for 2015 PFE and TLC

While video submissions for the Training Levels and/or Program For Excellence were due by October 31, you still may submit entries for 2015 awards.

For an additional 'rush fee' of \$15 you may enter until **March 31/16**. Submissions must be received by that date for 2015 assessment.

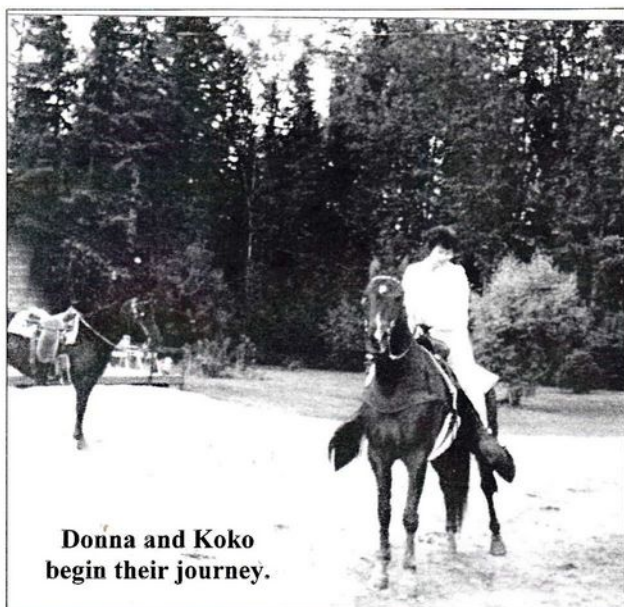
DONNA AND KOKO - CENTURY PARTNERS



I nominate Donna Edwards and Shadow's Koko Boy (*above*) as Century Partners. Donna and Koko or "The Old Boy" as he is lovingly called by the Edwards family, have surpassed the eligibility number for this nomination by four years. Donna and Koko, accompanied by husband Frank, were welcome exhibitors at a majority of Alberta shows and parades. Donna and Koko have been a constant team since they first met in 1991. Their relationship and accomplishments personify the philosophy of the CRTWH Century Partners and they deserve the honor of being recognized as such.

Respectfully,

Dianne Little



**Donna and Koko
begin their journey.**

DONNA EDWARDS is now 76 and the horse referred to as Koko is 28. SHADOWS KOKO BOY (Canadian Registration 566 and US registration 871472) is by Luckys Koko Prince {Rambler's Lucky Socks x Sundown LaMarr} out of Shadow of Riverview {Go Boy's Shadow x Lad's Hot Shot}. He was bred by Bill Howes of Walking Horse Junction, Ardrossan, AB. He is a chestnut gelding with a broken strip.

Donna has been in love with horses all her life. Donna lived in Tofield, Alberta and rode to school on a horse. She fondly remembers a very smart Shetland or Shetland crossbred pony who would lie down in the middle of a puddle if she felt like it. The horse had no concern for the rider so the rider just learned to cope with the peculiarities of the horse. This early lesson has remained part of Donna's experience with horses to this day. Donna's husband Frank remembers when he first saw Donna on horseback: "She was riding bareback like a wild thing. I have never forgotten that vision".

In 1991 Donna and her husband Frank knew nothing about Tennessee Walking Horses when Donna saw an ad for a registered TWH. The ad stated the horse was related to Roy Roger's 'Trigger'. Donna was intrigued and contacted Jim Tyschuk, the owner of a horse related to Allen's Gold Zephyr on the sire's side. Donna and Frank travelled from Whitecourt to Onoway to try out the horse. The horse (named Trigger, of course) was not really broke, but Donna liked what she saw. She rode him, then bought him. Once the horse was on their property, Donna changed his name to Koko. She quickly discovered that Koko disliked men and jangling spurs, but as Donna was neither a man nor wore spurs, they got along. Donna accepted Koko and Koko accepted Donna.

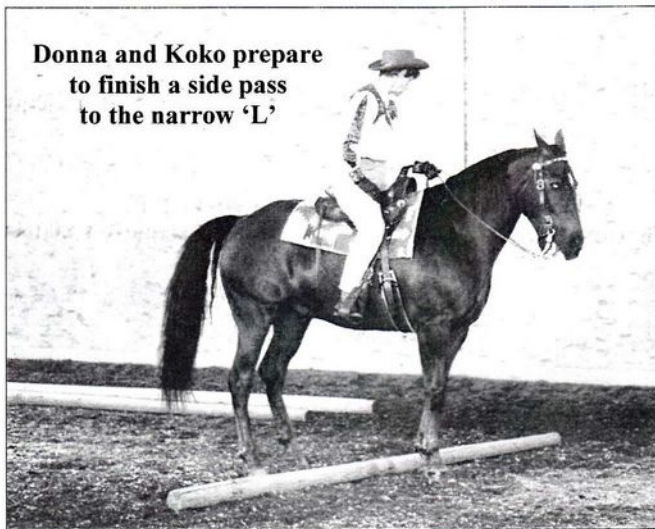
It was not long before the Edwards family moved exclusively to easy gaited horses. At the same time Donna bought Koko, Frank bought a Paint. He rode it for two months until he got "ticked off" because he could not keep up to Donna on Koko. He then searched for a TWH for himself.

Bought as a trail or pleasure horse, Koko soon showed he could handle mountain trails, pack deer and bear, and had enough stamina for the longest and most difficult trails.

Looking for further experiences, the Edwards turned to the show ring. Donna rode Koko in both English and Western classes. Neither Donna nor

Koko were satisfied with two gait classes, but entered all the three gait classes they were eligible for. Koko had a lovely canter – the true ‘Rocking Horse’ canter with no pulling or pushing by Donna. When Frank became interested in driving, Donna and Koko joined right in. Koko and Donna experienced a jump course more than once. They competed in gymkhana where Donna showed her fearlessness as well as her connection with Koko. Donna and Koko were tough competitors in the show ring. Although they excelled in most events, they could claim bragging rights in Trail Competition. They were seldom beaten and especially remembered for the manner in which they backed through a narrow ‘L’. “Koko picked his way through, barely touching the sides of the narrowest ‘L’.”

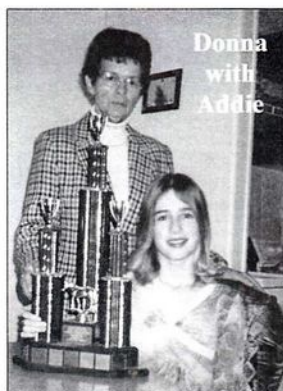
Donna and Koko prepare to finish a side pass to the narrow ‘L’



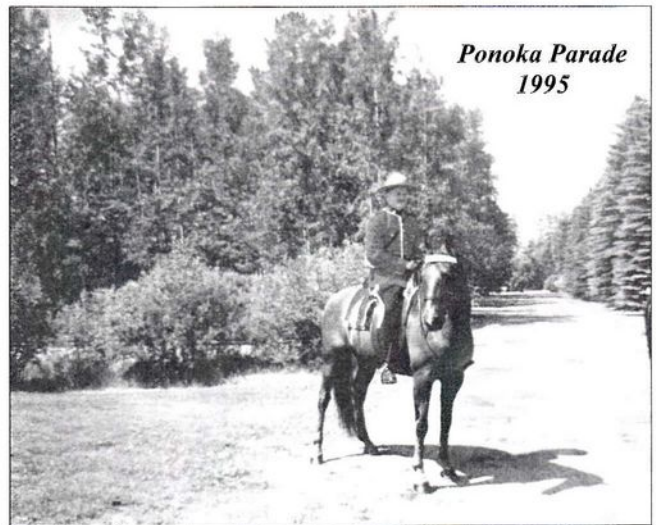
There was a strong bond between Donna and Koko. Frank explained it this way: “He took care of her and she took care of him. The first parade they rode in was at Edmonton Klondike Days. The weather was bad and neither Koko nor Donna had been in that type of situation previously. At the end of the parade back in the staging grounds, Donna turned him loose and Koko went through mud and rain to wait for his family at the trailer.” There were

times that he was not tied properly at the trailer. Koko never left and was always waiting for Donna.

Koko was the chosen mount when granddaughter Addie wanted to ride. Addie and Koko joined the show circuit with Donna and Frank, and Koko did double duty,



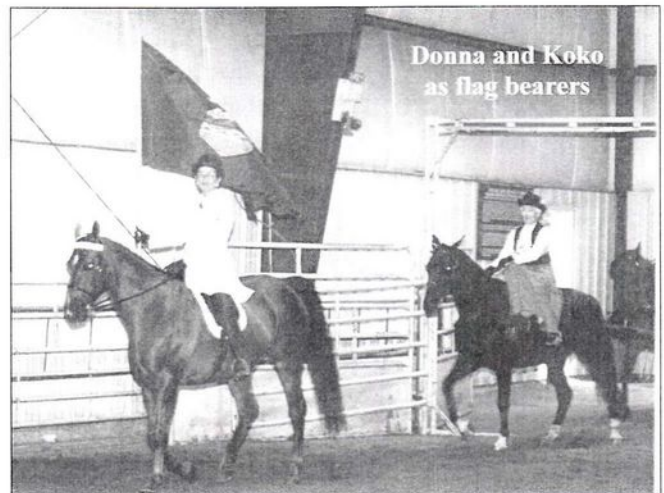
Donna with Addie



Ponoka Parade 1995

carrying both Addie and Donna to memorable rides and awards.

Donna and Frank and their gaited horses were a frequent presence at parades in the area. Because of his disposition and calm manner, Koko was chosen as the mount of choice for the RCMP. Donna and



Donna and Koko as flag bearers

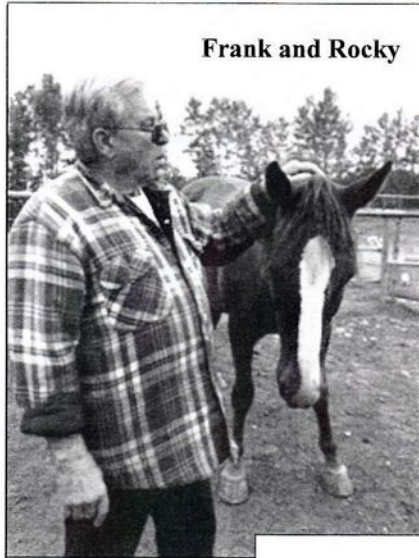
Koko were often flag bearers at horse ceremonies and shows as they were always dependable.

Donna was never one to let an opportunity or challenge go by. Although they never took their horses to the US, Donna and Frank spent a number of winters in the US, primarily Nevada. They drove longhorns from NV to CA and then back again at one time. This was with a Dude setup with 20 longhorns, and 8 videographers for a documentary video. The headline in the paper was “Canadians show how to drive cattle from Nevada to the Heart Ranch in California”.

The love affair with the TWH that began in 1991 continues to this day. The Edwards have owned a number of TWH and MFT, but the horse

that stole Donna's heart still resides at their home. He is ridden only for short distances now, but continues to be a wonderful example of the TWH in disposition and movement. He is always ready to introduce people to the TWH.

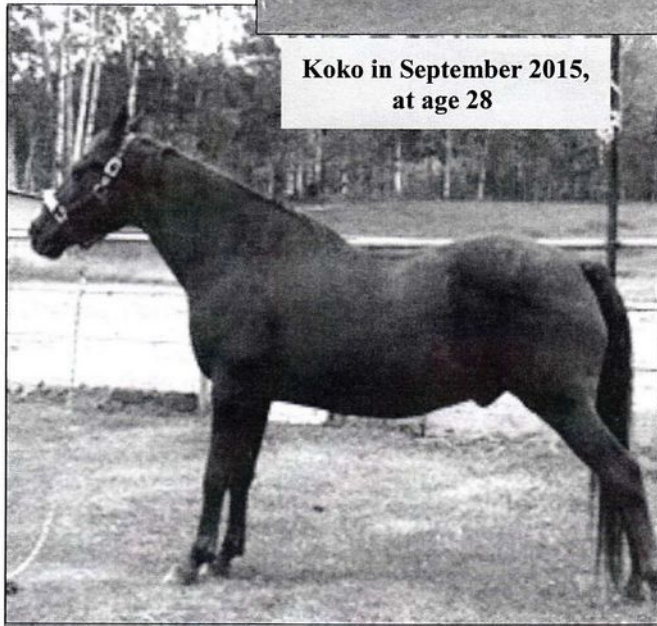
The Old Boy will spend the remainder of his



Frank and Rocky

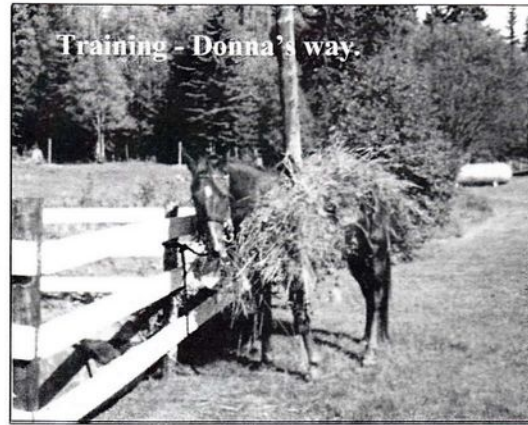
life with Donna, Frank, a MFT named Rocky, two donkeys and two dogs, in the familiar pastures of their home in Carnwood, Alberta.

Pasture Companions.



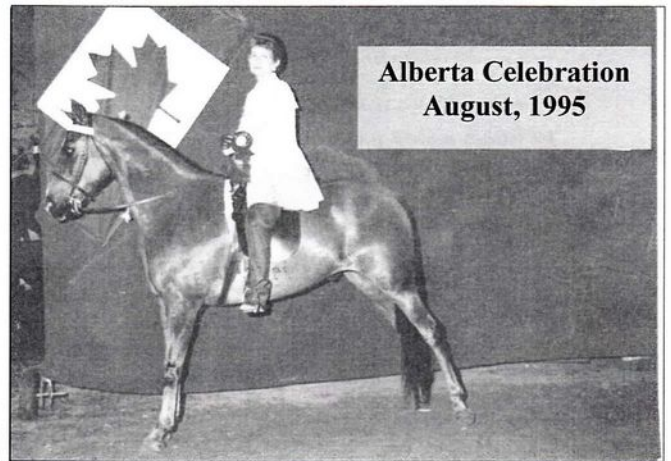
Koko in September 2015, at age 28

Koko and Donna are wonderful examples of the special connection between horse and human.



Training - Donna's way.

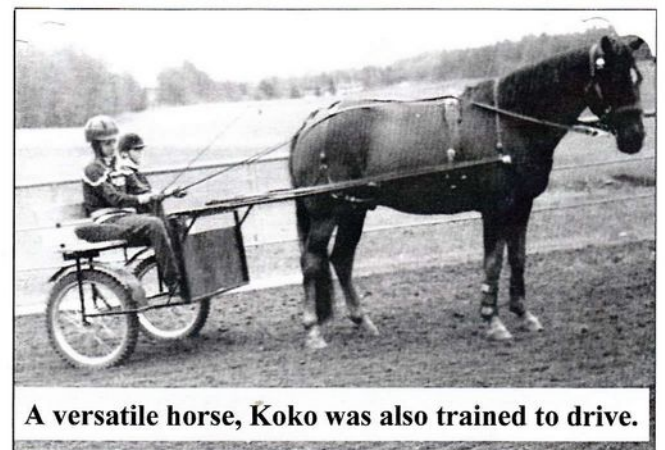
More photos from their career.



Alberta Celebration August, 1995



**Ba Balzac 1995
Wa Water Glass
1st First Place**



A versatile horse, Koko was also trained to drive.

A RED BY ANY OTHER NAME... by Franne Brandon

The Tennessee Walking Horse breed developed in the Middle Tennessee basin during a period when stallions of other noted breeds arrived in the area to cross with the native saddle mares. Although the blooded stallions that were offered to the native mares were of basic colors, the mares themselves presented a genetic rainbow of colors and patterns to interact with the stallions' shades of red, black, and bay. When the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders Association of America was organized in 1935, the highest percentage of horses that were registered were red in color, often with the red interacting with the sabino gene, which was called roan during that time period.

The nomenclature for the red base color had two distinctions, which are emphasized as the first pair of color options in each volume of The Register of the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders Association of America.^{*} The number 1 color on the list of nine options is sorrel, while the number 2 color option is chestnut.

The Studbooks define sorrel as a color that "varies from a light liver to washy yellow. Never have black mane and tail." (Register, Vol. 1, 1938, page 36.) Chestnut "varies from a light liver color to a dark liver color and copper shades. Never have black mane and tail." (Register, Vol. 1, 1938, p. 36.) Both these definitions are somewhat ambiguous, but breeders of Tennessee Walking Horses who have grown up in the state of Tennessee in Walking Horse families have no difficulty in explaining the difference between sorrel and chestnut horses. When asked to explain what distinguishes chestnut from sorrel, those in the breed circles for many decades, among them Leon Oliver, Betty Sain, and Billy Taylor, all stated that sorrels are light red and chestnut horses are dark. This was also the definition that I was taught by my small circle of walking horse mentors.

When the walking horse breed exploded in popularity in the eighties and nineties, going to all American states, and even abroad, then regional differences affected the names given to red base horses. In some areas, a sorrel requires a flax mane and tail. In others the chestnut term is used for flax manes and tails, while horses with matching or dark red manes and tails are called sorrels. In areas to the east, where Arabians, Morgans, and Thoroughbreds abound, chestnut is likely to be used for all red horses, including Tennessee Walkers. Almost twenty years ago, before internet ads became commonplace, I bought a mare from an ad in the old Plantation

Showcase. Her breeder's barn manager had registered her as a "flax chestnut", which I saw as a good color to cross with our upcoming palomino stallion. When she shed in the late spring, her red coat told me that she was what I had always called a "flax sorrel". Red Walkers in the western states are more likely to be called sorrels due to the use of that term in the American Quarter Horse Association ranks. There is also the group that seriously studies equine color genetics, that knows which genes are KIT mutations and which are not, and this last group, when raising Walkers, is likely to insist that all red horses which would DNA test as recessive ee should be registered as chestnut, since their genetic code is exactly the same.

Modern DNA studies have revealed that the two shades of chestnut and sorrel designated as options back in 1935 are genetically the same color. Testing has proven that chestnuts can carry genes like agouti or silver without these two having any visible impact on the red coat. In the third edition of Equine Color Genetics,^{**} Dr. D. Phillip Sponenberg offers a three page discussion on the concept of shade in horse colors. He uses the terms "liver chestnut" and "dark chestnut" for the darkest shades, "red chestnut" and "copper chestnut" for the middle shades, and "light chestnut", "golden chestnut", and "yellow chestnut" for the light shades. He states that "The shade effect is under complex, multifactorial genetic control so that relationships between the shades are not straightforward". Tell that to the palomino fancier who bred a dark red stallion to a rich golden mare only to get a light golden offspring, and the breeder will nod his head in understanding. Sponenberg goes on to mention a Swiss breed in which the lighter shades of color are dominant to the darker, which may be happening in today's walking horses where sorrels are often seen but the deep, dark chestnuts of fifty years ago are becoming rare, at least here in Middle Tennessee.

As a person who has been around Tennessee Walkers for almost fifty years and raised plenty of red horses (while always hoping for palominos), I like the old distinctions of chestnut for the darker horses and sorrel for the lighter ones. In today's modern equine internet marketing, photo ads probably eliminate the need for such distinctions on red horses that are genetically the same. However, some people take *really BAD* photos - poor angles, too much shade, or too much sun, all of which distort the color depths.

If choosing a red horse to cross with a cream or champagne dilution, most breeders would prefer a darker shade of red. When crossing red with gray, the darker shades are also desirable, even though the gray gene does generally darken up the coat of the resulting foal. Breeding for loud sabinos, however, it is easier to get the most exciting patterns with the red gene when the lighter sorrel shades form the base coat. Experience as well as genetic research has proven this to be true. From a breeder's perspective, the shade distinctions are helpful when searching long distance, or even over the phone, for a red mare or stallion.

Various breed associations continue to use older terms for the registration of red base foals. The Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders and Exhibitors Association continues to list both chestnut and sorrel as options for foal coat colors, both on their paper forms and on the PDF file available for online use. At times there is a fine line to determine just what the shade is of a red baby, especially if it has shed part but not all of the foal coat when the deadline for registration approaches. The incoming sleek hair of the new coat tends to look dark in contrast to the faded red of the foal coat. Occasionally, even a foal that has totally shed off will appear to be dark enough that chestnut is the appropriate term, but the following spring, she will shed off the brighter, lighter shade of sorrel.

Over the years, our experience of raising red babies has added some wisdom to the picture. We registered our surprise foal of 2006 as a sorrel although the new, slick weanling coat was dark, and the following spring, Delightful Sprite was indeed a sorrel yearling. I learned that lesson from the three daughters of chestnut Betty Chance sired by "sorrel roan" Rip. The first was a sorrel, the second one, registered as that from her red foal coat (not by me!) matured a chestnut, and the third appeared to be dark when shedding, so was registered as chestnut, but then as a yearling grew a golden flax mane and tail to complement a very bright red coat.

Genetically, then, as far as the DNA tests currently available, all red coats are the same. Many people across breed lines who study color genetics want to use the term "chestnut" for all red coats. Although equine color genetics has been a passion of mine since I was fifteen years old, I bow to the artist in me who loves to offer color distinctions when they occur. And I will admit to being a pushover for a rich chestnut coat accented by a flax or silver mane and tail.

I wonder how many others share my opinion?

*The Register of the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders' Association of America, edited and compiled by Burt Hunter, Secretary. Lewisburg, Tennessee, 1938.

**Equine Color Genetics, D. Philip Sponenberg, DVM, PhD., Ames, Iowa, Wiley -Blackwell Press, c. 2009.

MORE NEWS



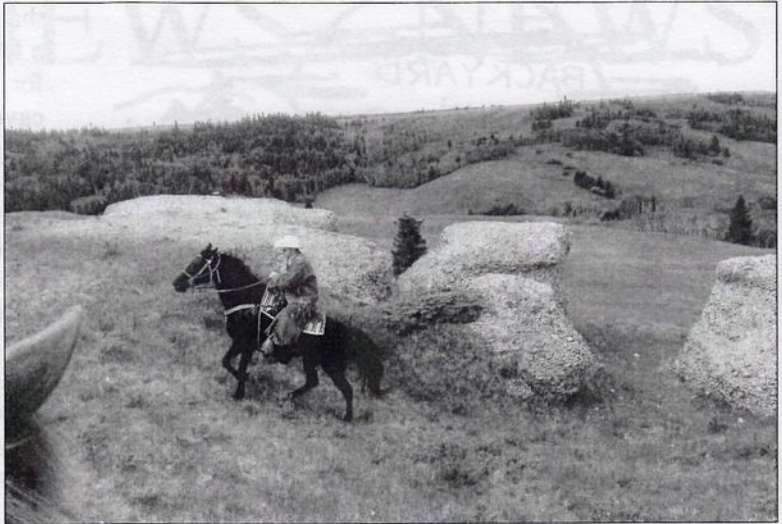
Above, CAROL HALL and RON WILLIAMSON of WESTRIDGE FARMS, CALGARY, enjoyed a recent visit with 'Buddy', the youngest son of their old stallion, Go Shadow Go.

ROSEMARY HARTLEY, NIPIGON, ON writes, "Cedar (Marlee Cedar Son) is still with me. He is 29 and I even rode him this spring on our local trails. He is fast to come for his grain, but I worry about his front tendons so am trying to slow him down."

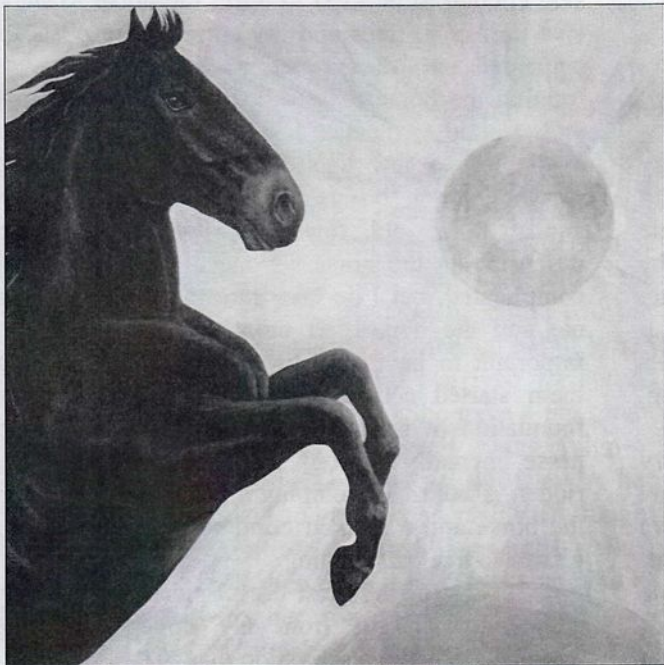
"It was nice to see the article on Go Shadow Go. I was fortunate to have met Helen Williamson and purchased Skip (Shadow's Borago) from her daughter, Carol. I was thinking that he would have been one of the last from Go Shadow Go, but thanks to science there are more. So great to hear. Skip has been a great horse prior to the founder that hit him two winters ago. He recovered with treatment and I got to ride him last fall, but then he foundered again last winter. It seems to be cold induced. This time around I was aware of what was going on so had him x-rayed, had the farrier here, and put him in RX boots right away. He seemed better immediately and was walking around without boots in no time. He has his 'grazing buddy' on if he goes out with Cedar, but only in the early morning to avoid sugar in the grass."

"I have taken to hoof treatment like that done by Pete Ramey. I only found his articles when looking up how to deal with the thrush that seems to go along with putting the padded boots on for long periods of time. My knowledge of horse care has certainly increased, between Cedar bowing his tendons three years ago and needing stable wraps changed daily, and Skip's foundering occurrences. I now measure for weight as it is hard to judge a horse's weight when you see them every day. I hope to get the 'okay' to ride later this fall. Nothing big, just a walk around the trails on our property."

What Do You Do With Your Walkers?



Above: LOREN LEWIS, HINTON, AB and his mare, Image's Black Pearl, rode through spectacular rock outcrops while on holiday in the Cypress Hills, AB.

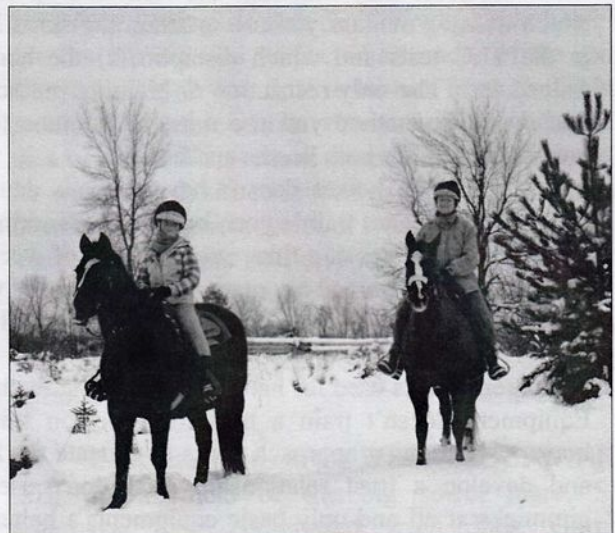
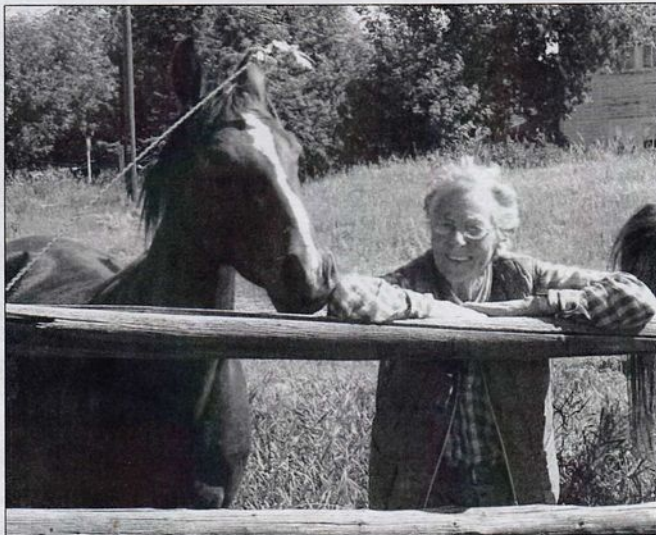


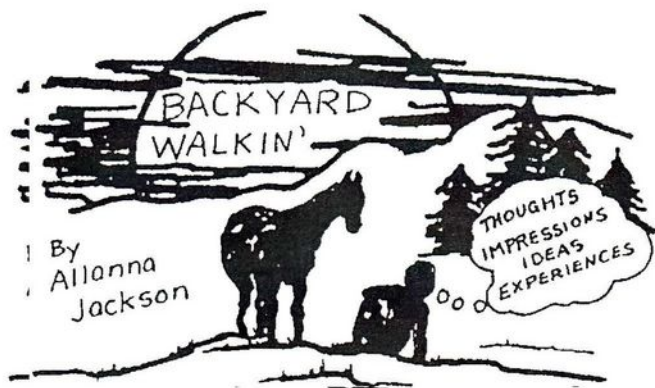
Left: SUE GAMBLE, SWASTIKA, asked, "What Do People do with their Walkers? The answer is "they use them for models in their paintings".

"I have two paintings with Fix as a model. I will send you a detail of this one I titled "Dark Horse and Cosmos", just showing the horse's head and moon. The whole painting is 30 x 30 inches."

Below right: Some people share their Walkers with others. Century Partner CATHY MINOR rides Buck while Grace is mentored by Flicka on a snowy day near KARS, ONTARIO.

Below left: JO KINGSLAND, ALIX, AB and Hummer observe as Ralph and Chico get acquainted.





BACK YARD WALKIN'

by Allanna Lea Jackson

October, 2015

TRAINING STEP BY STEP

with the

CANADIAN TRAINING LEVELS CHALLENGE

The CRTWH is the only horse registry organization I know of that offers an awards program that is also a training guide integrated into a single Challenge that every horse and every member in the registry can participate in without having to leave home. I'm talking about the CANADIAN TRIPLE CHALLENGE which consists of the Training Levels Challenge, the Ride, Drive and Alternatives program, and the Program for Excellence.

The Training Levels Challenge, or TLC, is very practical guide to help you train your horse for any discipline or activity. The TLC is a progressive educational program that evaluates the skills every domestic horse needs to be a safe, enjoyable, desirable companion. The TLC tests list the skills the horse needs to master at each level, and each test has an age limit on when the horse may challenge the test. It's up to you which training method you use to attain the skills listed in the TLC tests and which discipline(s) the horse is trained for. The only restriction on training methods is that whatever method you use must be humane to the horse, and safe for both horses and humans.

Training horses doesn't have to be a daunting undertaking. Halter training can be done by working the horse a few minutes at a time over a period of weeks or months. I halter trained my mare Velvet when she was a suckling foal while I had one arm in a sling! Horse training can be done with just good quality basic equipment that is used for handling and riding the horse. Equipment doesn't train a horse. A person trains a horse. My training approach seeks to educate the horse and develop a trust relationship so I don't use any gimmicks at all and only basic equipment: a halter and lead rope, basic grooming equipment, a bridle, a saddle

that fits the horse with a saddle blanket or pad. I do have a few items of tack and equipment that are not necessary for an already fully trained riding horse: a lunge cavesson, a couple of lunge lines, a dressage whip, and a lunge whip. Round pens or square pens, rings or arenas and obstacle courses are convenient but not essential. I've been training my own horses for 33 years and have never had a round pen or schooling ring. I train my horses in my back yard, just using the corral they live in all the time, and taking advantage of my easy access to the National Forest. My property is only 1.45 acres total. The corral is roughly 65' x 150'. If all you've got is pasture, portable fence panels can be set up on a relatively flat spot with decent footing to create a training area. A safe place to tie the horses for grooming and saddling is important and must be sturdy enough and safe enough to be used to teach the horse to stand tied. I've used pine trees and my corral fence posts that are cemented into the ground as hitching posts. When training the horse to lead, ground drive, and ride over and around obstacles I use things that are readily available: a few logs for ground poles; a piece of plywood for a 'bridge', plastic cones from a sporting goods store; old towels, tarps, or oat sacks for desensitizing the horse. None of this is expensive or complicated, but I do take care to be sure it is safe for me and the horses. I think ground training is very important to having well-mannered horses and getting them started correctly. Ground work is where the foundation of trust and communication that keeps the horse mentally relaxed and comfortable with being ridden is built. Developing a positive relationship with the horse and a relaxed mind set is one of the keys to gimmick-free gait training.

One of the most useful pieces of horse training advice that I got from my college horsemanship instructor was the observation that, "Horses are thousand pound four-year-olds." In other words, a horse's attention span, mental comprehension, and emotional development are similar to those of a 4-year-old child. Because horses are "thousand pound 4-year-olds", taking a few minutes a day several days a week over a period of weeks or months to halter train the horse is more compatible with equine learning than the marathon session or clinic approach. It doesn't matter if you take six months to teach a horse that is living in your pasture to lead nicely from both sides, back up, yield to pressure, and stand nicely for grooming because your costs for having that horse are the same whether it is spending half an hour a week learning basic skills, or just mowing the grass and getting fat.

Horses learn best and are less likely to get into those scary, dangerous flight-or-fight behaviors when the trainer breaks every task down into the smallest sub tasks. Teach the horse those smallest tasks thoroughly

using a gentle, quiet method, then put the smallest tasks together to build the larger tasks one piece at a time. Some of the tasks on the TLC Basic Skills list, like moving away from pressure, are at that simplest level. The complex tasks can be broken down into several smaller sets of simple tasks. For example, all of the Basic Skills test requirements about touching the horse are related to grooming and routine health care in one way or another. Simply catching the horse and grooming it thoroughly on a regular basis provides an easy, horse-friendly way to develop and reinforce those essential skills. Trailer loading and unloading are just another combination of all of the tasks involved in leading the horse.

Another advantage to approaching training as multiple short lessons, teaching simple tasks, is that it gives you short-term goals that make it easier to see your horse's progress. This is encouraging and confidence boosting for both you and the horse. When you and the horse are confident about safely and consistently doing all the tasks on the TLC Basic Skills In Hand test, find a friend or family member to videotape you and the horse doing those skills right there at home where you always do them. Send the video in to CRTWH with the entry form and a very modest fee. That's all it takes for you and your horse to earn an attractive certificate and recognition on the CRTWH website for mastering skills you and the horse will use for the rest of the horse's life.

The Training Levels Challenge provides a horse-logical training guide. The TLC Basic Skills In Hand is the entry gate to everything else in the Canadian Challenge. The Basic Skills test covers the most essential things every domestic horse needs to know, such as catching the horse, putting a halter on the horse, leading the horse, handling the horse for grooming and basic health care, and trailer loading and unloading. People who never take their horses anywhere may not think of trailer loading as an essential skill. Nobody likes to think about natural disasters, but when disaster strikes, it is the horses that are the easiest to load into a trailer, not the most valuable horses, that have the best chance of being evacuated to safety. We can think of the basic skills test as the end-of-the-school-term mastery objectives for the first level in your horse's education. A horse can pass the Basic Skills In Hand test at only 18 months old.

The Training Levels tests can be used to evaluate the training level of every horse you already own, or are considering purchasing. The TLC tests can also be used to set the training goals for each horse. You may want to print out a copy of the TLC test(s) for each horse and make notes on which skills that horse has and which skills it lacks. This exercise provides a

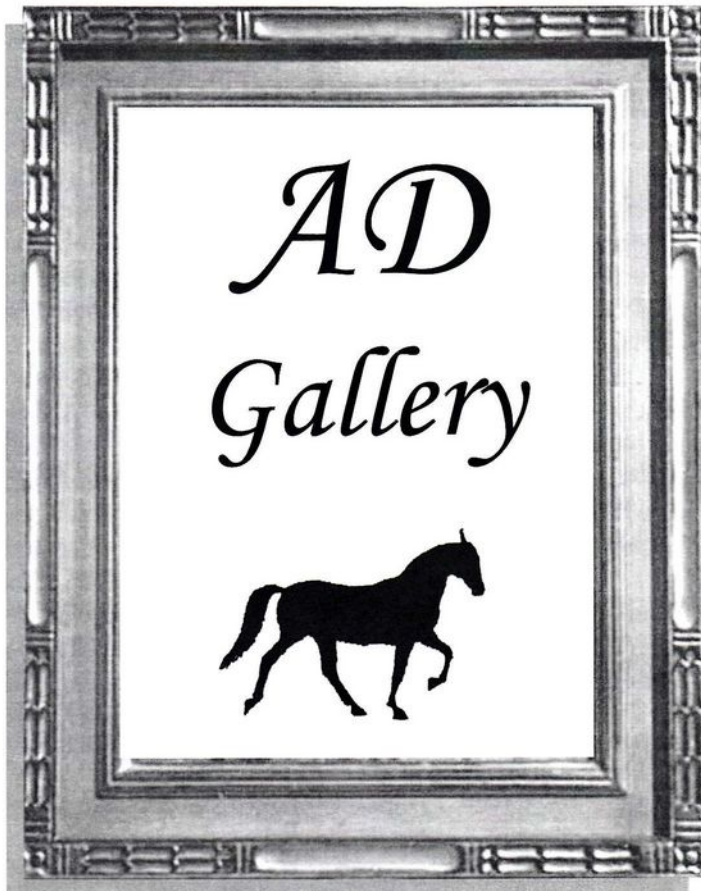
list of specific training goals for that horse within the constraints of appropriate age, time limits, weather, allowances for the individuality of the horse, and other variables.

After passing Basic Skills the horse and trainer can then advance to TLC Driving Level 1, which is ground driving or long lining. Ground driving the horse is a bridge between halter training and riding. TLC Driving Level 1 asks the horse to demonstrate mastery of tasks that are combinations of multiple smaller tasks that prepare the horse for either riding or driving in harness, or both. The TLC does not test lunging the horse, but an introduction to the basics of lunging gives the horse a bridge between leading and the long lining skills that TLC Driving Level 1 does evaluate.

When the horse has accomplished TLC Driving Level 1 the trainer can then choose whether to continue training the horse to drive in harness or start the horse under saddle and train it for riding. Training the horse to drive in harness continues with working toward the TLC Driving levels 2 and 3. For riding, the horse can be started under saddle after accomplishing Driving Level 1 and then go on to work on Horsemanship 1 and Trail riding 1 simultaneously. The horse that can pass TLC Horsemanship Level 1 is also ready to challenge the Program for Excellence Silver Award. The horse that can earn Horsemanship Level 2 is also ready to challenge the Program for Excellence Gold Award.

If your horse is already trained, just find someone to film you and your horse demonstrating the skills on the TLC tests. You may then send the video to CRTWH with the appropriate forms and fees to earn your award(s). The fees for the Canadian Challenge program support the CRTWH. Every CRTWH registered horse owned by a CRTWH member is eligible for the Canadian Challenge. The video evaluations make it possible for Canadian Walking Horses anywhere in the world to participate in the Canadian Challenge. *This photo shows the equipment and facilities that I used in training Cinnamon*





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