

OCTOBER 2015  
VOLUME XXXIX No. 5



# Walking Horse

# News



DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN - SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE SINCE 1977

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DEDICATED TO THE PLAIN-SHOD TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE SINCE 1977

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## On Our Cover

Bill Roy,  
Falkland, BC  
starts work  
in the round pen  
with a young Walker,  
Gold Prospector,  
and  
Brandon Dodds  
was there  
to capture  
this amazing  
'end of the rainbow'  
photograph one  
showery day  
last summer.

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for Jan/Feb issue  
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for Mar/Apr issue  
MARCH 7

for May/June issue  
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for July/Aug issue  
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Volume XXXIX, # 5 September/October, 2015

Dear Subscribers,

It's already September and only a week from the autumn equinox. The trees are turning colour and we've had some close calls for frost. I love this time of year - only wish it lasted longer. There's always the sense of hurry, hurry, get ready for winter...

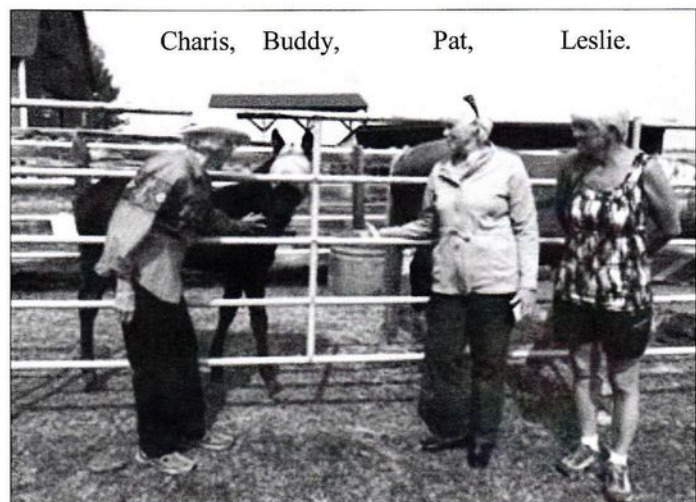
I hope you all have your hay secured. Some areas are very short of feed while others are not too bad. Here we got only a third to a half the amount of hay we put up in 2014, but there's enough for my herd since I had hay left from the year before.

There were many comments on the story of Buddy the Miracle Foal in the last issue. This youngest son of Go Shadow Go has become a celebrity, and entertained many visitors this summer. Below he graciously greets Charis Cooper and Pat Pritchard while Leslie Hunchuk looks on.

There's a wide range of articles in this issue. Allanna discusses the benefits of obstacle training while Franne wonders where the walk has gone in too many of our Tennessee Walkers these days. There is more on the Merry Go Boy Heirs from Jo-Anne McDonald and Brenda Baker, and we'll have 'the rest of the story' on Go Boy's Crown Royal from Keith Doll in the December issue. There are stories from new Century Partners Kathy Minor, ON and Natalie Speckmaier, BC. So there's lots of good reading. How about news and pics from you next time?

Happy riding with your TWH this autumn,

*Marjorie*



WHN makes a  
great gift!

October, 2015

# Walking Horse News

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

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*ANY NEWS FROM YOUR PLACE?*



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# HISTORY & HERITAGE PROJECT

## GO BOY'S CROWN ROYAL

U.S. # 681170 / Canadian Registry #412

On February 11, 1994 we bade farewell to Canada's only direct son of the great Merry Go Boy. His dam was Sun's Black Ann, a direct daughter of Midnight Sun.

GO BOY'S CROWN ROYAL OR "J.R." as he was known around the farm, was foaled in Tennessee on July 7<sup>th</sup>, 1968 on the farm of John R. Jones in Nashville, Tennessee. I believe he was the Grand Champion weanling at the Celebration in 1968. He was purchased by new owners who later moved him to Ohio. J.R. bore the scars of the "training" methods of the big lick. This was to cause the old horse much discomfort in his old age.

We are not sure of his movements after he left Ohio, but he moved to Manitoba in 1977, siring a few foals along the way. "J.R." then made the long move west to Spirit River, Alberta in 1984. Jayne Walker of Dawson Creek, B.C. purchased this very well bred old gentleman a year later in 1985. He was then moved to McDonald Farms in Pouce Coupe, B.C. where he stood at public stud until his death at 26.

"J.R." left a legacy of sons and daughters to carry on his bloodline. Some of these notable daughters were: GO BOY'S FOXY DOLL, ROYAL'S MISTY LADY, ROYAL CLASS APRIL ANGEL, GO BOY'S RENA AND ROYAL'S LAST CLASS ACT. Some notable sons were: CAN-AM'S CHOICE, KIT'S ROYAL PRIDE, ROYAL DICTATOR, GO SHAKER GO,

GO BOY'S YANKEE, and our own stallion CANADIAN SHAKER. Canadian Shaker has also gone on to greener pastures now, but we have two of his sons here on the farm to carry on the Crown Royal legacy. We have a silver dapple stallion "Shaker's Silver Smoke" and the blue roan "Shakin' The Blues". We have high hopes for these colorful sons of Shaker to carry on for the future. There are too many more to mention here but these horses represent some of the finest "foundation bloodlines" available up close as it is possible to find these days. There are many

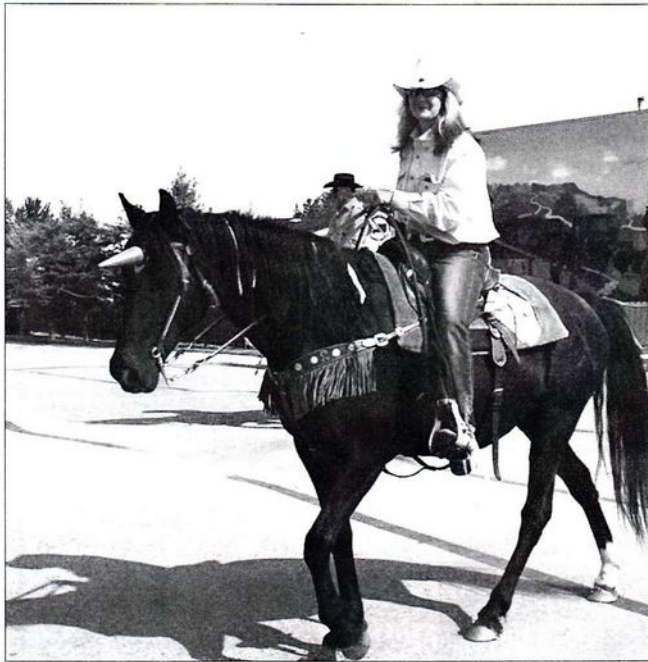
offspring of these mares and stallions now producing wonderful and talented foals in their turn.

J.R.

succumbed to the infirmities of old age in 1994. He was beginning to suffer, so perhaps it was for the best, but we still miss him just the same.



*In the next issue we hope to fill in some of the missing history of Go Boy's Crown Royal. Keith Doll of Douglas, Manitoba purchased him and brought him up from Ohio. But JR had also spent several years in Ontario and Keith still has some of the letters from that previous owner, Mae Dunlop. A few of you may recognize JR's Ontario son in the list, left. We are also hoping to locate the photo of JR as a weanling in the '68 Celebration.*



From KIM PIELAK, NITON JUNCTION, "Here is a picture of Panola Rose and me at the parade in Wildwood, Aug. 25. I was fortunate to be able to ride with the Wild Pink Yonder for three days and was able to raise \$1270 towards breast cancer research. What a great experience - great people, great horses, great trails, great communities for a great cause! I rode with them in Hinton, Edson, and Wildwood. What a great place to end. The Wildwood community all banded together, 'pinked up' their town and were just amazing. I rode my 'unicorn' in the parade and it seemed the whole town was out to wave us on. When I rode there were three other riders, two on Walkers not including me. Hugh Ashwell, Edson, rode his big Walker gelding and Elmer Buchberger, Grand Prairie was on a Cee Dee mare."

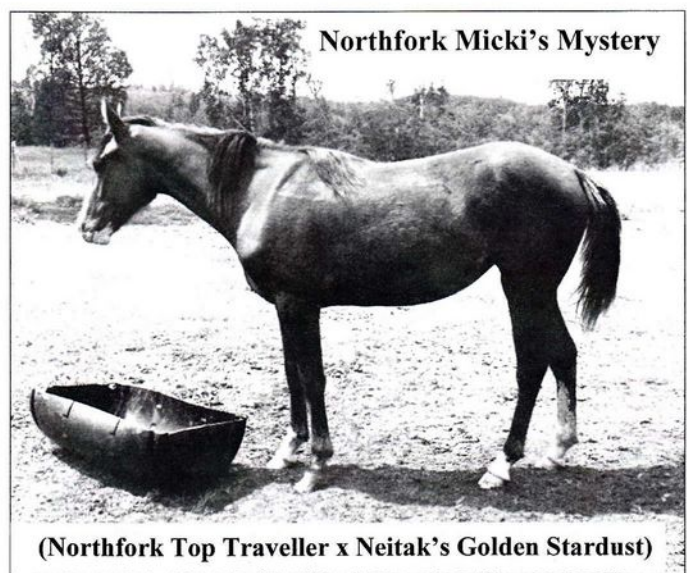
CHRISTINE KOBZA, GLENWOOD, writes, "Has the summer been as hot up your way? We sure are hoping/praying for moisture all over the province. The kids and I have been trying to get in a bit of riding most mornings before it gets too hot. Pretty short riding times. It doesn't give us much chance to venture past the hay field. We got caught by nose flies on the morning of June 27 when we did attempt a ride to the river. We almost got there, then Mystery and Jasmine Rose began to hop frantically up in front, striking at their noses. We eventually tied the reins up and let the horses run home on their own, with the four of us following on foot. Since then we don't take any chances riding out too far."

From DENNIS & KAREN QUILLIAMS, "HorseSense has found a new home! Starting Aug 23, Bar 22 Equine Center in CLIVE, AB. will be the new facility hosting HorseSense HorseManShip and Special Ability Horsemanship, along with Heather Russell teaching Equine Guided Education. We specialize in Gaited Horses, teaching you to get a better gait, a more comfortable seat, and a more comfortable ride."

ARLENE BOLES, THREE HILLS, writes, "I enjoy reading Walking Horse News from cover to cover, with all the photos and news. Thank you for your time. I've enclosed a cheque for my renewal for another year. We are getting older in our later retirement years, with bad hips and a terrible time getting around, so not working so much with horses. Guess we have to let go someday."

BRENDA BAKER, CALGARY, "I was out at Brenda Woodall's while Holly Hardman was giving her a mini driving lesson after giving the mare a chiropractic adjustment. "Grace" is a sweet mare that Brenda has done a lot of work with in the last five years. Driving is her latest project, as many of your readers already know from her articles about it." (See a photo of Grace giving a youngster her first horseback ride on page 8.)

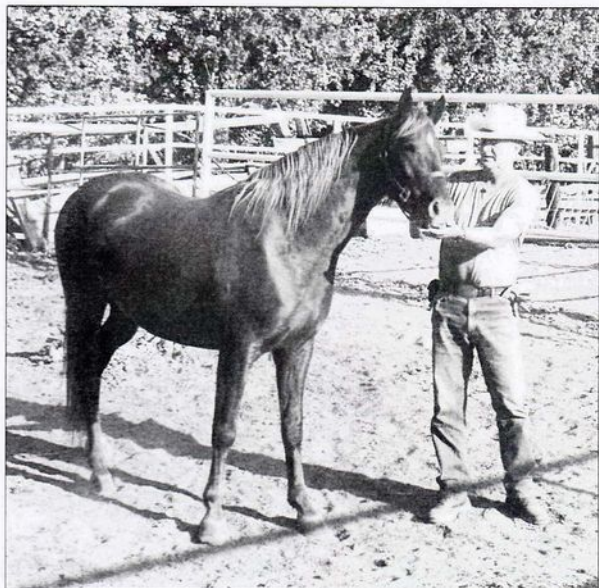
The GURNETTS of NORTHFORK FARM, BLUFFTON, are very pleased to congratulate Brenda Woodall on her choice of the yearling, Northfork Micki's Mystery. We wish you all the best of luck with this nice moving chestnut sabino filly.



Northfork Micki's Mystery

(Northfork Top Traveller x Neitak's Golden Stardust)

## BRITISH COLUMBIA NEWS



RALPH LIVINGSTON, KELOWNA, writes, "Considering that this time last week I had never been to Jo Kingsland's place in Alix, AB and today I have "Chico" here in K-town, lots has happened! I can certainly recommend Carolyn Langley's "Hooves and Hounds" if you are looking for someone to move a horse for you. It was affordable, efficient, and safe horse hauling. Here is her website: <http://www.hoovesnhounds.com/>."

"Jo's gelding, Chico, has settled in nicely and is getting lessons on having his feet picked up! We did a preliminary trim on him today and he was a real gentleman. He has a good mind and kind nature. I am very excited about this new horse I've purchased!"

YVONNE YOUNG, PRINCE GEORGE, writes, "I had the vet come out and do an ultrasound on Honey to be sure there was only one foal and she let us see what she could see. I'm blown away! We could clearly see the foal - free-floating within the uterus. It was only about four centimeters long but well developed along the spinal column so we could see the head and neck and back and legs. We could see its heart was racing away in its chest as it should be at this stage. It cost \$200 to have that procedure done and in my opinion well worth it to know there's a healthy foal (and for a sneak peek!)."

"I think it's totally amazing what technology can do and I'm thrilled that I had it done. My vet (Dr. Jodyne Green) actually told me about how simple and inexpensive it is when she was here to administer vaccinations. I have everyone vaccinated for West

and East Nile as well as Tetanus and Encephalitis. It's a good thing too because a neighbour, not more than a half mile, away lost two horses last August to West Nile. It was an expensive loss for him as his horses were retired show stock and he said they were worth \$25,000. I have been keeping a careful watch on the progression on West Nile and had my horses vaccinated two years prior."

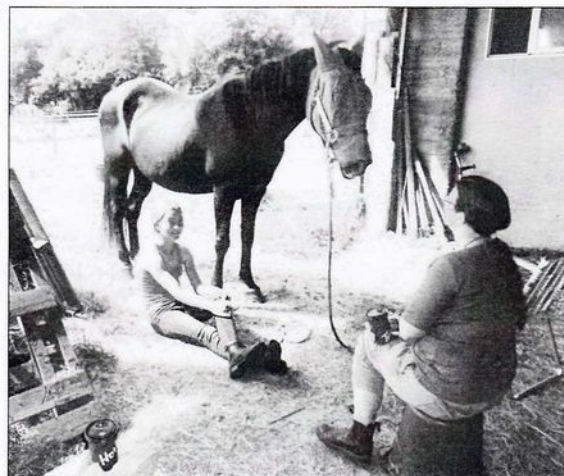
From JO-ANNE and DON MCDONALD, POUCE COUPE, "We have sold Gem's Silver Sage, a two year old black/silver gelding to Arwen Dabb of Airdrie, Alberta. Also the big yearling black/silver tobiano filly, Silver Silhouette (Sure Silver x Beta's French Maid) has a new home with Tara and Brad Body of Luseland, Saskatchewan. We wish these new owners all the best of luck and enjoyment with their new Walkers. Please send them each a subscription to *WHN* with our compliments."

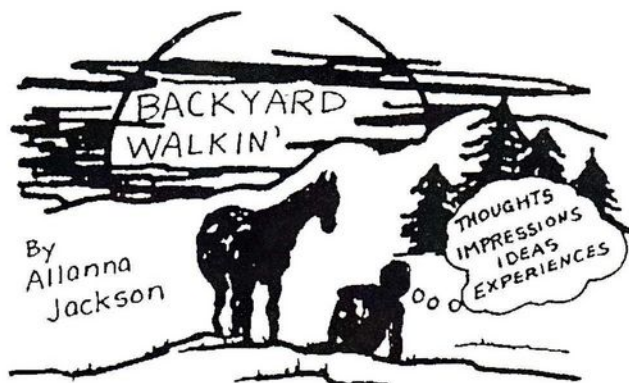
## ONTARIO NEWS

KATHY MINOR, KARS, writes, "I have attached a picture of Flicka with her friend Grace and Grace's mum. We went to the farm early one morning to do a really thorough grooming and also to meet the vet. I had asked the vet to check Flicka's back end. It seemed a bit wobbly. Luckily it is just the result of a whole year with very little work. Grace is now giving her hand-walking exercise and will be doing gentle riding, and things will get back to normal. After the grooming we humans sat and had snacks and just relaxed. Grace was holding Flicka's lead rope until the mare moved into our little group and simply stood there as we enjoyed the day, so Grace dropped the lead.

We were there for 1 1/2 hours & Flicka made no attempt to leave.

She loves Grace!"





## Back Yard Walkin'

By Allanna Lea Jackson

© Jan 1992

### Playing With Obstacles

Working a horse over obstacles is an ordinary part of training horses who will be competing in trail classes or jumping, but is seldom considered in the training of a pleasure horse. The assumption seems to be that obstacles are advanced work for show only, until you are astride a horse that totally panics at the request to cross a mud puddle in the road, or have to hang on for dear life while your frantic mount swivels, pivots and finally makes a gigantic leap over some insignificant ditch that he could have stepped across. If encountering windfalls while riding in the forest is cause for trepidation, you've met the reason for schooling pleasure horses over obstacles.

Obstacle training for Walking Horses develops balance, coordination and caution. It also builds confidence. The horse learns to think on the move, rather than running first and thinking afterwards, which is their natural tendency. The horse that has learned to proceed carefully through obstacles can be trusted to get both of you safely out of awkward or precarious footing unaided, and may actually prefer that you leave him alone and sit quietly while he does it.

Obstacle work is ALWAYS done at a basic walk. We're training pleasure horses, not jumpers. Jumping is a separate discipline that requires different training procedures and the assistance of a knowledgeable instructor. Contrary to most information on gait training, obstacles are NOT used to "break up" or "correct" the gaits. The confidence and adjustability the horse learns will help his gaits but that's an incidental benefit, not the main purpose of obstacle work.

The horse can be started on simple obstacles as soon as he understands moving away from leg pressure

and correct responses to the bit. In fact, the sooner he's introduced to obstacles the better. They give him a reason to do these various movements you've been teaching.

Start simple and build gradually. You want to challenge the horse without over facing him. Mild apprehension in the beginning is part of learning. Terror is not. A frightened horse learns nothing but fear and will be more frightened the next time. The apprehensive horse that succeeds will learn confidence. Obstacles should be introduced in the security of the home area but once the horse becomes willing to slow down and listen to you when he's unsure, go out on the trails. Nothing persuades a horse of the value of turning on the hindquarters quite as fast as getting his nose in a clump of trees with no space to maneuver other than where he's already standing.

The horse that has been reluctant to drop his head, tuck his chin, arch his back and transfer his weight to his hindquarters becomes more willing to do so when collected up this way just before descending a steep hill, especially if he's had experience struggling down the slope trying to avoid somersaulting over his forehead. Don't expect the horse to start collecting himself going downhill; he probably won't. But if you set him up, he'll quite likely cooperate and you'll both notice a difference in the ease, comfort and security of the descent.

Why get his hooves wet when the road beside the puddle is dry? But if home and supper are on the other side of the stream, maybe wet feet aren't so bad after all. With a little thought you can easily make every ride reinforce the horse's training and gaits and have more fun riding at the same time. This also happens to be good preventative management to eliminate or reduce problems such as ring sour behaviour, cheating, or having an angel in the ring but a monster on the trails. When the horse is expected to perform correctly anywhere, at any time, he will learn to behave all the time.

A simple obstacle to start with at home is a single log or pole on the ground. Make sure it is solid enough that the horse will notice it if he whacks it with a hoof. Horses can kick a single 2x4 or PVC pipe and never notice it, and they certainly aren't going to care. A 4x4 or 6x6 pole or log will produce a solid clunk if the horse hits it and he'll have to knock it fairly hard to move it.

Put the pole on the ground across a fairly wide gate opening and tie the gate open as wide as possible. If you can arrange to have it across a gate the horse usually walks through going home at the end of your ride, so much the better. Simply walk the horse through the gate at a basic walk as always. The horse probably won't be fooled that easily and may slow down or stop to look at it. This is fine, as long as he's facing it. Don't let him spin away or turn his back on it. He must face it. If he does spin away, say to the left, give him the command for a right turn on the hindquarters and spin him right back to face it again. If he spins right, make him do a left turn on the hindquarters back to face it. Once he's looking at it and standing still, let him stand quietly without any pressure from you for a few seconds. Once he's actually looked at the pole calmly, ask him to move forward. He may only move a single hoof but if he actually puts weight on it so that he's closer to the obstacle than before, reward him; he's done what you told him to do.

This is important because this is how he learns to trust himself and you. Let the horse savor his reward for a minute or so and then ask for another forward step. Reward him for the next forward move and so on. Be willing to spend ten or fifteen minutes or more moving the horse one hoof at a time toward the obstacle. As long as he's facing the obstacle, looking at it, and moving forward even the least bit when instructed to do so, he's learning valuable skills and confidence. You are teaching the horse to cope with fear in a safe and productive manner, something that will make him a better mount the rest of his life.

The horse may, after his initial hesitancy, suddenly leap forward over the pole. Be ready for it, but DO NOT punish him. All you want this first time is for the horse to cross the pole. You don't really want to reward the jumping so continue home as usual. The horse will realize that the pole didn't bite. The next time he'll probably be more willing to walk across.

The next time you ride him, take him over the pole again just as you did the first time. Walk up to it at a basic walk. He'll probably cross with only a slight hesitation. In a few sessions he should be walking quietly over the pole without hesitation. When he reaches this stage, move the pole into your schooling area and ride him over it there. The new location may startle him the first time, causing him to startle or

spook. Handle this the same way you did when first introducing the pole. He should get used to it quickly.

When he's comfortable with the single pole in several locations, add a second pole 20 feet or so after the first one. He might walk over it calmly. Or he might spook at it. This is handled the same way as the first pole. After all, to the horse this is a new obstacle. The horse might simply not see the second pole and trip over it. If this happens, turn around and ride him over them again the other way. He'll probably be more careful. When he's comfortable with that, move the poles closer together. Adding a third pole is done the same way. When the horse is used to three poles about ten feet apart, you can begin changing the number of poles and the spacing between them with every pass through them. Eventually you'll want to move them to a spacing of one to two feet between poles so that the hind feet are just crossing the first pole as the front feet step over the last pole. The horse has to think about where his feet are and coordinate his movements to do this. All you need to do is start him into the obstacle straight and moving forward at a slow walk. Give him enough slack in the reins so he can lower his head to watch what he's doing, and sit quietly. The horse will teach himself. When he kicks a pole out of line, leave it there and ride through again. He's made it harder for himself and will learn that it's easier to go clean.

Anything that is safe for the horse to walk on or over can be introduced in the same way. I've used logs, bricks, plywood, roofing paper and sheets of plastic, both coloured and clear, (weight these down with rocks). Be creative! The only requirement is that it be something that the horse cannot get trapped in or cut on. Trick him once and you'll be a very long time regaining his trust, especially if he's injured or badly frightened by your error in judgment.

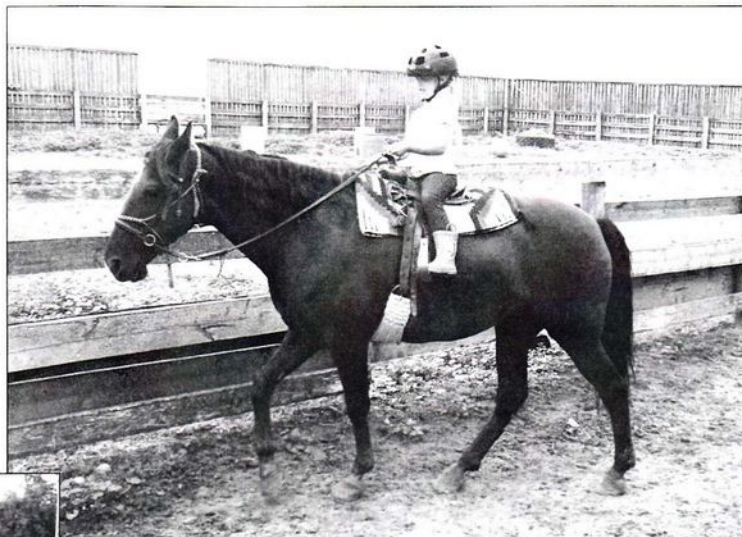
For a bit more variety, and to help the horse sidepass correctly, move one of the poles off by itself and ask the horse to sidepass across it in both directions. Keep the pole under the middle of the horse's body as you sidepass.

*Training really can be fun for you and your horse.*

This article is taken from **BACK YARD WALKIN' TRAINING TIPS**. You may purchase this book from the web site [www.walkinghorsejournal.com](http://www.walkinghorsejournal.com) or email [info@fourcraftsmen.com](mailto:info@fourcraftsmen.com). Phone 928-367-2076, or mail to BYW, PO Box U, LAKESIDE, AZ 85929-0585 USA.



# What Did You Do with Your Walkers This Summer?



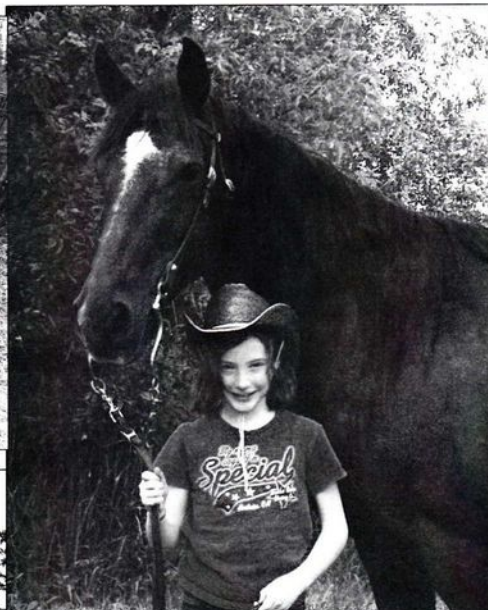
Above: BRENDA WOODALL, LINDEN, AB says, "I spent a few hours this morning with one of our little neighbor girls and the horses. I thought I'd share a picture of Grace (Eb's Belle De Liberte) and her young rider having her first solo ride on a horse."



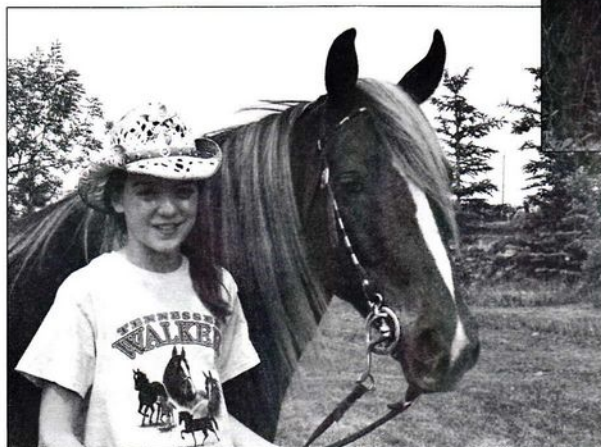
Left: BRANDON DODDS, FALKLAND, BC took this photo of his younger brother Tommy and friends, Marshall and Kolby, with the stallion, Walkien Jesse Skywalker.



Above: KEITH DOLL, DOUGLAS, MB snapped this moment between Doll's Honeydew and Nutmeg. Keith says that Honeydew is complaining to the cat about how hard she is worked and how badly underfed!



JO-ANNE MCDONALD, POUCE COUPE, BC took these portraits of her granddaughters, Amelia (above) with Maybee, and Hannah and 'The General' (left).

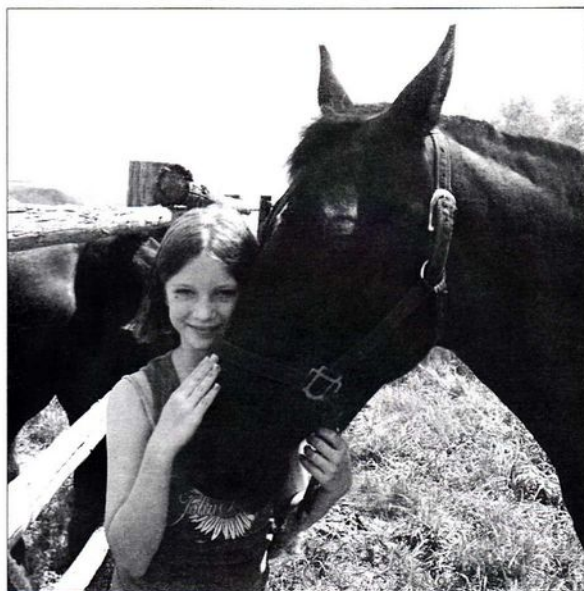


## MANITOBA NEWS

KEITH DOLL, DOUGLAS, writes, "I'm retiring on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 and have decided to downsize my last 30 or 40 years accumulation of "un-necessaries". I've also advertised my horses and sold two. Still have four left. After 40 years of Walkers I just cannot fathom being without!"

"My little black sabino, Doll's Honeydew (p. 8) has gone to Laura Eberling of Carrol, MB. Laura says she can outwalk anything on a ride."

"Rebel's Blue Diablo has gone to Sienna Luckins of Alexander, MB. (Pictured below) Sienna is 11 years old and has taken two years of lessons on a mini. Now she has her first horse. Diablo was my stepdaughter, Celine's, baby, and I think he missed her after she grew up and left home. I'm sure Sienna and Diablo will get along great as he loves attention. We are so happy that he's at such a loving home. Please send Laura and Sienna each a complimentary copy of *Walking Horse News*."



"Even though I haven't been corresponding, I've certainly been enjoying the articles on the old time horses. The mention of Go Boy's Crown Royal inspired me to reminisce on the time I owned him. I've been going through all the old files looking for pictures and information from that time. I've started an article about him – he was my first TWH stallion and what a dear old boy he was. Two of the last four Walkers here, Rebel's Fancy Lady and China Doll, are his great granddaughters."

"I still haven't been riding since my surgery in December. My foot is still too swollen for a riding boot and my inner knee too sensitive to ride

bareback, so I've resorted to the occasional drive (between the heat and bugs!) with my old mare, Dakota Dusty Doll. Dusty is 26 years old but thinks she is two when hitched up." (Photo below.)



## NEWS from our U.S. SUBSCRIBERS

From FRANNE BRANDON, PETERSBURG, TN, "It seems the Celebration is slowly fading. And those in charge have brought it on themselves, starting in 2006 when the TWHNC head did not allow three stallions deemed sound by the USDA to come down the entry ramp. A picture in the Times-Gazette showed mostly empty grandstands on the first Saturday night, and a group was picketing outside the grounds. I had to go to Shelbyville twice on the following Saturday, Sept 5. What a day! But ten years ago, that second trip to town, to Lowe's, would have been impossible due to the Celebration. This year there was very little traffic. I just picked up on Facebook that 'I Am Jose' won for the third time in a row. I understand that, as reigning WGC, he does not have to compete in preliminary classes. There were only five horses in the championship class. I can remember years with twenty."

GRACE LARSON, KALISPELL, writes, "I don't text and I don't have an iPhone so I am missing communicating with my friends. Kalispell is like a different world without the horses and other animals. And I miss the hens too - those farm fresh eggs!"

"My Aunt Fay will be 90 on Jan 4th. I'm taking her to the Hot Springs Museum where her trophies are displayed. She was in AQHA for years - barrel racing, breeding, and showing. She's in the MT Cowboy Hall Of Fame and is one of only five Fifty Year AQHA Breeders."

## MANITOBA NEWS

MARSHA TRINDER, T W RANCH, RUSSELL, writes, "I cannot believe how the time has flown this summer. I am sending my renewal for three years this time as I definitely want to keep on renewing this great informative magazine dedicated to Walkers and their people in Canada. T W Ranch has had a busy year with a very successful foaling season and several really good sales of Tennessee Walking Horse geldings. Horses went to British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, Wyoming, with two young mares leaving for Germany and Switzerland this autumn. I would appreciate your sending complimentary issues of the *Walking Horse News* to them. We had people from many different places stop in, and in this picture are riders from Germany, Switzerland, Canada, Scotland, and England."



"I am also sending some foal pictures for you to use as you wish. We've started to offer riding mares for sale and have just put some more riding geldings on our website. Be sure to check them out."

"My mom passed away earlier this year so it is a year full of personal memories for me. The horse operation here has now been going for 20 years. I remember my mom visiting the ranch to admire our horses and helping with the paperwork in the early days as we were figuring out our branding program for the herd. As a horsewoman in her youth, she rode several miles down the Assiniboine Valley (where this ranch is located) every day no matter the weather to go to school in the hamlet of Millwood. Mom always took a lot of interest and pride in the development of our herd of horses on T W Ranch."

"I am doing lots of coaching sessions in natural horsemanship for members of the Ranch Team and visitors to the ranch. I encourage the young women who come here to help on the ranch to pursue their natural horsemanship goals. We submit their auditions, which we help them prepare, to the Parelli Natural Horsemanship Program for Level II certifications. We have several excellent staff this year and more to come. I am always looking for young women to join my Ranch Team where they get lots of experience on the workings of a cattle and horse ranch in Western Canada, natural horsemanship,

watching horses develop from newborn foals to experienced riding horses. Applications for positions in my Ranch Team are welcome at any time. My personal goal is to get my certification in the Masterson Method Integrated Equine Performance Bodywork Program. I really enjoy the work."

## ALBERTA NEWS

FROM KARLA HANSEN-FREEMAN, PONOKA, "Hello! It sure has been a great summer here in central Alberta. I have been busy getting the new place ready for moving into and the horses are well established there now. I think they like the big barn. I can't believe how tall my Hustler-Gypsy filly is getting; she has gone through her shy stage and comes right up to me and any company that comes along. I call her Kadie for a barn name, She has been amalgamated with the herd (geldings and mares together) since about five weeks old, and she sure learns quickly from the others."

"My stallion, Hustler, proved to be a great mount. I had to move him from his pasture to a new one about four miles away, so I put on the barefoot saddle, did it up, and he lay down for me, Well, I had to explain to him that we were not just doing tricks today - the real idea is for him to *carry me and the saddle*, and pony his pasture mate in the direction I choose. With a couple of nudges we were on our way. He is very smooth and very steady gaited for a horse that's been ridden very little. Even cows in fields were of interest. (Well, you never know when there might be a cute little mare in with them, you know.) One pasture had several very interested parties, so to be safe I dismounted and jogged past leading both of mine while the two horses in the field cried for company. I remounted as soon as we were by them, and got to the new pasture without any trouble, just a lot of calling from the mare I was ponying. I had a nice ride, and my stallion proved he can do more than just tricks. I was pleased, and he was glad to see the deep new grass."

"I sure enjoyed the last issue of *Walking Horses News*, especially the photos of little Buddy. I have some Go Shadow Go lineage in my herd, and really like the bloodline. I always enjoy reading about other Walker owners, and what they have been doing, - really like the "What Do You Do With Your Walker" page."

"The leaves are falling already, but I hear we have a fairly mild winter in store for us. Let's hope that is true. But I'd better get busy before that's upon us... Happy trails and keep riding those amazing Walking Horses!"

## WHERE'S THE WALK ? by Franne Brandon

I fell in love with the Tennessee Walking Horse as a teenager many decades ago. Since my own mare was a multi-gaited crossbred, and few people trail rode in groups back then, the only walkers I saw were the show horses at the weekend shows that we attended. These horses were attractive, strong-boned individuals that appeared in an array of colors as they paraded around the rails. My father, however, did not share my total enthusiasm. His sister's husband had trained the mare Lillie White prior to exhibiting her to the blue in Baton Rouge, which was the epitome of walking horse competition before the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration held its first competition in 1939. Daddy had seen the best of the best, and he plainly told me that the show horses we were watching were artificial, from the pads on their feet to the white bell boots to the heavy set tails. He said that the mark of a well-bred walker was a naturally high set tail, and that I should be looking for horses that performed the signature running walk in only a plain shoe.

After I acquired a copy of Ben A. Green's Biography of the Tennessee Walking Horse and managed to absorb some of the history it presents, I began to understand the position that my father maintained. I also began searching for horses that walked in plain shoes. I figured the gait would resemble that of the show horses, only less extreme. I diligently watched all the Open Pleasure classes at the shows we attended. Not a single competitor, over the years, had any head nod. Later, when the first Plantation Pleasure ring was offered at the 1972 Spring Celebration, I drove over from the dorm at MTSU to see the class. Beautiful horses groomed to perfection, with excellent manners, and not a one walked at all when asked to go faster than a flat foot walk.

Over the past forty-plus years, classes providing opportunities to compete with flat shod horses have increased in Tennessee. The class called Plantation Pleasure has totally changed over time, with the shoe size permissible being totally in appropriate for a horse that could work on the old plantations of Mississippi and Alabama. New classes, first lite shod, then trail pleasure, have been added. And since the eighties, the horses winning in some of these classes have often been true, timed up, natural walking horses that would have made the foundation breeders proud. But the "bigger is better" attitude that prevails in the world of the professionally trained show walking horse has also resulted in many problems in the pleasure division, as many horses are shown with an artificial gait that is the result of training, not nature. These pleasure horses have plenty of flash and style for the show ring, but they can be difficult to ride for those unfamiliar with gaited horses. Because the gait involves swinging up in a pace-like takeoff as the gait sequence begins, these horses have head movement,

but very poor canters due to the lateral movement that is the basis for their show gait. A newcomer to the breed attending shows in order to learn about the walker's signature gait could easily end up rejecting very good horses because the average walking horse will not travel as do these mini-big-lick prodigies of the show ring.

However, a newcomer looking for a walking horse that does a flat walk, running walk, and a true three beat canter for the trails will also have a difficult time finding one among the trail horses offered for sale just about anywhere in the Southeast. Website after website as well as individual ads on major horse sale venues feature registered walking horses that do not walk. The old pacy horses of the seventies are not so apparent here. They were never popular with southern trail riders, anyway. But the modern crop of trail horses simply do not walk. This is a sad situation considering the running walk horse was considered the most desirable in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Ride-A Thons featured horses that could win at the shows on Saturday nights, then give their owners a comfortable trail ride, sometimes with a box lunch provided, at the Ride-A-Thon the next day. Do I think the modern trail horse trend is the result of poor breeding practices? In some cases, yes, it probably is. Too much emphasis on popular pedigrees or too many broodmares that have never felt a saddle mated to stallions that were never ridden can create problems in anyone's breeding program. Using color, and especially homozygous color, as the major thrust of a breeder's plan is never smart. The old adage about fancy color being the icing on the cake is a wise one.

Far more prevalent, though, is training for trail horses that does not produce a finished horse that can perform the breed's signature gait. Many young horses are still started under saddle too early, some before they turn two years old. These young horses are then asked for speed as soon as the trainer determines that it is safe to leave the barn aisle, round pen, or riding ring. The old timers will tell you that training a young walking horse back in their day involved lots of flat walking. Anecdotes abound relating how certain noted show horses of sixty years ago had to find their flat walks before they could progress enough to be shown successfully. This slow progression is not followed all that often by trail trainers, resulting in horses that are not able to settle into their walking gaits. Instead they choose one that is still four beat and smooth but on the speedier scale in their gait repertoires.

Finally, the pure-gaited walking horse that was so desired in the first half of the twentieth century in the South has become a very rare segment within in the breed in the early twenty-first century . Most walking

horses foaled today inherit a range of smooth gaits, and the way that the horses are ridden generally determines what gaits it demonstrates on the trails. Horses that are pushed for as much speed as they can give without getting rough on the flat spaces, then ridden at a slow walk in the rough, rocky, or wooded areas, will very often not go running walk at all. They may do an ambling gait at the flat walk speed. If the "saddle gait" leans toward the lateral, they may not canter easily, but it is not hard to find trail riding buddies who don't want to ride the canter. There are no "Walking Horse Gait Police" who patrol trails, handing out tickets if riders do not perform the gaits that the breed was named for. Trail riders ride the fine horses they own at whatever smooth gait they prefer. Me, I prefer the gaits for which the breed was named, the nodding flat walk and the beautiful running walk. It saddens me that I seldom see these gaits in trail horses. Hopefully, the trail and family horses in other areas of the country besides the state that gave birth to the breed are keeping the tradition alive, producing horses that are smart, willing, strong, and boldly walking down the trails with cadenced nodding gaits. All gaited horses are smooth. But it is the running walk gait that set our breed apart over a hundred years ago, not in the show ring, but on roads and pathways where the horses lived their everyday lives.

## FOAL CALL

GOLD CHAMPAGNE FILLY (Arian's Jack Daniel's Z x Arian Argot's Champagne) "Argots Gold with Splash Z" was born May 21/15.

Owned by Ullu Velez, Riding Mountain, MB.

FILLY (Kentucky Hummer x Fame's Fancy Lady) *below*  
Owned by Joyce Bianowski, Fort Saskatchewan, AB.



## CRTWH PROGRAM FOR EXCELLENCE

### BRONZE AWARDS 2015



**Northfork Cheerful Chipper #3723**  
(Uphill Heir Trigger x Neitak's Golden Stardust)  
Owned by Lori Dyberg, Wetaskiwin, AB

Lori says, "Above is 'Dodge' (He is too big to be called Chipper anymore) being ground driven through the curtain obstacle by Blair.



**Northfork Cotton Trim #3724**  
(Uphill Heir Trigger x Dark Summer Chapel Belle)  
Owned by Lori Dyberg, Wetaskiwin, AB

Lori says, "Here she is doing the "gate obstacle" under saddle. She was trained to do all these from the ground first; I've only ridden her a dozen times or so this year.

### Congratulations

to Lori and her two 3 year olds  
on challenging and achieving  
The Bronze Award in the PFE.



# The Canadian Walker

Volume 14, Issue 5

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

October, 2015

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## 'THE CANADIAN' TRIPLE CHALLENGE

A reminder that the deadline for video submissions for the Training Levels and/or Program For Excellence is October 15. You may submit your entries for 2015 after this date for an additional 'rush fee' up until the spring, but after that you will be eligible for the 2016 awards. You may join the 'Ride' program at any time. Contact Brenda at [thewoodalls3@gmail.com](mailto:thewoodalls3@gmail.com).

## CHANGES in CRTWH BOARD

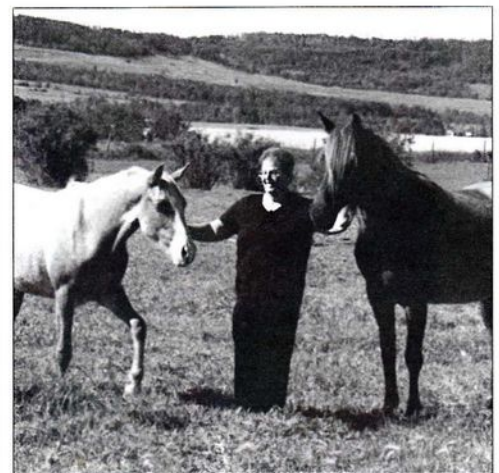
It is with regret that the Board accepted resignations from elected Director Bill Roy of Falkland and appointed Director Ralph Livingston of Kelowna. Both Bill and Ralph contributed expertise and guidance from 2007 and 2009 respectively. They were instrumental in all decisions and their wise counsel will be missed. Thank you, Bill and Ralph, for your contribution to the Board and continued contribution to the Canadian Registered TWH.

In accordance with the CRTWH constitution, the Board can appoint a replacement to serve the term of an elected Director. Bill Roy was the elected Director from BC whose 3 year term will end in December 2015.

We therefore welcome Jo-Anne McDonald, Pouce Coupe, BC as an appointee to the Board of Directors to serve out the three year term of the BC Director. *(Photo right.)*

Jo-Anne and Don have owned Walking Horses since 1974, and have

been raising them since the seventies. They bred many good TWH from the well known old line stallions, Laddie's Monte Ray and Beauty's Sage King and stood Go Boy's Crown Royal for many years as well, while he was owned by Jayne Walker of Dawson Creek, BC. They continue to raise Walkers nearly 40 years later, having one of the largest herds of Canadian registered TWH in Canada. Jo-Anne's memory for pedigrees, and her portfolio of TWH photos, is outstanding. Her depth of knowledge and years of involvement with the CRTWH will be an asset to the Board.



## NATALIE SPECKMAIER & TRIGGER (aka UPHILL DUSTY GOLD)

My mother claimed that I had a pencil in my hand as soon as I could sit up. What did I draw? Horses, of course. They were the love of my life and when we moved from our Albion farm (how I wish I had it now!) to Coleman, Alberta and on to Drumheller, I discovered my true love. Who *didn't* love him? Why, Trigger, of course, the smartest horse in the movies, and his side kick, Roy Rogers. Many hours were spent in the Drumheller hills playing cowboys, and there was an ongoing battle over who would be Roy, thereby having control of Trigger. Even the loser didn't want to be Dale Evans (a girl!) and ride *Buttermilk*? Better to play the bad guy than settle for that, we all decided.

Years passed, we grew up, scattered, married, had & raised children, and then the dreaming began. It became reality on an acreage in Sherwood Park with a couple of nasty, untrained horses owned by a relative. Rather than invite personal injury or death, I chose to take riding lessons from a German dressage instructor. He was training his daughter, Leisl and her horse, Stormy, for the 1972 Olympics.

This was in the late 60s. I was lucky enough to have Stormy as my lesson horse. Herr Kohlschein was an excellent instructor (he carried a BIG vip!) and I learned a lot. But I didn't make it to the Olympics, and I don't know if Leisl did. Her name wasn't among the winners and I hadn't watched the events.

Shortly thereafter we moved to Vancouver, but the horse fever never left me. An acreage was out of the question as an acre there was equal to the price we'd received for our 40. Instead we settled for a house in Tsawwassen, and then bought a delightful pinto mare, Shawnee, for our two girls. (Our son was allergic so gazed at her from afar.) We kept Shawnee

across the line in Point Roberts. As she was for our girls, the only time I rode her was when I test rode her at the North Shore dude string where we bought her.

Shawnee turned out to be a wonderful riding buddy for the girls. I was content just interacting with her when she was brought to the house to share peanut butter sandwiches with the girls. I wish I had a video of those times. Hilarious!

However my horse fever came to a boil when our daughter, Nicole, and her husband bought an acreage in Langley... and Nicole had two Standardbred mares given to her... and then bought a Tennessee Walker! The hunt was on for a Trigger for mother! Nicole spotted a 'for sale' ad by Debbie Smith for a palomino gelding. Unfortunately, he was sold. But wait - he was returned, as he hated ring

work and that's what the buyer had wanted from him. So Pal became My Pal Trigger by default. I loved my Pal, who was a kind, gentle three-fourths quarter horse, one-fourth Arab, a beauty, with a jog you could sit all day, and a comfortable lope.

Ah, but something told me I shouldn't

rest until I realized my dream of becoming King of the Cowboys, or at least of having a Trigger of my own. The search was launched once again, and victory was at hand when Nicole came into possession of a pile of old *WHN* issues from Pat Warnock, a past Walker owner.

I wondered if the magazine was still publishing and sent a letter (yes, a letter, with postage and everything) to the publisher, Marjorie Lacy. I told her how I'd acquired the magazines and how much I'd enjoyed reading them. I also mentioned that my dream was to own a descendant of Roy Rogers' trick horse, Trigger, Jr. (Allen's Gold Zephyr).



Not only that, but a picture of a gorgeous palomino mare, Uphill Dusty Gold, a descendant of Trigger Jr., followed. I believe I swooned at this point. Therein followed more correspondence (on paper, in envelopes, with stamps and everything) and plans were made for us, daughter Nicole and I, to motor to Edson (I'd never heard of it) to view the horse of my dreams. There was a bonus – she had an 18 month old filly at her side, the rascal still making sneaky attempts to nurse. Marjorie would sell one of them. Oh, be still my heart!

Nicole and I arrived in Edson one fine morning and found Uphill Farm with its lovely log home. Marjorie and Charles made us feel right at home by feeding us lunch. We had a tour of the house they'd built themselves, and viewed Charles' excellent wildlife art. The meet and greet with the herd in the pasture was a highlight, all being friendly and curious. Punkin, Uphill Dusty Gold's barn name, and her 18 month old baby, Penny, stood out from the crowd, shining like gold and adorned with white manes and tails.

Marjorie saddled up Punkin, and Nicole and I each took a turn in a paddock. We were impressed with how calm and responsive this lovely horse was. Some more time was spent talking and considering which horse, Punkin or Penny, would be the better choice, and then it was time to go. All the way home we discussed the pros and cons and decided that although Penny had youth on her side, it would be some time before I would have a riding horse. So by the time we got home, Punkin was the logical choice. In the meantime, Marjorie was agonizing as well and came to the same conclusion.

A letter (large brown envelope, stamps & everything) from Marjorie was delivered to the wrong address so I was unaware of what *she* had decided. It was all sorted out eventually with a phone call and the deal was made. Uphill Dusty Gold (already 'Trigger' in my mind) was mine! I ordered horse transport that was to arrive at a certain time at Uphill Farm but instead arrived earlier than planned. Luckily the vet was doing the vet check just as the transport arrived, so it all worked out. Trigger arrived in good condition and looked like she had done this a number of times (Not!) as there was only curiosity, not fear. She took in stride (so to speak) the excitement of her arrival with a swarm of kids, dogs, horses and people.

She settled into her stall in the barn as soon as she spotted the hay rack. The rest is history.

My Gal Trigger and I have had many an adventure in our 15 years together. She's had 4 different homes due to land sales, and is very happy where she is now. We've ridden the trails in Campbell Valley in Langley, the excellent trails in Maple Ridge, and even on English Bay beach and in Stanley Park with the Vancouver Mounted Police for a fund raiser. Another fund raiser was for Haney Horsemen at Lisa Reidler's family farm by 100 Mile House. Lisa is another TWH owner.



We've also participated in Parelli and Jonathan Field clinics, spent time with Bill Roy for horse and rider training, and participated in a Dianne Little / Bill Roy clinic at daughter Nicole's place in Langley.





Trigger continues to be a favourite at any barn she's lived in as she gets along with everyone, horse or human. She has lovely manners and no vices, which is a reflection of her bloodlines and the expertise of her breeders. And now that she's of a certain age (don't ask, as she won't tell) she no longer chases after the boys. Her vet says she is his favourite of all his patients, even his own horses, and she loves him in return. She has a better medical plan than I do and gets two complete physicals every year.

Now that she's older she has arthritis, so we're just two old gals doing what we can. I, for one, am so looking forward to hitting the trails again, once I get the go-ahead from my chiropractor, and I know that this is what Trigger loves best. A friend takes her out every week or two and once a week she gets lunged by her landlady. Gotta keep those old joints moving!

I hope that Trigger and I have many more years together and I can smugly say to my childhood friend, Peggy: "Ha ha! I get to be Roy Rogers *all the time* now!"

Trigger was 23 on her last birthday, March 28, 2015, but don't tell her I told you. And on my last birthday on May 23<sup>rd</sup>? You do the math, I'm not helping!



Happy Trails to You...

*To see these Century Partner stories with even more photos in full colour, please go to the CRTWH website, [www.crtwh.ca](http://www.crtwh.ca) and look for the Century Partners tab.*

## READERS WRITE

From Brenda Baker, Calgary, AB:

I was very pleased to see the article about The Go Boy Heirs in the last *WHN*. I'd like to add some information about Kit's Royal Pride that might be of interest. There must have been a typo about his size. The horse was an honest 16.3 hh with the muscle mass combined with quality feet and bone that I have never seen on a light horse of any kind, warmbloods included. If you have another look at his picture in the July/August *WHN* you may think that he is wearing a small saddle, but no! It is a normal sized saddle on a great big 25 year old horse!

Since this fine old fellow lived close to me and his owner at the time approved of my mares, I bred Chicklette to "Pride" 4 times to produce two Weanling Colt winners at the CTRWH Futurities, Cruising for Chics and Chic Magnet; one stallion prospect, Thriller, and Starlette, the only mare offspring from this pairing.

I also bred Dictator's Merry Minuet to produce Night Train, 2nd Yearling Gelding at the CRTWH Futurity; She's got the Rythum Dec to produce Road King, 4th Yearling Gelding at the CRTWH Futurity, and Only the Lonely; and Holy Smokes to produce Gold Wing.

The youngest three of these seven offspring did not have a Futurity to go to but I felt they were all of the type and quality that would have been very competitive had they been shown.

All the "Pride" offspring I raised are proudly owned by people from Toronto, Ontario to Victoria, BC and Grande Prairie, AB. All the males matured at or over 16 hh; the mare is 15.2 hh. Only one was not black, but a classic champagne like his dam.

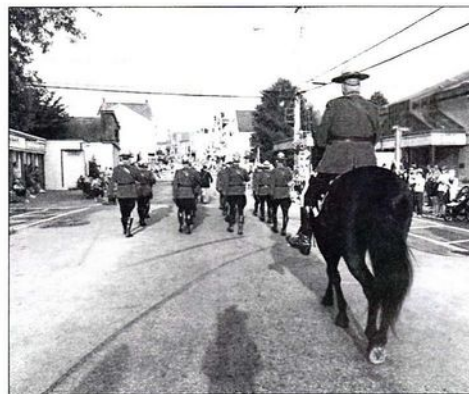
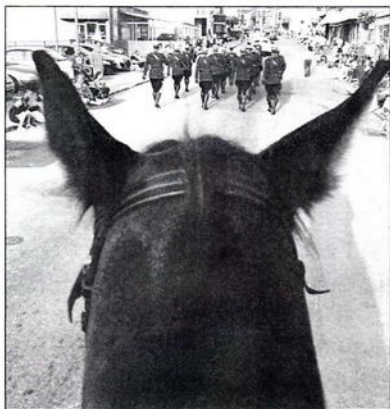
I was at Amy's when she was weaning the last foal crop from Kit's Royal Pride. At the end of the day I had picked out Kode Name Kit, a tall red chestnut filly to join my band of mares. So the legacy of Kit's Royal Pride will continue on our place.

My friend Amy Lauzon was a smart cookie when she agreed to lease Pride in his last years. She had the right group of mares, mostly William's Kodiak daughters to breed to him. I feel she loved him as much and cared for him as well as his owner had. Pride is buried on a hill on Amy's place with a panoramic view of the foothills and Rocky Mountains.

For more about Kit's Royal Pride you can go to the History & Heritage page on the CRTWH website.

# WHAT DID YOU DO WITH YOUR WALKERS THIS SUMMER ?

From ANDREA FULLER,  
 "These photos were from the Pictou Lobster Carnival. Danser also participated in the July 1st parade under red serge with this RCMP troop. There are very few Walkers here and we get tons of compliments on this boy. He will be six on August 23. Still growing, and currently standing 16.2 hh. He's a Pride's Generator bloodline gelding, owned by the rider in these photos and me."

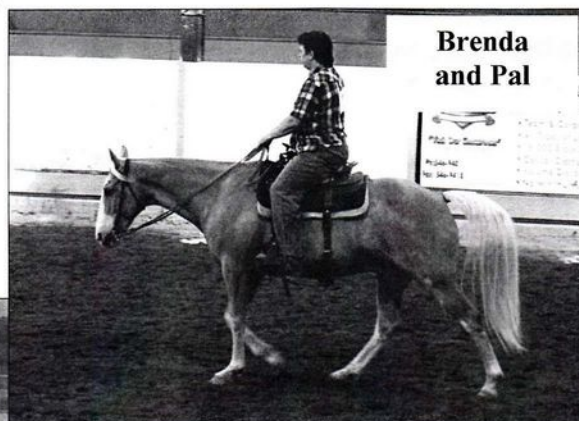


GLEN MURPHY,  
 PICTOU, NOVA SCOTIA,  
 writes, "Diamond's Highland Dancer" aka "Danser", proudly participated in a nearly century old annual parade today! It's the annual Lobster Carnival Parade in Pictou, Nova Scotia. This is Danser's second parade and he's learned by huge leaps and bounds."

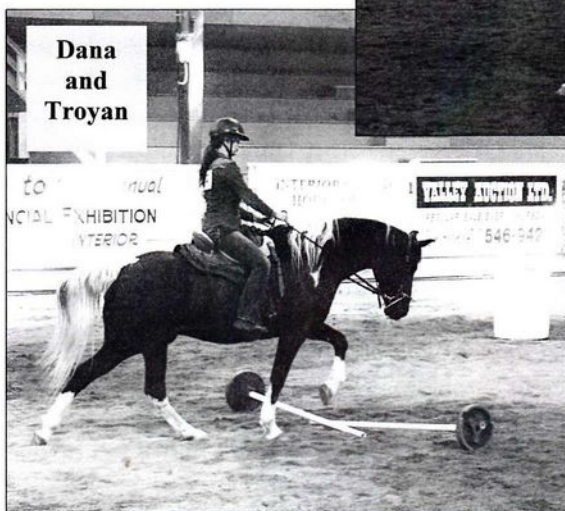


"Having a horse march with members of my detachment over the last three years has become a bit of a fixture in Pictou County and the kids love it! So much so that the Danse-man gets ALL of the attention! And rightly so. He's an amazing horse, inside and out!"

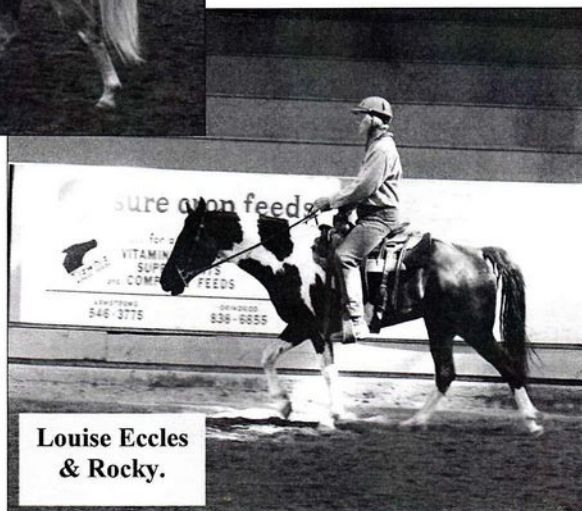
BRANDON DODDS,  
 FALKLAND, BC  
 writes,  
 "The Gaited Horse Show in Armstrong was held on June 13/14 this year."



"I believe there were seven or eight Walkers there and one TWH Mule. Here are three of the TWH. Walkers had the best turn-out of all the breeds."



*TWH from one side of Canada to the other!*



## FLICKA AND ME by Kathy Minor

*This is actually Flicka's story, not mine.  
I came into her life when she was 15.  
I have divided her story into chapters,  
and rather than starting at the beginning for her,  
I will start at the beginning for me...*

### INTRODUCTION

In the early spring of 2004 I was looking for a trail horse. Since the age of 16 I had owned a limited succession of riding horses, one at a time. I say 'limited' because in most cases I got middle-aged horses and kept them for their lifetime. Years went by and as I got older it was becoming evident that "gentle" and "easygoing" had become the guidelines for this next horse. I had come across an article written by Kim Pringle about the benefits of the TWH as an ideal mount for older riders. I knew nothing about the breed but I was very interested in finding out more so I got in touch with Kim. That summer I made many trips to her family's farm. I learned a great deal about the breed and had numerous riding lessons. The result was that in August of that year I bought Rock's Flicka, a 15 year old mare, from Kim.

### CHAPTER 1 FLICKA'S EARLY DAYS

Flicka is a western TWH. Her dam, Midnight Star FF #324, was owned by Betty Motherwell in Quesnel BC. Her sire was Rockette's Rocket #446. Rock's Flicka was foaled April 28, 1989.

When Flicka was about 8 or 9 years old she caught the eye of Kim Pringle. Kim comes from Arden, Ontario, a village about one and half hours drive west of my home near Ottawa. She was working in the west at that time and planning to breed Walkers at her family farm in Arden. Kim bought Flicka and brought her to Arden where she was started under saddle, was used for riding lessons and had several foals. Flicka had a good life. She was a sweet and gentle riding horse and a favourite with Kim's students. As a brood mare she was an excellent mum to her babies. Kim's little band of brood mares had many acres of the farm to range over. Her stallion, Tracker, was turned out with his mares and pasture bred them in the spring. But by the time Flicka was rising 15, Kim was retiring her as a brood mare and was looking for a good home for her.

### CHAPTER 2

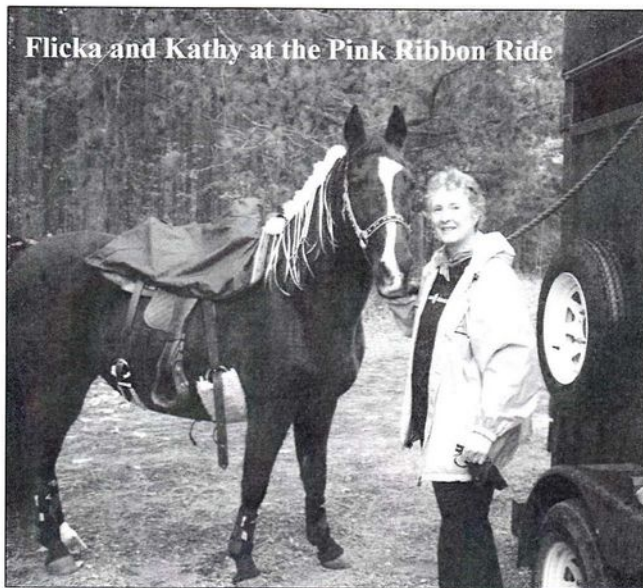
On August 17, 2004 Kim and I had Flicka vetted before we closed the sale. It turned out that although Kim had bred her that spring and thought that she hadn't caught, she was found to be in foal! I was delighted and so my first year with her went a little differently than I had planned.

I boarded her with a friend who had many years of experience with horses and brood mares. I got lots of information from my vet about brood mare care, rode her regularly and gently on trails around the property, and learned about all the needed health care and dietary concerns.

The foal was due the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of March. All went well until the 1<sup>st</sup> week of March and then sadly, it was born - full term but dead. The vet was present, thank goodness. The reason was not known. It was a beautiful black filly with a single star on her forehead and a small streak of white on each of the heels of all 4 feet. Flicka was distraught for two days, then Nature intervened and, for her, the memory faded. As for me - I will never forget that beautiful little filly and the promise that never came to pass.

### CHAPTER 3

My friend was struggling with an onslaught of arthritis so that summer of 2005 I moved Flicka to a boarding stable on the edge of our small village. The next 5 years were full of fun. We are in the midst of farming country and the riders at the stable had permission to ride over about 800 acres of fields and pastures. I rode out with other boarders and also persuaded Flicka that life would not end if she and I went out *alone*. Together we worked on calmness when alone, encountering school buses, large farm tractors, enormous combine harvesters, plastic bags caught up in trees and *cattle!* For a western girl she sure was a sissy when it came to going past a small field along the left side of the road with a few young steers in it. At first we went waaay over on the other side of the road, then gradually worked our way to be able to pass on the left side... but not too close. I will never forget the day I was riding her up the left side when three young and frisky steers galloped up to the fence to say hello. Flicka went airborne sideways and leaped the full width of the road to land on the far side. For some unknown reason I didn't fall off!



Flicka and Kathy at the Pink Ribbon Ride

As the years went by Flicka and I went on fund raising trail rides, trailered to my friends to ride, participated in Horse Days activities at the farm, went to a gaited horse weekend clinic organized by the Icelandic Horse Club – yes, we were welcome – did natural horsemanship training and introduced a friend’s horse-crazy little girl to the joys of horses.

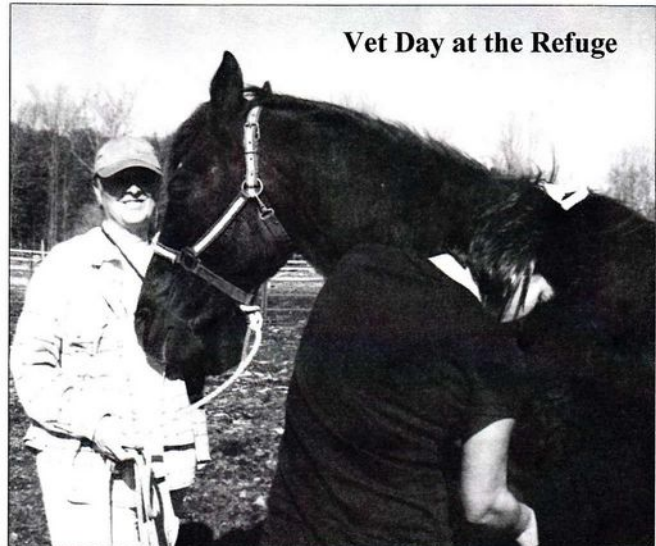
#### CHAPTER 4

It was about five years later. Things were not so good. I had gained quite a bit of weight and Flicka was having issues with arthritis in her back legs and various other joints. She was reluctant to move on, my extra weight was the last straw and finally she just refused to go. She was 21 and I could not ride her. Other than sore when ridden she was in good health. I could not afford to board two horses, one of them a pasture horse, and didn’t know what to do. I really needed be able to ride and love a horse, as it was my personal therapy, and especially at this time. I was in my last few years as a teacher of developmentally disabled children. I loved Flicka so much and she was what kept me mentally healthy. I had to find her a good home.

The answer came when a friend told me about a horse retirement farm about 60 miles east on the Ontario/Quebec border called Refugerr. They took in retired and abused horses and all animals and there was no charge as it was a Government charitable organization. They had two large farms and some of the horses were in a herd of about 30 on 60-70 acres with an old barn which had been opened up as a huge shelter. They were fed with large round bales in winter and had free medical care as a project of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year veterinary students at St. Hyacinth vet

college in Quebec. (If interested in the vet school google University de Montreal faculty of Veterinary Medicine.) At Refugerr, a farrier donated time to do barefoot trims. (Their website - [www.refugerr.org](http://www.refugerr.org) )

I applied to them and Flicka was accepted. I donated \$100 per month towards her keep. I visited her and also volunteered on herd health day in June when the vet students came with their instructor to do health checks and shots.

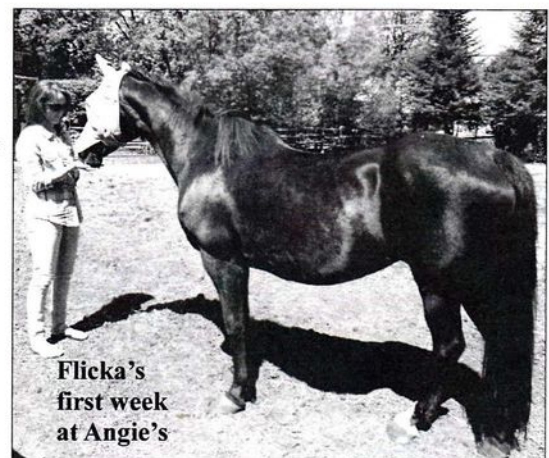


Vet Day at the Refuge

#### Chapter 5

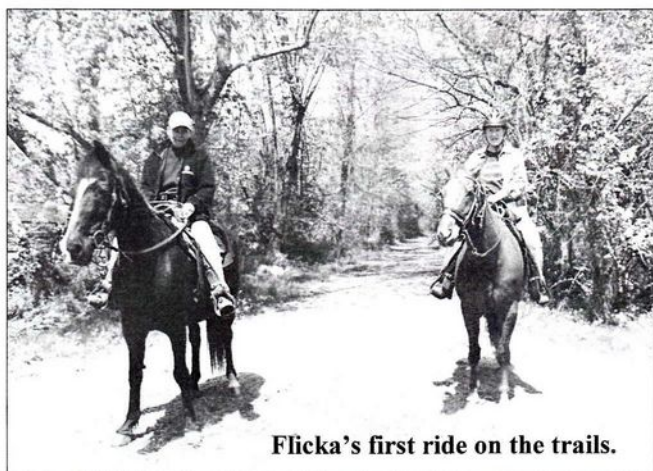
I bought another riding horse (a QH), moved to another stable, and while I loved my new horse I kept thinking about Flicka. It was about two or three years later when I got into a conversation with Angie, the young woman who worked in our stable. She lived about two miles from this stable and in conversation I learned that she was a rescue person. They had four elderly rescued horses at her parents’ place so we had a lot of conversations about her rescues and my Flicka. That winter one of her very old horses died. Out of the blue she asked me if I’d like to bring Flicka to her place where I could see her all the time.

I’d pay for her hay, etc. and Angie would look after her for me.



Flicka's first week at Angie's

I was so glad for this opportunity. We brought Flicka there in the spring and I went over frequently to groom and walk and help care for her.



Flicka's first ride on the trails.

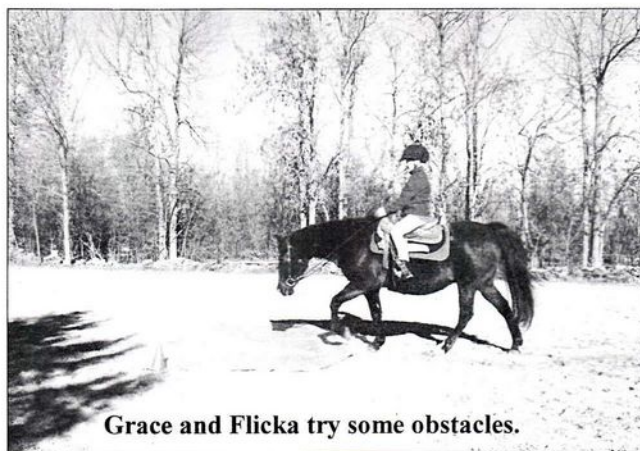
By next spring the mare looked to be in very good shape. She was moving around with no issues and I was wondering if maybe she could be ridden again by a very lightweight rider. Riding exercise would be good to help condition her so I spoke to the girl who teaches western riding at my stable. Barb weighs 100 pounds soaking wet! So we tried it at Angie's and Flicka was fine. The years without work at the rescue farm had allowed her body to heal.

I moved Flicka to my boarding stable and she shared a paddock with Bucky the QH. Barb rode her a bit, very gently, and the mare was in good shape and enjoying the exercise. I was paying for this so now what I needed was a light-weight person to ride Flicka on a volunteer basis.

### THE END OF THE STORY...

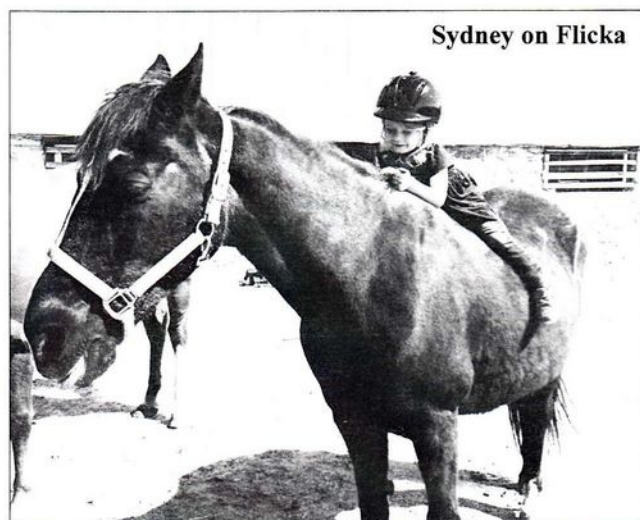
I talked to a friend of mine who had a 10 year old horse-crazy daughter. Grace belonged to Pony Club and was learning all about the care of horses and also learning to ride. I suggested that Grace could come to ride with me twice a week. I would teach her about conditioning and horse care and she would look after Flicka as if she was her own. This worked so well that after a few weeks of this I drew up a lease. It is almost three years later and to all intents and purposes Flicka is now Grace's horse. I have moved my horses for the last time. They are now about three miles from my house. There are 12 horses on a 40 acre farm. Flicka and Buck have another gelding and mare in with them and the four horses have a small old log barn for turnout and about 15 acres of grass. The owner takes care of them as if they were her own and I am there almost every day. Grace is 13 now. She comes two times per

week - sometimes just to groom and fuss over her darling horse. Over the summer I gave her transportation to the barn and home again. Flicka loves Grace. She will walk right past me to go to her.



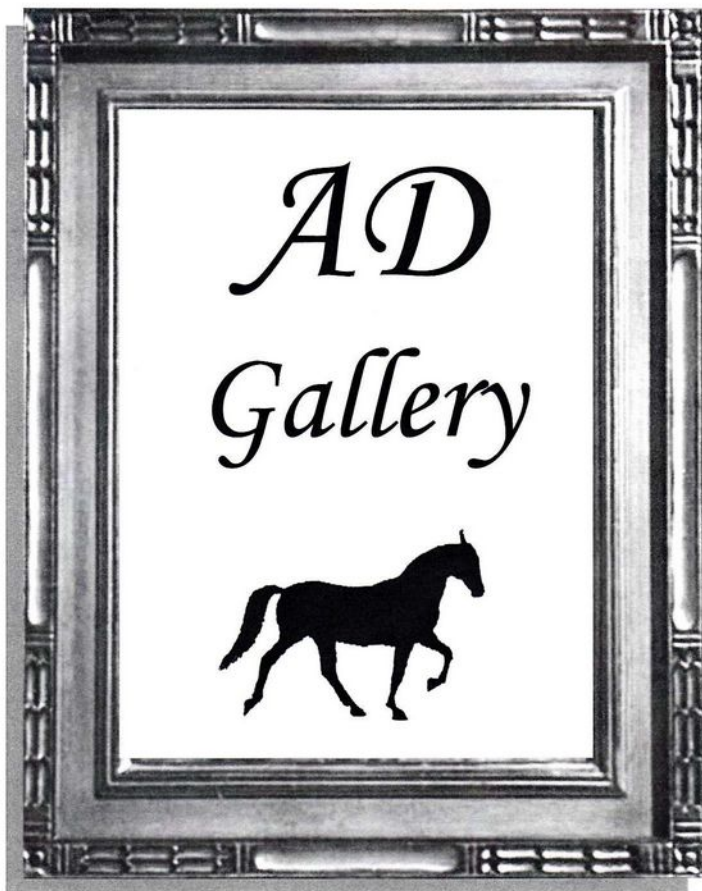
Grace and Flicka try some obstacles.

Also one of my daughters has two small children, a boy and a girl. The little boy likes horses, sort of, but his three year old sister is *passionately* in love with them. Flicka loves her too and stands absolutely still when Sydney is around her. We worried at first about Flicka stepping on her but it has become obvious that Flicka's feet are glued to the ground when Sydney is there. Sydney sits up on Flicka bareback and rides her as if she was born to it. I have no doubt that she is!

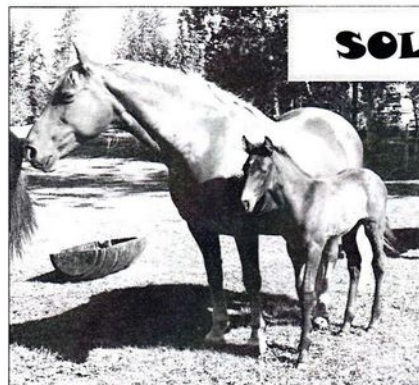


Sydney on Flicka

Flicka is enjoying life with her bonded buddy Bucky and the other two horses in her turnout. She loves the girls and will be the start of my granddaughter's life with horses as both her mother and I know this is what is going to happen. Grace and I will be going on gentle trail rides together on the two horses, and Flicka has a home with us for as long as she needs it.



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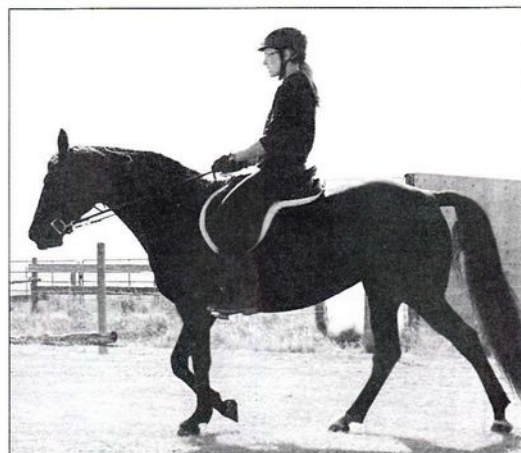
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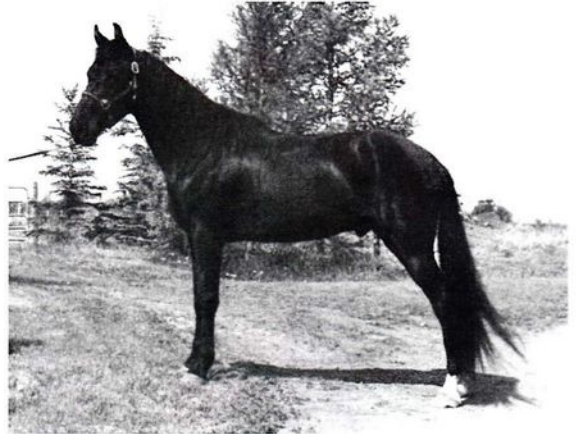
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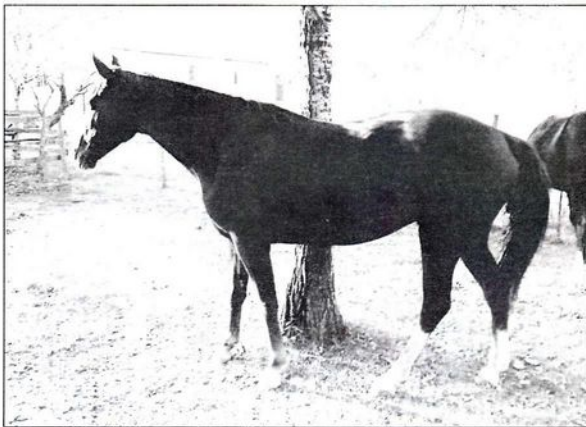
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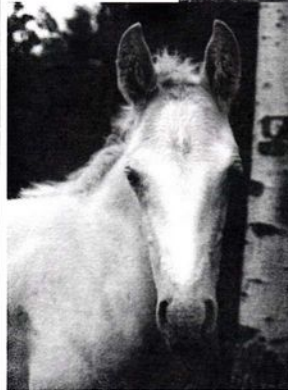
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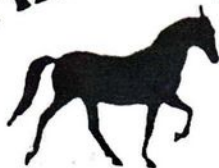
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