

November/December 2009



All Breeds,
All Disciplines,
All the Time

Happy
Holidays!

Where there are rivers,
There are valleys,
There are horses,
And

The Valley Equestrian

Your local resource for equestrian events, news and information.

Newspaper

ELECTRIC COWBOY



Phillip Odden, Else
Bigton, Fjords &
Norsk Wood Works

Minnesota
EquiFest
Recap

Breeder's Column:
Selecting Your
Broodmare

The Norwegian Døle
Horses of Tangle
Tree Ranch

Vol. 3 No. 11
The Valley Equestrian

Box 64
Sabin, MN 56580
theVEnews@gmail.com

Owner/Publisher/Editor
Ley Bouchard
leybou@gmail.com
(701) 361.8648

Regional Sales Manager/
Creative Consultant
Tammy Finney
RR3500@aol.com
(218) 790.6056

Regional Sales Managers
Carolyn Ballard
carolynmhd@aol.com
(218) 790.5015

Linda Coleman
lcoleman1539@cableone.net
(701) 793-9581

Amber Voigt
(701) 840-1087
kicken_high@hotmail.com

Distribution Directors
Shawn Dietrich, Fargo, N.D.
Carolyn Duncan, Albert Lea, Minn.
Kim Krueger, Mandan, N.D.

Contributing Artists
Orv Alvshere, Writer
Margo Brady, Writer
Dan Drewlow, Writer
Cordia Pearson, Writer
Kathy Grimes, Writer
Bob Valentine, Ph.D., Writer

The Valley Equestrian is published monthly March through October and bi-monthly November through February..

Copyright © 2009
LeKreations LLC
All Rights Reserved
The Valley Equestrian

About the Cover
Mel Stone contributed this month's photographic cover piece "ElectricCowboy" and explains how it came about: "This was made while I did my very first one-man-band (worked as photographer, reporter, writer, editor) story for then, KTHI-TV. It was about a fall cattle drive northwest of Jamestown, N.D. It was so dark when the guys caught and saddled their horse that my video camera was worthless, so I leaned on my tripod and shot with my Minolta film camera (see CattleDrive I and CattleDrive II at the web site: melstonephotography.com). As the day progressed, I occasionally shot more stills. The cover image I never did print, but many years later, after scanning it into my computer, I started to play around in photoshop (colored layers, different blending modes, different custom shapes so on) ... viola." More on Mel Stone on page 17 of this issue and you may find his work at Gallery 4 downtown Fargo, N.D. and on his web site: www.melstonephotography.com

What's Inside This Issue?

- Page 4: USEF Announces Dressage Youth/Pony Pilot Program Champion Named at Huron S.D. Show
- Page 5: A Family Affair: Phillip Odden, Else Bigton Create Norsk Wood Works
- Page 6: Wippler Wins Essay and AMHR Pony
- Page 7: Mind Your Own Business: Money Management Skills
- Page 8: Talking Horses National Welfare Code of Practice Endorsed



- Page 9: Saddling the Norwegian Breeds
- Page 10 - 11: Minnesota EquiFest Recap
- Page 12: Breeder's Column: Selecting A Broodmare TRNP Wild Horse Sale Huge Success "Mini-Van Literally"
- Page 13: Cowboy Poetry with Orv
- Page 14: December Events and Beyond
- Page 15: The Dole Horse of Tangle Tree Ranch
- Page 16: Dressage Defined: The Scandinavian Breeds
- Page 17: The VE Presents the RRV's Mel Stone JJ Classic and UBRA World Finale

Eve Loftness, St. Paul, Minn. rides Spyrna, her 15-year-old Icelandic mare in the Extreme Cowboy Challenge at the Minnesota EquiFest, Sunday, Oct. 25 at the State Fairgrounds in St. Paul, Minn. More photos and story on Pages 10-11.

Submission Guidelines & Editorial Disclaimers

The Valley Equestrian, printed monthly, welcomes free-lance articles, cartoons, artwork, poems, photographs, etc. that we might use in the publication. We accept no responsibility for the material while in our hands. Materials will be returned if sent with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Photographs or graphics electronically submitted should be in color and must be at least 170 DPI resolution and four inches wide.

Copyright Notice: The Valley Equestrian is copyrighted and protected by federal copyright law. No material may be copied, faxed, electronically transmitted or otherwise used without our express written permission. Requests for reprinting must be submitted in writing to the editor.

Disclaimer: Articles that appear in The Valley Equestrian do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial staff, officers or employees and publication of any article does not constitute endorsement of the views expressed. Accuracy of all information is the responsibility of the authors.

Advertisements published in The Valley Equestrian do not constitute endorsement or recommendation of such product or service. The Valley Equestrian does not condone the alteration of horses in any photograph that appears in advertisements in the newspaper and accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the photographs used in the advertisements supplied by others than its own staff. The onus is on the reader to satisfy themselves about the appearance or conformation of a horse before making a financial decision.

Errors: The Valley Equestrian newspaper shall be responsible for errors or omissions in connection with an advertisement only to the extent of the space covered by the error.



UBRA World Finale - Page 17



Laura Critchett, (Junior, Shoreview), ties for High Point Rider in the 'On the Flat and Over Fences' competition at The University of Minnesota, Crookston Hunt Seat Equestrian annual home show Nov. 7 in Crookston, Minn. More Golden Eagles news on Page 15.

ADVERTISER'S INDEX

Advertiser	Page No.
Ashley Peterson Horse Training	Page 9
Blairview Saddle Shop	Page 9
Brady Equestrian Center: Schoolmasters	Page 20
CoverAll Buildings	Page 5
Cowboy Christmas	Page 13
Creek Side Gypsy Horses	Page 11
Danna's Miniatures	Page 5
Eagle Tree Feed Store	Page 14
Eagle Tree Feed Store Open House	Page 12
EquineGenie	Page 17
Iowa Pinto Association	Page 13
J&B Western Store	Page 5
J&S Farmer's Mill	Page 13
Kathy Grimes	Page 4
Little Bit Equine Massage Therapy	Page 4
Minnesota Equifest	Page 3
Minnesota Horse Council	Page 5 & 14
Minnesota School of Horseshoeing	Page 6
Montana Buck-Saw Condo	Page 9
Rainbow's End	Page 12
Red River Horse Breeders Assoc.	Page 7
Roger Berg Insurance	Page 8
The Outhouse Book	Page 19
The Saddliffitter	Page 9
Walk on Leather	Page 12

Editor's Clipboard



We would like to thank all our readers and fans that came out for the Theodore Roosevelt National Park Wild Horse Auction Friday, Oct. 23 in Dickinson, N.D. The auction was attended by a record 500+ people who came to buy! All the horses sold and the prices were good, even considering the current economic situation. The Valley Equestrian is proud to have done our part to let the public know about the work of wildlife biologist Mike Oehler, Eileen Norton, Marylu and Henry Weber (who have studied and photographed these horses for many years and know them by name) in implementing a smooth and successful roundup. The VE hopes to do future stories on the wild horses of TRNP. Read more about the roundup from Eileen Norton's letter to the editor on Page 12.

You may have noticed that this month's VE is a little late getting to you. The VE staff decided to double up our winter publications. You may expect to see the January/February 2010 issue

published in mid-January. For our contract advertisers and subscribers, be assured you will receive the full 12 issues. Your money always goes farther with the Valley Equestrian Newspaper.

Check out our new distribution sites. It will be hard to keep track of the number of states we are in at any given moment as we are growing so fast. As of this issue we are now distributed to 18 states in the USA. We will keep the web site updated so check out our distribution list online at www.theveonline.com. Also, you won't want to miss the additional photography on our website and Facebook page.

Thank-you for your loyalty and support! Happy Holidays from our house to yours!

Ley Bouchard, Publisher/Editor

Continued from Page 8

in the infrastructure, environment and facilities to provide a safe environment for all horses in all activities, whether breeding, competing, or simply riding. Any facilities that house horses should be committed to the appropriate care and treatment of all horses while in their facility, and should be designed with the environment and the intended use of the horse in mind.

WE ARE COMMITTED to providing continuing education on all activities involving horses and eliminate inhumane practices as well as strengthening sanctions for non-compliance.

WE ARE COMMITTED to educating all people who own or work with horses to ensure they are knowledgeable in the proper husbandry, care, and handling of horses. Each horse should be observed frequently to ensure that they are healthy. In consultation with a veterinarian, all such individuals should develop a sound health care program, appropriate to the facilities, environment and needs of the horses.

WE ARE COMMITTED to providing an environment in which anyone aware of equine cruelty or neglect is willing to report it to the proper local, state or federal authorities. Should an incident occur at an event it should be reported to judges, stewards, responsible authorities or the sanctioning organization.

WE ARE COMMITTED to improving the health and welfare of horses through scientific research, collaboration, advocacy and the development of appropriate rules. The industry should continue to support and work with the many individuals,

universities, veterinarians and foundations doing and funding equine health and welfare research in order to reduce injuries and improve health.

WE ARE COMMITTED to horse owners and caretakers ensuring horses in their care are current on vaccinations and following best practices to minimize infection and disease. When a disease outbreak occurs horse owners and events must act quickly and responsibly, monitor the horses, report the outbreak to, and cooperate with, veterinarians, authorities, facility management and all stakeholders to bring a rapid resolution to the outbreak.

2009 AMHR National Top Ten Halter Horse

D.M. KING KONG
Yearling Stallion Owned by:
Danna's Miniature Horses
1080 149th Ave NE
Portland, ND 58274
701-786-3254
adjanet@hughes.net



Trained by: Longman Miniatures
www.longmanminiatures.com
MINIS FOR SALE: ALL SIZES,
COLORS AND AGES AVAILABLE!

J&B WESTERN STORE
BRAINERD, MN 218-829-8144

We have one of the largest saddle selections in the Upper Midwest in our store!

7 MILES WEST OF BRAINERD/BAXTER ON HWY 210, TURN NORTH ONTO SCEARCYVILLE DR.

J. R. & Betty Sundby Owners
Toll Free 1-877-207-5588
Local 1-218-829-8144

LAYAWAY & MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Store Hours: Mon-Friday 9-6, Sat 9-5, Sun 11-4
email: jbwestern@yahoo.com

TOLL FREE: 1-877-207-5588
E-MAIL: jbwestern@yahoo.com
WEBSITE: www.jandbwesternstore.com

Now, you can also shop on-line 24 hours a day - 7 days a week at our new website!
www.jandbwesternstore.com

365 Days to Ride

- ✓ Naturally Bright Interiors
- ✓ Superior Air Quality
- ✓ Safer Environment
- ✓ Peaceful Ambiance
- ✓ A Guarantee of Quality
- ✓ Backed by Local Service

COVER-ALL NorthStar Cover-All
1.877.259.1528 • www.northstarcoverall.com



USEF ANNOUNCES DRESSAGE YOUTH/PONY PILOT PROGRAM BY USEF DRESSAGE DEPARTMENT

The United States Equestrian Federation, Inc. (USEF) is pleased to announce the launch of the USEF Dressage Youth/Pony Pilot Program for Fall 2009. This program is designed to seek out, educate and assist the development of the young riders, and will be under the direction of Lendon Gray, appointed by the USEF Dressage High Performance Committee.

"I am thrilled that USEF is going to help to develop the best equitation and riding skills in our younger riders," Gray said. "It is so much easier to develop correct riding from the early ages than to try to change bad habits later."

The Pilot Program will consist of clinics held throughout the United States, which will be conducted by Gray, and high-performance athletes such as Michael Barisone, Pam Goodrich, Arlene "Tuny" Page and David Wightman. "The clinics will include emphasis on position and seat, technical skills, and riding and stable management theory," continued Gray.

The clinics will be available to youth 20 years old and under with a special emphasis on riders ages 10 to 17. In order to meet the minimum requirements to participate, riders ages 10-15 on a horse or pony should have obtained a 62% or high from two different judges at First Level and above. Riders ages 16-17 should have obtained 62% or higher from two different judges at Third Level and above. If space permits, clinics will be open to riders 18-20 who have obtained 62% or higher from two different judges at Fourth Level and above. Youth riders who do not qualify, as well as instructors, are encouraged to audit these clinics (organizers may charge an auditing fee). There will be up to ten (10) riders at each clinic.

The following are clinic dates and locations for the USEF Youth/Pony Pilot Program:

Instructor	Location	Dates
Michael Barisone	Long Valley, NJ	December 5-6, 2009
Lendon Gray	Marion, TX	December 19-20, 2009
David Wightman	Murrieta, CA	December 19-20, 2009
Lendon Gray	Kansas City, MO	January 9-10, 2010

Any rider interested in the clinic must apply through the USEF Dressage Department. The application is available on the USEF website Dressage Page (www.usef.org/_IFrames/breedsDisciplines/discipline/allDressage.aspx)

For further information, please contact: Jenny Van Wieren, USEF Assistant Director of Dressage, at jvanwieren@usef.org or (859)225-6949.

Little Bit Equine Massage Therapy
Shawna Gackle, CEMT
 350 hours Certified Equine Massage Therapist
 (701) 269-1033
 (701)685-2641
shortygack11@hotmail.com
A "Little Bit" Goes a Long Ways!

Kathy Grimes Animal Consultant

Creating wellness through animal communication and energy work.

952-270-4306
www.brotherwolfandfriends.com



CHAMPIONS NAMED HURON SD SHOW

(HURON, SD) - Michael Messersmith's stallion, Le Imbrie+, was named the stallion champion at the recent USDFBC championships. Messersmith is from Parker, SD.

The mare champion was RF Mosaic, owned by Craig Heckert of Nisland, SD, and the reserve champion was Louisa, owned by Judy Barrett of Arkansas; the third place mare was Reannastasia, owned by Theresa Wick of Yankton, SD

The champion of the three and younger colts and geldings was RF Meister-freight, owned by Craig Heckert of Nisland, SD.

The champion of the three and younger fillies class was RF

Marigold, owned by Craig Heckert of Nisland, SD. The reserve champion was Bre-Lyahr, owned by Judy Peacock of Tyndall, SD. The third place finisher was Keyanna, owned by Joann and Michael Messersmith of Parker, SD; fourth place was Flannery, owned by Barbara Anderson Whiteis of Minnesota.

The Great American Insurance Group/U.S. Dressage Federation's Breeders' Championship Series (USD-FBC) is a program designed to promote breeders and showcase quality sport horses in hand. Each series consists of at least 3 qualifying competitions in designated geographical areas of the United States, leading to a final event in each series. There are eleven series and over 1,000 horses that participate in this championship program every year. The West Central Series includes South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, and Iowa.

Exhibitors compete at qualifying events for champion and reserve champion filly, colt/gelding, mare, and stallion. These horses are then eligible to compete at the final event in their series, where the Great American Insurance Group/USDF Breeders' Championship Series Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Filly,

Advertise Your Events - FREE!
 Send your event info to:
 The Valley Equestrian via email:
theVENews@gmail.com

Colt/Gelding, Mare, and Stallion are determined.

Horses are judged on their confirmation and movement, as suitable to be jumping and dressage horses. The horses are shown in halters or bridles (for horses two and older), and are walked around a triangle, then trotted around a larger triangle, and finally presented for conformation inspection. While the USDFBC series allows all breeds to compete, winners are most often warm-bloods, horses of German descent that have been bred for dressage and jumping for several hundred years.

The championships are sponsored by Great American Insurance Group, one of the world's leading providers of equine mortality and farm insurance.

The series is supported by Arenus Performance products, an innovator in health and nutrition products for pets, and JPC Equestrian provides the horse coolers for the winners in each division and is the official apparel and horse clothing supplier of the USDF.

Founded in 1973, the United States Dressage Federation (USDF) is a nonprofit membership organization dedicated to education, recognition of achievement, and promotion of dressage. For more information about USDF membership or programs, visit www.usdf.org, e-mail usdressage@usdf.org, or call (859) 971-2277.

The Pheasant Open shows were sponsored by Dakota Dressage and Eventing (DDE), a non-profit group that is a member of USDF, promoting the Olympic equestrian sports of dressage, jumping, and cross country jumping across the Dakotas. DDE holds several competitions across the Dakotas, as well as educational clinics, and members of any level of experience are welcome. For more information about DDE, visit www.DakotaDressageAndEventing.org or call the group's president, Teddie Adamski, at (605) 280-3827.

Want the VE to your door?
 Subscribe! \$28. for 12 issues -
 Mail your check or money order to:
 Box 64, Sabin, MN 56530



A FAMILY AFFAIR: PHILLIP ODDEN & ELSE BIGTON CREATE NORSK WOOD WORKS

By Margo Brady

Turning down the driveway at Phillip Odden's farm, one immediately leaves the Wisconsin countryside and enters the rolling hills of Norway! It is May and the flower beds are in full bloom, birds singing fill the air, and the smell of fresh baked bread is wafting from the rustic house. Inside, strong Norwegian coffee and homemade Scandinavian treats await. The house is decorated with Norwegian furniture and art, rosemaling adorns the walls, and a Hardanger fiddle, considered the national instrument of Norway, rests in the corner awaiting their son, Ole, to bring its magical music to life.

Norwegian Fjords romp through the pastures. Mares have arrived for breeding season, and the gorgeous Norwegian import stallion, Smedsmo Græn, is romping with them in his "harem" pasture. Phillip jumps on his back, bareback and bridleless, and shows off the stallion's gaits. Going into the century old barn, the smell of horses and hay and leather greet you. But, it is walking up into the "hay loft" that transforms into another world. As you turn the corner, the smell of freshly sawed wood, a light scent of varnish, and the hum of saws greets you as enter a fabulous wood shop where Else Bigton, Phillip's wife and a Norwegian native, creates meticulously carved Norwegian reproduction furniture for sale all over the world. Turning the other direction at the top of the steps takes you into Phillip's

studio where the walls are graced with lovely relief scenes all hand carved in wood.

Phillip traveled to Norway in 1977 to attend carving school and this is where he met his wife, Else. It was her grandfather who had a Fjord horse when she was a young girl. The horse was used as a family horse on a small farm and Else remembers how the horse was used to take milk cans out to the road each morning to be picked up by the milk hauler.

In 1979, they returned to Northwestern Wisconsin where Phillip grew up and started their Traditional Carving and Furniture business, Norsk Wood Works, LTD on an 80-acre farm only one-and-a-half mile from where Phillip was born on the farm built by his Norwegian immigrant grandparents. This has been the only job



Odden gathering maple sap (above) and working up the garden (right) with the use of the Fjords.

they have had and they are in their thirtieth year of business. They started with Fjord horses in 1997 and now the horses are about 35 percent of their business.

Phillip was raised on a dairy farm where they had small ponies to ride as children in a largely unsupervised way. "We always rode bare-back," he remembers. "The pony would be tied outside

the front porch as we watched "Hopalong Cassidy" or the "Lone Ranger" on TV.

After the show we would run out the front porch, jump on the pony from

behind and gallop off across the yard with imagination and fabrications streaming behind. When I think of the situation I now can only feel sorry for the pony. On the other hand, when the pony got tired of us he knew how to ditch us by going through the clothes lines, under low hanging branches or through the spruce tree wind break. We were an even match most of the time."

Phillip and Else spend much of the year at home on the farm working in their studios, taking care of and training their animals. However, each year they attend a couple festivals to show their carving work such as the annual Hostfest in Minot, North Dakota. (This is a large Scandinavian festival held each fall at the North Dakota Fairgrounds with several thousand

people in attendance.) Philip recalls, "When Ole was young he and I demonstrated carving. I would be making rather expensive chairs with lots of carving or perhaps parts to an ornate bed. Ole would be making wooden swords with some small carved details. Ole would sell out every show while the sales of our furniture might be less frequent. We enjoyed showing our work and artist craftsmanship together as a family."

As for horse events, Phillip says, "We enjoy competing in Combined Driving Events (CDEs) and Pleasure Driving shows usually sponsored by the American Driving Society (ADS.) The first

show that we did several years ago was perhaps the most funny in hind-sight. It was the Columbus Carriage Classic in Columbus, Wisconsin. We showed in Novice Driver division though it was the first show for both the three-year-old filly and I. They say either the horse should know something or the driver should know something to be safe and successful. Well, we were safe and there were small pieces of success but in a sport where appearance is important we didn't look very good at all. The horse looked pretty good since she was young and well-conditioned. I was unable to drive well enough to keep her in the proper frame. The harness was Amish built and was made for every-day use rather than

show that we did several years ago was perhaps the most funny in hind-sight. It was the Columbus Carriage Classic in Columbus, Wisconsin. We showed in Novice Driver division though it was the first show for both the three-year-old filly and I. They say either the horse should know something or the driver should know something to be safe and successful. Well, we were safe and there were small pieces of success but in a sport where appearance is important we didn't look very good at all. The horse looked pretty good since she was young and well-conditioned. I was unable to drive well enough to keep her in the proper frame. The harness was Amish built and was made for every-day use rather than



they have had and they are in their thirtieth year of business. They started with Fjord horses in 1997 and now the horses are about 35 percent of their business.

Phillip was raised on a dairy farm where they had small ponies to ride as children in a largely unsupervised way. "We always rode bare-back," he remembers. "The pony would be tied outside

the front porch as we watched "Hopalong Cassidy" or the "Lone Ranger" on TV.

After the show we would run out the front porch, jump on the pony from

while the sales of our furniture might be less frequent. We enjoyed showing our work and artist craftsmanship together as a family."

As for horse events, Phillip says, "We enjoy competing in Combined Driving Events (CDEs) and Pleasure Driving shows usually sponsored by the American Driving Society (ADS.) The first

Continued on Page 7

Annual Meeting and Banquet
 Saturday, January 16, 2010
 Northland Inn, Brooklyn Park, Minn.
 Registration and Social Hour at 5:30 p.m.
 763-755-7729

MINNESOTA HORSE COUNCIL

For advanced registration go to:
www.mnhorsecouncil.org
 * Horse person of the Year Announced!
 * Scholarships and Grants Awarded!



WIPPLER WINS AMHR MINIATURE HORSE THROUGH ESSAY CONTEST

Editor's Note: The following is an essay that won Jenny Wippler, 13, of Emerald, N.D., an AMHR horse, Bella. The friends to whom Jenny refers in her essay are Janet and Merrill Meyer, owners of Danna's Miniature Horses, Portland, N.D.

By Jennifer Wippler

I turned 13 years old on May 30, 2009. I have a condition called Cartilage Hair Hyperplasia, otherwise known as "dwarfism." I am 3' 7" tall. I like to tell everyone, 3' 8" with my boots on.

I have been involved with small equine since I was a year old. I would participate in regular hypno-therapy sessions (riding horses to help with my balance) with Infant Development horses and with our family's miniature horses.

I first got involved with miniature horses at home as my family has always had big and little horses. I received my very own horse when I was eight-years-old and started showing horses in 4-H county fairs a year later when I was nine-years-old.

My first miniature horse was a hand-me-down from my older sister. Before I owned the mini, he was my brother's but my brother passed away from cancer when he was four, so my sister took over the care of the horse before it was handed down to me. I have owned several big horses over the past few years, but sadly none worked out due to the size difference between me and them. They were too much for me to handle. The only little horse I have owned was my hand-me-down mini.

My family attended an "Introduction to Minis" horse show on June 13, 2009. Some local miniature horse owners sponsored this show to promote miniature horses. This is where we met some people who have become our new friends. They invited us over to their house and asked if my sister and I would be interested in showing their registered miniature horses. We said YES.

We started to practice with our friend's mini show horses this summer. This is when we were introduced to sanctioned miniature horse shows. I have competed in three AMHR shows with our friend's registered horses this year and I have brought home a number of trophies and ribbons.

I enjoy walking, brushing, feeding, washing, riding, showing and spoiling both our own and our friend's miniature horses. Because miniature horses are just my size I particularly like spending time with them.

I do not show my own miniature horse, as mine is sadly blind, too old and not registered. However, I have shown him in 4-H shows in the past during his younger years. I currently show a friend's small equine in local horse shows. I have been showing miniature horses since I was eleven years old. I showed large horses for a few years before that.

So far I have not had the chance to raise a miniature horse, but I would love and cherish the opportunity to do so.

I believe that I deserve to win this miniature horse because all my life I have been challenged with my disabilities and size and winning this horse would give me the opportunity to show the world what I can do when given the right resources. Winning this miniature horse would allow me to form a bond with a horse that I could love, cherish, grow up with and compete with.

If I won the miniature horse I would take it home, make a home for it, train it, spend time with it and compete with it at local and national level horse shows.

Thank you for considering me for this wonderful opportunity.



Jenny Wippler driving in the PMC (Physically/Mentally Challenged) Youth County Pleasure Driving Class. Merrill Meyer is along for the ride and the horse is MHA Lucky Toyland Charger, an 8-year-old gelding owned by Danna's Miniature Horses of Portland, N.D.



Jenny Wippler being presented the miniature horse she won at the 2009 AMHR National Horse Show in Tulsa, OK. The filly's registered name is "Cross Country Made in America." Her barn name is "Bella". "The Bella Project," a school science project in which Jenny charted the progress her horse made on a daily basis for showmanship and pivot training, has earned Jenny a trip to the North Dakota State Science Fair.

FARM LEGAL SERIES NOW AVAILABLE ON U OF M EXTENSION WEBSITE

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Farming has become more than just producing crops and livestock. Marketing and production contracts, farm leases, security interests, bankruptcy, rights of unsecured creditors and many other legal issues have become a part of farming.

To assist farm families with establishing a basic understanding of many of the legal issues that face them today, University of Minnesota Extension is making available a farm legal series. The 16-piece series includes topics related to termination of contract for deeds, tax considerations in liquidation and reorganization, security interests in personal property, mortgage foreclosure, bankruptcy, production and marketing contracts, and more. All are available at no charge at <http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/businessmanagement/DF7291.html>. Pieces in the series can be downloaded individually or as a complete set. All relate specifically to Minnesota law.

The legal series was written by Philip L. Kunkel, Jeffrey A. Peterson, and Jessica A. Mitchell, Attorneys at Law with Gray Plant Mooty Law Firm. All the information sheets are written in easily understood terms. Each varies in length depending upon the subject. Some have examples and calculations included. The series is not intended to be legal advice, as each situation differs. However, reviewing the series will give farm producers a good, solid understanding of the basics related to each topic.

Source: Gary A. Hachfeld, Extension educator in Agricultural Business Management.

Do YOU know any young or old heroes like Jenny Wippler (see article to your left)? Share their story with VE readers.

Contact: theVENews@gmail.com or call 701-361-5871

2010 USDF DIRECTORY AVAILABLE ONLINE FOR MEMBERS

Lexington, KY - The United States Dressage Federation (USDF) is pleased to offer the 2010 USDF Directory online, exclusively for members only, as a continuation of USDF's Going Green Campaign. When USDF members log into the USDF Web site, they will be able to access and download the directory in its entirety, eliminating the need to print and mail hardcopies as has been done in the past.


The USDF Directory, printed yearly and effective for the entire competition season, contains all of USDF's awards programs information, championship rules, test movements, membership information, arena set-up information, and listings of dressage officials.

"With the success of the online magazine and our other 'going green' efforts, making the directory readily available for download seemed like the next logical step. The online version will also allow members to print and download the specific parts of the directory that they need without having to carry and search through the entire book," stated Linda Schultz, USDF Director of Marketing.

Hardcopy directories are available for purchase through the USDF online store or by paying the shipping/handling charge of three dollars when applying for or renewing your participating membership.

For more information on joining or renewing as a PM, or to access the online directory, visit the USDF Web site at www.usdf.org, or contact the USDF membership department at membership@usdf.org.

Read All About It!
The January issue of the VE is featuring Feathered breeds. See Page 4 for contact information to submit information or buy an ad today!



PROFESSIONAL FARRIER PROGRAM

MINNESOTA SCHOOL OF HORSESHOEING

6250 Riverdale Drive NW
Ramsey, MN 55303

763-427-5850
800-257-5850

www.mnschoolofhorseshoeing.com

MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS: THINK - PLAN - ORGANIZE - EXECUTE - MAKE/SAVE MONEY

By Bob Valentine, Ph.D.

Before we move on, I would like to discuss one more liquidity ratio. Financial management is like math or a foreign language, if you don't use it you'll lose it. You might want to do a quick review of the September and November columns.

The last liquidity ratio I want to discuss is the Cash Ratio. If you remember I said in the September column, 'Cash in an equine business is KING'. Therefore, I call the Cash Ratio the Horsemen's Ratio.

The Cash Ratio formula is:

$$\text{Cash Ratio (Horsemen's Ratio)} = \frac{\text{Cash} + \text{Cash Equivalents}}{\text{Total Current Liabilities}}$$

The Cash Ratio is the most conservative liquidity ratio because it excludes all Current Assets except the most liquid: Cash and Cash equivalents (Marketable Securities). The Cash Ratio is an indication of a business's ability to pay off its current liabilities if for some reason immediate payment were demanded. Receivables and Inventory are eliminated from the Cash Ratio. If you remember, receivables are like ketchup and can be slow to collect and inventory is like molasses and very difficult to turn into cash (November column). A Cash Ratio of 1:1 is good. It means you can feed and care for your horses in difficult times. It also means you have the opportunity to gain an advantage and be a much better business with the potential to gain market share from your competitors.

In your Chart of Accounts you may have to manage or at least monitor what is called Other Assets. Other Assets include all Balance Sheet Asset Accounts not covered specifically in other areas of Asset Management. Often, such accounts may be quite insignificant to the overall financial condition of a business. Other Assets include: Deposits (utilities, telephone, Costs (if you purchased cumulated Amortization of Non-Current Receivables Current Assets. Unless business, you probably your deposits so they are possible. If they are sitting Sheet, they are 'Cash at not earn interest (generally) you grow your business.

In your Chart of Accounts your business's Long-Term Liabilities are accounted for by its debt obligations to other parties that last longer than one year. However, remember the current portion of the debt obligation (due within a year) is accounted for in your Current Liabilities (June column). Long-Term Liabilities include accounts like: Leases longer than one year (property, horses, etc.); Notes (loans from individuals, etc.); Land; Equipment (ranch equipment, tractors, ATV's, balers, etc.); Vehicles (ranch truck, horse trailer, etc.); Bank Loans and Other Long-Term Debt.

Management of Long-Term Liabilities is critical in evaluating a business's risk and its long-term solvency. There are three important ratios used to evaluate a business's risk and solvency. They all include a business's Long-Term Liabilities. Long-Term Liabilities need to be managed to keep a business growing or from becoming insolvent.

Norsk Wood Works: Continued from Page 5

Fortunately, the pony was quite fast and nearly fearless. Together we could maneuver the cones classes well so we did in the end gather a few ribbons. It was the beginning of the learning curve. At least we were there and we were safe."

After carving for half a day, Phillip usually begins training horses in mid-afternoon. "We have a 160' x 72' indoor arena to use when needed and we have an extensive trail system on our property and the adjoining property to ride and drive. We live very close to many thousands of acres of public land that welcomes horse traffic."

Phillip and Else also teach carving courses two times each year at their studios near Barronett, Wisconsin. People come from all corners of the United States. He states, "We have taught classes in several states from Vermont to Alaska as well as Canada. Currently we are organizing a study tour to Norway to see how rural Norway works." Phillip also teaches horsemanship classes and driving classes at the farm.

Regarding the Fjords, Phillip says, "Not only do the Fjords do well in

competitive driving events like pleasure driving shows and lower level CDEs, but they make exceptional trail riding horses. These are mountain ponies bred for the steep mountain country of Western Norway. They can also be used to work the garden plot, pull in firewood, and haul maple sap. I take mine elk hunting and recently packed a bull elk off a mountain in Colorado at 12,000 feet in elevation. The ponies are well suited for children and grand-children when supervised. And they are used quite often in therapeutic riding programs."

Phillip continues, "I compete with them, we trail ride, work the garden using a springtooth harrow, and usually work it up with a single horse. I drive most days of the year; we sleigh with them and we like train using them."

Another task is the maple sap gathering in the spring where they go out from March 15 to April 15 and take sleighs through the trails in the woods going out about half a mile. When the mud starts to come as the weather changes, they switch to wagons and use a pair. "It is good training; horses have to stand while we

Debt Service Coverage: Is a measurement of a business's ability to generate enough cash flow to cover its debt obligations. This ratio needs to be greater than 1 (DSCR > 1).

$$\text{DSCR} = \frac{\text{Net Operating Income}}{\text{Total Debt Service}}$$

If it isn't greater than 1, the business needs to improve its profit or reduce its long-term debt. DSCR is income before income taxes + depreciation + amortization + interest / repayment of its debt obligations this year + interest.

Total Debt to Assets: Is a measurement of a business's relative obligations. The Debt to Assets Ratio is not a particularly exciting one, but it is very useful. The ratio needs to be less than 1 (DAR < 1). If it isn't less than 1, the business needs to reduce its debt load or put tighter controls on its purchasing. Loan institutions will interpret a high ratio as a 'highly debt leveraged business'. Businesses with high ratios are placing themselves at risk, especially in high interest rate markets. Creditors are bound to get worried if a

$$\text{Debt-Asset Ratio} = \frac{\text{Total Liabilities}}{\text{Total Assets}}$$

business is exposed to a large amount of debt and may demand that the business pay some of it back. DAR is Total Liabilities (current and long-term liabilities) / Total Assets.

Total Debt to Equity: Is a measurement of a business's leverage. This is a more stringent measurement of a business's financial risk than its 'Total Debt to Assets' ratio. The 'Debt to Equity' ratio is also called the 'Debt to Net Worth' ratio. It quantifies the relationship between the capital invested by a business's owner(s) and/or investor(s) and the funds provided by its creditors - the higher the ratio, the greater the risk to a current or future creditor. A ratio greater than one (DER>1) means assets are mainly financed with debt and less than one (DER<1) means equity provides the majority of the financing. A lower ratio means your business is more financially stable and is probably in a better position to borrow now and in the future. However, an extremely low ratio may indicate that you are too conservative and you are not letting your business realize its full potential. If the ratio is greater than 1, the business probably needs to improve its profit, get additional investment or sell off unproductive assets (May column). Creditors will interpret a high ratio as a 'highly debt leveraged business'. Businesses with high 'Debt to Equity' ratios have the same interest rate exposure and creditor scrutiny as a business with a high 'Debt to Asset' ratio. DER is Total Liabilities (current and long-term liabilities) / Shareholders Equity.

$$\text{Debt-Equity Ratio} = \frac{\text{Total Liabilities}}{\text{Shareholders Equity}}$$

In our next column we will discuss Equity in a horse business and expenses. I suggest you do a Cash Ratio (Horsemen's Ratio) even if you don't operate as a business. Remember, spending your money wisely may provide the opportunity to attend another horse show or event or do something special with your horse. Think - plan - organize - execute - make/save money.

If you can't measure it, you can't manage it.
Bob Valentine, Ph.D. is the President of GenieCo, Inc. and Professor of Equine Business at Colorado State University. He may be reached at 1-888-678-4364 or bob@geniework.com

gather the sap." Using plastic bags and 55 gallon barrels, they bring in the fresh sap to cook down into yummy syrup.

Phillip keeps about 20 horses that are either in training, for breeding, or for sale. He starts working the horses as they are coming three-year-olds. "I ground drive first and start to drive them during the winter that they're coming three. I teach them ground manners and tying at two years. I don't work them hard till they're four. There's so much pushing early I don't agree with that. The mind has to grow as well as the body," says Phillip.

For him, a culmination of all the training he's done is to take a horse to the mountains on an elk hunt. He states, "To take a horse there, it is 12,000 ft., we camp at 11,000, and we're on precarious mountain trails and then to pack out elk is a big deal. You have to have good horses. I've worked really hard to be able to do this and it's a celebration of the training and hard work. If the horse gets excited, we're a minimum 12 hours for anyone to get to us. That's what the wilderness is all about."

As the day closes and it's time to leave "Norway," Phillip hands me a large sack of freshly picked asparagus as he chomps on a stalk himself. "Come back and visit again!" he says. We head out down the drive as the sun sets behind us while the night sky envelops the Wisconsin countryside.

He continues, "We picket them at night and we have to feed them weed free hay cubes and pelleted hay. We stay there for 11 days, they don't get fed as much as they would really like because they work really hard. It's a real challenge." As far as acclimation, Phillip explains, "Altitude: horses have more hemoglobin than humans and they acclimate way quicker than we do. You have to get them in good shape before we go there. These are my show horses; the same ponies I use for CDE and pleasure driving."

And show horses they are! "We won everywhere we went this year: Villa Louis Carriage Classic, pairs division; preliminary level CDE at Hickory Knoll at Southern WI, Pittsburg, Skunk River HDT in Ames, Iowa in the pairs division ... I've got sacks of ribbons."

TALKING HORSES

By Kathy Grimes

It was a beautiful fall night. There were five of us sitting around a campfire waiting for our supper to get done. We had just finished a nice trail ride. Our horses were eating not too far from us. We began talking about our horses and how cool it was to be out on the trails today.

One thing we all were feeling was a sense of freedom. It had been a playful day. As we roamed, we laugh, sang songs and made up stories of what type of people had ridden the trails before us. We had appreciated the speed and agility that our horses had shown during our ride. I know for myself, I had done something that made my soul sing and I had done it with delight.

But what about our horses, how were they feeling. Did they feel the freedom, enjoyment and satisfaction of the ride like we did? I decided to ask them.

First there was Jack the leader of the pack. Jack said: "It would have been a whole lot easier if she would know how to keep balanced on me. I could tell that she was carrying a heavy load of sadness." Jack then asked, "Why are so many humans that come riding sad?" "Well Jack," I responded, "I think it is that we have never been taught to choose to be happy."

Then Pupperty came over to see what we were doing and if I had treats for him. This was one of Pupperty's first trail rides. "How was the riding for you today?" He then gave me a feeling of great power and he began to dance around in a playful fasten. Finally, he said "I am happy!" "Did you notice, I kept up with the big horses?" "Yes, I did Pupperty and I am so proud of you" I said. "Why don't

we could have stopped for treats and we could have rested more at the lake."

Spring Flower wanted to go in different directions and her human had to keep bringing her back on to the trail. When I asked her how she enjoyed the ride she said: "There were so many things to see I just did not understand why my human didn't want to go see them. At times my human was so happy and she felt light to carry."

Finally, I went over to Keynote. "How was your day?" I asked. "Great, I am tired. No one told me that I was going to have to work so hard. I am tired. I feel good. My human and I are friends." (The last time I saw Keynote, he was worried that he and human would ever become friends and it took a long ride for him to come to realize that they were friends.) "Keynote, I am so happy for you" I said.

Before, we turned in for the night, each one of went to our horse and spent some time saying thank you for the wonderful day. Once again our horse experience allowed us to feel caring, loving, powerful and free. May you have many wonderful horse experiences in your life!

Kathleen Grimes has been doing both animal communication and energy work since 1990. She studied animal communication with Carol Gurney and Morning Star. As an energy worker, she uses various techniques; among them are Quantum Touch and Healing Touch for Animals. Learn more about her work on her web site: www.brotherwolfandfriends.com. Direction questions to Kathy Grimes, anonymously if you wish, to (952) 270-4306 or email her to have your questions answered in the Valley Equestrian at: kgrimes@brotherwolfandfriends.com

NATIONAL WELFARE CODE OF PRACTICE ENDORSED

A national Welfare Code of Practice has been endorsed by the American Association of Equine Practitioners, the American Quarter Horse Association, the Kentucky Thoroughbred Association, the National Thoroughbred Racing Association, the U.S. Equestrian Federation and the U.S. Trotting Association. The Welfare Code of Practice, drafted by the American Horse Council, outlines in generic terms what it means for an organization to be committed to the responsible breeding, training, care, use, enjoyment, transport and retirement of horses.

"We hope that as many organizations as possible will endorse it to show that the industry as a whole is committed to the welfare and safety of the horse," said AHC President Jay Hickey. "We know that the safety and welfare of our horses is very important to us. We hope that this code will be another indication to others that the horse community takes its responsibilities to our horses very seriously."

Many associations have undertaken studies, reviews, and initiatives that indicate their commitment to the welfare of their horses. Representatives from numerous national organizations provided an update on their welfare activities at the AHC's National Issues Forum last summer. That forum is available for on-demand viewing on www.horsetv.com. It is important to share these efforts with the horse community so everyone can educate themselves on the best welfare practices throughout the sport. This generic code is simply a continuation of that effort.

The AHC's Welfare Code of Practice is not intended to replace or pre-empt those activities or any rules and regulations specific to a segment of the industry. Rather it is

transportation, and retirement of horses; and (2) by initiating communication with the public, the media, federal and state officials and within the horse community regarding these issues.

The organizations listed below are committed to the principle that the welfare and safety of the horse is the guiding principle in the decision-making process for all owners, service providers, organizations, events and activities.

WE ARE COMMITTED to the dignity, humane care, health, safety and welfare of horses in all our activities and care. These are our highest priorities. We are the stewards of our horses and must be firm in the standards and practices that guide us. Our first principle is:

The welfare, safety and stewardship of the horse is the guiding principle in the decision-making process for all segments for the horse industry.

WE ARE COMMITTED to promoting responsible breeding practices and to produce better horses, not just more horses.

WE ARE COMMITTED to responsible training techniques. All training should be done with the maturation and ability of the horse considered. Horses should be prepared for competition with proper training and conditioning methods. Excessive disciplining methods, whether in stables, training areas, or during competition, will not be tolerated.

WE ARE COMMITTED to educating owners, trainers, veterinarians, competitors, exhibitors and recreational riders to ensure that they know and respect their horse's abilities and limits, and their own, so as to not push the horse or themselves beyond their ability level.

WE ARE COMMITTED to making all competitions fair and ensuring all competitors an equal opportunity to succeed. Performance-enhancing drugs, practices or equipment have no place in competitions or exhibitions. Effective drug testing by accredited laboratories is essential to the safety and welfare of our horses and the public support of competitions, with appropriate penalties levied for violations. The welfare of the horse must take precedence over the demands or expectations of owners, breeders, trainers, sellers, buyers, organizers, sponsors, officials, or spectators.

WE ARE COMMITTED to the welfare of the horse as paramount during competition. The horse industry should invest

transportation, and retirement of horses; and (2) by initiating communication with the public, the media, federal and state officials and within the horse community regarding these issues.

The organizations listed below are committed to the principle that the welfare and safety of the horse is the guiding principle in the decision-making process for all owners, service providers, organizations, events and activities.

WE ARE COMMITTED to the dignity, humane care, health, safety and welfare of horses in all our activities and care. These are our highest priorities. We are the stewards of our horses and must be firm in the standards and practices that guide us. Our first principle is:

The welfare, safety and stewardship of the horse is the guiding principle in the decision-making process for all segments for the horse industry.

WE ARE COMMITTED to promoting responsible breeding practices and to produce better horses, not just more horses.

WE ARE COMMITTED to responsible training techniques. All training should be done with the maturation and ability of the horse considered. Horses should be prepared for competition with proper training and conditioning methods. Excessive disciplining methods, whether in stables, training areas, or during competition, will not be tolerated.

WE ARE COMMITTED to educating owners, trainers, veterinarians, competitors, exhibitors and recreational riders to ensure that they know and respect their horse's abilities and limits, and their own, so as to not push the horse or themselves beyond their ability level.

WE ARE COMMITTED to making all competitions fair and ensuring all competitors an equal opportunity to succeed. Performance-enhancing drugs, practices or equipment have no place in competitions or exhibitions. Effective drug testing by accredited laboratories is essential to the safety and welfare of our horses and the public support of competitions, with appropriate penalties levied for violations. The welfare of the horse must take precedence over the demands or expectations of owners, breeders, trainers, sellers, buyers, organizers, sponsors, officials, or spectators.

WE ARE COMMITTED to the welfare of the horse as paramount during competition. The horse industry should invest

Continued on Page

SADDLING THE NORWEGIAN BREEDS

By Cordia Pearson

The range of the horses of Norway is quite stunning. Last month, I talked about saddling the Icelandic Horse. This month will include two additional Norwegian breeds: the Fjord and the Swedish Warmblood.



Photo Lisbeth Bengston of Oak Hill Farm in River Falls, WI with Octavius, Swedish Warmblood. Photo by Dan McDowell © 2009

On the surface, these two breeds would seem to be worlds apart. The tall, muscular Swedish Warmblood is a favored mount of the Dressage and Driving rings. A wonderful site: <http://www.theequuscollection.com/> says that the original Scandinavian horse was smaller, 12 to 14 hands (Icelandics!), high spirited and of good endurance. In the 16th century, Friesians were imported from the Netherlands to increase the size of the native horses, arriving at the glorious Swedish Warmblood of today.

Octavius is saddled with the 2010 Lovatt & Ricketts Berkeley Dressage saddle. Unique in that the front of the saddle is flared away from the shoulder area and that the points of the tree point backwards, this saddle makes a superb union with Octavius strong, yet refined back. The closer to the surface the skeleton is, the more important it becomes for the shape of the tree to follow the shape of the back. While an extremely muscle covered horse might soldier through with something that wasn't perfect, these horses must have what they need to perform at the level their riders aspire to.

Another popular Scandinavian breed is the Fjord, noted for its generous temperament and sturdy build. While the photo of Smedsmo Graen is driving, Phil brought him and a trailer load of his Fjords to our farm a couple



Phillip Oden driving Smedsmo Graen, imported gray dun stallion. The buggy is made by Phil! <http://fjordhorses.norskwoodworks.com>

of years ago for saddling. I had to check to "undercarriage" to discover Graen was a stallion, so wonderful are his manners. He and the rest of Phillip and Else Bigton's horses are substantial and the saddle that worked best for them was the Thornhill Vienna II. This "quiet" saddle is well under \$1000 and is a total winner on many different strong backed breeds.

Andor is a young Fjord and his owners and I expect him to change over the next few years. They were considering a saddle made in France that costs about \$6000. That's right – no typo. Here's what Kim Nagle had to say about their decision to go with the Thornhill: "On a growing Fjord, the Thornhill worked out just fine and was far more reasonably priced. It was the first saddle we plunked down on his back that fit perfectly. Wow, no rock, no pinching, no bridging, it was a match!"



Dr. Conrad Nagle of Michigan on Andor on a Thornhill in Zurich

Unlike the Odden's Fjords, Andor carries a good wither at an early age and so, I was able to fit him with a saddle that I would normally associate with Arabs and Warmbloods, such as Crista pictured below with Jennifer McDowell.



Above photo, also courtesy of Dan McDowell © 2009. On the left Jennifer McDowell with Crista in the Pro Trainer Zurich and Eclipse in the 2009 Berkeley. On the right, Lisbeth Bengston with Bayard in the Lovatt & Ricketts Ellipse D2 version and Octavius in his 2010 Berkeley.

Feel free to contact me via phone (651-462-5654) or web www.saddliffitter.com if I can be of assistance saddling your Norwegian Horse.



**-MONTANA-
Buck-Saw
Condo
Whitefish, MT**

**Close to Year Round
Recreational Activities**

www.mtbucksawcondo.com

The Saddliffitter
Society of Master Saddlers
Qualified Saddle Fitter
Cordia Pearson



Specializing in long distance saddliffitting & flocking. Laser, Lovatt & Ricketts, Thornhill Saddles. ThinkLine Pads. The best for you & your horse!
www.Saddliffitter.com
651-462-5654

Happy Holidays from all of us at The Valley Equestrian Newspaper!

Horse Lover on Your Christmas List?

Give a Valley Equestrian Subscription!
The gift that keeps giving!

\$28. for 12 issues

Send check to: Box 64, Sabin, Mn 56580

See more photos, news and updates at the VE Facebook Page:
The Valley Equestrian Newspaper

Ashley Peterson Horse Training



Colt Starting
Tune ups
Show Horses

Great variety of Horses for Sale!
Located in East Grand Forks, MN
Peterson Horse Training
701-720-6660
petersonhorsetraining@hotmail.com

<http://ashleypetersonhorsetraining.vpweb.com>

**INSURING
YOU AND YOUR HORSES**



ROGER BERG

(320) 230-4400 or (866) 230-4404

SERVING MINNESOTA AND WESTERN WISCONSIN

STABLES · FARMS · ARENAS · HORSES
BOARDING · TRAINING · EVENTS · CLUBS

MN EQUIFEST - MINNESOTA'S FALL FESTIVAL OF HORSES - - DRAWS RECORD CROWDS, CLINICIANS AND EXHIBITORS

Minnesota EquiFest, Minnesota's Fall Festival of Horses, held Oct. 24 and 25 at the Minn. State Fairgrounds in St. Paul brought in some of the best talent in the United States to celebrate horses.

A great lineup of clinicians and entertainment was arranged by the hosts of the event, Nancy and Robert Duggan and their family.

The event kicked off with a Colt Challenge. Dennis Auslam, a trainer and owner of Redwood Stables in Morton,

Minn., won the two-day, four trainers, four colts event.

Other trainers included TJ Clibborn. Born in Australia, he brings a free spirit and humorous approach to his natural horsemanship.

World Champion Dave Robart is a fourth generation horse trainer whose father trained Roy Rogers' race horses. Dave was 11-years-old when he started exercising race horses in California. He opened his own training center in 1985 and is known for solving behavior prob-

lems in horses.

Steve Smith owns and operates Cornerstone Training Center in Scurry, Texas after training for years with the United Mounted Peace Officers of Texas. Smith's goal is to educate and share what he has learned to help the horse and rider reach their full potential.

All horseman used similar techniques in desensitizing the colts, using gentle methods of acclimating the colts to objects, sounds, movements and training them to yield to pressure.

At the conclusion of the competition, the horses were auctioned off and sold for from \$200. to \$600, TJ Clibborn paying the highest price for the colt he started.

Other events included farrier demonstrations presented by Bryan Back of the Minnesota Farriers Association, saddlefittng demonstrations by Valley Equestrian columnist Cordia Pearson, grooming demonstrations by Tom Tweeten, nutrition seminars by Julie Christie an instructor at the Rochester, Minn. Community and Technical College equine science program, Grace Ostien demonstrating carriage driving and Steve Wood teaching driving safety, dressage movements, evaluation of a driving horse and hitching demonstrations.

The State Fairgrounds provides a great venue for the Minnesota EquiFest with the arena and other areas for lectures and demonstrations where multiple events occur simultaneously.

The Extreme Horsemanship Challenge was new to the event lineup this year. Participants walked the obstacle course through which they would ride their horse and be judged for their execu-

tion and speed. Tracy Porter wowed the crowd on "Holy Socks" her recently gelded 4-year-old as they moved gracefully, quickly and confidently through the course.

Werner Thiedemann presented seminars on "Ground Work with Your Horse," "Control of the Head, Shoulders and Hip," and "Lead Departures."

Dave Robart also presented a seminar on "Bits and Biting: Understanding Your Horse's Face" in which he said, "Everything starts in the mouth."

A Parade of Breeds was held daily representing many types of horses including Thoroughbreds, Quarter Horses, Appaloosas, Friesians, Gypsy Vanners, Morgan, American Saddlebred, Half Arabian and Paint.

The Minnesota Hooved Animal

Rescue Foundation conducted a Tack Sale

throughout the two-day event.

Minnesota EquiFest, the Fall Festival of Horses, will be held Oct. 23 and 24, 2010.

See you there!



1

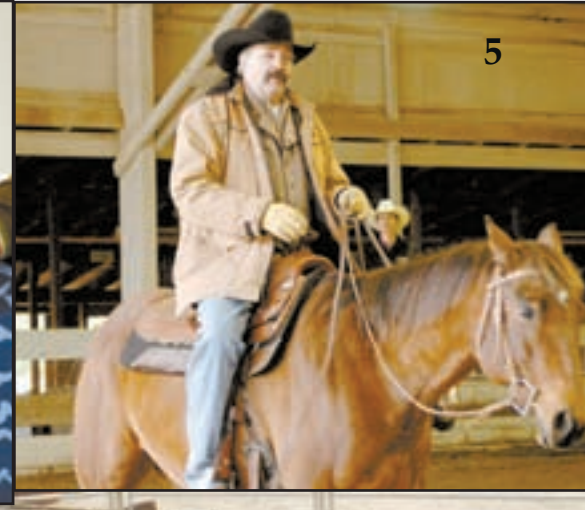
1. Grace Ostien demonstrates driving; 2. Dr. Marcia Thiebeault speaks about her book, "I Make House Calls;" 3. Madison Holt helping during the "Harbor Your Horse" lecture 4. TJ Clibborn, 7. Dennis Auslam, 9. Steve Smith, 11. Dave Robart all working their assigned colts during the Colt Starting Challenge; 5. Werner Thiedemann speaking on control of the head, shoulders and hip adding, "The release is what teaches." 8. A MN Viking fan riding an Icelandic horse during the Parade of Breeds; 10. Pam Barthel and Portia Bradway of Creek Side Gypsy Horses demonstrating Gypsy Vanner horses during the Parade of Breeds; 12. Tom Tweeten riding his American Saddlebred during the Parade of Breeds. Tweeten also provided seminars about grooming; 13. at the startof the Extreme Cowboy Challenge; 14. Bobbi Schefler riding Tequila Rose, an Arabian/Quarter Horse cross from Snowy Owl Farms during the Parade of Breeds; 15. Cordia Pearson (facing camera) gives saddlefittng demonstrations 16. Bryan Back from the Minnesota Farriers Association demonstrating trimming a horse's hoof; 17. Steve Wood lets an audience member take the reins and drive his marathon cart; 18. Tracy Porter wins the Extreme Horsemanship Challenge riding "Holy Socks."



2



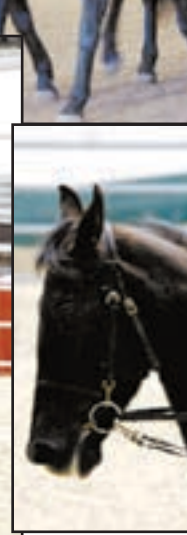
3



5



12



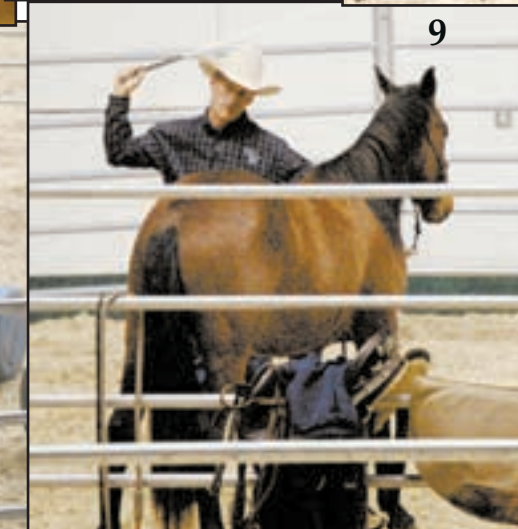
18



4



7



9



11



13



14



17



18

Creek Side Gypsy Horses

8841 Mason Ave NE
Elk River, MN 55339
pambrthl@aol.com

www.creeksidegypsy.com
763-274-2488

"If you can dream it,
THEY CAN DO IT."

RRIF Donovan

(Tri colored)
Homozygous for Tobiano (TT), Hetro for Red/Black gene (Ee), HOMOZYGOUS for Agouti gene (AA), will be good one for getting those special colors with the black trim points.
2007 High Point and 1st Premium European Champion
Now standing at Stud:
\$1500.00 plus \$250.00 non-refundable booking fee

Check out our Gypsy and Drum horses for sale.

Magical Gypsy
Horses
with
European
Bloodlines



"Mini Van" Literally!

By Carolyn Peterson

In August I was finally able to find a beautiful miniature buckskin filly to add to my collection. She was 5-months-old and only 28 inches high at her withers. She was located near Madison, Wisconsin which is about 250 miles from Balsam Lake where I live. I just couldn't see the sense in taking my big 16-foot stock trailer and pickup truck all that way for only a hundred pound horse. She would look so tiny in there and be so scared. To my husband's surprise, I decided to take the mini van.

Yes, the MINI van. More economical and definitely the right name for transporting a miniature horse. Did I mention this was my husband's van? Probably the reason for the surprised look on his face. Did I mention he isn't a horse person? After a bit of pleading and coaxing, he gave in. I quickly took out the middle and back row seats. On the floor I placed plastic, some interlocking rubber/foam mats, and some sawdust. My husband approved but grumbled under his breath about air fresheners and vacuum cleaners. Oh well, a quick itty-bitty hay bag thrown in the back, and I was on my way.

When I arrived to pick her up, I think the seller thought I was crazy pulling in with just the mini van. Once she saw what a cozy ride I had planned for this little furry filly, I think she calmed down. The filly jumped right in with a little boost. I tied her to the head rest on the front passenger seat. The hay bag hung from the seatbelt guide bracket. I handed over the money, grabbed the paperwork, and we were off.

It wasn't long before Mother Nature overcame the little filly. A few quick paper towels as tongs, and soon the flowers in the ditch were enjoying the fresh fertilizer. She managed to answer Mother Nature's call five times in the first five miles. Oh, no! I still have 245 miles to go!

Luckily, it was just the "first van ride nerves" and she was

fine for the next hundred miles contentedly munching on her hay. At a truck stop with the van shut off and me out of sight for a few minutes, she relieved her bladder. Thank goodness for the sawdust and plastic on the floor. Mother Nature called a couple more times, but always at a convenient rest stop. She only let out one whinny on the whole trip and that was at a different truck stop. I dared not drive through any fast food places for fear of, "I'll have a number 6 with a diet Coke...whinny, whinny, whinny." From the speaker I am sure I would have heard in reply, "That will be \$6.23 for your order, but I didn't catch the order for your passenger. She sounded a little hoarse!" Right! A little horse!

We arrived home safely about five hours later. In no time at all the MINI van was stripped of all traces of horse smell. My non-horse husband had no choice but to fall in love with her since she immediately started following him around the yard. I believe the seller's husband cleaned the stalls for her, so maybe the filly bonded with him. No, I don't suppose I could get my husband to clean our stalls. That would be pushing it after the van thing.

I debated a long time on the perfect name for this new filly. I finally came up with Promise, since I made a promise to my husband that I would not buy any more miniature horses. Four was what I wanted and four is what I have; two fillies and two geldings. He liked the name. He said every time I am with her, I can be reminded of my "promise." Funny husbands... I said "buy." I didn't say anything about my fillies possibly having foals someday!

Do YOU have a cute story to share with VE readers? Email us: theVENews@gmail.com or call 701-361-5871

Horses Ponies Miniatures
Rainbow's End
 Western English Driving Lessons Training Sales
 Karen Clark
 586 32nd St. SE
 Buffalo, MN 55313
 763-682-5324
 karenhorse@charter.net

BREEDER'S COLUMN: SELECTING A BROODMARE?

By Dan Drewlow

With the current equine market I keep getting the same question asked to me. What makes the best broodmare or how do you select a broodmare? The answer to that question is different to every breeder. Every breeder has a different goal in their mind for what they want the offspring to do.

The first question to ask yourself is why do you want to breed the mare?
 • To get a foal to sell in a certain market or discipline; to get a foal for your own personal breeding program like a replacement mare or stallion; or to get a foal for your own use.

The following question to answer is: What qualities does the mare have that you like?

- Conformation
- Movement
- Personality
- Color/Markings

After listing the qualities that you like and putting them in the order that is most important for what you want to produce, ask this question: What qualities does the mare have that you dislike?

- Conformation
- Movement
- Personality
- Color/Markings

List these qualities that you dislike and put them in order as to what is the most important to you.
 Ask these questions:
 • Will breeding the mare fix or lessen the qualities that you dislike in the mare?
 • Will breeding the mare reproduce the qualities that you like in the mare?

The final question to ask yourself is: are you as picky about your choice of broodmares as you are with your choice of stallion. From the very basic genetic stand point, 50 percent is from the mare and 50 percent is from

the stallion. The most important aspect of this is what the foal learns from the mare after foaling and before weaning. So that way I believe so strongly that the mare gives basically 50 percent genetic but gives an addition 20 to 25 percent of herself to the foal because of her nature. Some other things to think about when selecting a broodmare is if you look at the statistics of the number of colts born less than 9 percent remain stallions. While the statistics show that of the number of fillies born more than 87 percent will be bred at some point in their life.

The final comment I want to leave with you is: "Just because a mare can have a foal doesn't mean that she should; just as because a stallion can reproduce doesn't mean that he should." What I am recommending is that you carefully look at what you have set as a goal for the foal that you are going to produce. With that goal in mind, select the best mare and stallion to produce that goal.

TRNP WILD HORSE AUCTION A HUGE SUCCESS

Letter to the Editor

Bill and I just returned from the horse round up and auction in Western North Dakota at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. For the past two years, myself and a small group of passionate, dedicated people have been campaigning on behalf of these horses.

At past round ups, the most who have ever shown up for a sale was around 25 people with most horses being sold to killer buyers. We had no idea of what to expect but on the day of the auction, well over 500 people came to the sale. It was unbelievable! Standing room only with people bidding outside in the parking lot on their cell phones. The stock yard staff couldn't believe the crowd, nor could we!

Not only was it the largest crowd ever, the horses sold for the highest amount of money ever with \$1,450 being the top bid for one of the little weanlings colts.

We purchased two weanling colts as well as a yearling colt which is the big brother to one of the weanlings.

So we did it! We raised awareness of these special horses who inhabit the western edge of North Dakota as well as



Wild Horses in the paddock awaiting the auction Oct. 23 in Dickinson, N.D. Photo by Bridget Nolte

raised their value. Unfortunately, there were two killer buyers there who managed to get their hands on about 12 beautiful bachelor stallions. It is such a shame but there now is no turning back. This sale will never go back to the old days where no one shows up. And if I can help it, the next sale which will take place in about 3 years, will be completely "no kill".

Eileen Norton, California

WALK ON LEATHER

No shop where you live? For saddle or boot work, call or email Walk on Leather, send the work to Walk on Leather; quality, bona fide craftsmanship.

Walk On Leather Goods

Fairmont, MN
 Hrs: M-F 9-6; Sat 10-3
 888-901-4578
 www.WalkonLeather.com
 Reed@WalkonLeather.com

Eagle Tree Feed Store Open House

Help us celebrate our 1st year!
 December 4 & 5
 9:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
 326 2nd Ave West, Halstad, MN 56548
 Call: 218 456 2009 or
 Cell: 701 730 0335
 Door Prizes, Coffee, Cookies, Candy!
 SALE on select items: 20% OFF all Buckaroo Leather products.
 www.buckarooleather.com
 \$ 1.00 OFF Arbucks Ariosa Coffee, Coffee for Cowboys and Cowgirls and Arbucks Coffee Mugs.
 \$ 1.00 OFF all Birdseed
 Gift Baskets for Horse and Pet lovers. Save \$5.00+ per basket.
 Free samples of dog and cat food. Looking forward to seeing you!!
 www.eagletreehorsemanship.com

COWBOY POETRY WITH ORV: HUNTER'S LAPSE OF JUDGEMENT

By Orv Alveshere

TREE'S NOT COMPANY

Bow deer season arrived. In gun season he'd stable his horse. He'd move cattle home. He knew that a hunter's mistake could bring remorse. With raw determined strength and agility he climbed a tree, hand over hand. While using safety straps he set up his expensive hunting stand. Like a sentry from high up above he viewed a well-worn deer path; Tracks traveled and crisscrossed by herds of deer, according to his math. We won't divulge who, when or where. It could've happened any year; As bored hunters climbed high up in a tree stand, awaiting the deer.

CAUTION, LACK OF COGITATION

He'd uncollapsed his collapsible stand, high up in a birch; Secured it to that tree expecting to pass the day on his perch. He'd wrapped water and treats in plastic, so as to not make a sound. It was his intent to view his quarry, walking down on the ground. Viewing the trails, hills, draws and woods from his perch above became boring. He must fight sleep, he must stay awake or he'd soon be snoring. He retied his safety straps tighter, as looking straight down caused fear. Perhaps he'd climbed too high hoping for a glimpse of a moving deer.

SILLY SEASON

Motionless he searched for any movements, worried about a steep drop... And not wake up! Yet worried his snoring would cause the deer to stop. Counting clouds, soaring birds, deer droppings and tree varieties more than twice. Scurrying far below, he noticed a fam'ly of tiny mice. The hunter's day dragged on. Not a single deer came back from the river. For entertainment he snatched his first arrow from his quiver. Perhaps he'd been out in the sun too long, or his brain stripped a gear. Amusement or diversion was offered to the guy hunting deer.

MISSING THE 'POINT' OF HUNTING

Striving for acc'arcy, he held the arrow, aimed it as best he could; Held it above the mice from his perch, propped up where he stood. Perhaps it was challenge, or novelty, or the miss so narrow; Enamored by his newly devised sport, he dropped all of his arrows. He envisioned a better lookout spot, a better hunt next year. He wasn't sure he would discuss that stunt that you're about to hear. That hunter looked up and saw a motionless, multi-antlered deer Watching him. A trophy buck got away from the guy crying in his beer.

TO: PARTRIDGE IN TREE WITH NO CARTRIDGE

If a trophy deer could leave a short note:
 Dear hunter,
 'Bye,
 Love,
 The Big Antler

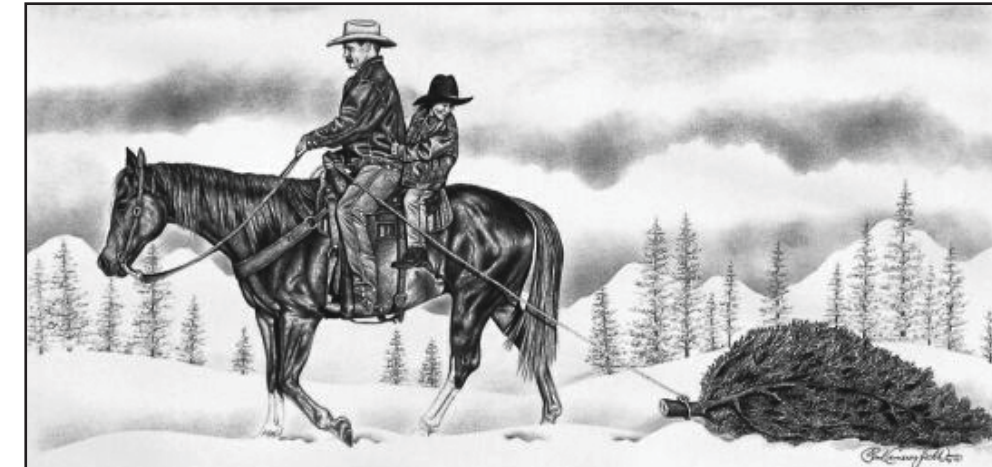
© Copyright 1999, Rewrite 2008, all rights reserved, Orv Alveshere

Eagle Tree Feed Store

• Eagle Tree Horsemanship
 Nutrena Horse Feeds • Loyal Pet Foods
 www.EagleTreeHorsemanship.com

Loyal (701) 730-0335
Nutrena (218) 456-2009
 326 2nd Ave West, Halstad, MN 56548

New Hours: Thurs, Fri, Sat. 11:00- 5:30
New & Used QUALITY Saddles, Show Clothing & Trailers on Consignment NOW!
 Call to Consign Your Items Today!



7th Annual Cowboy Christmas
 Saturday, December 12, 2009
 Flom Hall, Flom, Minnesota
\$5 Admission
Kids 12 and Under \$3 • Preschool Free
SILENT AUCTION
 All Proceeds Donated to the Ronald McDonald House
 Join us in Flom for Family Fun
 Potluck Supper/Program/Photos
 Stick Horse Rodeo
 Dance - Music Provided by Kountry Kings
 Sponsored by Local Ranchers and Cowboys
 Beer and Set-Ups Available following the Program Provided by Flom VFW
 For Inquiries, call (218) 584-8441

Quality Feed Pays Off!
J & S Farmer's Mill
 104 5th Avenue SE
 Barnesville, MN 56514
 218.354.2247
 1.877.521.0150
 218.493.4574
 See Jim for all Your Horse Feed! Jim & Sue Heng, Owners

DECEMBER EVENTS AND BEYOND

Call before you haul -- The Valley Equestrian is not responsible for changes to scheduled events

Nov. 28-29: Region 5 Paint Horse Show at the Iowa Equestrian Center in Cedar Rapids, IA; contact Rick McClain at (641) 526-3274

Dec. 1: Team roping at 7 p.m. at Sweetwater Events Complex in Rock Springs, WY; (307) 352-6789

Dec. 2: Ranch Sorting at 6 p.m. at the Sweetwater Events Complex in Rock Springs, WY; (307) 352-6789

Dec. 4: Team roping at 7 p.m. at Sweetwater Events Complex in Rock Springs, WY; (307) 382-6698

Dec. 4: Team penning practice at 6:30 p.m. at the Hi Circle Vee Ranch in Isanti, Minn. Contact Bill at (763)444-0214

Dec. 5: Sadie Hawkins Jackpot; 3 -Cow-girls Plus One at 1 p.m. at the Birch Coulee Arena in Morton, Minn. Contact Tim at (507) 697-6167

Dec. 5: Clinton Anderson Clinic during the NRHA Futurity and Adequan North American Affiliate Championship Show in Arena 6 at the Oklahoma State Fair Park in Oklahoma City, OK

Dec. 6: Team roping at 2 p.m. at Sweetwater Events Complex in Rock Springs, WY; (307) 382-6698

Dec. 8: Team roping at 7 p.m. at Sweetwater Events Complex in Rock Springs, WY; (307) 382-6698

Dec. 11: Team penning practice at 6:30 p.m. at the Hi Circle Vee Ranch in Isanti, Minn. Contact Bill at (763)444-0214

Dec. 12: All breed horse (2 p.m.) and tack (10 a.m.) sale at Simon Horse Company in Cannon Falls, Minn.; contact (507) 263-4200

Dec. 12: Jackpot Team Penning Series -50 percent payback at 10 a.m. at the Hi Circle Vee Ranch in Isanti, Minn. Contact Bill at (763)444-0214

Dec. 15: Team roping at 7 p.m. at Sweetwater Events Complex in Rock Springs, WY; (307) 382-6698

Dec. 16: Ranch Sorting at 6 p.m. at the Sweetwater Events Complex in Rock Springs, WY; (307) 389-1648

Dec. 18: Team penning practice at 6:30 p.m. at the Hi Circle Vee Ranch in Isanti, Minn. Contact Bill at (763)444-0214

Dec. 18: Team roping at 7 p.m. at Sweetwater Events Complex in Rock Springs, WY; (307) 382-6698

Dec. 19: Ranch Rodeo at 10 a.m. with 50 percent payback at the Hi Circle Vee Ranch in Isanti, Minn. Contact Bill at (763) 444-0214

Dec. 19-20: Central MN AQHA Team Penning and Sorting at Red Horse Ranch in Fergus Falls, Minn. (218) 736-3000

Dec. 20: Team roping at 2 p.m. at Sweetwater Events Complex in Rock Springs, WY; (307) 382-6698

Dec. 22: Team roping at 7 p.m. at Sweetwater Events Complex in Rock Springs, WY; (307) 382-6698

Dec. 23: Ranch Sorting at 6 p.m. at the Sweetwater Events Complex in Rock Springs, WY; Cheree at (307) 389-1648

Dec. 27: WSCA Game Show at 10 a.m. with WSCA-Approved Judge Kari Murrell at the Hi Circle Vee Ranch in Isanti, Minn. Contact Bill at (763)444-0214

Dec. 27: Jackpot Team Roping at 2 p.m. at the Sweetwater Event Complex in Rock Spring, WY; (307) 382-6689

Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Team Penning Jackpot and Potluck at 6:30 p.m. at the Hi Circle Vee Ranch in Isanti, Minn. Contact Bill at (763)444-0214

Jan. 2: Team Roping at 7 p.m. at the Sweetwater Event Complex in Rock Spring, WY; (307) 382-6698

Jan. 6: Team Roping at 7 p.m. at the Sweetwater Event Complex in Rock Spring, WY; (307) 382-6698

Jan. 7: SW Ranch Sorting at 6 p.m. at the Sweetwater Event Complex in Rock Springs, WY; (307) 389-1648

Jan. 9: Winter Series #1 at the Birch Coulee Arena in Morton, Minn. Contact Tim at (507) 697-6167

Jan. 9: Twin Cities Paint and Quarter Horse Sale at 11 a.m. at Simon Horse Company in Cannon Falls, Minn.; contact (507) 263-4200

Jan. 9-10: Central MN AQHA Team Penning and Sorting at Red Horse Ranch in Fergus Falls, Minn. (218) 736-3000

Jan. 10: All breed horse (2 p.m.) and tack (10 a.m.) sale at Simon Horse Company in Cannon Falls, Minn.; contact (507) 263-4200

Jan. 13: Team Roping at 7 p.m. at the Sweetwater Event Complex in Rock Spring, WY; (307) 382-6698

Jan. 14: SW Ranch Sorting at 6 p.m. at the Sweetwater Event Complex in Rock Springs, WY; (307) 389-1648

Jan. 16: Team Roping at 7 p.m. at the Sweetwater Event Complex in Rock Spring, WY; (307) 382-6698

Jan. 16-17: Hunter/Jumper Winter Schooling Show at the Colorado Horse Park at 8 a.m. in Parker, CO; (303) 841-5550

Jan 18: SW WY High School Rodeo at 5 p.m. at the Sweetwater Event Complex in Rock Spring, WY; (307) 350-2410

Jan. 23: Winter Series #2 at the Birch Coulee Arena in Morton, Minn. Contact Tim at (507) 697-6167

Jan. 24: Right out of Currier & Ives. Join us at the Winter Carnival Sleigh & Cutter Festival Sunday the 24th of January on the beautiful scenic golf course at Phalen Park in St. Paul, Minn. All breeds of horses and ponies and all types of sleighs are welcome. Ribbons awarded in multiple classes. Current equine health rules apply. For your personal invitation, call John or Mary Block at 651-433-5312 or email johmar1@frontiernet.net

Jan. 30-31: Hunter/Jumper Clinic with Bernie Traurig at the Colorado Horse Park in Parker, CO; (303) 841-5550

Feb. 6: Winter Series #3 at the Birch Coulee Arena in Morton, Minn. Contact Tim at (507) 697-6167

Feb. 13-14: Golden Eagle Equestrian Hunt Seat show at 1 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. Sunday at University of Wisc.-River Falls

Feb. 13-14: Hunter/Jumper Winter Schooling Show at the Colorado Horse Park at 8 a.m. in Parker, CO; (303) 841-5550

Tangle Tree Ranch (Continued from Page 15)

15 and lambing June 15 and we were successful; we didn't loose any. We haul to market in our van: we can get 10 in there and get good fuel mileage. When we get where we are going, we take out the tarp, run it through the car wash and get it clean."

"So far we have traded sheep, males for females. We just pulled one out now but it was my fault - we gave him grain and tomorrow we're giving shots again for a white muscle disease due to lack of selenium. It was too wet when the hay was growing; you have to be more up on the minerals - things you learn and always learn the hard way."

THE CURRENT HORSE MARKET

Marte feels strongly about how to resolve the unwanted horse situation: "Now if we could just get every Tom, Dick and Henry to stop breeding grade stallions and mares so we don't have any non-registered horses. As horse owners we need to take responsibility for the unwanted horses. Do you remember the statistics of horses slaughtered in the USA? In Norway, we don't produce horses for slaughter. In the USA we had the PMU lines. You can't just keep spitting out

foals and not expect a problem. When we take horses to slaughter in Norway, it's always on a Thursday afternoon. They wash the place down and there's no smell of blood. You lead your horse in. They give you a hankie for when you cry. It's the sacred ending of a life for your companion. I think we have a lot of growth in the USA. I think there is a lot of money and rose-colored glasses. There is nothing wrong with slaughtering -- it's the way it's done. We need to get beyond that and do what's realistic."

"PETA is shutting down the horse market and the horse people are not standing together. PETA is so rich."

Marte feels the unwanted horse situation could be solved if we quit breeding horses. "If every mare in the USA did not have a foal in one year the horse market would improve substantially."

"I don't think the market will turn around until every grade horse owner stops breeding to a grade stallion and every foal that is born has a buyer before it's born."

Marte asked everyone to put on a helmet when riding or driving. "Don't ever ride without a helmet. I feel so out of place without a helmet."

Dedicated to promoting Minnesota's growing equine community!

To find out more information about what



we do or to apply for funding or a grant, call or visit our website.

PO Box 223
Plato, MN 55370
763-755-7729

www.mnhorsecouncil.org

THE DØLE HORSE MARTE STENSLI AND ROBERT NELSON: TANGLE TREE RANCH

By Ley Bouchard

They say nothing worth anything comes easy. Marte Holen Stensli and Robert D. Nelson identify with that. Marte imported the first Dole Horses into the United States and will tell you it hasn't been easy. Maybe it's a sign of the times and the current economic situation, particularly as it affects the horse industry. Marte has come a long way in pursuit of her dreams.

GROWING UP IN NORWAY

"I was born and raised on a small dairy farm near Brumundal, Norway; 10 miles north of Lillehamer," says Marte. "My family never got rid of the horses. We had a tractor but we still used the horses; 1978 was the first growing season we didn't use the horses. We had six Dole horses when I was a kid. I was born in 1968; during my childhood we had milk cows, sheep, hogs, and chickens; it was an old fashioned small farm like you'd find on the east coast. My folks had 40 acres, raised barley and sometimes wheat, and hay for the live-stock."



quarantined for two weeks; stallions are quarantined between 4-6 weeks and that depends on how it goes because they breed a mare and test the mare's culture for equine cephalitis." "We have been looking at a few more but when you don't make any money on

sister who is a year and half younger. We started breaking horses when we were six and four-and-a-half-years-old. We had tie stalls with front entry mangers and those stupid yearlings got used to us crawling up and around them and wiping off the horse hair and getting back in the house without the folks seeing the horse hair. In Norway it's called to train, not to break."

"I just hold our daughter and she rode bareback on two horses that were not halter broke. We hold her on the back and when the horses take off you lift them up. When the horses are ready they come to you."

"I wasn't quite sure what I'd do with my life - I didn't find out till I was 20 and that has definitely changed since I moved here." Marte came to America as an exchange student living in the town to which her great-grandfather immigrated in the late 1800s. Robert's grandfather immigrated near the same time and place, Lakota, N.D., about 30 miles east of Devils Lake. "I married my 4th cousin. I knew I had family here but I didn't know 17 years later I was going to get married and move here. Bob had a pony as a kid, but his dad hated horses. My husband had an old quarter horse mare when we were engaged and he sold her and got a Paint; we still have the Paint."

"I brought my gelding with me when I moved in 2001 and he is the first Dole horse in the USA. So when I brought the mare and stallion out of Norway and Scandinavia - it was the wrong time to bring them because the horse market crashed the first year after I brought them here."

IMPORTING DOLE HORSES

"The gelding was the spendiest to import. It cost \$12,000 for the flight to New York - 1 paid for the other two horses - 2 fjord horses. There were three owners; we were all charged the \$12,000. so the shippers made \$36,000 for the flat. There is a basic price of \$12,000 for the flat but they charged all three of us because we did not know each other - but we learned later!" This is where Marte met Phillip Odden. (See page 5 of this issue for a story about Phillip, Else and their Norwegian Fjord Horses.) "The mare and the stallion shipped together and that was somewhere around \$15,000 but you have a lot longer quarantine for the breeding stock: \$500 for 3 days.

"For breeding stock the mares are quarantined for two weeks; stallions are quarantined between 4-6 weeks and that depends on how it goes because they breed a mare and test the mare's culture for equine cephalitis." "We have been looking at a few more but when you don't make any money on

the horses you don't have any money to spend on them either. We are down to 11 head. "The Fjords are successful in the USA but the Fjord has their breed organization behind them which we don't. It may be hard for Americans to understand, but the issue is more politics than anything else. There is a breed standard, but if they don't like the owner then ... Fjord horses have a breed registry and there are more horses outside of Norway than in Norway. Dole horse people don't even agree that they disagree."

"In the Dole horse registry both the dam and sire have to be registered and they have to have a breeding certificate which allows the sire to breed so many mares each year. They are priced as a 4-year-old then retested at a riding facility in 4-6 weeks and have to prove themselves in riding, free jumping and driving. This occurs in January and February and they go back to the show at the end of April. They can regain their breeding certificate or lose it. This takes place near Lillehammer, Norway.

"My stallion was priced as a 3-year-old so he didn't have an official breeding certificate. The association made it clear that I wouldn't be able to register anything back into the registry. I just looked at them and said, "Well, he's flying tomorrow, so see you." Some people ask why I didn't wait and I said, "I would still be waiting for an answer, and that is pretty sad."

"We started a registry but it's not online: we micro-chipped one 4-year-old in

West Fargo owned by Clayton Brennan. He is a good boy and we sold one mare to someone in Oregon, also a 4-year-old."

"Everything gets registered in Norway. My stallion took the 2005 Championship stallion of the ND State Fair for draft horses. Is it valid? Of course, it would be. I cut all the stud colts, so no one can buy a stud and breed. We have made a rule that a half breed is a half breed no matter how many times you breed. That's the only way you can do it if you want a chance that the people in Norway will look at a Dole horse born in the USA. The breed registry in Norway said they didn't want horses in the USA because they didn't see any reason to promote the Dole horses outside of Norway." The Norway Department of Agriculture operates the breed registries for all the breeds in Norway, like is done in Canada, according to Marte.

LIFE IN NORTH DAKOTA

Both Marte and Bob work outside the home as educational assistants; Marte at the high school and Bob at middle school in Ft. Totten. They take their daughter to daycare in Devils Lake. It's a schedule that works for them so they can spend quality time with their daughter during the school breaks and holidays. During the summer, and all the time, they are busy on the farm.

"Farming is a way of life or a lifestyle - I had 3 years of college in Oslo and hated apartment living. I decided I was not going to see four walls. We have 40 goats, 20 sheep, 10 cattle and we're working to make this an income for one of us. We are in the midst of fencing more.

Marte and Bob compete with their Dole Horses in Carriage classes. "Dole Horses have a longer stride (stretch through)," says Marte, "and I have to pass the Clydes and Percherons: when they say extended trot then you can let them stretch out and they have a very smooth trot. My husband's learning curve with horses has been steep. I drive and he's the groom. At carriage shows he's the proudest groom. It wasn't uncommon for people to ask him about a horse and he'd say, 'It's her horse, you gotta ask her.'"

"We have a 110-year-old Victorian carriage - made in Denmark and bought in Norway. I train to the driving point and Bob takes it from there."

"We are fortunate because we produce our own hay; we don't grain. We switch to alfalfa during the breeding season for the goats and sheep as they need it for ovulation.

"There is no local market for the goats; you have to go to the Twin Cities for the goats. It can be difficult. We'll have ours ready for market in Easter - we try to fit the kidding in when we're home in June, July and August. We started kidding May

MAREK SUCCESSFUL IN NATIONAL TOURNAMENT (Crocketon, Minn.)- University of Minnesota, Crookston Hunt Seat Equestrian rider Paige Marek (Fr, St. Croix Falls, Wis.) competed in the American Polocrosse Association (APA) National Tournament last weekend taking second place. Marek's team lost in overtime by one point.

The tournament had to be moved from Illinois to Defiance, Missouri due to rain. The conditions proved to be very cold. Yet, Marek was pleased with how things went. "The game was very well played and very competitive," says Marek. "It really could have gone either way. We are second in the nation and our team was made up of all midwestern players. While we didn't win, it is still a huge thing for us."



In April, Marek will begin practicing with the Women's Under 21 Polocrosse team for competition in the United Kingdom in 2011.

For more information, visit the Golden Eagle Athletics Web site at <http://www.goldeneaglesports.com/>.

The University of Minnesota, Crookston is a NCAA Division II Institution and a member of the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC). The Golden Eagle Equestrian team is a member of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA).



“COWBOY LEATHER”

We Carry a Complete Line of **CODY LEATHER** Products! Wholesale and Retail Prices

Call Shari Today **218.385.3835**

Continued on Page 14

Dressage Defined: The Scandinavian Breeds

By Margo Brady

In this issue, we look at the Scandinavian breeds. Of course, there is the Swedish Warmblood, well established in his reputation as a world class dressage horse. But there are also Danish breeds that are used for modern dressage: the Fredericksborg, the Danish Warmblood, and the increasingly popular Knabstrupper.

The Fredericksborg was developed at the Royal Fredericksborg Stud in Denmark in 1562 to produce military chargers that were suitable for riding and driving. When we think of the haute école, we think of Lippizaners, however, when the movements of the haute école were at their height of popularity in the 19th century, the Fredericksborg was one of the most popular breeds for this discipline. These



Anne Marie Murdock riding FHF Frederik, the first Fredericksborg born in the USA in 2005. He is of the coveted "Isabella" color and is competing 1st Level dressage. Fred is owned by Debi Fisher of Rainier, Wash.

horses were elegant and possessed a spirited, high action movement, sought after in that era. The breed became very popular, much to its own detriment as many were sold abroad. The Fredericksborgs left in Denmark were more of the carriage or



The great Gaspari, one of the most famous Swedish Warmblood stallions to have lived, ridden by Flyinge trainer Ynge Viebke, represented Sweden in the 1960 and 1964 Olympic Games.

driving type and the distinctive riding horses were gone. The Fredericksborg Stud closed in 1839.

However, 75 years later, resurgence was made to re-establish the old stud book. The breed was improved with the use of Oldenburg, Friesian, Thoroughbred, and Arab blood. The Fredericksborg is always chestnut with the exception of a few who exhibit the dilute golden chestnut color, or "Isabella." According to retired University of Minnesota professor and former President of the Swedish Warmblood Association of North America, Bo Crabo, from Sweden, "The Isabella color, a

dirty yellow color, is named for a Spanish queen, Isabella I, who according to the tales vowed not to change linen until a certain besieged city, possibly Granada, was overtaken. Since this took many years, the linen then had the same color as these horses!" The royal Danish family only rode the Isabella horses and we see a lovely example in this photo of the first Fredericksborg horse born in America, FHF Frederik, ridden by Anne Marie Murdock. Anne Marie has been a trainer for 30 years. Located in Washington State, she

comments that the breed chose her. When she was presented with her first Fredericksborgs to train, she was smitten by their ability to retain so much

from one training session to another, their early maturity, and their willingness. She states, "The only con I can think of could also be a positive. The modern dressage sporthorse type is bred for phenomenal movement. Their suspension, elasticity and athleticism is something that has only recently been achieved through selective breeding largely in Europe, but more recently in the USA also. The problem with this modern type is that while they are stunning to watch, most amateur dressage riders cannot ride them confidently or comfortably. It's like learning to drive a car behind the wheel of a Maserati. Fredericksborgs have enough movement to be competitive, (they are especially showy in the trot, but still easy to sit) and are physically more comfortable for an amateur. They also have the intelligence and disposition to handle riders who are developing and making mistakes."

The Fredericksborg was instrumental in forming the spotted Danish Knabstrupper breed. In 1812, a spotted Spanish mare was purchased in Denmark by Major Villars Lunn who owned an estate called "Knab-

strupgaard" in Holbaek, Nordsealand, Denmark. He bred her to a Fredericksborg stallion, founding a line of spotted horses, often mistaken in the USA for Appaloosas! In Denmark, these horses were called "tiger colored." The reason being is that the people of ancient Scandinavia



Swedish Trainer Lars Holmberg riding Mix Max, a Danish Warmblood stallion, also approved Swedish. Mix Max was in Verden, Germany competing in the world championship for young horses as a six year old representing USA. This photo was taken in Santa Barbara, CA in the warmup just before they won 3rd level high score of the show!

had never seen tigers and believed that they were spotted! The Knabstrupper is enjoying recent popularity in the dressage ring due to his unique appearance.

The Danish Warmblood is unique as it is the only warmblood breed without any Hanoverian blood in his pedigree. The basis for this breed was the old Fredericksborg stock crossed with Thoroughbreds to produce a lighter riding type. The addition of Selle Français, Trakehner, and Wielkopolski (a Polish breed related to the Trakehner) gives us the Danish Warmblood of today. The Danish Warmblood is somewhat of Thoroughbred type but with strength, substance, and a particularly elastic and flowing gait. Ulf Wadeborn of Holmberg and Wadeborn Dressage in California, is a Swedish trainer who has lately been riding more Danish Warmbloods. He has been training for 35 years and is formerly of the Stromsholm Riding Academy in Sweden. Here is a photo of his partner Lars Holmberg on Mix Max, a Danish Warmblood stallion also approved for use in the Swedish Warmblood studbook.



Knabstrupper stallion, Apollon, foundation stallion for the first Knabstruppers bred in North America.

Sweden is responsible for introducing the equestrian disciplines to the Olympic Games. Here is a photo of the great Gaspari, the Swedish warmblood stallion who represented Sweden in dressage at both the 1960 and 1964 Olympics. He is ridden by Ynge Viebke, the famous trainer at Flyinge. Gaspari sired Liselott Linsenhof's Piaff, an individual gold medalist at the 1972 Olympic Games. At one performance, Viebke was riding Piaff, with two Flyinge stallions, Immer and Gaspari, in long lines in front, in that order. The amazing part is that he had them all doing piaffe and passage at once!

Another son, Herkules, was on the Swedish dressage team, and went on to sire five approved stallions, and 70 studbook mares. Gaspari is the dam sire of 1988 World Cup Dressage champion, Gauguin de Lully, the sire of current Grand Prix competitor Mr de Lully. He also appears on the dam line of current Swedish Grand Prix star, Briar.

All this leads to the Swedish maxim: "Buy any dressage horse you like, just make sure it has Gaspari in the pedigree."

For many decades, dressage was practiced solely by the wealthy and members of royalty. It was, and is, a classical art form. Today, dressage is practiced by many, from those on their six figure world champions to the grade horse purchased out of a newspaper ad, from the Danish royalty on uniquely colored horses to those who ride

the spotted "circus horse" Knabstrupper. Dressage is for everyone! It is a method of training with the goal of obedience, suppleness, and strength for the horse's mind and body. It is the harmony of the horse and rider working and moving together that forms the beauty of dressage no matter what kind of horse you're on!

(For more reading about Scandinavian breeds in dressage, please see The Valley Equestrian Newspaper issues from March 2009 and July 2009.)

THE VE PRESENTS THE RED RIVER VALLEY'S MEL STONE

Editor's Note: We asked to use another of Mel's equine pieces on the this month's cover of the VE and decided we wanted to know more about the man and his photography. Below is what we learned:

VE: Where and how long ago did your interest in photographing horses originate?
MS: As a kid, I'd look at saddles in the Sears catalog and dream of having a horse ... later, I realized not only could I not afford a saddle, I couldn't afford a horse.

Later, I learned to love photographing horses ... when doing TV news stories, I always had to keep reminding myself that if I did too many horse stories the news director might "yell" at me. But like with all subjects, you've got to make the photographs with the best light ("photography" literally means "writing with light"), look for the best composition, look for something "graphic" with a non-distracting background... and then hope luck's on your side, too.

VE: How did "The Stone Report" come about and how long have you done that?
MS: When I came to KTHI-TV

(now KVLV-TV), in 1983, it was with the understanding that I'd edit my own stories and also shoot them when gear was available. In fact, the cover picture, ElectricCowboy, was shot on the first story I photographed at KTHI-TV.

Soon, I was shooting a lot of the special stories heavily promoted by the station (called "Eleven Country", then)... one day, about 23 years ago, the general manager said we'd like you to do stories and we'll promote them as "Stone Reports."

I've been semi-retired for 5 years and as 2010, fully retired... no more Stone Reports.
VE: Tell us about Gallery 4, how does that operate, how many people do you partner with on that venture?
MS: All the years I shot video, I kept my hand in still photography-- for years, I did close-up butterfly photography.

When I semi-retired from TV, I decide to really emphasize still photography (I'd often heard people say my video showed a "good eye.")

On more or less on a lark, I showed my portfolio to the members of Gallery 4 ... we

invited me to join.

I still get a tremendous thrill when somebody actually gives up some cash for one of my photographs.

VE: What or who provides your motivation and inspiration?
MS: I've always been self-motivated... having said that: I walk every day for exercise and listen to photography podcasts (photographers talking about technique, inspiration, creativity... you name it).

I do sometimes "pre-visualize" something; then, other times I go looking for pictures and the composition may come quickly or I may have to work the scene ... more often that not, the best picture is the last one I took. (This, by the way, is common: consider the iconic "Migrant Mother" by Dorothea Lange ... if you look at her contact sheet, this was the last frame she shot... she worked the scene.)

More of Mel Stone's equine photography may be seen at Gallery 4, 114 Broadway N., Fargo, N.D. or at his web site: www.melstonephotography.com

The Gift That Keeps On Giving.

equineGenie
equine management made simple

Complete
Intuitive
Easy To Use

60 Day Money Back Guarantee!

pocketGenie goes where you go!
Your horse business becomes completely mobile.

Call Toll Free to order equineGenie Today!
1/888.678.4364
or email us at info@genieatwork.com
www.equinegenie.com

Make your Assistant Manager Personal Assistant Financial Analyst

The equineGenie system comes with a stable of equine professionals and experts!

clientGenie provides local area and worldwide networking.

equineGenie —
Organizes you!
Makes you efficient!
Optimizes your time!
Reminds you!
Manages your supplies!
Conserves your cash!
Manages your assets!
Keeps your horse and business records!
Keeps your books and manages your finances!
Makes you MONEY!

JJ CLASSIC FUTURITY AND UBRA WORLD FINALE



Above: Larry Gunderson (Target Time Saddle Champion)

Below: UBRA Futurity World Champions (Jessica Beauvais 2D 2nd, Katy Reinert 2D 1st, Jolene Jones 1D 1st, Diane Moe 1D 2nd, sponsor/owner Sundby Enterprises Ron Sundby)



Excitement ruled the Verndale, Minn. arena Oct. 9, 10, and 11 for the JJ Classic Futurity and the United Barrel Racing Association's World Finale at R&J Arena in with 445 entrants vying for the best time and part of the more than \$38,000 payout.

Top winners include:
Futurity Average:
1D) Shawn Varpness/Flirty Ways /31.670 /\$459
2D) Kristin Olson/Cutting Wager/ 34.072/\$306
Derby/Maturity Average:
1D) Lon Kuschel/Six Draw Magraw/31.61/\$277
2D) Alison Baron/All Jakked Up/32.66/\$184

More photography may be seen at: www.theVEonline.com. For more results, go to: www.UBRA.org

Photos by Ley Bouchard



Above: Lacey Kuschel (JJ Classic Breeder's Incentive Champion) and top right Shawn Varpness (JJ Classic Futurity Champion)



Become a fan of The Valley Equestrian Newspaper Facebook and receive updates & more photos during the month!

MatchMakers



Psymadre Son Available
Dark Bay, 6-year 15.1 hand Psymadre son for sale. With Spanish/Khemosabi on the bottom, this outstanding stallion is producing correct family type horses that can show! Quiet disposition, hand or pasture breed. Has produced black!

Big Fancy Gray Mare
15.2 Hand mare with 60 days training. Hunter under saddle will be her specialty. A quiet mind with people loving personality out of a Psymadre son and GG Samir daughter.

A Western Delight
4-year gray mare with 90 days under saddle. Out of a GG Samir daughter, this mare will turn heads with her huge soft eyes, unbeatable conformation and disposition!

Amateurs Dream
8-year old Heza Zee daughter. 14.3 hands in a gray show package deluxe! All around (hunt seat, western and has been started in reining).

Psymadre, GG Samir, Bey Shah Bloodlines
Two purebred weanling fillies for your consideration. Black and bay, these fillies will knock your sox off with their breeding, conformation and dispositions.
For more information and photos, please call:
701-527-5271

For Sale: 2004 John Deere 7920



Tractor with loader and grapple; 2850 hours, IVT Transmission, good tires, rear duals, MFWD, 170 HP, 3-point, 4 HYDs, and 540/1000 PTO. \$115,000
Call: Karen @ 218-494-3660
218-790-1790 - Leave Message

Jacklynn

Grade quarter Horse mare, 6-years-old, grey, used on many trail rides and in one family rodeo friendly and easy to catch, loads, trims, may be breed to Registered AQHA stud for 2010 foal. Call Amber: 701-840-1087



Classified Ads • Classified Ads

Lazy person's network marketing - fun and easy websites! DIY with e-mailed instructions, good tech support, \$11 a month; no other fees. Check out cool page templates, at: www.arkphoto.ws, click on banner at the bottom of home page to try.



Foundation Bred Mares and Foals For Sale
Leo, King, Three Bars Palamino babies out of Poco
Call Karen:
218-494-3660 or
218-790-1790 - leave message



Sheza Royal Jewel
\$400 OBO

15 year old Registered tobiano sorrel paint mare one blue eye, bred to Registered AQHA stud for 2010 foal. Jewel is halter broke and loads well. High color producer and good mother. \$400 or Best Offer. Call Amber 701-840-1087



GRANDIN, N.D. FARMSTEAD
3 BR, 2 Bath, 2-car garage, 1500 sq. ft. Rambler on 15 wooded acres on Red River, several outbuildings, 55x100 shop, 30x80 quonset, several grain bins, perm. ring dike, newer shingles and septic system. \$159,900.
Bruce Brodsho
Pamela Leach Realty
(701) 799-5666
bbrodsho@yahoo.com



Smokie
Grade Quarter Horse, brown, 2-years-old. Friendly, easy to catch, has had work with saddling, obstacle course, ground work, had a bit, trims easily and loads. \$300 or best offer. Call Amber 701-840-1087.

Poco Bueno Stud For Sale



Foundation-bred (Wimpy, Doc Bar, King), dark gold Palomino Stallion; throws Palomino babies; \$2500.
Call 218-494-3660 or 218-790-1790

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST at The Carriage Association of America's Mid-Winter Conference at the 125th Anniversary of the St. Paul Winter Carnival, January 27 - 30, 2011.

The 2010 sleighing season is just around the corner. So, start planning now to get your entries in by January 7, 2011.

The theme will be Winter Equine Transportation and the scene should include snow, equines, and vehicles. Heavy coats, furs, sleigh robes, bells and the like are all encouraged.

Vehicles can be on runners or wheels and must be pulled by any equine: mini, pony, horse, draft, mule or donkey. There will be four classes:

1. Historic: Taken before January 1, 1961.
2. Modern/Professional: Taken after December 31, 1960.
3. Modern/Amateur: Taken after December 31, 1960.
4. Collection - A group of pictures in a single frame or a single collage.

There will be ribbons and cash awards in each class as follows: 1st place (\$50), 2nd place (\$30) and 3rd place (\$20). Each contest entrant will receive one participation award. No entry fee to conference registrants. The non-conference registrant entry fee is \$10/photo or collection. For more information and an entry form contact: Bob Matthews - Phone: 507-824-3333 -email: rnu1@frontiernet.net - Or go to: www.stcroixhorseandcarriagesociety.org



THE OUTHOUSE: LIFE ON THE FARM WITH EMILY HORSELESS CARRIAGE

of Uncle Hank's team of Tasmanian devils.

The picture here of the cute little pony was snapped just before all hell broke loose a lifetime ago. We were having an awesome time that day, trotting to and fro around the yard in our little red cart with shiny spoked wheels. Pedro was green, but getting the hang of things pretty well. See the small split tree about fifty feet ahead? Pedro made a mad dash for it after a tractor started up behind



Ranger, my first official cart horse probably wouldn't have been let through the gates at the Kentucky Horse Park for a driving exhibition. He's the chestnut wonder that nearly killed me along with the whole farm when I hooked him up to a giant cardboard box and cheerfully commanded "walk on".

Great Uncle Hank raised Shetlands, driving them in parades with plumes between their ears and toting fancy studded harnesses. I should have remembered a few of his mishaps and stayed away from the driving gigs altogether, but they do say "With age, brings selective memory loss."

One plume-wearing pony on the end of Main Street, a plumeless pony kicking the crap out of the boy scouts banner by the ball diamond and Uncle Hank sitting in an honest to goodness horseless carriage. With each silly idea of driving a horse as I got older, I just couldn't seem to recall the memory

mostly, I can't remember. I had a black Arab gelding of my own at the time I was trying to sell and brought him to class with me thinking a PhD in driving along with his A plus under saddle would net a higher price. High strung was a mellow word for Ace as every attempt to harness him earned a new hoof mark on the barn wall. After 30, or maybe a hair towards 90 days, Ace was getting with the program and we were ready to "hook up."

It just so happened that a group of carriage drivers were milling about, ready to take a quiet little country jaunt and one guy was seriously looking to purchase a new equine roadster. Thinking I was way too lucky to have carriages all around me for support instead of having to make a solo suicide trip, Ace was hooked to the cart when he

drove in the midst of the group with the prospective buyer bouncing along beside me. One by one, Ace passed the others at a high stepping trot. Pretty soon, he was in the lead and impressing the heck out of the buyer sitting next to me. I think the guy was asking me questions, but there was no way I could turn my head or speak -- Ace didn't look like it, but he was in an all out controlled runaway! Turning onto a field approach, I wasn't steering, Ace was driving himself. Looking back, it would have been hilarious if I wouldn't have been using

up one of my nine lives as all the carriages followed us into the bumpy field thinking we knew what we were doing. One by one, they lost spokes, wheels and tempers. Ace didn't care he was leaving the rest behind and continued on with his controlled escape. Praying for it to happen, I finally lost a tire and Ace had to slow down as the corner of the seat dragging in the dirt acted as a brake.

Figuring the potential buyer would run for the hills after prying his hands from the seat, I about fell down when he asked "how much" for the great horse with endless stamina.

I remember Ace went up north someplace, but selectively forgot my sanity as my finger went up to be the highest bidder on the young driving prospect in the sales ring...
Emilysouthouse@aol.com

The Outhouse: Life on the Farm with Emily



A new book by writer, Tammy Finney includes 74 of Emily's best columns -- sure to keep you reading and laughing past chores and bedtime! You do not have to live on a farm to enjoy Emily's hilarious daily escapades!

\$11.95 + \$1.50 shipping (.50 for each addl. book) MN residents, please add .82 cents sales tax.

Send check or money order to: "Ridgetop Ranch" PO Box 264, Georgetown, MN 56546-0264

For an autographed book, send "Who to." Will ship on or before December 19.

Great for Christmas Giving! Order it today!

See more photos and content on the VE Facebook page: **The Valley Equestrian Newspaper** and online at: www.theVEonline.com

Advertise in print and online in the VE!
Call Tammy Finney today:
218-790-6056

NEW VE SECTION: "MEMORY PAGE" REMEMBER YOUR BELOVED CRITTER: HORSE, CAT, DOG, LIZARD, BIRD, ETC. WITH A MEMORIAL AD!
CONTACT ANY VE SALES MANAGER OR EMAIL: THEVENews@GMAIL.COM

Do you want to be a focus group participant? Comment on the columns and other content in The Valley Equestrian Newspaper? Email the VE at: theVENews@gmail.com. The VE wants to know what you want to see in these pages. Be a part of making this YOUR newspaper!

Meet the Schoolmasters

at the

Brady Equestrian Center LLC



Vero: Swedish Warmblood gelding by Livius; age 19; 16.2 hands; 4th level USDF horse of the year; the sensitive and advanced rider will thoroughly enjoy this horse!
Ridden by Kristina Gillespie



Tipper: Canadian Thoroughbred (okay, he's not Swedish but he thinks he is!); age 18; 15.3 hands; CCI* Prelim eventing horse shown through 2nd level dressage; absolutely outstanding horse for the beginner!
Ridden by Alana Bernhardt



Bruno: Swedish Warmblood gelding, age 26 (and still going strong), 16.3 hands; schooled through 3rd level dressage and jumping; great for beginners and for working on position, balance, and rhythm!
Ridden by Megan Donaldson



Tucker: Swedish Warmblood gelding by Galapard; age 13; 17.2 hands; schooled through 4th level and PSG; both the beginner and advanced rider will appreciate this horse!
Ridden by Stephanie Swiers

THESE HORSES ARE AVAILABLE FOR LEASE, SHOWS AND CLINICS



Mia: Swedish Warmblood mare by Kyra Kyrklund's Master; age 10; 15.3 hands; schooled through second level dressage; very forward and fun on trails; excellent for beginners!
Ridden by Maverick Brady



BEC Coupon

Buy one lesson get one lesson free or 20% off any breeding services. Limit one coupon per customer. Good through 12/31/09.



"Margo and her dressage horses helped ignite my interest in classical dressage."

Brooke Leininger
Head Coach Equestrian Team
Teaching Specialist Equine Science
University of Minnesota - Crookston



Bayron: imported Swedish Warmblood stallion; age 19; 16.3 hands; schooled through Gran Prix; available to the advanced rider with stallion experience; a very special horse!
Ridden by Geni Corwin

Lessons: \$45 adults
\$35 children
\$25 group

60' X 200' INDOOR ARENA, STALLION COLLECTION AND BREEDING FACILITY IN DOWNER, MN.

Contact: Margo Brady • 218-789-7704 • mturkish@msn.com