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November/December 2011

The Valley Equestrian Newspaper

Your local resource for equestrian events, news and information

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Inside This Issue:

- *Holiday Gift Guide*
- *From Feral to Pro*
by Fran Lynghaug
- *Stallion Syndication Revisited*
by John Alan Cohen
- *Annual Horse Parade*
in Pelican Rapids, Minn.

From Our Valley
To Yours

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SURGICAL COLIC

By Tamara M. Swor, DVM, DACVS, DACVECC

It is very scary when your horse is showing signs of colic and is not getting better! When your veterinarian recommends taking your horse somewhere for colic surgery, it is important that you have enough information to make the best decision for you and your horse. You need preparation so you have access to a horse trailer, know where you are going, and directions to get there. If your horse needs colic surgery, the most important thing is time! The longer you wait, the more ill your horse may become, decreasing the chance of a successful outcome.

Abdominal surgery, or colic surgery, is a major surgical procedure for a horse. Many large private practices, and universities, are equipped to handle these types of procedures. Successful outcomes depend on the horse's specific intestinal problem, the surgeon's experience, the anesthesia available, and the post-operative care provided.

You need to look for facilities capable of providing gas inhalant general anesthesia (not just injectable) and that have the ability to help your horse breathe (ventilator support). Experienced surgeons have better outcomes, and you want one that has specific training in equine surgery (i.e. board certified). A list of board certified surgeons in your area can be found



by looking at the American College of Veterinary Surgeons website (www.acvs.org). Surgery is considered for horses based on the degree of pain, the duration of time of the colic episode, and the condition of the horse's cardiovascular system (blood pressure, heart rate, mucous membrane color). A horse that is violently painful (throwing itself on the ground) and not responsive to medical treatment (sedatives, pain medication) is a surgical candidate. These horses often have a portion of intestine that is twisted, cutting off the blood supply. A red abdominocentesis (belly tap) is also an indication that surgery is needed. Time is critical in these cases, and you need to get your horse to a surgical facility as quickly as possible. Horses may also need surgery when colic signs are persistent for 24-48 hours and are not resolving. These horses may have a malpositioned area of intestine, or an impacted region that won't let feces through. A persistently high heart rate (60-80 beats/minute), low blood pressure, and poor mucous membrane color may indicate shock and endotoxemia (bacterial toxins in blood that cause organ damage). Horses with these signs may also need surgical treatment if there is no response to medical management.

What does colic surgery involve? The horse is placed under general anesthesia and positioned on a surgery table with their feet up in the air. A large incision is made on the bottom of the abdomen, which allows the surgeon to go systematically through the intestinal tract. A large portion of the horse's 100 feet of intestines can be visualized and evaluated during the procedure. Once the problem is identified, it can then be corrected. This may involve removing a portion of compromised or dead intestine and putting the healthy intestines back together (resection and anastomosis), empty-

ing out an area of intestine through an incision (enterotomy), or replacing intestines back into their correct position. The horse is then sutured up and recovered from anesthesia in a padded stall. Typically a horse will stay in the hospital for 5-7 days following surgery. After surgery a typical rehabilitation program would include 30 days of stall rest, followed by 30 days of small paddock turnout. After these 60 days the horse is usually turned out to pasture for another 30 days prior to starting back on his/her regular exercise program. As with any surgery, complications can occur and may include incision problems, hernias, ileus (trouble getting the intestines to move normally again), diarrhea, adhesions, and chronic

colic signs. Based on your horse's individual intestinal problem, the surgeon can give you a better idea of the chances of having specific complications.

The outcome will vary based on the type of intestinal problem, but on average 60-80 percent of horses survive colic surgery and go on to return to their previous athletic activities.

The average cost of colic surgery is \$4000-6000 total, but can be more in some instances. Many insurance policies have a colic surgery addendum that will provide coverage, so you should check your

individual policy. Remember that it is important to have a plan ahead of time, should you need to transport your horse for this type of procedure.

Dr. Tamara Swor grew up in Fargo, ND and attended North Dakota State University for her undergraduate work. She then completed veterinary school at Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1999. Following graduation she traveled to Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine, where she performed a rotating large animal internship. She then spent 3 years at Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine completing a residency in equine surgery, and became a Diplomate in the American College of Veterinary Surgeons in 2004. Dr. Swor joined the faculty at Texas A&M University as an assistant clinical professor, and also pursued additional training in the field of equine emergency and critical care. In 2010 she became a Diplomate in the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care. In the spring of 2011, Dr. Swor returned to ND and became an associate at Casselton Veterinary Services, Inc.

Clinics, Shows & More



Joyce Leake
Animal



Melisa Pearce
Women's



Anna Twinney
Natural

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Known as "The Santa Ponies", they will also work with sheriff's officers reaching out to children in high crime neighborhoods and visit children spending the holidays in homeless shelters. The Santa Ponies are members of Gentle Carousel

Miniature Therapy Horses, an all volunteer 501(c)(3) non-profit charity. They will be joined by other tiny therapy horses (only 19 - 24 inches tall) dressed as elves and nutcracker horses. The team of 26 therapy horses visits over 10,000 adults and children each year.



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Charles Wilhelm: Ultimate Foundation Training from Start to Finish

Success with Trailering - Part 2

Last time we talked about beginning trailer-loading training with the change-of-direction ground work exercise to develop a strong go-forward cue with your horse. The horse must go-forward on your cue, stop his feet and change direction. Change-of-direction line work is a gymnastic as well as mental exercise for your horse. Indications to measure the success of your line work include focus, balance and relaxation. Your horse should be focused on you. The nose should always be in toward you, even if just slightly. Look for a slight arc through the body of your horse while he is moving around you. With

will probably load about 50 percent of the time. If, for any reason, the horse's emotions are high, food will likely not be sufficient to get the horse into the trailer. For a horse that is spooked, in pain and needing to go to the vet, or just having a bad day, food may very well be of no consequence. The real beauty of the change-of-direction exercise is that once it is well established, where your horse truly understands the cues, you will be able to use this as a fundamental tool to calm him down and get his attention any time and place you have that need. Whether for trail riding, shows, anything new or spooky, this will become a reliable way to calm your

rection. When they look to us for that direction, they naturally become more willing.

The next step is an important area for your skills in the evaluation of your horse. You need to determine where your horse is comfortable around the trailer. Some horses get nervous with a trailer 100 feet away, some at 5 feet or not at all. You need to start doing the change-of-direction exercise, preferably with the objects, with the trailer in sight, at a point where your horse is comfortable. Really take the time to watch your horse's body language and let him tell you where he is truly relaxed and confident. Again, this is not



a timed event. Our goal is to school the horse for a lifetime of happy trailering. Take it slow and do it right. If your horse is a 100 footer, that's fine. And if you're not sure, then err on the side of caution and put more space between you and the trailer.

Once you have your starting point, begin your line work. Just like you would with any scary object, when you begin the exercise ask the horse for the "whoa" when he is at the furthest point from the object (trailer) to allow him to be the most comfortable. As you continue the exercise and he relaxes, you can ask him to stop and stand closer and closer to the trailer.

When your horse is solid at 100 feet from the trailer, you can move to 90 feet - again - let your horse tell you where it is

comfortable. Some people may stop for the day at 90 feet and move closer the next day. You should only stop when you have seen that your horse has made significant progress, but depending on how fearful of the trailer your horse is, the timing and distance will vary. The goal is to progress right up until you are doing the change-of-direction line work right next to the back of the open trailer. Once you are doing that consistently and your horse is relaxed, you can start asking the horse to enter the trailer.

Next time we'll talk about preparing the trailer, getting the horse to step comfortably inside and become used to riding. We'll also talk about emergency loading and horses that strike out or rear.

Internationally known and respected horse trainer Charles Wilhelm is the creator of Ultimate Foundation Training which combines the best of traditional, classical and natural horsemanship. This method is applicable to every riding discipline. Charles is one of the few clinicians who is known for his superb skills in communicating with and motivating people as well as horses. His training methods reflect his motto, "It's Never, Ever the Horse's Fault".

Charles' warm and relaxed demeanor has made him a favorite at regional and national clinics and demonstrations. His training center in Castro Valley, California is among the top equine educational facilities in Northern California. Charles offers extensive hands-on learning programs for every level of horsemanship.

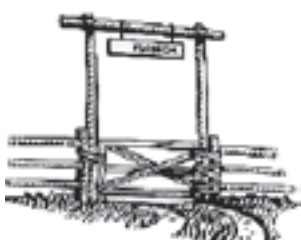
proper balance your horse will neither be pulling on you nor dropping his shoulder inward. Finally, a key sign that your horse is showing respect and looking to you for leadership is when your horse is performing the exercise well in a relaxed posture. Signs of relaxation are a consistent gait, lowered head, licking and chewing, tail swinging.

Before we go on to the next phase, a word about treats being used to lure a horse into a trailer. I have heard it said, "my horse will go anywhere for food." This is really not a true statement. When food is used as a lure, instead of proper training using a go-forward cue, a horse

horse and center his mind back on you.

The next phase in trailer-loading is to add the crossing of objects into the exercise. A folded tarp, poles or anything you have handy may be used. Start the change-of-direction exercise asking the horse to go over the object as well. Make sure the horse is completely comfortable crossing the object, stopping, reversing and also standing on the object. Once your horse is consistently performing this exercise, you can start incorporating the trailer into the picture.

If you have not done so already, you need to make sure that your horse has solid ground manners. Your horse needs to respond well when asked to move his shoulders and hips over, and he must have a very healthy respect for your space and not crowd you at all. This is important prior to asking the horse to load because horses understand respect and leadership through controlling space and di-



IT'S NEVER, EVER THE HORSE'S FAULT

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The Valley Equestrian
Newspaper

About the Cover

Dick and Phyllis Rossow of Rothsay, Minn. drive their Canadian wagon and Norwegian Fjord horses, (L) Dick, 17 and (R) Bill, an 18-year-old gelding. The Annual Horse Parade in Pelican Rapids, Minn. kicks off the holiday and shopping season in this quaint town in north-west central Minnesota. This event honors the horse as no motorized vehicles are permitted. Floats are sponsored by local business and area equestrians bring in their steeds for a nice drive up and down the main streets. Pelican Rapids is on the edge of Maplewood State Park, known by trail riders everywhere for its horse trails and camps. More photos on page 8.

Photos by Ley Bouchard

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Left: Kurt Lehmann as Santa drives his 20-year-old mini-mare, Jackie for Weckwerth Animal Clinic in Pelican Rapids, Minn.

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Left: Don Jensen drives a team of Belgians while his wife, Patty, rides shotgun at the All-Horse Parade November 25 in Pelican Rapids, Minn. This annual event brings horses and units from around the region. The units are required to be lighted. No motorized vehicles are allowed in the parade. More on Page 8.

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Editorial Information

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 280 DPI resolution and four inches wide.

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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.

Read about the National Finals Rodeo live from Las Vegas Dec. 6-10 through the reporting and photography of Tammy and Bobbi Scheffler. Follow the action on the Valley Equestrian Newspaper Facebook page.

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Publisher's Clipboard

How can we be nearing the end of another year? The older I get, the faster the years fly. My boys are grown; my grandchildren are growing so fast it feels like a fast-forward video. Remember in elementary school when the summer and Christmas break seemed to last so long?

The Valley Equestrian Newspaper (VEN) just started its fifth year of publication. We have covered a lot of events, photographed so many beautiful horses and written some fun stories about our readers and their companions. We hope the New Year brings many more wonderful stories our way.

We will be taking a short hiatus over the holiday season, getting ready for a busy 2012. Therefore, we will publish our next issue at the end of January. During this hiatus, we will be planning our next year, scheduling the expos, horse shows and national events we will be covering. We hope you will let us know what you want to see in the pages of the VEN.

Thank you so very much for your support of this small and growing venture. We want the VEN to reflect you, our readers! Please interact with us on our Facebook page: The Valley Equestrian Newspaper, and on our web site: www.theveonline.com.

Watch the coverage of the National Finals Rodeo

Dec. 6-10 in Las Vegas, NV through updates from the reporting and photography of Tammy and Bobbi Scheffler.

We will bring online a new web site in 2012 and also a blog where our writers may comment on important horse industry topics. Stayed tuned for we hope to announce a new venture in 2012.

The VEN Team hopes your holiday will bring you many blessings, love, health and happiness. We appreciate your support and thank you for buying from our advertisers. Check out the holiday gift ideas in our centerfold pages 10-11. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year - from our valley to your valley.

Ley Bouchard, Publisher

Readers' Letters

Readers respond to "Horse Archery and the Spanish Mustang" by Fran Lynghaug in the October/November issue of the VEN

Another terrific issue! And I have to thank you for helping keep the American Indian Horse/Spanish Mustang before the public - the article on Horse Archery and the Spanish Mustang is really good, interesting and informative.

Thanks again for your efforts with VEN!!

Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours.

Wolakota,

Nanci Falley
Texas

The article about mounted archery was great. Made me want to leap out of this recliner and saddle up! I discovered the sport last year, bought a collection of archery books ... and headed off in a different direction.

Course, I don't own a saddle, but I've thought about buying one. You know, the smell of leather, the fun of polishing it. And, boy, could I tell whoppers about how I hurt myself riding like blazes across the prairie to turn a herd of stampeding cattle, or riding after my neighbor's spooked horse.

Victor Abdul-Nur
Colorado

Horses can't talk, but they can speak if you listen.



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"CREDIT CARD" REMAINS FOUND IN OK

The remains of the 15-year-old gelding, "Credit Card," were recovered in Oklahoma Nov. 25.

"Credit Card" and four other horses were stolen from Southern Arkansas University's Mulerider Stables during the night Nov. 2. According to SAU Police Chief Eric Plummer, the horse remains were found by the McCurtain County, Okla. Sheriff's Department at a location not being disclosed at this time due to the ongoing investigation of the theft of 5 horses, a horse trailer, tack and other equipment.

Officials at the Southern Arkansas University reported five horses stolen from Mulerider Stables Nov. 2. The horses are

owned and used by members of the university's nationally competitive collegiate rodeo team.

At a news conference Nov. 15, SAU Police Chief Eric Plummer said he



was notified by McCurtain County, Okla. Sheriff Johnny Tadlock that four of the horses were found tied to a tree in a wooded area near Tom, Okla. The horses

found were malnourished and dehydrated. The Sheriff's Department had previously recovered some of the saddles, blankets, tack and trailer on Nov. 3.

Condolences pour into the Facebook page "Stolen Horse FIND" for owner Shaun Smith for the loss of his horse, "Credit Card," pictured together here, courtesy of Southern Arkansas University.

Investigators have suspects in the case but no arrests have been made. Individuals with information regarding the theft are urged to contact the SAU Police Department at (870) 235-4100 or Arkansas State Police Investigator Hays McWhirter at (870) 703-2065.

Honoring the Oldest Horse of the Month: Shalzaan

Submitted by Becky Feltmann

Shalzaan is a wonderful horse and our friend. Scott and I bought him six years ago as a pasture mate for my horse Mic. His background as a youth is exciting.

Shalzaan competed as an endurance horse. He and his young rider rode through many successful endurance competitions.

At his current age of 32 years, I still ride him but not as vigorously. When we go on a trail ride, Mic and I pony Shalzaan. He likes to be part of the group. Shalzaan's diet is fortified for a senior horse. He receives moderate daily exercise. His body care is given with TLC by a veterinarian, farrier and, of course, Scott and I.



Publishing Alternatives

By Janice M. Ladendorf

Prior to the computer revolution, the publishing industry had remained static for many years. Without word processing, my first two books had to be hand typed, revised, and retyped. They were published in 1966 and 1974. I found publishers, who specialized in the topics of my books, and the first one accepted them. Once I had signed a contract, all I had to do was check galley proofs and collect royalties.

When computerized word processing arrived, writing suddenly became a much easier task. Revising and editing no longer required retyping of the whole manuscript. Many people began writing and flooded publishers with their manuscripts. In response, many publishers decided to accept only those who had been submitted by an agent. Finding one can be almost impossible for an unknown author. Some publishers may still accept direct submissions from authors, but manuscripts often get lost in the slush pile.

In response to the changing market, corporate mergers have greatly reduced the number of potential publishers for any book. Marketing also has become increasingly expensive. Most standard publishers today want to see guaranteed sales of at least ten thousand before they will even consider a book from an unknown writer.

However, the situation is not totally hopeless. To find potential publishers, manuals are available that describe their interests, requirements, and contact information. This information dates very quickly, as

does the writer's guidelines on their websites. Finding a publisher for non-fiction is generally easier than for fiction. However, the increasing popularity of e-books has opened up new markets for fiction. A firm that specializes in e-books is soon to release my historical novel, *Heart of a Falcon*.

Prior to the computer revolution, manual type setting took far too much time, but alternatives to conventional publishing did exist. For example, my third book was commissioned and published by a professional society. For those with enough money, a vanity press was another possibility, but what they produce can be almost impossible to market.

When printing from computerized files became possible, the new field of self publishing emerged. Unlike conventional publishing, the author does have to pay for the initial production run and hope to recoup the expense from royalties or sales, but he or she still owns the book and has total control over how it is produced. Once a contract is signed with a conventional publisher, this control is lost. If authors do not like editorial changes or cover design, they may still be forced to accept them.

Self publishing began by focusing on manuscripts that would appeal to a limited audience, such family histories and foundation reports. As more and more people sought an alternative to conventional publishing, it has been rapidly expanding, but bookstore chains and libraries still continue to ignore self published books. Only ten percent of self published books sell more than one hundred copies and only one percent sell more than a thousand. If their book does well, many will

signup with a conventional publisher.

Self publishing offers several basic choices. One is to establish your own publishing company. This may be an excellent choice if you plan to issue a series of similar books or intend to produce a new one every year. Individual manuscripts may still be printed and sold without setting up a formal company. In both cases, the minimum print run is usually five hundred copies and it could go even higher. The other choice is to go with a self publishing company. They will provide editorial, production, printing, and marketing services, but at a high price. Typically they offer publishing packages that will vary considerably in price and what services are included. For a book with an unknown market, the print on demand option may be an excellent one. Instead of print runs, books are only printed after they have been sold.

My book, *A Marvelous Mustang: Tales from the Life of a Spanish Horse*, is an unusual memoir because it is told from the viewpoint of a real horse. In today's market, conventional publishers prefer to focus on what they know will sell well. Since my book represented a new and revolutionary genre, they kept turning it down. When I decided to go with a self publishing company, I choose the print on demand option and an inexpensive package.

In publishing, any book goes through a series of stages. The first one is writing and revising. Producing a well written manuscript takes time and dealing with critiques can be painful. Workshops, seminars, and courses on writing are available from many sources, including professional associations.

The Loft Literary Center in Minneapolis has helped many writers find their way to success.

For inexperienced authors, most experts generally recommend professional and expensive editing before submitting a manuscript to a publisher. One good alternative is joining a writer's group whose members critique each other's manuscripts, but finding the right group is not always easy. Every chapter in *A Marvelous Mustang* was reviewed twice by my group and their suggestions improved its quality.

Conventional publishers handle manuscript editing, layout, proofing, and printing for an author. Traditionally they also handled marketing, but today authors are expected to do much more of it. Before embarking on self publishing, an author needs to consider how each of these tasks is to be handled and what they will cost in time or money.

Since I had worked with a writer's group, I saw no need to pay for professional editing. *A Marvelous Mustang* has an unusual design and I spent weeks working on the layout. When I had finished, several friends kindly proof read the final manuscript for me. Unlike those who choose to create their own company, I did not have to find a printer. Doing my own marketing has absorbed time that I would prefer to spend writing.

Self publishing can be exhausting, but rewarding. They will accept almost anything, but finding one that gives good service at reasonable prices can be difficult. There are some excellent manuals that give the reader detailed information on every step in this process, including the potential costs.

Mule Minute

with Polly Thorsness
Half Ass Hideaway

Did you know that mules can jump obstacles without running up to them first like a horse does? That's right. A mule can stand next to an obstacle, for example, a fence 5 feet high, and jump it from a stand still. While a horse can't do it, the mule is able to jump from a standstill position because it has "unique muscular characteristics" inherited from its donkey blood line that enables it to perform a standing high jump. Of course, mules can also jump from a trot or lope like a horse.

Mule jumping originally began when raccoon hunters taught their mules to jump fences on hunts. The riders dismounted, climbed over the fence, placed a blanket on the fence so the mule could see it, and urged their mules to jump over.

There is actually mule jumping competitions in other regions of the United States where this is proven time after time. The picture below was taken at a mule jumping competition in West Plains, Missouri by a Wall Street Journal reporter. To view a video of jumping mules, go to www.horseandman.com/people-and-place/mule-jumping/

I've had some personal experience with mules jumping, which also has shown me how agile they are with using their hooves

because they can see all of them. I had my Belgian mule, Jane, who stands 15.3 hands, in her stall in the barn. I had placed a wheel barrow in front of the door to clean her stall as I wanted her to be comfortable with my movements along with the stall pick being used around her feet. This is good training for any animal. She wasn't afraid of me; she just didn't want to be in the stall at that time. So, she went to the door of the stall, which is only 8 ft tall, and jumped



that wheel barrow without hitting her head on the top of the stall door or hitting the wheel barrow with her legs. I was fascinated at such a large animal accomplishing that.

Now for my quarter horse mule, Chester, that theory didn't work. After seeing Jane jump out of her stall, he tried the same thing when I was cleaning his stall and the tip of his shoe caught the wheel barrow. After tipping over the wheel barrow, and landing on it and bending it right in two, Chester was out of his stall as well. I am not sure if he is simply clumsy or if his shoes were really the issue.

USDF Founder, Lowell Boomer, Dies at 100

G. Lowell Boomer of Lincoln, Nebraska, died Sunday, November 20, 2011. Lowell was born on October 12, 1911, in Burwell, Nebraska, to George R. and Grace Y Boomer. Lowell graduated Lincoln High School, and attended the University of Nebraska School of Music, Lincoln. While in High School, he won first place on the clarinet in a Lincoln Music contest playing "Concertino" by Weber. He then went on to win the contests at the State, Regional and National levels. He played clarinet for many years in the Lincoln Municipal Band summer concert series in Lincoln, alongside his wife, Gladys who played trumpet.

Lowell studied printing while in Junior High School, and started a letter shop with a mimeograph and multigraph machine

in his mother's Teachers Employment Agency. It grew to become Boomer's Printing Company, which Lowell would head as President for the next eighty years, at which time he sold the company to its employees.

His avocation has been a lifetime love of horses, and he became internationally renowned in the equestrian world. He was the founder of The United States Dressage Federation (USDF) in Lincoln in 1973, and served for sixteen years as its Chief Executive Officer. Today, USDF is headquartered in the Kentucky Horse Park

in Lexington, with over 30,000 members nationally. In 1989, he established The Dressage Foundation in



Lincoln, Nebraska "to cultivate and provide financial support for the advancement of Dressage." The Dressage Foundation's national headquarters is permanently anchored in Lincoln. He has won an extensive array of equestrian honors throughout his lifetime. He was the first inductee into the USDF

Hall of Fame, and has received the USEF (United States Equestrian Federation) Lifetime Achievement award. The Chronicle of the Horse named Lowell as "one of the 50 most influential horsemen of the 20th century worldwide."

Lowell Boomer was an active, lifetime member of the Lincoln Downtown Sertoma Club, and was involved with Sertoma's sponsorship of Cedars Home for Children when it was founded in 1947.

Lowell is survived by son John and wife Lynn, Lincoln, NE; Son Jim, Ft Wayne, IN; three grandsons John Boomer, Jr., David Boomer, Mark Boomer; two grand daughters Beth Bivins and husband Mike, and Melissa Kleber and husband Robert; Three great grandsons Adam and Benjamin Boomer, Adam Kleber. Lowell was

preceded in death by his wife Gladys, his parents, three brothers and one sister, and daughter-in-law, Lois. He leaves many nieces and nephews, friends and former horsemanship students.

The family suggests Memorials to The Dressage Foundation, 1314 'O' Street, Suite 305, Lincoln, NE 68508 and/or Cedars Home for Children, 6601

Pioneers Blvd, Lincoln, NE, 68506. Personal condolences may be left at www.roperandsons.com.

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From Feral to Pro: An Amazing Tale

By Fran Lynghaug

The first time I saw Hazel her color caught my eye. The solid champagne colored mare struck me as unusual. As the crowd of spectators at the 2010 Minnesota EquiFest gathered around her, she remained calm and respectful, disregarding the commotion. Given her quiet demeanor, it was hard to believe that just a few short years before, she had been a feral horse, timid and unnerved if any human got near.

The owner she has now, a trainer named Karen Lee from Boyceville, Wisconsin, first heard about the group of horses Hazel came from in June of 2008. The group consisted of 27 head of horses in Trempealeau County that needed to be rescued immediately because of their weakened condition. Lee is an advertising representative for a Wisconsin agricultural newspaper and

horses were a mix of different riding breeds and most likely inbred. Many were the same champagne color as Hazel or a similar perlino color. Half of the horses were stallions and the other half mares - none were geldings. Given their overall condition, it is believed the owner was unable to adequately care for them or provide proper nutrition. None of the horses had been handled and all expressed an extreme shyness and aversion to people.

On a scale of one to ten with ten being the most healthy, horses in the group were rated from one to three - the worst physical conditions possible, and a few were close to death - falling down when they ran from rescuers. When hay was put in their paddock, they were too frightened to enter it, even to eat. When approached, they became so stressed they either ran away or fell down. They fled even if one of

kept was the mare she named Hazel. The other was the youngest colt of the group whom she named Amorē. He had a body score of about two and was so weak Lee feared he might not be able to handle being hauled to a new home. She picked Hazel because she was one of four horses willing to take grass handed to her, the others being too terrified to even try. Her teeth were also the shortest, so she was the youngest horse willing to try.

It was three months before Hazel and Amorē could be introduced to Lee's herd because they had to learn to be haltered and lead before they could join the other horses in the pasture. Both proved to be more lovers than fighters and chose to yield to other members of the herd.

Lee had to accustom the two feral horses to normal handling and socialization for one year before she could start training, though

they ate so she could halter them until they were used to the interaction. Hazel was so shy she would tremble and shake when Lee tried to pet her. It took lots of time to work with the horses and she had to carefully monitor their behavior and reactions. Even after the first year, if Lee's winter coat made a rustling sound when she came near, they freaked out and had to be desensitized to the noise.

The hardest concept to teach them was to interact with humans, but they did adjust their mindset to accept people. If they got stuck with a problem or situation, instead of pulling back, they learned how to resolve and handle it, growing confident in the learning process. Riding them was the easiest part of the training because Lee took so long with the ground work, but she didn't mind the training she invested in them. She said, "My philosophy is

to always look forward, not backward. I don't like to dwell on the history of a horse and don't punish a horse when it does something wrong. Instead, I focus on moving forward, not on mistakes."

Both horses advanced remarkably well in their training and Lee now uses them at her riding stable, Hay River Equestrian, for riding lessons. They are solid in their thought patterns and Hazel especially focuses on her internal thoughts; outward things don't bother her. She is attentive to her handler and always wants to please. She is kind, learns quickly, and then relaxes. Though she has a reserved nature, she responds positively now to

treats and affection from people. Most people find the most unusual thing is her champagne color and would be surprised at her history.

Amorē is now a 6-year-old sorrel bay who is very gentle and easy going. He has been shown by LeAnn Ralph of Colfax in introductory level dressage at schooling shows. He and Hazel took part in a musical freestyle at the 2011 Minnesota EquiFest as part of a six-horse musical ride with both English and Western riders.

Lee had only ridden Hazel about 10 times after a younger rider did the initial break-in before she used her to demonstrate dressage movements at the 2010 Minnesota EquiFest. In 2011, Hazel was shown in first level dressage at recognized shows. Lee named her Humble Hazel as her dressage show name and plans to continue riding and showing the 7-year-old mare in competition to third level dressage in 2012. Lee's dream is to take the rescue horse all the way to Grand Prix dressage.

Despite their unusual start, most people wouldn't know Hazel and Amorē

were once feral. Lee said she is impressed with how hard both horses are willing to try. No matter what happens, both strive to do whatever she asks them.



Top right: Amorē being ridden at the October 2011 MN EquiFest in St. Paul, Minn. Photo by Randy Simpson Above: Karen Lee rides Hazel, the light-colored horse in front, at the October 2011 MN EquiFest in St. Paul, Minn. Photo by Ley Bouchard

saw a press release stating the horses were going to be adopted from their elderly owner's residence after he voluntarily surrendered his right to them.

Three Wisconsin rescue organizations arrived at the residence to remove and adopt the horses. Although Lee wasn't involved with any of the organizations, she thought she could adopt two of the horses and joined their effort.

The grade quality

the rescuers looked in their direction! Lee had to back into the group and not look at them to get close. It took eight hours for the rescue groups to load the horses into stock trailers.

Lee took 11 horses with the understanding she would provide a temporary home only. Two weeks later a Spring Valley rescue group managed to disperse the horses staying at her farm except for the two Lee kept.

One of the horses she

it was very time consuming. She was always on alert because it could be fairly dangerous working with them until they were used to the training routine. Hazel would kick out if she was afraid, which was any time people approached and touched her.

The first year Lee worked with Hazel and Amorē, it was all about basic handling. She would put their halters in their feed buckets and slide them on when

well in their training and Lee now uses them at her riding stable, Hay River Equestrian, for riding lessons. They are solid in their thought patterns and Hazel especially focuses on her internal thoughts; outward things don't bother her. She is attentive to her handler and always wants to please. She is kind, learns quickly, and then relaxes. Though she has a reserved nature, she responds positively now to

As far as Lee knows, only three of the 27 feral horses (Lee's two horses and one other) have been able to be trained as riding horses. That has opened her eyes to the incredible need for rescue horses to receive professional training.

She encourages others to support rescues, but wants people to understand that adopting an untrained horse can be a tremendous commitment requiring a great deal of patience and time. "However," she admits, "it has been a rewarding experience to watch Hazel and Amorē grow into the wonderful horses they are now."

Lee's website: <http://users.chipvalley.com/hayriver>

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Above: Dale Engen, Rollag, Minn., drives his team of Molly (right) and Maggie (left) pulling a Viking Ship for the Pelican Rapids School. Riders on the float included the boys and girls basketball team. Engen bought the Belgian team 2 years ago when they were untrained 5-year-olds. Right: David Staples drives his team of Clydesdales, (L) Daisy, and (R) Elly with Clayton Brennen, right of the driver. Below: Trinity Lutheran Church sponsored a human nativity float with the team owned and driven by Dean Skogan.



Pelican Rapids, Minn. Presents the 16th Annual All-Horse Holiday Lights Parade

The father son team of Jeff and Everett Johnson started this annual, exclusively horse-drawn parade in downtown Pelican Rapids, Minn. in 1995. They wanted it patterned after the old-fashioned parades, Cindy Trane said, who now organizes the event for the city. What started with 7-8 units has grown and varied in numbers over the years but remains a non-motorized holiday event that takes place the evening after Thanksgiving every year.

Photography by Ley Bouchard



Raza and Lyrico: Forgotten Angels

By Katherine Windfeather-Thompson

They say that angels appear in your life, right when you most need them. But like most things that are etheric, they are often too subtle to see at first. At this point in time, Raza and Lyrico most certainly are two such angels, one in the most literal sense.

We all at times feel like we are not where we are supposed to be, or doing what we are meant to. I hit that spot in the road, recently, again. Dealing with employment and economic issues is something few of us are immune to.

I'd found myself working a job under very stressful conditions, and it had taken a toll on energy and time which I might have wished put to better use. But it is those very times something will happen and we are inspired to refresh rusty memories of why we are here and who we are. My wake up call came from a woman I had not heard from in about 9 years; we never know what is developing behind the scenes we can't see.

Charlotte called me from her home in Montana with a problem; her rescue dog, a 9-year-old Shitzu, was in renal kidney failure, and overproducing calcium. His life expectancy was very short, and the veterinarians felt there was little more they could do

for Tuff. But Charlotte felt otherwise.

Initially, we had connected in 2001 when she was referred to me by her friend, Patricia, who had called for a consultation regarding a lost dog. Patricia was an ER doctor from Washington State whose female Australian Sheppard had disappeared without a trace. She called me for a reading, and I told Patricia the dog was alive and not very far from her. I had the impression that people had driven by her house, coaxed the beautiful dog into their car, and driven off. Now, I barely remember this reading, but it turns out I was right on the mark. Patricia was able to recover her dog from the theft, and later shared this story with her friend in Montana, who was inspired out of desperation to ask me for something more specialized than animal communication.

Charlotte's Peruvian Paso Raza was severely anemic and had degenerative suspensory ligament disease in both back legs. She had been advised by her veterinarians to put the horse down. She called me and asked for a long distance energy healing, and during our conversation over his issues, I told her "this isn't what's gonna get him." Raza had also been stung when he'd accident-

tally walked into a hornets nest, literally. The endotoxin buildup in his body from the yellow jacket's venom had rendered her stallion sterile. When she told me that, I said that I was being shown a sea chest full of beautiful gold doubloons, and my take on that was that Raza's sterility was only temporary. At any rate, we scheduled the healing for a specific time when Charlotte could be with Raza, in her barn in Montana, while I was in my home in California. According to her, that was quite an experience. She said that standing next to him at the prescribed time I was doing the healing several hundred miles away was like what she imagined it would be like to be electrocuted. That's not the first time a client has had that type of reaction. When I am working on the electromagnetic field of an animal or person, to one who is sensitive, it can and does feel like mild electrical shock, though it's not life-threatening.

Not very long after that healing, Charlotte contacted me regarding a different horse. Her gelding Lyrico had been at the vet clinic for a week. His BUN and creatinine levels were highly elevated, as well as his CPK, and her veterinarian was stymied. The gelding was making very little manure; it was small and off color

and he was quite depressed and not himself. She took him home and put him on Banamine and Sulfa, but he continued to decline. He was re-admitted to the clinic, and after a few days with no improvement in the blood panels, her veterinarian advised Charlotte to euthanize him. She took him home again, and called me the next morning. After filling me in on the details, we immediately scheduled a long distance healing for this horse, and I sat down and did it.

That night, when she got home from Missoula, she had a hungry horse waiting for her, nicker-ing for his food. He had a bright look, close to normal gut sounds, and the biggest pile of poop she'd ever seen in his stall. Nine years later he is a healthy 19-years-old, and still just as bright.

As for Raza, he fully recovered from the degenerative ligament disease and was completely sound for another 7 years, until he finally crossed over to that other pasture in the sky; as a result of something else, as I'd foreseen. The legacy he left was an impressive array of look-alike foals, just as I had predicted. Sound inconceivable?

Well, when Charlotte contacted me a few weeks ago about Tuff, I had to give her the sad news that I didn't think I could save him, not in this body, at


least. But I felt the healing would ease his pain and give her a better chance to be prepared for letting him go. She was certain of that as well, though she felt his will to live was very strong. I did not remind her that sometimes, when you have the courage to let something you love go, it comes back to you very quickly. I didn't think I had to, but then, I forgot that Charlotte hadn't read my book.

It'd been a tough week working at a job I don't particularly care for. I needed something positive to ease my frustration. I was going through old records looking for Charlotte's phone number so I could follow up on the healing on Tuff. I re-read an account of the two horse's recovery that I had forgotten about. And a line in her last email to me that said "I have a very strong feeling your rough patch is about to be over. Follow your heart. It's headed in the right direction."

We have to be reminded to blow the dust off our dreams and our heartfelt goals and remember that each and every one of us has a gift, a purpose, and a mission on this plane. We are called from a much Higher level to use those gifts; to resume, with clarity, purpose, certainty, and focus, that less obvious path we are called to walk in spite of what the status quo dictates.

As for Tuff's story, well, according to Charlotte, he passed through the veil on Sunday, October 23rd, 2011. Two days later, a friend called and told her another Shitzu rescue needed a home. Charlotte didn't want another dog right away, but her friend convinced her to take the little dog in spite of that. Precious little Molly promptly walked into Charlotte's life, and right over to Tuff's bed, where she sat down in it and looked at Charlotte as if to say "She should have told you I'd come back!"

An experienced speaker and clinician, Katherine has traveled and lectured the past fifteen years at clubs, organizations, and many of the major horse expos in the United States. She has over 25 years experience as a professional horsewoman on and off the racetrack, and has consistently assisted people with their emotional and physical problems with their animals. She regularly conducts workshops, and is the author of the successful book "When Doves Cried, and Horses Wept." She now resides in Sacramento, California, writes a monthly column for The Valley Equestrian News, and is working on her second book. She can be contacted by email at returnofthedove@gmail.com or at 916-770-9376.



Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year from

**The Valley Equestrian
News Team**

May your holiday season be
a safe one, filled with joy
and happy memories.

Jordan Larson is an NRHA Millionaire

Oklahoma City, Okla. – November 28, 2011 – In 2010, National Reining Horse Association (NRHA) Professional Jordan Larson won his first NRHA Futurity Open championship aboard Michell Kimball's Spooks Gotta Whiz. Nearly one year later he has achieved another feat by officially becoming NRHA's 16th Million Dollar Rider. He earned the final dollars needed in the Senior Reining at the American Quarter Horse Association World Championship Show with a 1st place finish aboard Rancho El Fortin's Custom Harley and a 4th place finish on Gilberto Leal's Stop Like A Dream.

Larson, an NRHA Professional, has competed in NRHA events since 1986. Some of the Whitesboro, Tex. resident's accolades include the following:

2008 FEI World Reining Championship individual Gold Medalist
2010 American Paint Horse Association World Championship 4/5 Year-Old Challenge winner
2010 High Roller Reining Classic Open Derby champion

2010 NRHA Futurity Open Champion
2011 Cowboy Capital Classic Open Derby champion
2011 Southwest Reining Horse Association Open Futurity champion
Other reiners who have surpassed the Million Dol-

lar Rider NRHA Lifetime Earnings mark include Bill Horn, Tim McQuay, Shawn Florida, Duane Latimer, Todd Bergen, Dell Hendricks, Craig Schmersal, Andrea Fappani, Tom McCutcheon, Mandy McCutcheon, Brent Wright, Craig Johnson, Randy Paul, Todd Sommers and Rudi Kronsteiner.



Above: Jordan Larson riding Spooks Gotta Whiz at the NRHA Futurity Open in Oklahoma City, Okla. Photo by Waltenberry

Incorporated in 1966, the National Reining Horse Association is the standard setting body for the sport of Reining. NRHA, with their International Headquarters in Oklahoma City, is responsible for promoting the sport of Reining and working to ensure the highest standards of competition. To learn more about the NRHA, its programs and family of corporate partners, visit nrha.com.

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See the Wrangler National Rodeo Finals recap in the January issue of the Valley Equestrian News. For daily updates on your favorite wrangler, visit our Facebook page. Tammy and Bobbi Scheffler will be posting daily updates Dec. 6-10 direct from the NFR in Las Vegas!

Miss Rodeo North Dakota, Sam Stanke, above, signs autographs at the send-off party at the Speedway Restaurant and Event Center in West Fargo, N.D. The event was held to wish luck to this candidate for Miss Rodeo America. All the Miss Rodeo contestants will be competing for the national title during Wrangler National Finals Rodeo week Dec. 3-10, week in Las Vegas, Nev. See complete coverage in the upcoming issue of the Valley Equestrian Newspaper. Visit our Facebook page for daily updates Dec. 6-10.

Al Shelton, "Cowboy Artist to the Stars," Shares His Remarkable Life

Western artist Al Shelton got his experience with horses first hand as a child. "I was born in the middle of a corn field in northern Colorado. It was on a Sunday because I couldn't wait until Monday and the doctor had to come out several miles in a horse and buggy. So I was born long before he got there," said Shelton.

He was born in 1920. "Grain prices were still pretty high after World War I and we had a real good crop that year. Come harvest time though, the prices just fell out the bottom. We couldn't get anything and everyone else had a good crop too and they weren't paying anything for it. So the farmers were in a depression all through the '20s. The public didn't hear much about it though, just the poor farmers, they will make out some way, I guess, that's what they thought, until the stock market crash of '29, then that affected the city people, too. So that was the Great Depression that you've heard about and it lasted and lasted till World War II. Then they started making more work and putting people back to work," tells Shelton in his oral history.

It's a colorful life Shelton has lived and he relays much of it through an oral history of the period, which is available on CD. "About

the age of 12, I knew I wanted to be a cowboy," said Shelton. He left home at 17 to become a cowboy. At 19 he was breaking horses for the cavalry for WWII. "They wouldn't just buy wild horses, they had to have them started," said Shelton, "You had to have the buck out of them; you had to be able to get on and off and things like that. The Army would take the horses from there."

In 1940 Shelton decided to work as a trainer in Greeley, Colo. buying, breaking, and selling horses at auction sales. He said there were five auctions a week. He could use the stables of Mr. Triplett in exchange for doing the chores; he earned a reputation with horses.

In the fourth grade he got a tablet with a picture by Charles Russell on the cover. He decided he wanted to be a famous artist and won first prize for water colors at the Weld County Fair in Greeley.

Shelton's accomplishments include a series of western art in several different media. He began his illustrious career in leather where he met and became friends with many of the Hollywood greats.

"Al was probably introduced to Gene Autry through Nudie Cohn of 'Nudie, The Rodeo Tailor' fame," said Greg M. Atkin, president of Strum-N-Com-

fort and Artisan Studio-works in Santa Ana, Calif.

"Nudie was the cowboy tailor to the stars. Nudie's clients included the Hollywood stars and the rock & roll and country musicians of the day.

"Al was a subcontractor for Nudie for over five years. Al made leather goods, (belts, boot tops, scrap books, script covers and briefcases, guitar cases and leather art) for Nudie's famous clients. After his time working for Nudie, all the Hollywood clients came to Al directly for his fine leather work," said Atkin.

"Al made four buckle designs for Gene Autry and worked on the large statue of Gene and his horse that is featured in the courtyard of the Autry National Center. The Autry National Center has over 75 items attributed to Al Shelton in the museum collection," Atkin says. "Al and Autry were good friends."

"Well, I think it was about the spring of 1948 when I moved to the Los Angeles Farmer's Market. I think it was about 1950 or maybe '51 that a lady came in and wanted to order a leather album. So I took the order and the leather album had a little bit of carving on it but not much. Then she left and my co-workers said, "Do you know who that was?" I

Continued on page 19

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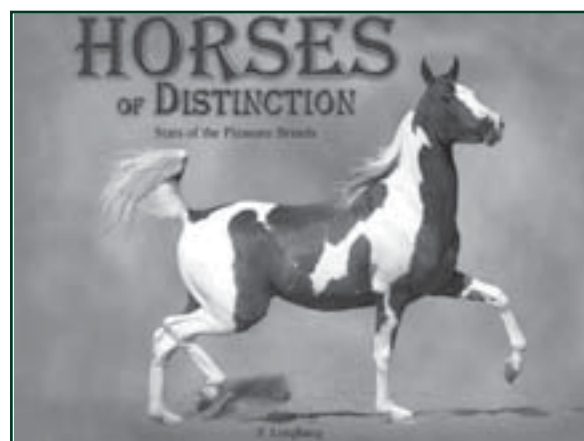
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Stallion Syndications Revisited

By John Alan Cohan, Attorney at Law

Stallion Syndicates have been a popular vehicle for people engaged in breeding activities for over 40 years. This is a mode of co-ownership that applies to all types of horses in all breeds.

During the 1980s, many people syndicated high quality stallions as investment and tax strategies. These were thought to have the advantage of spreading risks of loss and sharing maintenance costs, as well as attracting investors to situations that could generate significant profits for all parties involved.

Today, the Securities and Exchange Commission continues to regard stallion syndications as "non-securities," which means that the promoter can freely advertise and solicit the general public to buy stallion shares as long as the agreement is in correct legal form. Each investor becomes a co-owner of a fractional interest in the stallion, and is entitled to breeding rights. Care of the stallion is delegated to a Syndicate Manager who has day-to-day charge of the animal.

There are tax benefits for all members of a stallion syndicate. Each investor is entitled to depreciate the cost of the

fractional interest, and to deduct maintenance costs from one's income tax. In addition, investors may decide to lease a broodmare, and those costs are tax deductible. Of course, this is with the caveat that the taxpayer

has the intention to be engaged in an activity for profit.

The principal business advantage of a Stallion Syndicate is that each co-owner is assured of long-term breeding rights to the stallion at a fixed price, usually with a live foal guarantee.

Drafting a Syndicate Agreement is crucial to any horse syndication because there are important legal considerations, not to mention the importance of making the agreement compatible with Federal tax law considerations.

The Syndicate Manager is required to keep accurate books and records of the Syndicate to show all income and disbursements involved, and other information pertinent to the Syndicate, including veterinary reports, breeding

schedules, the pedigree information of mares nominated to the stallion, and other details. Each co-owner, in turn, must keep separate business records in accordance with IRS regulations applicable to horse activities.

A good Syndicate Agreement will specify the duties of the manager, what sort of voting rights are conferred on the co-owners, and what sort of marketing plan or strategy will be implemented to promote the foals of the stallion produced under the Syndicate.

Installment payments are often available, making it affordable to start up a horse activity.

Mortality insurance on the horse is factored into the annual maintenance fee, but if some members don't pay for their share in full, the promoter may require them to obtain separate mortality insurance on their shares, with the loss payee designated as the Syndicate Manager.

The Syndicate is not a separate taxpaying entity, nor is it a partnership entity, and each co-owner is responsible for filing his or her own tax return in which deductions are made.

Stallion syndications today are still a viable means to cut down on costs, and can be a prudent economic alternative to outright ownership of high quality stallions. Legal counsel should be consulted to properly draft Syndicate Agreements and to insure that applicable tax and securities laws are taken into account.

[John Alan Cohan is a lawyer who has served the horse, livestock and farming industries since 1981. He can be reached at: (310) 278-0203, by e-mail at johnalancohan@aol.com,



Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame Names Building Site Finalists

Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame After an extensive review of proposals, the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame & Western Heritage Center (MCHF & WHC) is one more step closer to construction by announcing the field of communities to continue into the third and final phase of the organization's building site selection process. The review of nearly 2,500 pages of submitted proposal materials from 10 Montana communities was conducted by the MCHF & WHC Board of Directors, the MCHF & WHC's preliminary architect, Scott Cromwell of Helena, Mont., and the nationally recognized non-profit consulting firm Martz and Lundy. Taking into consideration those factors essential to developing and sustaining a premier museum destination attraction, the MCHF & WHC Board of Directors is pleased to invite the following communities into the third and final selection phase: Big Sky, Big Timber, Livingston, Madison County, Miles City and Wolf Point.

In the third phase, interviews will be conducted in

each finalist community to fully investigate the physical building sites that have been presented in each proposal. This phase will also include negotiations with prospective donors in the community, region and around the nation, to determine the ultimate financial feasibility and degree of support that exists for each location.

"Each community that submitted a proposal did so with the belief that they were the best future building site for the Hall of Fame and they each had something excellent to offer unique to their community," said DuWayne Wilson, MCHF & WHC President. "Every proposal submitted was exceptional and collectively reinforced the statewide interest in the cultural facility becoming a reality. Respondents rallied around their great love and pride for the towns in which they live and the state they each call home. The amount of sincere effort put into each proposal was truly humbling."

Since the beginning of the RFP process, the MCHF & WHC has strongly held that no community has the exclusive rights to Montana's collective western heritage. For this reason, the decision of which communities to investigate further was based on factors such as financial feasibility, volume of resident and non-resident visitation, characteristics of the proposed physical building sites, and infrastructure available within the community to support a major development project of this nature.

The MCHF & WHC plans to announce the winning site at the end of November; however, the timeframe for the final announcement will largely depend on scheduling availability with each community and the pace of negotiations with landowners and prospective donors. "This is truly an idea for which the time has come," said MCHF & WHC Board Member Mike Gurnett. "Each day we lose a little

bit more of our rich Montana cultural heritage to the passing of time. How many of us regret not having captured the many colorful stories of our grandparents, friends and neighbors before we lost them forever? This is capturing our history on a statewide stage and making it relevant to people's lives. Equally important will be taking the cultural story of Montana and creating a vibrant, interactive resource for all visitors to contribute to and draw from. There is no more important stewardship decision we will make during our tenure as board members than the selection of our future building site. It will serve an important role as a learning center and resource to all Montanans interested in preserving and passing forward their heritage."

For more information on the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame & Western Heritage Center please contact Christy Stensland, Executive Director of the MCHF&WHC, by calling (406) 653-3800 or logging on at <http://www.montanacowboy-fame.com>.



COWBOY POETRY WITH ORV

YOUNG COWBOY'S SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GIFT

JINGLE BELLS AND WINTER RECREATION INVIGORATION
 Youthful ambitions and plans caused a hurrying of most ranch chores
 To allow time to ride ponies or to hitch a sleigh to a horse.
 Winter and snow offered novel forms of amusement and pleasure.
 Sleigh bells and prancing hooves tossing snow, gave memories to treasure.
 Each holiday Christmas season brought programs with speaking parts to recite.
 Relative's visits, holiday treats and festive gifts were a delight.
 We skied behind teams, made snowmen and slid down and into snow banks!
 Youthful memories of playtimes remind us to pause and give thanks.

WERE WE GIVEN ENOUGH ROPE?

In years gone by, several of our Christmas seasons in my youth,
 I mistakenly considered myself to be a clever sleuth.
 When three boys were left home alone, we put a tall box on a chair.
 That chair allowed us to climb up to the attic door, way up there.
 It was within reach, I could gently lift the lid and poke around
 To perform my spy activities. What had parent's shopping trip found?
 Perhaps illegal, uncalled for, or imps indulging in pranks?
 Little did we know it was the opposite of youth giving thanks.

AN UNUSUAL 'TIE' FOR A GIFT?

I must explain: for many Christmas seasons we did review
 Forthcoming gifts and then feigned surprise, about which we knew.
 I recall the rare sight of two holsters and a pair of cap guns.
 Perhaps oversized, those shiny cap guns would delight the little ones.
 That gunbelt had a Roy Rogers logo, plus a tan cowboy hat.
 I painfully recall grasping ... that spying made me a spoiled brat.
 It was a quasi-celebrated success, but we drew blanks,
 Regarding a comprehension, that we knew little about giving thanks.

THE MYSTERIOUSLY WRAPPED GIFT

One year later, our intuitive parents must have gotten wise.
 They found a secluded spot and hid their Christmas buys from us guys.
 Unexpectedly in a round wrapped package was a lariat.
 I was dumbfounded by that total SURPRISE, but the most merry yet.
 That useful and recreational rope became worn out ... and 'brown.'
 Its replacement I can still spin around myself, like a clown.
 You must understand how that gift pleasantly jarred my memory banks,
 In a most sincere moment, when I expressed my surprise and thanks.

A COUNTRY CHRISTMAS POINT OF VIEW

Awaiting gifts, some youths searched for tiny reindeer hoof prints in the snow,
 While other youth slept, tucked in, until the first light glow.
 Checking our attic was premature, and wrong, so here is my quote:
 Horse lovers, snow fun lovers and Christmas lovers, please take note.
 Christmas season is about celebrating and gifts and gift giving.
 We fondly look back at the simple joys of country living.
 I learned the secret of Christmas gifts, to use in our memory banks.
 It's the gift, the 'surprise' that uplifts. Life surely asks us to give thanks.

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Ron Olson, skiing behind his horse Gunner, in Island Park in Fargo, N.D.

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Events for December and Beyond

Call before you haul -- contact information is included in each event listed.

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

Jan. 7: Horse Auction at 10 a.m. at R&J Horse Sales in Verndale, Minn.

Feb. 18: Tack Sale at noon at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Lake Elmo, Minn. Contact 651-214-3403

March 26-29, 2012: 2nd International Summit of the Horse at the American Royal Livestock Facility in Kansas City, MO.

Dec. 11: The MayPort Arena Association will have an organizational meeting to plan the 2012 Events Calendar. Meeting starts at 3:00 PM. Located in the meeting room of the First Community Credit Union located on the east edge of Portland, ND on Highway 200. Every one is invited. Open for ideas for events. Contact 701-786-3254.



Feb. 25: Tack Sale at 10 a.m. at by the Willow River Riders Saddle Club at the Roberts Elementary School in Roberts, Wis. Call 715-549-5416

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

Dec. 16-18: Central MN Team Penning Christmas Show at Red Horse Ranch Arena in Fergus Falls, Minn.

March 3: Orchard Rangers Saddle Club Tack Swap at the Robert Boeckman Middle School in Farmington, Minn. Call 507-789-6676

April 21: Horse Show at 8 a.m. at the Deadbroke Arena in Hugo, Minn. Call Kari at 651-982-8495

Dec. 17: Game show at 10 a.m. at the HI Circle Vee Ranch in Isanti, Minn. (612) 803-5950

March 10: Game Show at 10 a.m. at the HI Circle Vee Ranch in Isanti, Minn. Call Kari at 612-803-5950

May 6: St. Croix Riders Fuzzy Wuzzy Fun Show at 8 a.m. at the St. Croix Riders Arena in Baldwin, WI with a non-WSCA judge; call 715-781-1110 for more information.

Jan. 7: All breed horse and tack sale at 10 a.m. for tack and 2 p.m. for horses at Simon Horse Company in Cannon Falls, Minn. (507) 263-4200

Feb. 11: All breed horse and tack sale at 10 a.m. for tack and 2 p.m. for horses at Simon Horse Company in Cannon Falls, Minn. (507) 263-4200

March 13: All breed horse and tack sale at 10 a.m. for tack and 2 p.m. for horses at Simon Horse Company in Cannon Falls, Minn. (507) 263-4200

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

March 24: Twin Cities Quarter Horse Sale at 10 a.m. at Simon Horse Company in Cannon Falls, Minn. (507) 263-4200

Dr. Getty's November Tip: The Best Sources for Omega 3 Fatty Acids

Omega 3 fatty acids keep your horse healthy in a variety of ways. They balance immune function, protect joints and ligaments, diminish airway inflammation, support gastrointestinal function, reduce skin allergies, and decrease nervousness. Keep in mind that there are several fatty acids that can be classified as "omega 3" based on their chemical structure, but there is only one omega 3 fatty acid that your horse cannot produce on his own, and which, therefore, must be in his diet: Alpha Linolenic Acid (or ALA). Given this, however, your horse can manufacture two other omega 3s, docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) and eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA).

To provide omega 3s, horse owners generally turn to one of three sources - flaxseeds, chia seeds, or fish oils. The fat found in flaxseeds (oil or ground into a meal) and chia seeds is predominantly in the form on ALA; flax provides approximately 4:1 omega 3s to omega 6s, while chia has slightly fewer omega 3s.

Fish oils are high in two omega 3 fatty acids, DHA and EPA. Though horses are not fish-eaters, both of these fatty acids offer strong anti-inflammatory benefits and may be useful for heavily exercised muscles and joints. But fish oil does not provide the essential ALA. Therefore, supplementing the diet with flax or chia will better mimic the omega 3s found in plants -- what horses are designed to eat.

Fresh grass has ample omega 3s -- four times more than omega 6s, which can promote inflammation. Hay, however, has virtually no omega 3s left. And commercial feeds usually contain soybean or corn oils, which are very high in omega 6s. While there's one omega 6 that is necessary - linoleic acid -- too much of a good thing can create an imbalance.

Dr. Juliet Getty has taught and consulted on equine nutrition for more than 20 years. She offers teleseminars on a variety of topics; past teleseminars can be downloaded by subscribers after the live presentations -- register at www.gettyequinenutrition.com, where you will also find a library of helpful articles, a forum on nutrition, and a calendar. Dr. Getty publishes a free (and popular) monthly e-newsletter, "Forage for Thought"; subscribe through the website. Dr. Getty serves as a distinguished advisor to the Equine Sciences Academy, and is available for individual consultations. Contact Dr. Getty directly at gettyequinenutrition@gmail.com or at (970) 884-7187.

'Tribute to the Troops' Saddle to Tour and Honor US Military

By Mike Bray

I, like so many Americans, want to share my appreciation for the men and women who have sacrificed in so many ways in order to serve in the American Armed Forces; they give to their country and mankind internationally, and protect the freedoms in the U.S. we so greatly value. Because it is so difficult to share in words the true appreciation I have for those who serve, as well as my respect for their families and their supporters who also give the most of themselves in order to honor the ones they love, I put my committed thoughts into what I know best, my art, in order to create homage that would last a lifetime. It is the most detailed saddle I've tooled; each inch of it crafted and carved, including the inside and outside of the tapadros

and fenders. The saddle is a tapestry of images that tell the story of the common day and iconic war heroes since WWII to the present, from the five marines raising the U.S. flag at Iwo Jima, Rosie the Riveter, to a tribute to the Gold and Blue Star Mothers, this work is

an accolade to all who've shared their patriotism and pride in the United States in order to protect and serve; i.e. all the branches of the Armed Forces, the American Legion, the VFW, the U.S. Veterans Administration, and the Red Cross just to name a few. "Some Gave

All" is tooled on the back of the cantle, and on the front of the seat is "All Gave Some." I spent countless hours on this piece because everyone who sees it is so emotionally impacted by it, it brings tears to the eyes of some, so I'm inspired to create more and have involved more individuals and their stories into the larger conception of my own vision. Vietnam Vet and local craftsman, Michael Bregenzer designed, built and donated an oak saddle stand. Colorado artists

the ideals of art as it travels through the community and encourages dialogue about military, war, and the U.S. history. This Veteran's Day the saddle visited two local schools, and a 4-H club is creating a video to accompany the saddle, sharing the voices and sentiments of those who have seen the saddle and want to share their message of support to



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The Valley Equestrian Newspaper
 Where there are rivers, There are valleys, There are horses, And the ...

Wade and Marianne Truitt of T3 Weavers are creating a custom made, hand-woven alpaca saddle blanket and reins which include the American flag design. The project continues with the creation of an artistry headstall and serape as the "canvas" for the individual stories to continue to be told through process or creating this leather art. The saddle truly embodies

the troops who are currently serving and those who have served. You can contact Mike Bray, Bray Saddlery at saddle@uslink.net, 763-370-2874

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WYOMING COURT ALLOWS WILD HORSE GROUPS TO INTERVENE IN LAWSUIT

Cheyenne, Wyoming (November 2, 2011) . . . Today, the U.S. District Court for the District of Wyoming, granted intervenor status to the American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign, a national coalition, and two of its coalition partners, the International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros (ISPMB) and The Cloud Foundation, in the case of the Rock Springs Grazing Association (RSGA) vs. the U.S. Department of the Interior. The lawsuit seeks removal of all wild horses on public and private lands in the southern Wyoming. The motion was filed by the highly regarded, public interest law firm Meyer, Glitzenstein and Crystal.

At stake is the future of nearly half of Wyoming's remaining wild horses living on a two-million-acre swath of private and public land known as the "Wyoming checkerboard." The area includes four wild horse Herd Management Areas - Salt Wells Creek, Great Divide Basin, White Mountain and Little Colorado - administered by the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

In granting the organizations' request to intervene, the court stated, "Certainly the relief requested by Plaintiff would impact the number of wild horses roaming the Wyoming Checkerboard on both private and public lands. Further, it appears that agreements negotiated between RSGA and wild horse advocacy groups played a significant role in the earlier litigation and BLM's stated management objectives regarding wild horses in the Wyoming Checkerboard areas..." (See court order here.)

"We are pleased that this court decision will allow us to be a voice for the future of Wyoming's mustangs," said Karen

Sussman, president of the ISPMB, the oldest and largest wild horse advocacy group in the nation. "As a party to the original agreement establishing population levels in this area, we will vigorously defend the Wyoming's wild horses and work toward an agreement that keeps them free where they belong on our public lands."

"We are intervening to ensure that the Department of Justice, representing the Interior Department and BLM, will fight just as hard to protect wild horses in this case as they continue to fight against legal challenges from advocates seeking to protect wild horses from BLM round-ups," states Ginger Kathrens, Executive Director of the Cloud Foundation. "It comes as no surprise that the largest 'welfare ranching' organization in the nation threatens the future of thousands of federally protected mustangs in southern Wyoming."

"Since we cannot count on the federal government to stand up for Wyoming's wild horses, we must intervene in this case to ensure that the federal law protecting mustangs is upheld," said Suzanne Roy, AWHPC Campaign Director. Roy noted that the RSGA complaint indicates that the Department of Interior invited the lawsuit as a mechanism for getting Congress to appropriate more funds for wild horse roundups.

The RSGA lawsuit was filed shortly after the AWHPC, joined by the Western Watersheds Project, filed a lawsuit against the BLM over the plan to castrate free-roaming stallions living in the White Mountain and Little Colorado HMAs. The BLM withdrew the plan in the face of the AWHPC legal action, which was also brought by Meyer, Glitzenstein & Crystal.

The RSGA controls about 2 million acres of rangeland in southern Wyoming, in an area 40 miles wide by 70 miles long that runs along the historic transcontinental railway corridor. RSGA members graze approximately 50,000 to 70,000 sheep and about 5,000 cattle on deeded private lands and leased public lands. By contrast, just 1,100-1,600 wild horses are thought to roam the area.

Thanks to taxpayer subsidies, RSGA members graze livestock on public lands for approximately one-twelfth (1/12) of the going market rate. The RSGA complaint, filed on July 27, 2011, seeks a court order that will (a) result in removing all wild horses from private lands in the Wyoming Checkerboard area, and (b) declare that the BLM "must remove all of the wild horses that have strayed onto the RSGA lands and the adjacent public lands within the Wyoming Checkerboard."

The American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign (AWHPC) is a coalition of more than 45 horse advocacy, public interest, and conservation organizations dedicated to preserving the American wild horse in viable, free-roaming herds for generations to come, as part of our national heritage.

International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros, founded over 50 years ago, was instrumental in securing the enactment of the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act, the landmark federal legislation that established protections for wild free-roaming horses and burros on public lands in the West.

The Cloud Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and protection of wild horses and burros on our Western public lands with a focus on protecting Cloud's herd in the Pryor Mountains of Montana.

INTERNATIONAL EQUINE ASSOCIATIONS ALIGN WITH A COMMON PURPOSE

Following a series of meetings and discussions which began at the Summit of the Horse in Las Vegas, Nevada, in January, 2011, and culminated with a very productive live demonstration and documentation of technological systems at the Lindsay Livestock Auction in Lindsay, Ontario, Canada, organizers are looking forward to forming an "International Equine Business Association"

organizations, as well as directly from the IEBA.

To provide these services the IEBA has contracted with Animal ID Solutions Inc., a Canadian company with operations in the United States. The Association will utilize Animal ID Solution's Global Animal Identification Network (G.A.I.N.) with data centres in Illinois, USA, and Ontario, Canada, to house, manage and maintain IEBA

certification programs for horse purchasing protocols, equine transportation, management and audit tools and systems for monitoring both the humane handling of horses at processing, and food safety concerns. The system uses permanent identification of live horses, and traceability of carcasses that include scientifically sound and rigorously enforced third party laboratory testing protocols to ensure the highest quality, verified safe, and pure products to the end consumer.

IEBA could also be in a position to provide comprehensive facilitation services to businesses seeking to start, or improve equine enterprises, particularly those businesses seeking to operate in any aspect of the horse harvesting chain such as feed lots.

Included in the initial rollout of benefits to U.S. residents is the

provision of a legal defense network of attorneys and counselors expert in animal and agricultural law. Legal defense services are provided through a contract with the Cavalry Group. The Cavalry Group provides legal defense from: Unreasonable searches of your farm, ranch, or animal related business; seizure of your animals or property; fines or fees associated with false claims of animal abuse or neglect; destruction of property by animal rights activists; and other various assaults on your animal enterprise and business.

Cavalry Group legal defence includes 24/7 emergency legal assistance and in some cases, may cover the entire cost of dealing with insured events.

In addition, the IEBA could facilitate industry services such as government relations and public relations; market development, market analysis and reporting; research and development; equine enterprise consulting including facility and equipment design; and more.

The first annual meeting of the IEBA will occur on May 29, 2012 in conjunction with the Second International Summit of the Horse in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on May 26-29, 2012.

For more information, to get on a list to receive updates as the IEBA moves through the formation process, or to become a charter member of the Association contact the initial co-chairs at the email addresses and phone numbers listed.



(IEBA). The Horse Welfare Alliance of Canada and United Horsemen of the United States share a common goal to mutually protect the welfare of the horse, strengthen the international horse industry, and to promote the use of horses and equine products in commercial enterprises.

The goal is to form an international and independent association that will be a separate and distinct "business" entity to deliver benefits to the entire equine industry. The mission will complement the ongoing nonprofit educational and charitable purposes of the respective existing organizations in both countries.

The proposed structure of the Association will have divisions to facilitate services and support to segments of the horse industry including but not limited to: Breed Registries and Stud Books; Sport, Performance, and Pleasure Horse Organizations; and Equine Harvest Businesses where horses are used as food, dairy, leather, and by-product production animals.

Initial services provided by the Association to all segments of the horse industry may include agnostic technological solutions that integrate with existing legacy systems to seamlessly provide enhanced capabilities such as DNA and other forms of permanent identification and traceability, veterinary records, show and performance records, and optional enrollment in the IEBA Do Not Slaughter Registry (DNS). DNS Registry enrollment may be available through participating breed registries and

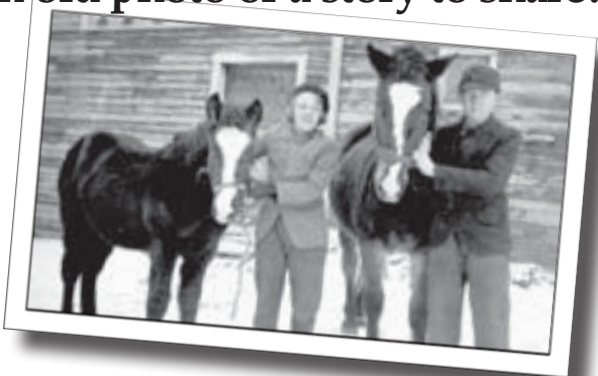
databases. Other innovative and cutting edge technological solutions with potential to add value and convenience to all sectors of the horse industry are currently being studied for development.

The Do Not Slaughter Registry is an important initiative that will be developed as a safeguard to ensure that no horse is mistakenly or illegally slaughtered against an owner or registrant's wishes. In simplest terms, IEBA will have agreements with horse meat processors to scan every horse for permanent identification before purchasing, and if the horse is in the DNS registry, the registrant is notified that the horse has been presented for sale to slaughter. This provides the registrant with the opportunity to pay all costs, make arrangements, and recover the horse. If a horse already enrolled in the DNS registry is stolen, an alert "Do Not Slaughter - STOLEN - contact law enforcement" alert will appear on any scanning device used by horse buyers, sale barns, plant personnel, or anyone else with reason to scan the horse for ID and tracability.

Initial services provided to the horse harvesting industry may include the comprehensive Equine Quality Assurance Program (EQAP)--an industry driven and policed humane handling and food safety and quality control program--that builds on efforts such as the Recommended Handling Guidelines and Animal Welfare Assessment Tool for Horses, in developing

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From the Horse's Mouth: Industry News

AAEP Performance Horse Guidelines for Veterinarians Address Medication Usage and Therapeutic Treatments

The American Association of Equine Practitioners has developed guidelines for veterinarians who treat horses competing in athletic events other than racing. The document, "Clinical Guidelines for Veterinarians Treating the Non-Racing Performance Horse," promotes medical practices the AAEP believes place the appropriate emphasis on the health, safety and welfare of performance horses.

Focusing on the highly competitive performance horse environment, the guidelines address the importance of obtaining a specific diagnosis before administering treatment. All medical treatment of performance horses should be based upon a veterinary diagnosis with appropriate time allowed for an evaluation following treatment to ensure the horse is recovered before it competes again. Administering joint injections without specific medical indication is an example of under diagnosis and over treatment. The competition schedule should not be the primary factor when evaluating a horse's need for medical care.

"The judicious use of therapeutic techniques and

medications is at the core of all successful veterinary care," said Dr. William Moyer, AAEP president. "Just as the AAEP has previously examined the appropriate veterinary care of racehorses, it is important for us, as veterinarians, to equally consider the medical care of the athletes competing in numerous sport horse disciplines."

In addition to medication administration, the guidelines address the use of shockwave therapy, acupuncture and chiropractic therapy, and cold therapy. Also included are recommendations for veterinary medical records, drug compounding and infectious disease control at competitions and sales. The guidelines will be updated as research provides new data about the medical care of performance horses.

The clinical guidelines were developed by the AAEP Task Force on Medication in the Non-Racing Performance Horse, a group comprised of private and regulatory veterinarians involved in a wide range of sport horse disciplines. Dr. Nat White of Leesburg, Va., AAEP immediate past president, served as task force chair.

"While the guidelines were written for veterinarians, we hope our recommendations will resonate with owners, trainers and organizations involved with competitions," explained Dr. White. "Everyone involved in the care of the horse must appreciate the potential harm that may come from the excessive use of multiple medications. Simply giving a horse time off from competition is often the best medical choice that can be made."

The clinical guidelines are available here. For more information, contact Sally Baker, AAEP director of marketing and public relations, at (859) 233-0147 or sbaker@aaep.org.

The American Association of Equine Practitioners, headquartered in Lexington, Ky., was founded in 1954 as a non-profit organization dedicated to the health and welfare of the horse. Currently, the AAEP reaches more than 5 million horse owners through its over 10,000 members worldwide and is actively involved in ethics issues, practice management, research and continuing education in the equine veterinary profession and horse industry.

Lauren Eichstadt 2011 Farnam All-Around Amateur

During the past week, the Farnam All-Around Amateur contenders competed in a variety of events throughout the 2011 American Quarter Horse Association Bank of America Amateur World Championship Show. This year, 64 contenders competed for the Farnam All-Around Amateur Award.

"The Farnam All-Around Amateur Award is the most prestigious title an amateur exhibitor can win at the AQHA World Championship Show, and one of the most significant honors awarded by the American Quarter Horse Association," said AQHA Executive Vice President Don Treadway Jr.

The 2011 Farnam All-Around Amateur is Lauren Eichstadt of Greenville, Pennsylvania, who showed Its My Lucky Detail. The 2001 bay gelding is owned by Madison Eichstadt of Greenville, Pennsylvania. Its My Lucky Detail, sired by Last Detail and out of Run To Seattle by Seattle Son, was bred by Larry and Linda Whitaker of Rogers, Arkansas. Lauren Eichstadt and Its My Lucky Detail earned 39 points competing in three classes. They placed third in amateur working hunter and amateur hunter hack. The pair also won the reserve champion title in amateur equitation over fences.

Eichstadt and Its My Lucky Detail received a prize package of \$15,000, plus \$1,000 in Farnam products, an embroidered fusion contour western blanket, courtesy of WeatherBeeta, a rose bouquet and a bronze by Lisa Perry.

The 2011 Farnam Reserve All-Around Amateur is Darcy Reeve of Garden City, Kansas, who showed A Certain Vino. The 2003 brown gelding is owned by Lee Reeve of Garden City, Kansas. A Certain Vino, sired by Certain Potential and out of Dotevita, was bred by Tim and Lou Petty of Ocala, Florida. Darcy Reeve and A Certain Vino earned 36 points. They won two world championships in western pleasure and western riding. Reeve and A Certain Vino received a prize package of \$5,000 plus \$500 in Farnam products and a silver bowl.

Jessica Baird of Rockville, Indiana, and Cool Movin Lady placed third in the All-Around Amateur competition. Cool Movin Lady, a 2001

sorrel mare sired by Dont Skip Zip and out of Ima Cool Robin, was bred by Stanley and Susan Scott of Ocala, Florida. Baird and Cool Movin Lady earned 35 points. The pair won the reserve champion title in amateur western pleasure, and placed fifth place in amateur showmanship and sixth place in amateur western riding.

Daniel Carlson of Sheffield, Massachusetts, and Are You Charlie placed fourth in the All-Around Amateur competition. Are You Charlie is a 2001 sorrel mare owned by Patricia Carlson of Sheffield, Massachusetts. Are You Charlie is sired by Dont Skip Charlie and out of Are You Zipped, bred by Joe and Suzy Jeane of Valley View, Texas. Carlson and Are You Charlie earned 33 points. The pair won



third in amateur trail and amateur western horsemanship, ninth in showmanship and were finalists in the performance halter mares.

Brittany Boyd of Corpus Christi, Texas, and Dont Skip My Charms placed fifth in the All-Around Amateur competition. The 2002 brown gelding, sired by Don't Skip Zip and

out of Charmette, was bred by Stanley and Susan Scott of Ocala, Florida. Brittany and Don't Skip My Charms earned 32 points. The pair earned the reserve champion title in amateur showmanship, placed sixth in amateur

western horsemanship and seventh in amateur western riding.

Third through fifth place received a prize package that included \$1,500 plus \$250 in Farnam products. Farnam has been the official fly control, deworming, grooming and conditioning products supplier of AQHA since 2004. Whether you're at a show or on a trail ride, it takes time and dedication to make your horse look his best. As your partner in horse care, Farnam continues to offer products people know, use and trust.

The AQHA Bank of America Amateur and FedEx Open World Championship Show is the world's largest, single-breed world championship horse show and the pinnacle event for American Quarter Horse owners and exhibitors around the world, who must qualify for the event by earning a predetermined number of points to compete in each of the 94 classes representing halter, English and western disciplines. The 3,572 entries at this year's event represent competitors from 47 of the United

States, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Italy, Mexico and Venezuela. The show is being held November 5-19 at the Oklahoma City State Fair Park. For more news from the Bank of America Amateur and FedEx Open World Championship Show, visit www.aqha.com/world-show.

FY 2012 AGRICULTURAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL CLEARS THE WAY FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE U.S. HORSE INDUSTRY

International Equine Business Association applauds the removal of HSUS driven annual riders that prevented USDA inspection of horse processing

Washington, D.C. - November 14, 2011, the Conference Committee on HR 2112 consolidated appropriations for Agriculture, Commerce-Justice-Science and Transportation - Housing and Urban Development signed a conference report resolving differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill that for the first time since 2005 does not contain annual riders that prohibit USDA from providing necessary inspection for horse processing facilities.

The International Equine Business Association (IEBA) is a new association that is an outcome of the alliances that United Horsemen has formed with hundreds of entities like the National Tribal Horse Coalition, Charros Federation USA, horse councils, production agriculture, pet animal and animal entertainment groups, as well as international partners like the Horse Welfare Alliance of Canada. The Association is eager to work with equine businesses, organizations, state, tribal, and federal agencies to maximize this opportunity.

"We could not be more pleased," says IEBA U.S. co-chair Sue Wallis, "and grateful to our many

partners and supporters to once again have a clear path to increase the welfare of horses, reinvigorate the devastated horse related economy, and promote the ethical, appropriate use of horses that will be welcomed by a worldwide and domestic market, create jobs, and preserve our beloved horseback American culture for our children and grandchildren. The now devastated horse industry looks forward to the day when we can once again contribute more than \$1.9 Billion dollars in tax revenue nationwide from an industry that prior to 2007 was a \$102 Billion dollar sector of animal agriculture...to once again supporting 1.4 Million full-time jobs working with horses everyday."

The tide turned for the horse industry when Congress received a report from their research office that looked into the effect of the closure of the U.S. horse processing facilities. That Government Accountability Office (GAO) report, HORSE WELFARE: Action Needed to Address Unintended Consequences of Domestic Slaughter Cessation, documents the decline in horse welfare, and the negative impacts on the

overall equine economy as a direct result of the loss of a humane option for otherwise unwanted, unusable, excess horses.

Because of the backdoor exclusionary efforts of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), Congress adopted the first of these damaging appropriations riders in 2005, with more added in 2007 that have prevented any facilities from operating in the forty-six states that do not have state law preventing them.

"That roadblock is now removed," noted Wallis, "now we shift our focus to resuming profitable legitimate businesses in the horse industry, and a return of normal markets for horses at every level, and every sector of the diverse horse world."

The IEBA is positioned to promote and encourage equine harvesting businesses that are held to high humane handling and food safety standards, in order to bring quality products to a vibrant and viable worldwide market. IEBA will be providing legal defense, political advocacy, business consulting, technological solutions, and more for all aspects of the equine industry.

Dusty's Trail

A story about the Pony Express from the horse's perspective by

Mattie Richardson
author of 'Appaloosy'



Contact Mattie at:

redheadkid7@msn.com

<http://appaloosybook.blogspot.com/>

From the Horse's Mouth: Industry News

Ten Medals for Equestrian Team USA at the 2011 Pan American Games

The eventing team arrived in Mexico with something to prove. Of the five riders, only one had represented the U.S. before and that rider, Buck Davidson, took his role as Team Captain to heart.

It began in the dressage where they all rode into the top 10 individually, Michael Pollard rode his wife Nathalie's Schoensgreen Hanni to second, Hannah Burnett was right behind him in third on Jacqueline Mars' Harbour Pilot, followed closely by Davidson who rode Sharon Will's Absolute Liberty in the pathfinder position to fourth, right behind him was Shannon Lilley on The Lilley Group's Ballingowan Pizazz, and Lynn Symansky coaxed a masterful effort out of Donner who found the atmosphere at Club Hipica quite exciting. They all were chasing Canadian Jessica Phoenix individually - but their lead as a team was secure.

And it was never threatened.

They added zero to their dressage scores in the team competition, jumping clean and fast around the cross-country course at Santa Sofia Golf Course

and then jumping five double-clear rounds in the team show jumping round on Sunday.

"I would like to give really special congratulations to my team," said Chef d'Equipe Mark Phillips. "Five people finishing on their dressage score - that's never been done before in the history of our sport."

Only the top three individuals from each nation could return to jump for individual medals and the U.S. added two more double-clear efforts, moving Burnett into the Individual Silver position and Davidson into Individual Bronze. Pollard had two rails down and settled for fourth.

The jumping team arrived with more than just completing a Pan Am sweep on the brain - they were also seeking qualification for the 2012 Olympic Games. They never wavered in the face of that enormous pressure.

They jumped eight clear rounds between them in the Nations Cup to secure Team Gold by a wide margin over Brazil and Mexico. Led throughout the first four rounds by two-time Olympic Gold

medalist Beezie Madden on Coral Reef Via Volo - Christine McCrea and Romantovich Take One sat second, McLain Ward and Antares were third, the fourth American horse, RCG Farm's Uceko, ridden by Kent Farrington, had the same fate as some of his teammates in other disciplines, as only three from each nation could go forward to the Individual Final. He was in seventh going into the Individual Final.

"I'm just really, really proud of us as a team," said McCrea. "We really came together. We came



here with a goal and we achieved it, and I'm just really proud."

Javier Fernandez set a difficult track for the fifth round of jumping - not backing off of the 1.60m maximum height.

OK Hall of Fame Honorees to be Inducted

AQHA Past President Frank Merrill (right) with the late Orren Mixer, who painted a number of different famous American Quarter Horses, including the iconic Mixer Horse, the rendering of the ideal

are Jim Scarbrough, Darrell Bilke and Roy Browning. Stuart Ranch will also be honored. Horses being inducted include Bert, Trixie Blake and Royal Santana. Lee Allan Smith, Oklahoma City civic leader and special friend of the

American Quarter Horse industry, will receive the Bud Breeding Oklahoma Spirit Award, which honors those who exemplify the spirit of Oklahoma's Western heritage and who have an acknowledged love of horses that has manifested itself by involvement in equine activities. The Oklahoma Quarter Horse



Hall of Fame was created by the Oklahoma Quarter Horse Association in 2004 as a means of honoring people and horses who are or were significant in the growth and success of the Quarter Horse industry. Tickets to the Hall of Fame gala are \$50. Reserve your tickets today online or by calling (405) 440.0694. Seating is limited, so make your reservations soon.

American Quarter Horse.

AQHA Past President Frank Merrill is one of several honorees who will be inducted into the Oklahoma Quarter Horse Hall of Fame on Saturday, January 14, 2012, at the Skirvin Hotel in Oklahoma City. The gala will begin with a reception at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m.

In addition to Merrill, horsemen being honored

Ward and Grant Road Partners, LLC' Antares F had the middle element of the triple combination down to end up fourth - Brazilian Bernardo Alves moved up to the podium on Bridgit - so it came down to a clash between two American women. McCrea set the standard jumping second to last on a super-charged Romantovich Take One. They jumped an impressive clear inside a very difficult time allowed. Madden had it all to play for - without a point in hand on Coral Reef Ranch's mare over her teammate.

Less than a tenth of a second determined the fate of the medals, and Madden was 7/100ths of a second late. She added one time fault and McCrea suddenly found herself a double Gold medalist at her first Pan American Games. Madden settled for Silver in a classic and classy performance.

"Thank God I have a strong team here and Chris was to take it up - I am happy it was an American (that won)," said Madden. "We were still Gold and Silver and with the Team Gold it was a fantastic week for us so no com-

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The Valley Equestrian Newspaper



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Combined Driver Chester Weber Joins European Website Panel

Ocala, FL (November 4, 2011) - The European equestrian website HorsUs has asked combined driver Chester Weber to join their panel of famous equestrians. Weber will take part in the website's "Ask It" panel where he will answer questions sent it by fans of the website www.HorsUs.eu. As the eight-time USEF National Four-In-Hand Combined Driving Champion, Weber has a vast amount of experience he will be able to share on the website.

"I am looking forward to seeing the questions that I have to answer," Weber said. "I know that each member of the panel answers five questions sent in by visitors to the website and I think this is a great way for riders and drivers to get help with

specific challenges they may be facing with their own horses." Australian Combined Driver Boyd Exell, a contemporary of Weber's, is also part of the "Ask It" panel.

Weber, a highly competitive driver who is known for setting goals and accomplishing them, said he likes the idea of equine enthusiasts getting the chance to get assistance from professionals. "Thanks to websites like HorsUs, the public has access to the best competitors without the need for them to travel to clinics," Weber said, adding that he enjoys sharing his experience and expertise with others. "I love the sport of combined driving and anytime I can help someone with a question, I am happy to do so. Our sport will only grow

through education and I want to be part of that process."

Considered one of the biggest promoters of combined driving within the industry, Weber describes



Photo: Chester Weber and his team competing at the CAI Riesenbeck. The European equestrian website HorsUs has asked combined driver Chester Weber to join their panel of famous equestrians. Weber will take part in the website's "Ask It" panel where he will answer questions sent it by fans of the website www.HorsUs.eu. (Photo courtesy of My Elisabeth Weber)

combined driving as his passion. He recently traveled with his team to the Washington International Horse Show where he gave a combined driving demonstration to thousands of

spectators. "I love sharing my sport with others," Weber said. "I especially love it when I get to introduce new people to the sport." Weber has had great success both nationally and internationally, bringing home numerous wins under the American flag.

During the summer of 2011 Weber and his team took part in a European tour where Weber won the dressage phase and finished third individually at the prestigious CHIO Aachen. While in Europe Weber also won the CAI Vecses, CAI Altenfelden and the CAI Riesenbeck. Most recently, the decorated driver served as Chef d'Equipe to the Pony and Pony Pairs Teams at the 2011 World Pony Driving Championships in Lipica, Slovenia.

HRTV, The Network for Horse Sports, recognized Weber's talent and contribution to the sport of combined driving and aired a show on Weber earlier this year called "Holding the Reins." The show featured a 24-minute look at the exciting world of combined driving - which is considered one of the fastest growing sports in the industry - and detailed the story of how Weber grew up on a Thoroughbred racehorse farm to become one of our country's leading drivers.

For more information on Weber and his combined driving team, visit their website at www.chesterweber.com. To learn more about the HorsUs website, visit them at www.HorsUs.eu.

Golden Eagle Hunt Seat Team Has Successful Home Show

(Crookston, Minn.)- The University of Minnesota, Crookston Hunt Seat team rebounded and had a very successful weekend at their home competition on November 19-20 at the University Teaching and Outreach Center (UTOC).

Saturday's competition had several major highlights, including a tie for High Point Rider between Angela Peterson (Sr, Detroit Lakes, Minn.) and Chelsea Roetman (So, Owatonna, Minn.). Roetman started the competition with a big win in Open Equitation Over Fences and took a second place finish in Open Equitation on the Flat. Peterson finished second in Novice Equitation Over Fences and won her Intermediate Equitation on the Flat section with two bold and confident rides. Jessica Charles (Jr, Belgrade Lakes, Maine) also had a stellar jumping round, winning her section of Novice Equitation Over

Fences. Amanda Overman (So, Lindenhurst, Ill.) took second in both Novice Equitation Over Fences and Novice Equitation on the Flat. The final team standings came down to the very last ride and even after an outstanding day of competition, U of M, Crookston came in a very close third behind North Dakota State University (NDSU) and University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

Sunday's competition saw another day of solid rounds and competitive rides with the Golden Eagles finishing as the overall winner. Roetman had another set of good rides as she came in third in Open Equitation Over Fences and second in Open Equitation on the Flat. Addie O'Neil (Jr, Redwood Falls, Minn.) found her stride and had a personal best with a second place finish in

Intermediate Equitation Over Fences and a third place finish in On the Flat. Novice Equitation Over Fences riders Peterson and Denise Thompson (So, Rochester, N.Y.) all put in stellar rides but were not rewarded with top placings. However, they put in the quality rounds

and Golden Eagle Head Coach Brooke Leininger was impressed with their confidence level and clearly improved skill sets. Melanie Rodriguez (Jr, Chanhassen, Minn.) came in second in Novice Equitation on the Flat with a solid ride while Hannah Nedrud (So, St. Louis Park, Minn.)

finished second in Advanced Walk Trot Canter with an impressive round. Samantha Kramer (Fr, Corcoran, Minn.) closed the competition with a big win in Walk Trot that helped the Golden Eagles jump to the top of the standings at the end of the day.

"Overall, the team did exactly what I asked of them: put in solid rounds, remain confident under pressure, demonstrate the consistency we've been missing this season and step up the level of riding and overall horsemanship," says Coach Leininger. "The team stuck together through some tough moments and closed the gap on Sunday through perseverance and determination. We now have some time to rest and train hard for the spring

competitions which I think will really help the team continue to build their skill sets both On the Flat and Over Fences."

The U of M, Crookston Hunt Seat squad returns to action Saturday, February 4 and Sunday, February 5 when they travel to Stillwater, Minn. to take part in a show hosted by the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. Shows begin at 1 p.m. and 9 a.m. respectively.

For more information, visit the Golden Eagle Athletics Web site at www.goldeneaglesports.com.

Follow the Golden Eagles on Facebook at Golden Eagle Sports and on Twitter at @UMCAthletics.

The University of Minnesota, Crookston is an 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)



Chelsea Roetman

Happy Holidays from Our Valley to Your Valley!
From the Valley Equestrian News Team

Alexandra Lawson and Imagine My Surprise Ride to Championship Win at 2011 USEF Saddle Seat Medal Final

Kansas City, MO - Alexandra Lawson of North Salem, IN, rode James Williams' Imagine My Surprise to the championship win in the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) Saddle Seat Medal Final presented by Elisabeth M. Goth. The final took place Saturday as part of the United Professional Horsemen's Association (UPHA) American Royal National Championship Horse Show in Kansas City, MO.

The class was filled with top riders from across the country and included a challenging two-phase competition that required both rail work and patterns in both rounds. The reserve championship was awarded to Hunter Chancellor of Evansville, IN, riding Chanti's Prayer, owned by Steven E. Chancellor.

The bronze medal was awarded to Taylor Newton, of Litztown, IN, riding Coco Mojo, owned by Melissa and Nick Maupin.

Riders ages 17 and under are eligible to compete in the Saddle Seat Medal Final by placing first or second in an official qualifying class during the specified qualification period.

Lawson, who was fourth in last year's Saddle Seat Medal Final, won her equitation class at this year's World's Champion-

ship Horse Show at the Kentucky State Fair.

Her name will be engraved on the Adrian Van Sinderen Trophy alongside a prestigious list of prior winners dating back to 1937. The American Horse Shows Association (AHSA) Equitation Medal was established that year by the fourth President of AHSA, Adrian Van Sinderen, as part of his strategy to connect horse people across the U.S. The original Van Sinderen trophy was awarded to the Junior Equitation rider who accumulated the most points in AHSA Medal classes in a given competition year.

As the winner of the year's Saddle Seat Medal

Final, Lawson also received a Freedman Harness handcrafted leather bag. Both the champion and reserve champion received the traditional USEF medals and rose bundles along with coolers and engraved stable halters for their mounts. The youngest

rider in the final - 11-year-old Macy Miles of Rockport, IN - was presented with a Breyer model horse donated by Breyer Animal Creations.

A reception was held after the preliminary phase for all riders, instructors and family members, where gifts were given to the participants and supporters were recognized for their generous contributions.

Supporters of the 2011 final included: Platinum Level, Elisabeth M. Goth; Gold Level, Steve and Terri Chancellor; Silver Level, The McGinnis Family, Glenn A. Werry, Jr.; Bronze Level, Thomas Brock, The Brown Family; and Friends

of the Medal Final, Mary Anne O'Callaghan Cronan. Results from the USEF Saddle Seat Medal Final presented by Elisabeth M. Goth:

CH. Alexandra Lawson, New Salem, IN, aboard Imagine My Surprise, instructed by Lillian Shively

RC. Hunter Chancellor, Evansville, IN aboard Chanti's Prayer, instructed by Lillian Shively

3. Taylor Newton, Litztown, IN, aboard Coco Mojo, instructed by Shelley Fisher

4. Abigail Mutrux, St. Louis, MO, aboard Lemon Shake Up WRF, instructed by Lillian Shively

5. Caitlin Donohue, Inverness, IL, aboard The Bourne Supremacy, instructed by Kenny and Donna Smith

6. Emily Chapman, Tucson, AZ, aboard My One Night Stand, instructed by Bonnie Zubrod

7. Gavin Gagnon, Livermore Falls, ME, aboard Callaway's Born A Star, instructed by Gary Garone

8. Allison Schuh, Seymour, WI, aboard CH Thunder-snow, instructed by Scott/Carol Matton

9. Emily Mayer, Oconomowoc, WI, aboard Mocha's Mudslide, instructed by Scott/Carol Matton

10. Brooke Boyer, Johnston, IA, aboard The Crowd Favorite, instructed by Kent Swalla

Longtime Morgan breeder, Bob Epperson, Knoxville, Tenn., passed away November 8

Born in Greenville, Mississippi, in 1925, Bob was raised in New Orleans, Louisiana.

At 17, Bob joined the Navy and served in the Seabees 107th Naval Construction Battalion and

was a veteran of World War II in the Pacific. After the war, he moved to Knoxville and started Epperson Electric Company, which he operated for 26 years. In 1955, married Gloria (Moore). He loved big game hunting, boating, and helped start the Fort Loudon Yacht Club in 1960. He was a member of the Sertoma Club and was a honorary deputy sheriff. He learned to fly in 1960 and was a life member of Charles McKinsey Lodge. He started land development in several states, building travel trailer resorts and condos.

In the 1970s, the Eppersons started TVM Morgan Horse Farm and Bob served as a director for the American Morgan Horse Association for 11 years. With Gloria, he started the Morgan Horse Youth of the Year Program

that still operates today in memory of their daughter, Cynthia Elaine. After retirement, he and Gloria took up outdoor photography, traveling extensively throughout North America. He presented many

workshops and slideshows in the area. He is dearly loved by his family and grandchildren.

Bob is survived by his wife of 56 years, Gloria Barber Moore Epperson; son, Steven Robert Epperson; daughter-in-law, Susan Weathers Epperson;

grandchildren, Miranda, Michelle and husband David Grorud, Stacey, Robert, Gracie, Daniel, Joseph and Esther. Sister, Jeanette Buck; brother, Wilson Epperson; John Norris Epperson; many beloved nieces, nephews and cousins; and brother-in-law, Hadley Moore. He was preceded in death by his father, Ansel I. Epperson; mother, Leona DeWolfe; daughter, Cynthia Elaine Epperson; sister, Eva Macintosh; sister-in-law, Helen Moore.

Condolences may be offered at www.sherwoodchapel.net.



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Reflecting on the past year and working toward our August 18th 2012 Cowboy Up Cancer ride, we pause to thank you for your continued support, and wish all, a very happy Holiday Season.

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Western Artist Al Shelton - Continued from page 11

knew she was on the radio and TV at that time, so I was pretty proud that I had made a deal with her.

"It was some years later before Ricky Nelson came to my place. He was just growing up and getting to be on the TV - he was very talented and he already played several instruments. I had already moved out of the Farmer's Market and set up shop across the street. After that I had moved to Studio City right there on Ventura Boulevard in the middle of town when Ricky Nelson's brother, David,



brought him to my shop. He had seen Elvis Presley and saw that Elvis had a hand-carved guitar cover on his guitar. (Elvis's leather guitar cover was made by Charles Underwood in Memphis, Tenn.) That's when Ricky wanted to play the guitar. Then, I came to find out that Ricky didn't know how to play guitar at all. So I started doing this cover for him and he would come by to see how I was doing. During this time I taught Ricky his first chords on the guitar. And he caught on so fast! It was almost like he already knew how to play. And so we had quite a few picking sessions around the shop there. And I had a recorder, too, and I recorded his picking. Then all of a sudden he quit coming to the shop. You know I got this guitar cover finished for him and I didn't know what happened to him.

We were pretty good friends, I thought. All of a sudden, I didn't see him anymore. I think it must have been about three months.

Well, he came back one day to show me how he was doing with the guitar. And he just passed me up like a dirty shirt. You see, he was really learning to play the guitar, playing runs and all kinds of skills. Well, it turned out that he had been taking lessons from Joe Maphis. Joe was one of the best pickers in those days. Ricky came to show me how he was doing. And then I started learning from him. I still have a few runs and things that I learned from Ricky.

"Here's another thing I just wanted to throw in here. Harriet Nelson had kept track of my address and she knew where to send Ricky when he needed a guitar cover. So I was pretty proud that she held onto my address and so we got along real good ever after.

"In the year 2000, Capital Records put together a box set of Ricky Nelson music. In this CD box set, titled 'Rick Nelson,' there is a picture of the guitar cover I did for him. And in the back of the booklet, they didn't forget to mention me. I am pretty proud of it.

They got a little paragraph on the back here that says:

"Original leather work by Al Shelton, a former cowboy and horse breaker from Colorado. Al Shelton has honed his leather craft since 1943. Al has developed a celebrity clientele in Hollywood for his exquisite hand-carved leather creations. He created four guitar jackets for Rick.



The most famous is featured on the cover as well as throughout the book. He is proud to have taught Rick his first notes on the guitar and developed a relationship that spanned decades with a very special man and friend.

"I thought that's pretty nice that they gave me that in their book."

More of Al Shelton's oral history and memoirs may be found through the web site: <http://www.artisanstudioworks.com/meetartistalshelton.html>.

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