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All Disciplines,
All the Time!*

June 2012

The Valley Equestrian Newspaper

Your local resource for equestrian events, news and information.

The Many Faces of Minis



Issue Highlights:

In Hot Pursuit by Faye Rudsenske
Tribute to Harlow, ND by Orv Alvshere
A Family Affair: Danna's Miniatures

HORSES IN HISTORY

Seldom Seen

By Erik Arnold

Seldom Seen was the country's smallest dressage horse. He was a gray Connemara/Thoroughbred gelding that was 14-2 HH. Seldom Seen got his name because when he was just a colt, he could hardly be seen over the tall, un-cut grass. He was home-bred in 1970 and was later bought by a man named Peg Whitehurst.

Whitehurst originally bought Seldom Seen for his daughter, Kim Whitehurst, for a pony club event mount. When Peg saw Seldom Seen's ability as a dressage pony and a hunter jumper, he decided that the pony would be a better mount for Lendon Gray, another pony club rider. When she was only five years old, Lendon started riding Seldom Seen in a novice hunter jumper trial. From there on out, they were partners.

Eventually the jumps got too high for the pony to get over so they had to stick with dressage. Seldom Seen earned USDF

(United States Dressage Federation) horse of the year titles at Prix St. Georges three times, and he won the individual gold medal at the 1981 United States Olympic Festival.

He also became an ambassador of the sport of dressage, proving that a small horse of common breeding could compete against some of the best horses in the country. He and Lendon proved that dressage could be for any horse.

This magnificent little pony was retired from competition at the age of seventeen, but he and Lendon

still had many exhibitions all around the world. Everywhere they went, they had a whole fan club waiting for them. Seldom Seen sadly passed away in Florida at the age of 26 in 1996. Lendon Gray carried on her amazing ability of competing in these two breathtaking sports. Seldom Seen is still a hero in the USDF Hall of fame, and no other horse or pony has won as many USDF titles and become an ambassador of dressage.



Seldom Seen ridden by Lendon Gray. Photo courtesy of United States Dressage Federation

Artist Event Unites the Lakota Culture, the American West and the Horse that Helped Build Both

It is always nice when the weather cooperates. Neither gale force winds, monsoon rains or convection oven heat spoiled the weekend of May 18-20 as artists and photographers from around the country met to share in traditional Lakota culture and America's Heritage Horse, the Spanish Mustang.

Two days of set up at the Windcross Conservancy resulted in a Lakota village rising out of the prairie with a line of tipis facing the morning sun along the creek. For the Spanish Mustangs of



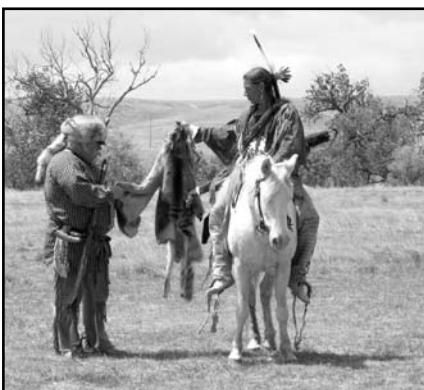
Rules: The first rule of thumb is that Spanish Mustangs are a bit like bears: do not feed them. If you give them treats, you will never get rid of them. The second rule is that Spanish Mustangs have a well defined sense of humor: expect them to get into your gear bags if you leave them all over the prairie. In short, we were not responsible for Spanish Mustang luggage testing failures.

From the horses' perspective, the weekend must have been an event filled extravaganza. Golf carts ferried people and gear from cars to pastures. Tall, off-white tipis grew up out of the prairies, with the noise and activity that accompany a village.

Of course, people hiding in the bushes waiting for 'just the right shot' were surely exciting for the horses. But once they



preserve it was an endless source of interest as first the poles went up and then the crazy people put flapping covers on them. No tipis were lost in the making of this weekend, however there was some discussion as to whether or not horses belonged in houses.



became injured to the strange activity, the horses took less interest in the goings on. The treks to the other side of the preserve to bring them back for one last run began. Normally catchable horses saw you coming by the third day and seemed to say, "Oh boy, here we go again."

For the people, the weekend was an incredible opportunity to see history in motion, to live that history and to enjoy great company on the open prairie. World class artists went away with a reservoir of new material and an understanding of the Windcross Conservancy preservation project: a dedication to preserve the living remnant of America's native horse, the Spanish Mustang. The link between the Native American and the native horse is unique in the prairie tribes. Thanks to the amazing artists and the Windcross Conservancy, it will be immortalized in art for all to see.

Charles Wilhelm: Ultimate Foundation Training from Start to Finish

Crossing an Obstacle

Many of us ride trails that cross creeks that may be dry in summer and fill with winter rains. Also, you never know when you will encounter a dead fall that blocks a trail. If your horse balks at a creek or any other obstacle, you need to get him comfortable with crossing.

To teach a horse to go over obstacles the horse must already understand certain things and we must have control of the horse. You must be able to control your horse's nose, shoulders and hind quarters. The horse must know how to lunge on a 12 or 14-foot line and give to pressure. You need to have established a strong go-forward cue with your horse and be able to stop his feet and change direction.

To begin this lesson we start with ground work. A simple object like a pole is placed on the ground. A pole is not usually a threatening object although some horses can have issues with even these benign objects. Cue the horse forward on the line, then stop his feet and change directions. When the horse is moving calmly, put the pole down about ten feet away. Begin to work the horse on the lunge line several feet away from the pole and as you move the horse around, he will pass between you and the pole. Stop the horse at the furthest point from the pole and pause. Let the horse look at the pole and then send the horse the other way around.

Once you have the horse comfortably passing between you and the pole, ask it to take a step over the object. When you ask, you have to step toward the pole moving the shoulder away from you with just enough pressure that the horse will move toward the pole. The horse can choose to go over the pole or between you and the pole but do not let him go around it. You may want to do this exercise near an arena wall or fence to keep the horse from going around the outside of the pole. You do not want the horse to pull you but you must block the horse from going around the pole.

The second criterion is that the horse must not be allowed to stop and change direction away from the pole. If the horse is concerned about the pole, you need to change the horse's reaction. Most horses that do not want to go over an object will try to stop, backup or bolt in a different direction. In this exercise, the horse is allowed to go over the pole or between you and the pole. The horse is not allowed to stop and reverse direction. If the horse does this, you must stop the horse immediately with whatever amount of pressure is necessary and send him back forward again. It is all right if you have to step back away from the pole to open a door for the horse to go between you and the pole. You do not want to lose the forward motion.

Once you have done this several times you'll find the horse is more willing to go over the pole. At first, the horse may rush or jump the pole. Once the horse is comfortable going over the pole at a walk, you

can add a second pole. When the horse is comfortable with this you can roll out a tarp, 8 feet long and folded to 12 inches wide. Lay it on the poles so that it does not move and ask the horse to go over it. Again, when the horse is comfortable, open the tarp to 24 inches wide. Once the horse will go willingly over the tarp, keep opening the tarp wider. The length of the tarp is also important because you don't want to make it easy for the horse to go around.

Once you have mastered this exercise on the ground, move to the saddle. Do the same thing going forward with good control of the hips. If the horse jumps the object and trots off, you must be able to pick up the inside rein, block with the outside rein and move the hips over. If the horse goes off at a canter or lope, depending on your discipline, you need to circle the horse down to a trot and then move the hips over. Moving the hips over breaks the speed and is a way of discouraging the horse from bolting. Once the horse is under control, take him back across the object. Continuing to do this begins to build the horse's confidence. Eventually the tarp can be 12 feet long and 8 feet wide and the horse will be comfortable crossing it.

When you are on the trail and come to an obstacle, it is important to remember that a horse can go in six different directions, right, left, up, down, forward and back. If the horse backs up, drive him forward. You can use spurs or a stick and drive it forward but if the horse is very apprehensive, wait until the horse has stopped backing. Keep the nose directed at the object; do not allow the

horse to turn around. Keep the nose straight and the moment the horse stops backing, ask him to go forward. An established go-forward cue is important here. If your horse jumps a creek, once he is over, let him continue for 10 or 15 feet. Pick up one rein, turn him around and move a hip over. Pause and send him back over the creek. If he jumps again, repeat the process until he walks through it. Then you can pick up one rein, move his shoulder or hip over and ask him to stand in the creek. If your horse exhibits anxiety, don't force him to stay there. Let him out and then take him back through it again. Go back and forth until he no longer cares.

If you ask the horse to go straight and he goes to the right or left, his nose may be straight but his shoulder is bleeding out. You need to work on shoulder control. If the horse wants to go sideways and you don't have control of the shoulders, you will not be successful crossing an obstacle. It comes down to having a solid go-forward cue and good control of the shoulders. You need to practice this before you get in the saddle. If you have that, you can teach your horse to go over most objects that you may encounter on the trail. This exercise is discussed in detail in both of my books, Starting Baby Jaz and Building Your Dream Horse. I also describe these exercises in Ground Manners and Leading, a DVD that is currently available.

Charles Wilhelm is a Washington-based trainer and clinician. Visit his web site at www.charleswilhelm.com.

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Nominations Now Open for the Whinny Awards

The Women's Horse Industry Network has announced that nominations are now open for the WHINNY awards. The awards identify and recognizes the men and women who are dedicated to helping horses and the horse industry overall. Last year's event was an outstanding success and organizers feel that this year will be even better.

This year WHIN has added a lot of new categories> "Last year we didn't have categories and we think that by adding them, we can help some of the top people in our industry get the recognition and support they deserve," states Catherine Master, WHIN's President.

The WHINNY awards will be held in Nashville, Tennessee at the conclusion of WHIN's annual meeting and expo. Organizers are planning on hosting the event in October and as soon as the exact dates are determined, they will be posted on WHIN's website.

For additional information or to nominate someone, please visit WHIN's website or call 615-730-7833.

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www.charleswilhelm.com
 6496 Crow Canyon Road • Castro Valley, CA 94552

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PO Box 64
 Sabin, MN 56580
 theVENews@gmail.com
 (320) 209-8523

Owner/Publisher/Editor
 Ley Bouchard
 leybou@gmail.com
 (701) 361-8648

Regional Sales Manager/
 Creative Consultant
 Tammy Finney
 RR3500@aol.com
 (218) 790-6056

Advertising Consultants
 Kari Hagstrom
 (320) 766-2620
 kari.venews@hotmail.com

David Olson
 (701) 566-3704
 Dave.VENews@gmail.com

Tina Tamke-Boury
 (218) 230-1156
 runaroundranch@hotmail.com

Julie Cardwell
 JCardwell11@gmail.com
 701.367.8105

Charles Schaal
 charles.schaal@gmail.com
 (507) 319-2531

Copy Editor Support
 Final Touch Proofreading
 and Editing, LLC
 mann.heidi@gmail.com

Cover Art
 Mary Gault

Contributing Writers
 Orv Alvshere
 John Alan Cohan
 Fran Lynghaug
 Faye Rudsenske
 Charles Wilhelm

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About the Cover

Miniature horses have become a huge part of the horse industry and an important part of many of our families. On the cover, Janet and Merrill Meyer of Danna's Miniatures, shared many photos from their collection of minis. Clockwise from the top left: Espresso and Princess share a sweet moment in their pasture.

Top right: Taylor Derry of Thompson, ND taking her new yearling miniature horse home riding in the back seat of dad's pickup truck. She named her mini, "Cowgirl". She is daughter of Eric and Kay Derry of Thompson, ND. Bottom left: a mare and foal in the Meyer pasture; middle left: Decorated Blue Ice Afyre a 2011 foal. The Meyers are featured in the centerfold article, "A Family Affair."

The background image is a Valley Equestrian News file photo taken at the Minnesota Horse Expo where they routinely bring out a miniature horse to contrast the difference in size between the largest and the smallest of equines.

2 Artist Event at Windcross Conservancy



Danna's Velvet Marquis Espresso yearling stallion

10 A Family Affair:



Danna's Miniatures Janet and Merrill Meyer of Portland, ND

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Another humorous musing of Faye Rudsenske on her life with minis and one particular determined stud.



Minis of all types and breeds decorate this issue of the VEN.

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Letter to the Editor

US Horse Slaughter for Profit

By Alyson Chandler

Public outcry is what passed the 1970s Horse Prevention Act. It's time again to bring the humane treatment of horses in the United States into this century by passing the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act of 2011.

By now, many have become aware of the horse slaughter issue that raised its head when the ban on horse slaughter was lifted. The ban was part of the larger economic recovery bill that was passed by Congress in November 2011 and signed by the President. The ban never stopped horse slaughter in the U.S. -- only the funding for inspectors to perform inspections at slaughterhouses. Horses were still transported out of the country to be slaughtered during the period of the ban.

In February 2012, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) announced that according to a newly released poll by Lake Research Partners, 80 percent of American voters are opposed to the slaughter of U.S. horses for human consumption. The nationwide survey reveals that regardless of gender, political affiliation or geographic location, or whether they live in an urban or rural area, Americans overwhelmingly oppose horse slaughter. Further, it confirms that a vast majority of horse owners oppose the slaughtering of our nation's equines.

So, if 80 percent of Americans oppose slaughter in the U.S., who are the 20 percent that see a profit opportunity in exporting horse meat? Why do they have influence to start up the business of slaughter in the U.S. again?

There are currently two bills, one in the Senate (S.1176) and one in the House of Representatives (HR2966), both entitled The American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act of 2011. These two bills have been referred to committee for review. The American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act of 2011 would ban both the slaughter of horses for food in the U.S. and the transport of horses to other countries for slaughter. It is vitally important that this get passed and signed into law. The Horse Prevention Act of the '70s in no way

prevents slaughter and does not address the cruelty issues that exist and will continue to exist if these laws are not changed. The language in The American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act of 2011 would stop this practice once and for all.

So, if you are one of the 80 percent of Americans who oppose the slaughter of horses in the U.S., here is what you can do. Be a voice for American horses!

Do your research and become aware and informed of the truth of this issue: <http://www.animallawcoalition.com/horse-slaughter>; <http://www.equineadvocates.org>

Write or call your Senators and Representatives to voice your support for S1176 & HR2966. More importantly, contact the committee in which each is currently in debate and voice your opposition there (this is where your voice would really be effective). Here is what actress Ali MacGraw wrote:

"As your constituent and on behalf of everyone who loves horses and despises inhumane treatment of them, thank you for your immediate reaction to the cruelty rampant in the horse-racing industry. There is one additional thing that I would beg you to do: Please, lend your support to the critical American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act of 2011 immediately." [The act] "would outlaw not only horse slaughter in the U.S. but also the transport of horses for slaughter elsewhere. It would effectively end the use of U.S. horses for food." Ecorazzi

• Sign a petition: <http://www.change.org/petitions/american-horse-slaughter-prevention-act-of-2012-hr2966>

• Follow the progress of the bills: <http://www.horsefund.org/horse-slaughter-legislative-timeline-2011.php>; www.popvov.com/bills/us/112/s1176

• Be active and get involved on some level and inform others. This issue is too important to let the 20 percent benefit at the cost of the lives of our American horses.

Outcry from the public worked in the '70s; now we need to cry out again and be that voice of the horse to stop this injustice.

Visit www.UBRA.org for latest information including upcoming events, results, current standings and more!



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COWBOY MEMORIES WITH ORV

A Tribute to Harlow N.D. on the Occasion of Their Centennial June 30, 2012

SMALL TOWN SOUNDS REMEMBERED

The old adage reads: You can take the boy out of the country, but you can't take the country out of the boy. Quality of life has been used often to describe North Dakota. I was privileged to have been raised in rural North Dakota. We learned self-reliance because the state hadn't been composed of nameless seas of humanity that prevented finding our own identity.

Many villages expired before our State's Centennial. Each had their own individuality. In retrospect, they were nearly self-sufficient in generations past. Small towns provided nearby household staples, machinery repair, education, mail, churches, grain exchanges, railroad transportation and social gathering points. Pioneers homesteaded with the power of the horse.



WHISTLES, WHINNEYS, MOOS, BELLS, FOOT- STEPS AND APPLAUSE

My hometown of Harlow has quieted, perhaps retired, and the sounds are mostly in our memories. It's been decades since we heard smaller tractors and combines seeding and harvesting. A farmer (now called Ag Producer) who took sick, heard sounds as neighbors planted his crop in a day. Cattle sounded off as milking time neared. A steam engine train arrived that we called the Cream Can Express.

Remembered are the sounds of the first electric church organ, church bells, train steam whistles, squeaks of clamp-on ice skates and parents who cheered youthful basketball players. Those green and gold Hi-Liners uniforms are but a blip in the passage of time and were coached by volunteers. The crack of the bat and the clinks of horse-shoe games were welcome sounds. School bell chimes silenced the sounds of youthful exuberance. Skiers talked excitedly while savoring hot chocolate. We had an enviable ski lift, a team of fast pinto horses. Country church closed - not forgotten. The VFW organized fund raisers after house fires. The clip-clop of 8 hooves sounded as ranchers and farmers delivered cream cans by bobbed to the depot, drove to the post office for mail, and to school to pick up students.

COMMUNITY SOUNDS LINGER (SMALL TOWN SOUNDS REMEMBERED) Elizabeth Ronning Solberg published Harlow pioneer stories in The Long and Happy Life of Mrs. Peelyant. Covered wagons

brought homesteaders. The first REA farm hookup was seven miles north of town, once known as the sixth largest Percheron draft horse breeder in the U.S. The first commercial REA hookup was the Harlow elevator in 1937. That elevator still has a reputation for doing things well electrically. Harlow was in the first ND Babe Ruth Baseball league and the first no hitter was pitched on our diamond by our pitcher, my brother. Harlow was to have been the premiere site of the movie, Harlow.

Ironically, the lack of a movie theatre made it our famous non-event. Local soldiers lost a life in Vietnam and one in Viet Nam. Many young men volunteered for World War II and Korea. I flew from Heidelberg Headquarters to Fargo and rode a cattle truck home.

TURNING BACK PAGES OF TIME Learning came from many sources. While the mini wooden school bus came down the driveway behind the horses, we stepped in snow with overshoes and brushed away the barnyard phews. I'd learned to assemble bolts blindfolded. Sheep learned to power washing machines on a slanted treadmill. We learned to recite our lines for school plays. Questioned about tipping toilets on Halloween, we learned to keep confidences. Everything I needed to know I learned in the hayfield. The noon hour school of boxing at the repair shop taught us not to put on boxing gloves with the guy who owned the gloves.

BOWL AND BALL GAMES OF BYGONE DAYS Wetting my pants in first grade - that's spelled b-a-w-l. As a fourth grader I begged to play softball with the upper grades. The two responses were: "You couldn't hit the barn," and "Let the kid play." My first-at-bat-hit rolled under the short fence garnering a homerun and respect. During the next four years we tried repeatedly to hit the ball through the school barn window. We came within inches but chipped a lot of barn paint - not forgotten. The VFW organized fund raisers after house fires. The cracker box hall allowed little maneuvering room, but in my last game there I scored 20 of our 40 winning points.

BACKWARD GLANCES At 100 years old, the town is quieter and smaller. The store and depot closed. The stockyards and school are gone. Education was provided for many, including a dentist, civil

engineer, computer scientists, professors, music teachers, public servants and a state labor commissioner. Banks, auto dealers, blacksmith shops, service stations and cafes have disappeared. The last barrel of frozen lutefish is gone from in front of the Home Store. The last ice cream cone has been dipped and immortalized on a national CD, The Sound of Poetry.

The town is affectionately referred to as the whole nine yards. When arriving over the hill from the south, the first eye-catching scenes are of the buttes north of town. The next three exits are Harlow, are quoted with tongue-in-cheek. Five post offices within 7 miles have closed so it is not treated like a town anymore; once boxes of peeping chicks were delivered there. Twelve miles became the nearest town within 40 miles for shopping. The village has symbolically retired, after graciously serving its purpose. More important than the destination IS THE RIDE! One can leave small town ND, but it's always part of you.

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The American Miniature Horse

"The smallest horse that makes for the biggest smile," is the best statement describing the American Miniature Horse. One cannot help but smile when first introduced to this amazing little animal. Radiant with color, it brings a sense of adventure and playfulness. Its miniature movements and endearing personality are enjoyable just to be around. It is big fun in a little package!

The Miniature has served in a broad spectrum of equine roles over the centuries: as a royal gift, devoted pet, novelty item, public exhibit, mine worker, and research animal. Yet it has remained an endearing and special little horse. It comes in a rainbow of colors, markings, and several body types.

No bigger than a large dog, it possesses the conformation characteristics found in most horse breeds, ranging from the draft to the Arabian, though in recent years it tends to be more refined. Even in its diminutive height, it continues to maintain the big horse look, displaying an elegant, scaled-down version of a horse.

Miniatures can provide all the fun and excitement of any horse breed but in a much handier package. They make it possible to own a horse without a big pasture and large barn. One acre can support as many as three Miniature Horses. They take a proportionately smaller amount of maintenance: feed and stabling costs are about one-tenth that of a large horse. Feeding routines are basically the same, but the care and clean-up is significantly less and can be performed safely by persons of any age, including children. Miniatures tend to thrive on pasture, sunshine, and room to run and play.

Their Lilliputian size is just the first of many attributes that make them special. Eager to please, they make a gentle and affectionate companion for people of all ages and interests, from young children to senior citizens, and from the novice horse person to the consummate show professional. Their roles vary from backyard pet or gorgeous show horse to a therapy companion for the handicapped. They are popular at parades, parties, nursing homes, schools, and backyards, where the fun is shared with others. When other breeds encounter economic dips in their value, typically

the Miniature either retains or increases in its appreciation, whether as an investment, show partner, or companion.

History: The Miniature Horse's history is as diverse as its color patterns. The first small horses were most likely the products of survival in harsh natural climates and limited feed. After standard sized horses developed, smaller horses became more unique to breed. Over the years, progressively smaller equines of various types were developed. Finally a diminutive

The Mighty Miniature: The Miniature Horse today has become a true miniature version of a well-balanced, standard sized horse. Miniatures are in fact horses, not ponies, and have the same temperaments, reactions and motivations of other horses. Their small size does not make them fragile. Many who observe them marvel at their strength and agility as well as their size. They are also extremely versatile and excel in many disciplines. Miniature Horse shows host a variety of classes, including halter, hunter/jumper, costume, obstacle, obstacle driving,

However, some special care should be taken with the Miniatures. Because the average adult Miniature weighs only 150 to 250 pounds, they should never be ridden by anyone but the smallest of children (under 70 pounds). Also, Miniatures are typically prone to overeating, so it is important to monitor their nutritional needs and avoid excessive feeding. Though Miniatures are affectionate and easy to handle, individual personalities and abilities can vary, which is true of all equines.

Registration: The American Miniature Horse Association (AMHA) registers Miniatures that have both parents already registered with AMHA. Horses must be blood-typed and/or DNA tested before their offspring can be registered. Horses can't be registered if they exceed 34 inches in height at the withers. Temporary papers are issued to eligible Miniatures whose parents are both registered with AMHA. If a horse remains 34 inches or less after five years of age, it can be permanently registered.

The American Miniature Horse Registry (AMHR) is another large organization for Miniature Horses. Its parent registry is the American Shetland Pony Club, which was founded in 1888 as a registry for Shetlands being imported from Europe at that time. It expanded into two breed registries: The American Shetland Pony Club and the American Miniature Horse Registry. The height of its registered Miniatures ranges from 34 inches and under for Division A, and 34 to 38 inches for Division B. No horse over 38 inches is eligible for registration with AMHR. The two divisions of horses never compete against each other.



horse was produced for a broad range of uses, from European court pets to hauling ore carts in mines.

Historians tend to support the idea that the Miniature Horse is a derivative of many different breed sources utilized over the past 400 years. Popular belief is that its bloodlines trace back to English and Dutch mine horses. As documented in the pedigrees of Miniatures today, they also drew upon the blood of the Shetland Pony. The first mention of small horses being imported from Great Britain to the United States was in 1888. They were purchased to work in the Appalachian coal mines where it was necessary to use small horses for hauling mine carts. As late as 1950, they continued this work, although a number of small horses still work in mines today. Research shows there was little public awareness of true Miniatures until 1960.

Those who recognized the value of the little horses started breeding for quality as well as a diminutive size. The goal was to produce a petite equine with the looks of a standard sized breed type. Further breeding specifically for a small size was aided by an increased knowledge of genetics.

and speedy roadster driving. The obstacle class is performed in-hand while the horses are led through the course.

People of all ages and for various reasons are attracted to the Miniatures. Children who are afraid of standard-sized horses will often embrace a Miniature Horse or its foal. Foals are particularly lovable due to their petite size, ranging from 16 to 21 inches in height at birth. Elderly adults who experience increasing difficulty managing the bigger size of a horse, find the Miniature easier and more enjoyable to handle by comparison. Individuals with special needs have found interaction with the Miniature Horse to be an excellent substitute for full-sized horses that might compromise their conditions or abilities.

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A Tip from the Judge

The most common mistake people make is not preparing ahead of time for the classes. This involves looking at the rulebook and becoming familiar with what is required of the class -

there is nothing worse than being disqualified simply because you weren't prepared and could have avoided the situation.

I also encourage people to learn from each other. I don't know of any breeder or trainer who wouldn't lend a piece of advice if asked.

Adam Longman, Longman Miniatures
AMHR/ASPC/ASPR Senior judge.

In Hot Pursuit

by Faye Rudenske

For those who own horses, some of the most dreaded words are: "The horses are out!" Your heart seems to drop and the adrenaline kicks in as you rush to find the errant critters who are normally meek and mild, but now are acting as if they have never been domesticated in their life. With bugged eyes, tails flipped over their backs, nostrils flaring and snorting, it looks like they're ready to sprout wings and launch. Of course, the key, if your pounding heart can take it, is to act nonchalant, as if you don't see or hear them, and to totally ignore their presence. If they're headed for the open road or are already running down it, then that's a different matter. In that case, grab a halter and rope and some oats to shake in a bucket. Invariably, the fat one will hear the sound of "food!" and generally, if you catch one, then it's easier to round up the others.

I've had my fair share of "naughties" over the years. My elderly mother loved the Minis, but oftentimes forgot to latch the gate. Many a meal was interrupted by "The ponies are out!" as they galloped by the dining room table and headed for the blacktop road. Usually they ran about a quarter of a mile, then turned around and came back sashaying into the yard while giving me the horsey finger as they passed. Oh, yes, more than my fair share of those escapades!

I sometimes think all my equine experiences happen for a reason. Could it be my mission in life to translate these experiences and educate others? I'm not sure, but I often think "Why me?" It seems that if a horse is going to do something, it's going to be on my watch! Murphy's Law, I guess.

Based on all those experiences, I have become a safety freak: It's easier to prevent than to fix or treat – everyone knows that, right? But how can you possibly predict what's in the minds of those Mini studs?

For the May 2012 issue of VEN, I wrote "Horse in a Box" and talked about the act of conception that took place through a fence between Zorro and Misty, and the resulting foal. Well, fast-forward....

We had a new Miniature stallion named Gold Rush, a palomino pinto we had purchased in Mississippi. He didn't know he was 30 inches; he thought he was about 17 hands, and sometimes I thought he was, too. As with his predecessor Zorro, we eventually came to an understanding, but not without a lot of teeth gnashing, cursing under my breath sweetly and sweating – all on my part, of course. I showed him at a three-day show in the heat and humidity of August one year and thought I was going to DIE! It was his first show, and he thought everything was fair game, breeding-wise, regardless of whether it was a mare or not. We finally got it sorted out, and he actually did very well in the dozen or so classes we showed

in. However, I knew that if his career was to continue, I would have to find some-one young who could run with him in the jumping classes – which he loved.

In September of that same year, a palomino mare joined our herd, and Gold Rush fell in love – instantly. He was very vocal about it and showed off his manly form to her whenever she deigned to glance his way. He decided, on his own, that spring was way too long to wait for that mare! One morning, the call came: "Gold Rush is in with Tess!" He had gone through two fences to get to the little mare! Apparently, her soulful doe eyes



were too much to ignore, and yep, you guessed it, a cremello colt was born the following summer.

Space at our facility was at a premium, which is what happens when you have too many horses. Grimly determined to prevent a repeat, I decided to put a Half-Arabian mare in the paddock next to Gold Rush. I had just weaned her foal, who was on the opposite side of the farm with his weaning companions. I felt pretty smug. She was about 14.2 HH and didn't take very kindly to either the weaning process or the smart-aleck little stud on the other side of the pipe fence.

I should have remembered (and believed) a friend who stopped by one day when we were gone and said something about never having seen a horse "climb" a pipe fence like Gold Rush had. I thought he was, perhaps, exaggerating a bit (as he has been known to do), although he swore he watched Gold Rush do it right in front of his eyes, so he figured he'd better catch him and put him in a locked enclosure until we got home.

The first couple days, a truce of sorts developed between Gold Rush and the Half-Arabian mare. He preened, pranced and danced. She ignored him. He strutted, screamed and pitched a fit. She ignored him. Perfect! Oh, woe to those who get too complacent!

The call came about 8:30 one morning from my husband: "Gold Rush is in with Majji! You better get out here quick!"

These particular paddocks are situated behind the riding arena and not readily visible from the house. I don't really remember rushing to get there; it was more of a leisurely stroll. After all, Majji was a "big" horse in comparison to him. What could a 30-inch stud possibly do to her? I soon discovered that size is relative. I'm not sure how long he had been in with her, but it was obvious he'd been busy.

Like Burt Reynolds with Jackie Gleason "in hot pursuit" of Burt Reynolds in the movie Smoky and the Bandit, the mare was lathered up like she had run the Kentucky Derby, the Preakness and the Belmont consecutively in record time.

By this time, three of us were watching with our mouths hanging open in disbelief. Had I known how long this escapade would continue, we would have gotten the video camera because, to this day, it's still unbelievable.

Majji's paddock was 100-plus feet long and about 70 feet wide, and Gold Rush herded her like a wild stallion trying to get her to do his bidding. When she tried to kick or bite him, he ran underneath her belly! Imagine two horses running together with one underneath the belly of the other! He alternately dodged, ducked and herded, all the while intent upon breeding her.

My husband was yelling, "Do something!"

"Go ahead!" I shot back. "I'm not about to get in between those two!"

Around and around, in between the small trees and curves of the paddock, up and down the fence perimeter he chased her, dodging all her attempts to squash his manly pursuit. Intervention was futile. When I tried to entice the mare with oats, she gave us a look like, "You're crazy if you think I'm going to stop with that little *@# in pursuit."

The chase lasted another 10 minutes, or maybe longer (it seemed like forever as my eyes were moving so fast watching the horses' circles that I was dizzy), before Gold Rush went in for the "kill." He neatly boxed her into a corner and took out each hind leg, one at a time, and then her front legs. She folded like an accordion and lay there in defeat. Triumphant, he checked

her out to see if she was in heat. She wasn't, thankfully, or I might be starting a new breed of Mini Arabians. Piqued, he stalked off with an arrogant swagger as if it were just another day



at the stable!

The mare was not injured, and until the day she was sold, she loathed Gold Rush, yet respected him from a distance. If she even thought she saw him, her ears were pinned so tight against her head you couldn't have pried them up with a crowbar.

The fence has been remodeled many times since, and the paddock next to Gold Rush houses only boys now. I've thought about changing it as I need the space, but I really am trying to retire... and I don't need any more "oops."



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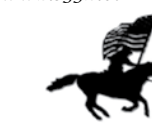
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A Family Affair: Janet and Merrill Meyer and Danna's Miniatures

The horse industry is crowded with nice folks who love horses, work to promote the breeds they own and mentor youth who continue the lessons learned. Janet and Merrill Meyer of Portland, N.D. take this philosophy just a little bit further.

Adam Longman, a long-time friend and colleague explains: "I think that the Meyers are just genuinely nice people - they go out of their way to help anyone and everyone who asks. I also feel that they are unique in the respect that they understand a variety of different disabilities and the patience that is required for people with those. They have taken this knowledge and developed it into a great patience for working with children of various skill levels and learning situations as well as helping those with other challenges in their lives. We have a young girl in our training stable who definitely looks up to the Meyers and has frequently said "If they can do it with a disability, then there's no reason I can't either." It's great to see that attitude and positivity coming from this family. I have known the Meyers on a professional level for 6-7 years, and since coming to our training stable have become much more than clients - I would consider them some of our closest friends."

The Meyers bought their first two registered minis from Dennis and Joyce Scott in

South Dakota in September of 2004. They wanted calm and gentle horses that would be easy for people with special needs to show and raise. They had ridden horses and raised a few foals during the past five years but were looking for animals with which their daughter, Danna, would be able to handle and work on

in ND, SD, MN, NE, KS, MO, OK, IA, TX and even Manitoba, Canada. One of our Senior Stallions is Dakota San Juan Marquis and one of our senior mares, is Tibbs Black Velvet. Both are our original mini purchases. We currently have around 60 miniature horses including 11 babies born in 2012. We always have horses available for sale."

Janet was born and raised in Mayville-Portland, ND, graduated from Mayville State University and is currently a licensed real property appraiser. Merrill was born and raised in northeast Missouri, raised on a farm and enjoyed raising crops and livestock. Merrill was active in FFA as a student and later as an instructor in Missouri. He moved to North Dakota 1999 when he took a

job with a local company as a crop insurance adjuster. Merrill and Janet were married in 2001 when Danna was 13 years old. Danna's father is Kevin Hanson of Hatton, ND. The couple live on the homestead of Janet's grandparents, Thomas and Nora Skadeland. "We love living in the country," said Janet. Merrill has a daughter and two grandsons who live in Missouri. Janet has a daughter, Danna Hanson, 23, who lives at home with Merrill and Janet in rural Portland, ND.

"We have so much fun and laugh when we are driving a couple of horses at the same time. Danna wants to race, but we don't gallop our horses or race while driving them in carts. We have taken a few mini horses to the local nursing home and enjoy talking to the elderly residents. Often, the horses remind an elder of their days farming with horses and we enjoy hearing their stories.

"We always participate in the adult costume classes at the AMHR (American Miniature Horse Registry)



Janet Meyer and Merrill Meyer with Danna Hanson and a miniature horse at a show.



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a daily basis. "We knew Danna had a special love for dogs and horses. After graduation from high school Danna wanted to continue living at home. As parents of a child with special needs, we found ourselves looking for a means to keep her busy and occupied right at home," said Janet. "She will be our 'little girl' for many years to come. Merrill was born with a birth defect and as a result has only one leg. All three of us have a love for horses and riding was becoming more difficult for Merrill each year. Therefore, we decided to look into miniature horses after reading so much about them. We went to our first miniature horse show in Huron, SD at the SD State Fair. We met many nice people who continued to help and encourage us to show. Renee LaBarre Reiten of Lucky Hart Ranch in Petersburg, ND loaned us several miniature horse magazines, "The Journal." We were amazed at the beautiful horses and hooked. We saw how people drove their mini horses with two-wheeled carts. A couple from Wisconsin told us that when we start to drive minis we would love it and prefer driving over riding horses. Well, Carmie and Tom were correct. All three of us love minis and driving and just playing with them. Danna's best friend is her show gelding, "Max of the Goof Troop." She talks to him several times every day. Often, she is outside before 6 a.m. to tell him good morning and often she runs to the barn at bedtime to tell him good night. Danna and Max have been exhibiting together now for seven years. We have attended miniature horse shows

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The Benefits of Minis

The VEN staff asked two local breeders why miniature horses seem to be gaining in popularity and what modifications people need to make for the smaller equine in their life. Adam Longman from Madison, Minn., is owner and trainer at Longman Miniatures. He has been a trainer of miniature horses for 16 years and is a show judge. Ramona Holt is owner of RCW Miniature Horses in Jasper, Minn. They both shared their views on miniature horses:

Adam Longman, Owner and Trainer, Longman Miniatures
www.longmanminiatures.com

"Miniatures are a great breed of horse for those families looking for something more manageable in the equine breeds. They are small enough that smaller children are less intimidated by them, they are less likely to cause serious injury (even though they still do the normal "horse" behavior), they eat considerably less than their full-size counterparts and tend to cost less to maintain. They are also a great alternative for people who are looking to continue their equine events (showing, driving, and competition) but have a more limited amount of acreage or finances to manage a horse.

"Our trailer is a standard "full-size" trailer that we have converted to accommodate the minis. We have a four-horse straight load trailer that we have modified with miniature stalls and can now comfortably travel with 18-20 minis. There are smaller trailers available

though built specifically for minis. "Our fencing and facilities are "down-sized" slightly. The stalls are smaller and the fences slightly lower, but otherwise, the miniature horse still requires the same accommodations as a larger horse. Everything, including the feeding amounts, is scaled to their small size.

"As for personality, people often ask if they are "mean or temperamental." I think that every breed of horse has those "bad eggs" in their realms, minis are no exception. However, if you talk to breeders and trainers, they can point you in the direction of a great



Gold Rush
Photo courtesy of Janet Meyer

horse for your needs. Just because they are small does NOT mean that you can simply treat them like a puppy or not discipline and train them, that is what causes poor behavior and attitudes in horses. Those animals that are worked regularly and trained properly will be great companions for children and adults of every age."

Ramona Holt,
owner of RWC Miniatures,
http://www.rcwhorses.com/:

"I think minis are growing in popularity predominantly with baby boomers. They love horses, but don't necessarily want to ride anymore. Minis require less space, less feed and still feed the desire to have horses! That love of minis then gets passed down to children and grandchildren who get involved with grandmas horses and, voila, you get a fast growing breed.

"I use a conventional 3-horse slant load trailer and haven't even modified it with mini dividers, depending on what or how many I'm hauling, they either stand tied or are riding loose in their own compartment.

"The only real difference in fencing is the electric has to be low, 12 to 14 inches off the ground which helps prevent those pasture escapes from the Houdini types.

"As far as health concerns, minis are very hardy; foaling is far trickier with a miniature horse, there is a lot more dystocia than with full sized, so breeding operations should be entered into with a pretty good knowledge base to avoid heartbreak. On the upside there are far fewer cuts and wounds on minis; somehow they are more "street smart" than the larger breeds and very rarely have

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"I used to raise Paints and Quarter Horses and think they are pretty darn smart, but a mini is clever, in most cases you have to think pretty fast to stay ahead of them! If their handler treats them like they would a 1200-pound animal and doesn't take advantage of their size to bully them, they learn at warp speed and for the most part want very much to please their humans.

"Feed is interesting because bloodlines matter. Some are "easy keepers" and do require a diligent feed program to keep them at a healthy weight. Some are just like downsized biggies and can be fed accordingly; I figure an average sized mini requires about one-fifth of the feed of a full-sized horse. I think the reason people think that minis are founder prone is

because it is difficult for less informed owners to scale that feed down appropriately, and that is where the breeder that sells the horse should come in and mentor them until they have a handle on proper mini care.

Minis for the most part have fabulous feet, much stronger hooves, less cracking etc. Owners need to inform farriers that aren't familiar with minis that because of their weight, the heels need to be trimmed. Unlike a full-sized horse, minis simply don't wear off their heels. There are many little differences but a reputable breeder will make sure the new owner is informed when they purchase their new horse!"

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American Shetland Pony Club, Inc., Upgrades, Expands and Diversifies 2012 Plans Continue History of Serving Small Equine World

Morton, IL — The American Shetland Pony Club, Inc., one of the oldest breed registries in the United States, is not sitting on its laurels in 2012. Instead, this multi-faceted and multi-breed association is boldly expanding some of its offerings and upgrading other programs or division for a fresh new approach this year.

The American Shetland Pony Club, Inc., (ASPC) was established in 1888 to govern the then-burgeoning interest in Shetlands in the United States. ASPC is one of this country's oldest equine governing bodies. In addition to championing and advancing the American Shetland, the ASPC established other breeds and divisions under its auspices that complement the association's original vision and goals.

This summer, the ASPC will hold one of the oldest breed championships in this country when the National Shetland Congress celebrates its 65th anniversary. The 2012 National Shetland and Show Pony Congress will be held August 7-11 in Tulsa, OK.

In September, one of the ASPC Inc's, most successful divisions – the American Miniature Horse Registry (AMHR) – will hold its 25th national championship show. The AMHR is the oldest Miniature Horse registry in existence, and its show is the largest small equine event in the world.

In 1971, the ASPC pioneered the first Miniature Horse registry in this country with the creation of the AMHR. In the 1980s, the club boldly enhanced this division's long-term prospects when it expanded the height

options and created a second division recognizing slightly larger, but still diminutive horses. To date, the AMHR has registered approximately 225,000 Miniatures. Watch for news on the 25th AMHR National Championship Show this fall. This year this competition is expected to draw between 1,600 and 2,000 Miniature Horses.

Establishing the AMHR is not the ASPC's only success in expanding its versatility. In the 1980s, recognizing that some Shetland breeders were still enamored with the Shetland style and body-type prevalent in the mid-20th century, the ASPC established a "Classic" division. Today, Classic and Foundation American Shetlands are one of the ASPC's strongest divisions.

Next, the ASPC set out to meet the needs of those who were raising show ponies by crossing registered Shetlands and Hackneys as well as to provide a venue for larger American Shetlands or smaller Hackneys to compete. The creation of the American Show Pony Registry in 1995 met all of these needs and continues to do so today.

2002 saw the creation of the National Show Pony Registry. The NSPR was geared to allow crossing of both ASPC Shetlands and AMHR Miniatures with other breeds, especially small horse breeds. This division was designed to offer a place for children to find ponies to

ride within their "home" association after they outgrew riding Shetlands.

Currently, ASPC members are working to diversify and grow the NSPR. The group's first step is to rename this division in 2012. The ASPC recently crossed the first hurdle in changing this registry's name to the National Sports Performance Pony Registry (NSPPR). The NSPPR committee is also presently working to expand performance classes and options for this division. It also recently embarked on a small promotions campaign to begin to grow the NSPPR.

The ASPC/AMHR/ASPR youth program has been around many years. It embarked on an expansion in the mid-1990s that saw many new awards, educational opportunities and fun activities added for youth showing Shetlands and Miniatures. That growth has never stopped. For 2012, ASPC's Youth Program re-established and expanded one of its essay contests giving youth members across the country a chance to win their very own pony. In fact, the Chance of Love contest will give away three show-quality ponies this summer. This contest is currently ongoing. More information about it and all of the ASPC's youth programs are available on the registry's website or on the related youth website, www.aspcamhryouth.com. You can also follow the association's youth activities on Facebook by searching for ASPC AMHR ASPR NSPR Youth, another new endeavor for this year.

In another area, the ASPC/AMHR/ASPR is ramping up its recognition of geldings in

2012 via a program created a few years ago. Today, under new leadership, the gelding incentive program is growing and expanding. More information on the program and its many rewards are available on the registry's website at www.shetlandminiature.com

The ASPC/AMHR/ASPR will also mark several milestones in the near future. In addition to marking the 65th anniversary of the Shetland Congress and holding the 25th AMHR National Show later this year, in November, the American Shetland Pony Club, Inc., will hold its 125th annual meeting during the association's national convention in St. Louis, MO.

ASPC continues to offer a special membership incentive through July 1, 2012. Anyone who joins the ASPC before that date will receive a \$20.00 account credit that can be used toward other registry work – from purchasing books or decals, to advertising in the magazine, to registering or transferring animals.

Throughout 2012, there will be sale on hardshipping registration work within the American Miniature Horse Registry. The AMHR slashed its fees for hardshipping qualified horses into the AMHR by half from January 1, 2012, through December 31, 2012. The hardship fees for eligible stallions will drop from \$400 to \$200 for the next calendar year while the fees for eligible mares and geldings will be reduced from \$200 to \$100.

2012 North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame Inductees Announced

Medora, ND: The ballots have been cast and the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame (NDCHF) Trustees have identified seven individuals, one rank horse and a ranch renowned for their expansion of the beef market across the European countryside to be inducted into the Hall of Honorees.

Ceremonies for the inductees selected for the Hall of Honorees will be in Medora on June 22-23. Activities for the latest inductees begin with a special reception to Honor the Honorees at the NDCHF – Center of Western Heritage and Cultures on Friday, June 22. Tickets for this reception, meal and entertainment are limited to 250 and must be made prior to June 22 by calling the NDCHF Medora Center at 701-623-2000.

Activities continue Saturday, June 23, with the induction program at the Tjaden Terrace, Medora. Entertainment begins at 12:00 pm MDT.

The 2012 inductees include:

Leaders of Ranching & Rodeo

Walter Piehl, Sr. - Born in Marion, ND, and lifelong rodeo enthusiast, Piehl started buying horses at Miles City, MT, in the early 1950s for saddle and rodeo prospects. He eventually partnered with Olaf Berg of Kathryn, ND, and began producing local rodeos in the early 1960s. Piehl incorporated as Dakota Rodeo and bought out the Utker rodeo bulls of Fargo. He produced NDRA rodeos and supplied stock for other producers for PRCA, NDRA and open rodeos in ND, SD and MN for 15 years. Piehl was generous with his time and financial support to neighbors, friends and rodeo.

Rodeo Livestock

Anchors Aweigh - In 1971, Clarence Wirtz brought him into town to be tried out at the Blaisdell NDRA Rodeo because he didn't appear to be cut out for regular ranch duties. Maybe he was meant to be a bucking horse. He bucked in the bareback and saddle-bronc events that day, and the Figure Four Rodeo Company out of Watford City purchased the standard-bred for \$100. He proved to be a good investment. "Anchors" dominated the saddle-bronc riding scene in North Dakota for two decades. He was NDRA Saddle Bronc of the Year several times and, in 1982, he earned the "Most Outstanding Saddle Bronc Horse" title at the North American Rodeo Commission Finals in Denver, earning his owner \$1,000.

Rodeo Arena

Norman "Peg" O'Neil - From the Mercer County area, Peg O'Neil has been dubbed the "Father" of the idea of the NDRA and served as its first president. He also worked tirelessly with Dr. George Christensen to get the Minot Y's Men's Rodeo off the ground. He was a charter member and first president of the NDRA in 1953. The NDRA established the "Peg O'Neil Rookie of the Year" buckle in 2001 in his honor. In 1993, Governor Edward T. Schafer commended the NDRA and O'Neil for the leadership and support of the sport of rodeo in ND.

Pre-1940 Rodeo

Pete Pelissier - This Medora cowboy worked at the Eaton Brothers' Custer Trail Ranch and the HT Ranch owned by A.C. Huidekoper. The Little Missouri Horse Company was considered the world's largest horse outfit at the time, and he was a top-notch roper. Pelissier married

Harriet Eaton and they built a ranch on Sully Creek where they raised of four children. Theodore Roosevelt was a friend and ranching associate. Pelissier served as sheriff of Billings County, and then created a Wild West Show that he took to many important events around the state, traveling along the route of the Northern Pacific Railroad. The entourage even performed as far east as Boston. The specialty acts and Pelissier's sense of showmanship and style were well received; he was called the "Buffalo Bill of the Missouri Slopes".

Modern-era Rodeo

Newton Burr, Sr. - Born at Elbowoods, Burr was a member of the Prairie Chicken Clan of the Four Clan and a child of the Flint Knife Clan. He was raised near Mandaree and educated in Elbowoods. He entered his first rodeo at age 14 at Burr Crows Breast Rodeo in 1944, placing first in the bareback event. From that time on, he entered rodeos wherever and whenever he had the chance. He won his first saddle-bronc championship at the same rodeo in 1945 and first place in the steer-wrestling event at the 1949 Sanish Rodeo. By the time he was 17, Burr had first places in three events. He joined the PRCA in 1950 and won his first bareback belt buckle at the Sanish Rodeo. In 1961, Burr retired from riding and moved to TX where he made a living doing welding. He resumed riding broncs in 1966 and was the Central Rodeo Association saddle-bronc champ of TX in 1967. He got his PRCA card again in 1969 and won the Mesquite Saddle-bronc Championship. That year, Burr also won the Jim Shoulders Championship Rodeo saddle-bronc division and was featured in the Western Horseman magazine. He didn't hang up his spurs until

he was 53, after winning five championship saddles. In 1989, he retired from rodeo and moved back to New Town. He was a master craftsman and owned Newt's Saddle Shop, where he made custom saddles, leatherwork items and horsehair braiding. After his death on July 22, 2006, his memory was honored with a Memorial Bull and Bronc Bash at Four Bears Casino

Bob Christophersen - He began wrestling steers at youth rodeos in 1959, competed in high school and college rodeo and earned his RCA card in 1967. Christophersen qualified for six NFRs in the 1970s, winning the average in 1971 and 1975. He lived on what he earned on the rodeo circuit during the 1970s. After a stint as a welder that allowed him time off to travel to PRCA events, Christophersen operated Big Sky Hitches in Glendive. He coached the rodeo team at Dawson College while in MT and also mentored his sons and their friends in the sport. After he remarried in 1989, Christophersen and his wife, Eunice, moved to a spread west of Grassy Butte where he ranches and continues to participate in PRCA-Badlands Circuit and NDRA events.

Pre-1940s Ranching

Angus Bell - Bell was born in Ontario, Canada, in 1876. His parents moved to Jamestown, ND, when he was young. At age 15, he went out west to Medora and got a job breaking horses at the Eaton Brothers Dude Ranch. Bell later filed on a homestead west of Medora and developed his own ranch. He won the

Continued on page 19

Sunlight Delivers the Vitamin D Message for Your Horse's Health

By Dr. Juliet Getty
Getty Equine Nutrition LLC

Thirty to 90 minutes in the sun will give the average person all the required daily vitamin D. But a horse's hair coat alone creates such a significant barrier to absorption that it typically takes 5 to 8 hours of exposure to ultra violet light for horses to produce enough vitamin D. Compound that with added blocks like fly spray, coat conditioner, blanket or sheet, or decreased body oils due to bathing, and it becomes apparent that in some cases, horses may not get enough of this vital ingredient.

How does sunshine convert to vitamin D? The key is in the skin's oils, which contain a derivative of cholesterol called 7-dehydrocholesterol. When exposed to sunshine, this compound is converted to Cholecalciferol, which is then converted to the actual vitamin D, known as: 25-hydroxy-cholecalciferol, or D3, for short.

D3 is actually a hormone. A hormone, simply put, is a substance that is produced in one place and delivers a message to another place. D3 is produced in the kidney, and its message is to insure correct blood calcium levels which are critical to the proper function of your horses' bones, joints, and muscles. D3 looks first to increase absorption by the intestine of ingested calcium, then if necessary, it will key the bones to give up calcium, and finally, it will instruct the kidneys to reduce calcium losses through urine.

There is a vitamin D2 which is found in plants. Plants make D2 from sunlight exposure, much in the same manner as D3 is made in animals, except the original starting point is ergosterol. Most vitamin supplements, however, contain the animal source – vitamin D3 – because it tends to be more stable and therefore has a longer shelf life. But when your horse eats fresh grass, he is getting the plant form. Once inside your horse's body, they both have the same function.

Vitamin D deficiency is more common than you might think.

- Horses that are kept indoors have the highest risk.
- Frequent bathing with soap inhibits the body's ability to produce vitamin D simply

because the precursor in body oil (7-dehydrocholesterol) is washed away.

- The reduced intensity of sunlight during the winter or at higher latitudes (starting with the upper one third of the U.S., into Canada) inhibits vitamin D production.
- Vitamin D does not survive in hay.

Deficiency causes reduced appetite, slowed growth, phytitis in growing horses, bone demineralization (leading to stress fractures and bone deformities), and poor muscle contraction.

Horses do best when they receive at least 6.6 IU of vitamin D per kg of body weight. For an 1100 lb (500 kg) horse, this translates into 3300 IU/day. Sunlight exposure—5 to 8 hours/day under optimal conditions—will produce this amount of vitamin D.

Vitamin D toxicity is unusual but possible, and somewhat confusingly, the signs of toxicity are similar to deficiency: reduced feed intake, poor growth, and an unthrifty appearance. An upper limit of 44 IU/kg of body weight (22,000 IU for an 1100 lb horse) has been established. Improper supplementation can cause excessively high intake; check all your supplements and fortified feeds to make certain you're feeding a safe amount.

The very good news is that sunlight exposure cannot lead to excessive vitamin D production. So give your horse as much time outdoors, with minimal chemical or physical barriers. Let that vitamin D message do its wonders for the good of your horse.

Dr. Juliet Getty has taught and consulted on equine nutrition for more than 20 years. The Getty Equine Nutrition website (www.GettyEquineNutrition.com) offers helpful articles, a library of previous teleseminars and articles, and a nutrition forum. Subscribe on the website to her free and informative monthly e-newsletter, "Forage for Thought." Dr. Getty serves as a distinguished advisor to the Equine Sciences Academy and her articles on equine nutrition are internationally published. She is available for individual consultations. Contact Dr. Getty directly at gettyequinenutrition@gmail.com or (740) 663-2333 (Eastern time zone).

Olympian Guenter Seidel Goes Above And Beyond To Win Premier Sportsmanship Award At Del Mar National Horse Show

Del Mar, CA (May 8, 2012) – United States Dressage Olympian Guenter Seidel proved he is not only worthy of Olympic medals, but also worthy of winning the Premier Sportsmanship Award during the Del Mar National Horse Show. Seidel, a longtime supporter of the Del Mar National Horse Show, thrilled the Del Mar audience by competing his fabulous horse Fandango in the musical freestyle. "Guenter didn't need to compete Fandango because he had already qualified him, but he wanted the show spectators to have a great

experience so he came out on Saturday night and gave an Olympic-worthy performance. The audience was thrilled and very appreciative and it was really an exceptional thing for Guenter to do," said Heidi Zorn, President of Premier Equestrian, LLC, a leading supplier of dressage arenas, horse jumps, arena footing and stable accessories. "We presented Guenter with the Premier Sportsmanship award for his upstanding level of sportsmanship, but it extends far beyond performing his musical freestyle. Guenter was also extremely courteous to the office staff and fellow competitors – he is a true sportsman all the way around."

The Del Mar National Horse Show, one of the oldest and more prestigious competitions in the Western United States now in its 67th year, also had Premier Equestrian install a blend of GGT™ Textile footing with a special mixture of formulated sand, custom designed for the main arena at Del Mar. This formulation provides superior traction and cushion for the horses competing. "Guenter also commented on the

fabulous new footing. He said it was great and was thrilled for the Del Mar fairgrounds, as he is a strong supporter of the show facility," Zorn said.

Zorn added that Premier was excited to have a presence at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. "The footing in the main arena at Del Mar will be a great benefit to all of the riders competing at the facility," she said. "It turned out to be a wonderful weekend and we received many great comments about our GGT™ Footing Mixture."



Olympian Guenter Seidel won the Premier Equestrian Sportsmanship Award at the Del Mar National Horse Show. Premier is a leading supplier of dressage arenas, horse jumps and stable accessories, and will be supplying the horse arena footing at the California facility. Premier President Heidi Zorn presented Seidel with his award. (Photo courtesy of Premier Equestrian)

As the winner of the Sportsmanship Award, Premier presented Seidel, of Cardiff, California, with a Comtek ALS-216 Wireless Listening System. "The Comtek Wireless is a one-way communication system offering perfect speech clarity over distances as far as 300 feet. It overcomes the hearing challenge of distance between instructor and student. It is a fantastic communication system and we know Guenter will put it to good use," Zorn said.

Do you have an old photo or a story to share?

If so, we'd love to hear from you! Send your old photo (with caption) or news story to us and share it with readers nationwide! If you wish to have your photo returned, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope.



Please mail submissions to:
The Valley Equestrian Newspaper
Box 64 • Sabin, MN • 56580
thevenews@gmail.com

Cowboy Up Ride Against Cancer Upcoming Events

June 16: Cowboy Up Crusin' For The Cure Motorcycle Run
Sheyenne Bar, Horace ND
June 18: Cowboy Up Burger Night American Legion, Moorhead
June 29: Cowboy Up Golf Tournament, Leonard, ND
August 4: Dudley's Rev Up For Cowboy Up 4 Wheeler Run, McLeod ND
August 17: Extreme Race, McLeod, ND
August 18: 8th Annual Cowboy Up Ride Against Cancer, McLeod, ND

Events for June and Beyond

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

June 1-3: Summerfest Saddlebred Horse Show at the Simon Horse Company Arena in Cannon Falls, Minn. Contact Bill or Wendy at 952-432-7519

June 1-3: High Plains PHC June show at the Ranch, Larimer County Fairgrounds in Loveland, CO. www.hpphc.com

June 2: Barrel Racing Series, Double Run at the MayPort Arena in Portland, ND; contact Janet Meyer 701-430-0969 or Alan Eichhorn 701-430-6860 or visit the Facebook page. "MayPort Arena Association GROUP"

June 2: Cowboy Way Church Horse Haven Arena Barrels and Poles at Hartford, SD; www.sdhorsefair.com

June 2: Draft Horse Hitch Show (Noon), New Virginia, IA and Harness, Hitching, and Driving Clinics (9AM-11:30AM), www.iowadraft-horse.com

June 2-3: Rocky Mountain Classic at the Pocatello, ID Fairgrounds, www.eiphc.info

June 2 & 3 - Wild Rice River Shoot-out, Twin Valley Rides Club Arena, Twin Valley, MN; more info at www.wildricepeacemakers.com.

June 3: Sheyenne Valley Team Penning at the MayPort Arena in Portland, ND; contact Janet Meyer 701-430-0969 or Alan Eichhorn 701-430-6860 or visit the Facebook page. "MayPort Arena Association GROUP"

June 6: Opening night of racing at the Running Aces Harness Park in Columbus, MN. Racing continues four nights a week (Tues., Wed., Sat., and Sun) through Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 3.

June 6: Manitoba Summer Fair Show Brandon, MB Holly Pierce 204-763-4307 AMHR, Classic, Modern, ASPR email: cplains@prairie.ca

June 8: BC Spring Miniature Show Cloverdale, BC LaVon Read 360-659-1711 email: lavondr@frontier.com

June 8-10: National Area 4 Show Du Quoin, IL Dolores Williams 618-806-3022 AMHR, Classic, Modern, ASPR email: archviewminis@aol.com

June 9: FM Mounted Posse show at 9 a.m. at the Red River Valley Fairgrounds in West Fargo, N.D., www.fmmountedposse.com

June 9: June Jitterbug Show of the MNSPHC at R&J Arena in Verndale, Minn. www.mnsphc.com

June 9-10: N.E.W. State Show Pulaske, WI Tom Kuczer 920-822-3706 AMHR email: kucz@netnet.net

June 9-10: Northern Lights Versatility Ranch Horse Assoc. Clinic at the Simon Horse Company Arena in Cannon Falls, Minn. call 612-269-8696 for info.

June 9-10: Area VI Club Show Broken Bow, NE Heather Franklin 785-539-0423 email: cowedog911@yahoo.com

June 9-10: Buckeye Spring Classic Ashland, OH Jeanne Bragagnini 269-979-3392 AMHR, Classic, Modern, ASPR email: bmjbrad01@yahoo.com

June 9-10: ND Rough Rider Rodeo at White Earth; http://www.roughrideroodeo.com

June 10: Barrel Racing Series, Double Run at the MayPort Arena in Portland, ND; contact Janet Meyer 701-430-0969 or Alan Eichhorn 701-430-6860 or visit the Facebook page. "MayPort Arena Association GROUP"

June 10: Rocky Riders Saddle Club WSCA Show in Sauk Center MN at 8:00am with Pleasure and Games to follow. For a showbill see: www.webjam.com/rockyridersaddleclub/wscas_show

June 10: APHA & MN Paint Show at 8 a.m. at R&J Arena in Verndale, Minn. contact: 651-464-6165

June 15: Norcal Northern Exposure AMHR Show Red Bluff, CA Laura Mullen 919-499-4777 email: winec@tryaol.com AMHR, Classic

June 15-17: Stanley, WI Rodeo at Chapman Park; http://www.stanley-rodeo.com

June 16: PCMHC June Jamboree Norco, CA Earl O'Bannon 951-780-2308 AMHR email: miniec@roadrunner.com

June 16: Jackpot Roping Series at the MayPort Arena in Portland, ND; contact Janet Meyer 701-430-0969 or Alan Eichhorn 701-430-6860 or

visit the Facebook page. "MayPort Arena Association GROUP"

June 16: Cowboy Way Church Horse Haven Arena Barrels and Poles at Hartford, SD; www.sdhorsefair.com

June 16: Cowboy Up Ride Against Cancer 3rd Annual Cruising for the Cure Motorcycle Run; http://www.gventertainment.org/cowboyup/

June 16-17: All American Miniature Horse Show, Cear Rapids, IA Sue Johnson 319-430-8331 AMHR email: sjminiatures@aol.com

June 16-17: Columbus Horse and Carriage Festival in Fireman's Park in Columbus, WI; http://www.columbuscarriagefestival.org/

June 16-17: Minnesota Paint Horse Show at the Simon Horse Company Arena in Cannon Falls, Minn. call Scott at 612-308-5790

June 17: Sheyenne Valley Team Penning at the MayPort Arena in Portland, ND; contact Janet Meyer 701-430-0969 or Alan Eichhorn 701-430-6860 or visit the Facebook page. "MayPort Arena Association GROUP"

June 18: Cowboy Up Ride Against Cancer Burger Night at 5:30 p.m. at the Moorhead American Legion; http://www.gventertainment.org/cowboyup/

June 22-24: Larry Whitesell Walk Horse Clinic at the Simon Horse Company Arena in Cannon Falls, Minn. http://www.simonhorsecompany.com/events.asp

June 23-24: Ride to the Rescue fundraiser for Rainbow Meadows Ranch Rescue held at Kanopolis State Park near Salinas KS. www.rainbowmeadowsranch.com/Rescue_RideToRescue.htm

June 23-24: N.E.W. State Show Pulaske, WI Tom Kuczer 920-822-3706 AMHR, email: kucz@netnet.net

June 23-24: Tenth Annual Skunk River Driving Trial, Three G Farms, IA; jada@midwest-driving.com

June 23:24 AEER Hunter/Jumper and English/Western Dressage show at the Red Horse Ranch outdoor arena in Fergus Falls, Minn.. www.aeerfargo.org

June 24: FM Mounted Posse show at 9 a.m. at the Red River Valley Fairgrounds in West Fargo, N.D., http://www.fmmountedposse.com

June 24: MayPort Arena Family Fun Playday at the MayPort Arena in Portland, ND; contact Janet Meyer 701-430-0969 or Alan Eichhorn 701-430-6860 or visit the Facebook page. "MayPort Arena Association GROUP"

June 29: Barrel Racing Series, Single-Run Campout at the MayPort Arena in Portland, ND; contact Janet Meyer 701-430-0969 or Alan Eichhorn 701-430-6860 or visit the Facebook page. "MayPort Arena Association GROUP"

June 29: Cowboy Up Ride Against Cancer Golf Tournament at the Leonard Country Club; http://www.gventertainment.org/cowboyup/

June 29-July 1: Wojo's (Tough Enough to Wear Pink) Green-bush, MN Rodeo, dana@wojoshorsetraining.com http://www.wojoshorsetraining.com/

June 29-July1: Glacier Country Mini Horse & Pony Kalispell, MT Robert Sutton 406-260-2408 AMHR, Classic, Modern, ASPR

June 30-July 1: ND Rough Rider Rodeo at Dunseth, ND; http://www.roughrideroodeo.com

June 30-July 1: Minnesota Paint Horse Show at the Simon Horse Company Arena in Cannon Falls, Minn. call Scott at 612-308-5790

June 30: Barrel Racing Series, Double Run at the MayPort Arena in Portland, ND; contact Janet Meyer 701-430-0969 or Alan Eichhorn at 701-430-6860 or visit the Facebook page. "MayPort Arena Association GROUP"

June 30: Cowboy Way Church Horse Haven Arena Barrels and Poles at Hartford, SD; www.sdhorsefair.com

June 30-July 1: Minn. North Star Paint Horse Club at Cannon Falls with the MPH.A.

July 3-4: ND Rough Rider Rodeo at Towner, ND; http://www.roughrideroodeo.com

July 4: Cowboy Up Ride Against Cancer 4th of July celebration in McLeod, ND; http://www.gventertainment.org/cowboyup/

July 7: Cowboy Way Church Horse Haven Arena Barrels and Poles at Hartford, SD; www.sdhorsefair.com

July 12: ASPC/AMHR/ASPR Fair Show at 8 a.m. at the Red River Valley Fairgrounds in West Fargo, ND.

July 9-21: National Appaloose Show in Tulsa, OK www.appaloosa.com



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July 12: AMHR Sanctioned Miniature Horse Show at 8 a.m. at the Schollander Pavilion of the RRV Fairgrounds in West Fargo, N.D. Contact chaun@redrivervalleyfair.com

July 13-15: 3-Day Minn. Pinto Horse Assoc. show at Red Horse Ranch Arena in Fergus Falls, MN; http://www.minnesotapinto.com/shows.htm

July 15: FM Mounted Posse show at 9 a.m. at the Red River Valley Fairgrounds in West Fargo, N.D., http://www.fmmountedposse.com

July 21: Cowboy Way Church Horse Haven Arena Barrels and Poles at Hartford, SD; www.sdhorsefair.com

July 28 & 29 - Lynn Hanson Memorial Shoot, Marshall County Fairgrounds Arena, Warren, MN; more information at www.wildricepeacemakers.com.

July 31-Aug. 4: Canadian National Appaloosa Show in Brandon MB www.appaloosa.ca

Aug. 4-5: Montana State Fair Appaloosa Show in Great Falls, MT

Aug. 4&5: FM Mounted Posse show at 9 a.m. at the Red River Valley Fairgrounds in West Fargo, N.D., www.fmmountedposse.com

Aug. 4: Cowboy Way Church Horse Haven Arena Barrels and Poles at Hartford, SD; www.sdhorsefair.com

Retired Taxpayers Lose Tax Court Case

The Tax Court held that a married couple who engaged in a cattle and horse breeding activity were not engaged in a business, despite the full-time nature of the venture. The case was Garbini v. Commissioner IRS [T.C. Summary Opinion 2004-7]. Mr. Garbini, of Myrtle Creek, Oregon, listed his occupation as a rancher, and his wife indicated she was a housewife. Both taxpayers were retired during the two taxable years in issue, and for Mr. Garbini this was a full time venture. They had a net loss of \$127,341 in one year, and \$124,584 for a second year at issue.

The court examined whether the taxpayers carried on the activity with the actual and honest objective of making a profit. Although a reasonable expectation of profit is not required, the facts and circumstances must indicate that the taxpayer entered into the activity, or continued the activity, with the actual and honest objective of making a profit.

The court said that the taxpayers did not seek expert advice before entering the activity, and that was viewed with disfavor. They had no business plan to prove that their activity originated with the honest objective of making a profit.

No single factor is controlling in deciding whether a horse or cattle venture is engaged in for profit. In applying the factors to determine profit objective, the court focused on the manner in which Mr. Garbini carried on the activity. The fact that the taxpayer carries on the activity in a businesslike manner and maintains complete and accurate books and records indicates that the activity is engaged in for profit.

In this case, the court said that there was little by way of books and records. Rather, Mr. Garbini made a monthly list of expense categories and, based on his canceled checks, recorded the amounts expended for each category.

At trial, Mr. Garbini submitted various invoices, canceled checks, and the monthly lists for the taxable years in issue. The court said that he did not keep the type of records which could be used to increase the profitability of a business. He never prepared budgets

or market projections which would outline strategies for ensuring a profitable business venture. The court said that his recordkeeping practice of creating monthly lists from canceled checks simply was inadequate and not indicative of a prudent and reasonable person in business.

Mr. Garbini said that he made efforts to reduce expenses in order to operate the ranch in a profitable manner. Nothing in the record

Mr. Garbini also argued that part of the ranch activity involved planting and harvesting trees. He stated that he had planted 3,000 to 5,000 trees per year, and that they are suitable for harvesting after 7 years. The court noted that no trees were harvested during the taxable years in issue.

The court also considered the history of income or losses with respect to the activity. Mr. Garbini did not provide a history of income or losses for the activity. During the taxable years in issue, losses exceeded \$250,000, an average of \$125,000 for each year. Mr. Garbini claimed that the losses have gradually declined, but this was not adequately presented.

Over a period of about 12 years, the losses were losses over \$1,500,000. There was no evidence of any profit year.

The court considered the financial status of the taxpayers. The court noted that as a result of their other income, the taxpayers realized substantial tax benefits from the approximate \$125,000 loss deduction for each taxable year in issue.

The court also said that there were elements of personal pleasure or recreation even though they did not ride the horses. The court simply said that the taxpayers probably had personal pleasure from residing on a large ranch.

Taking the record as a whole, the court concluded that the taxpayers did not possess the actual and honest objective of making a profit from their operations. Because they had no gross income for the taxable years in issue, none of their claimed expenses were deductible.

John Alan Cohan is a lawyer who has served the horse, livestock and farming industries since 1981. He serves clients in all 50 states, and can be reached by telephone at (310) 278-0203 or via e-mail at JohnAlanCohan@aol.com, or visit his website at www.JohnAlanCohan.com.

Planning is necessary to have the funds to pay for the proper feed and good hay. You have to LOVE horses to have and own a horse. When you look at the whole picture of owning a horse (or any animal) you must make a commitment to care for that live breathing animal. We figure about 90 percent of our time with the horses is work and 10 percent is fun. The saying, "You will never work a day in your life if you love your work" is very true.

If we did not have mini horses we would most likely go fishing more often. We have a boat and it has not been in the water in a couple of years. We cannot imagine living in the country without animals. We have three dogs, BJ, Spots and Blue Boy. Blue Boy is Danna's brother. He attends horse show with us throughout the Midwest. We are very fortunate of have good friends and neighbors who come to our house and do chores when we are at shows.

"We will continue to raise and show miniature horses as long as our health allows us. We look forward to going to horse shows with friends even more than Christmas or birthdays. Last year we decided, Tulsa in September is our Christmas.

"We have had schools bring kids out to the farm to see horses and we have taken some minis to the nursing home to visit.

"Our goals are to win more National Championships and we would love to have a stallion or our own breeding make its mark in the Miniature Horse Industry. Currently, we are incorporating Shetlands into our program. Our Sr. Stallion Dakota San Juan Marquis has arenosa bloodlines, which is a Shetland bloodline. His off spring have been doing quite well at the shows. This year we are promoting three of his yearlings and they are looking good. We are looking for the Arabian look in a miniature horse."

The Meyers seem to achieve what they set out to do. Watch for more championships from this winning team!



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From the Horse's Mouth: Industry News

DOL Withdraws Proposed Child Labor Rules on Farms

On April 26, the Obama Administration announced its plans to withdraw a Department of Labor (DOL) proposed child labor rule applicable to agriculture. The proposed rule would have severely limited the ability of young people to work on farms and ranches.

"We are pleased the Administration responded to the concerns of the agricultural community and decided against changing the current rules for young people working on farms and ranches. This was a poorly conceived rule and they did the right thing by withdrawing it," said AHC President Jay Hickey.

The proposed rule would have placed new limitations on the ability of young people to work for pay on farms or ranches not owned solely by their parents and would have effectively barred employees under 16 from working in most capacities in agriculture, especially around livestock, such as horses.

The AHC had been working with a broad coalition of agricultural organizations to convince the Administration and Congress that these rules were ill-considered, would prevent young people from becoming involved in agriculture, and would negatively impact family farms and ranches. In November 2011, the AHC submitted comments opposing the rule

that can be found here.

"When the DOL proposed this rule we don't think they completely understood the impact it would have on young people who work in agriculture. Thousands of Americans from the agricultural community, including the horse community submitted comments to the DOL explaining the problems with this rule and also contacted their Member of Congress to express their concerns," said AHC Legislative Director Ben Pendergrass. "The Administration listened and withdrew the rule. This is a good example of the way the system should work."

The Administration has stated it will not re-propose any new regulations on this issue. Instead it will "work with rural stakeholders to develop an educational program to reduce accidents to young workers and promote safer agricultural working practices."

The AHC encourages members of the horse community to visit its website www.horsecouncil.org to learn how federal legislation and regulations impact them and how they can get involved.

If you have any questions please contact the AHC.

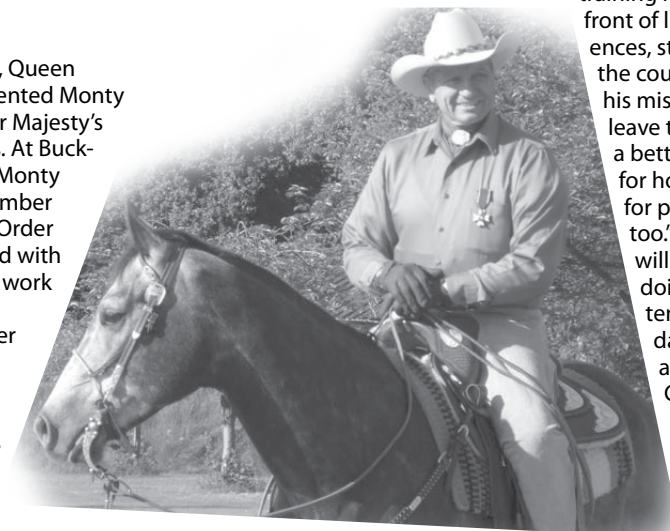
Monty and the Queen

Monty Roberts will be present assisting The Queen to present the chosen recipients with their awards for commitment to his violence-free Join-Up® concepts. Recipients chosen are Adolfo Cambiasso (Argentina), Carlos Gracida (Mexico and Argentina), Memo Gracida (Mexico and Argentina), Carlos Leite (Brazil), Catherine Cunningham (Guatemala), Eduardo Moreira (Brazil), Joel Baker (USA), Mateus Ribeiro (Brazil), and Satish Seemar (Dubai).

On June 6, 2011, Queen Elizabeth II presented Monty Roberts with Her Majesty's personal honors. At Buckingham Palace, Monty received the Member of the Victorian Order (M.V.O), an award with medal citing his work on behalf of the Royal Stables. Her Majesty's statements included acknowledgment of Monty's work globally with people as well as horses. The Queen has been outspoken in her support of his non-violent message for horses and for people, too. From this point forward, Monty will be known as Monty Roberts, M.V.O.

"Years ago when Her Majesty first watched me Join-Up with a filly of the Queen Mother's, she asked me right there to take this to the world and get busy. Her Majesty's specific request was that wherever I go on these travels, please would I support therapeutic riding."

Monty Roberts, now 77, is traveling and demonstrating around the world. He is training horses in front of live audiences, staying the course to his mission "to leave the world a better place for horses and for people, too." Monty will be doing an intensive five day clinic at his California Flag Is Up Farms on August 6-10.



Attendees from around the world will come to see a master at work. In autumn Monty will tour England in October and Germany in November.

What You Should Know Before Your Next Competition How Congress Can Affect Your Ability to Show Your Horse

If you are competing in a horse show this weekend, you might not realize it, but decisions made in Washington, D.C. impact you and your ability to show your horse. The American Horse Council (AHC) believes it is important everyone involved in showing horses at any level or in any discipline understands that federal legislation and regulations affect them.

A notable example of federal policy directly impacting horse shows is the amount of funding the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) receives to prepare for and respond to contagious equine disease outbreaks. Contagious diseases are a major concern for every segment of the horse community, but they can really negatively affect horse shows. "Remember the recent equine herpes outbreak at a reining event in Ogden, Utah," said AHC Director of Health and Regulatory Affairs, Dudley Hoskins. "State and federal vets and organizations responded quickly to the outbreak. Even with quick action, horse shows and events were canceled in 36 states and it could have been

worse. That incident was the most recent reminder that there is not a comprehensive federal plan, sufficient funding, or personnel to deal with contagious equine disease outbreaks. The AHC is working to change that and make sure USDA has the resources it needs to safeguard the horse industry."

Federal policy also impacts competitors and horse shows in numerous other ways. For example, many trainers, barns, and breeders depend on temporary foreign workers for grooms and farm hands and need the H-2B (non-agricultural) and H-2A (agricultural) foreign worker programs to work efficiently.

"Many people who participate in horse shows don't understand how important foreign guest workers are to the showing community," said AHC president Jay Hickey. "Without these workers, who often have years of experience caring for horses, there would be a major shortage of skilled labor in the showing industry. Unfortunately, right

now we are fighting new H-2B rules that could make the program too difficult and expensive to use."

Additionally, quarantine regulations impact equestrians who compete internationally. In January, the AHC requested the USDA allow U.S. horses to travel to CEM-affected regions for up to 90 days before more burdensome re-entry requirements kick in; currently it is 60 days. "Making this change would reduce the stress on U.S. competition horses, reduce the expenses for owners, and provide a more level playing field against our international competitors without increasing the risk of future incursions of CEM," said Hoskins.

The AHC encourages members of the horse show community to visit its website at www.horsecouncil.org to learn how federal legislation and regulations impact them, and how they can get involved and support the AHC by becoming a member.

"Everyday we are here in Washington talking to Congress and the regulators to make sure they are aware of the concerns and needs of the \$ 102 billion horse community. This is the only way to make sure equestrians will continue to have the ability to compete in their chosen equine discipline now and in the future," said Hickey.



From the Horse's Mouth: Industry News

UHC Announces Availability of How to Start and Run a Rescue

WASHINGTON, DC – May 14, 2012 - The Unwanted Horse Coalition (UHC) announces the availability of Dr. Jennifer Williams' resourceful book dedicated to rescues and sanctuaries, *How to Start and Run a Rescue*. Every dollar received from the sale of the book will go directly towards the UHC's Operation Gelding program.

How to Start and Run a Rescue is an indispensable resource that offers practical and insightful advice to those who are interested in starting a rescue or those who may already have a rescue, but may need help improving upon their business. The book covers topics such as formation of a nonprofit, fundraising, public relations and marketing, formulating policies, successful bookkeeping, and much more. Dr. Williams discusses the complex issues involved in founding a rescue, long-term management, and improving upon a currently existing rescue. "Every rescue can certainly benefit from the topics covered in this book. Dr. Williams has left no stone unturned and has shared a wealth of knowledge from years of experience in the industry," said Ericka Caslin, UHC Director.

The author, Dr. Jennifer Williams, has started and run two successful rescue organizations, Lone Star Equine Rescue and Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society. She obtained a Masters and Doctorate degree from Texas A&M University in Animal Science with an emphasis on equine behavior, learning, and welfare.

The UHC is offering *How to Start and Run a Rescue* for \$20 including shipping and handling. Every dollar of each sale goes directly towards funding the UHC's Operation Gelding Program. This grant program is the UHC's effort to help prevent indiscriminate breeding in our nation.

"The UHC is thrilled to be able to offer an amazing, irreplaceable resource to our nation's rescues, while supporting such an amazing cause as Operation Gelding. It's important for every rescue to be well-versed in the topics covered in this book, so we can help adopt more horses into loving homes and help more horses in need. The more successful rescues we have, the more horses we can save," said Caslin.

For information on ordering *How to Start and Run a Rescue*, please visit: www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org or call 202-296-4031. E-mail orders can be placed by e-mailing Ericka Caslin at: ecaslin@horsecouncil.org. Each book is \$20, including shipping and handling.

Congress Acts to Protect Commercial Packers in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

Last week, Congress passed the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Backcountry Access Act, introduced by Congressman Devin Nunes (R-CA). The bill directs the National Park Service (NPS) to issue permits to commercial horse and mule packers to operate in the wilderness areas of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Due to a lawsuit the NPS had not yet issued permits for the 2012 season.

"Commercial packers have been taking visitors into these parks for decades, allowing thousands of Americans to experience the backcountry of these parks," said American Horse Council (AHC) Legislative Director Ben Pendergrass. "Without the leadership of Congressman Nunes who introduced and quickly passed this bill and the help of Senators Boxer and Feinstein Americans may have lost the opportunity to have this fantastic experience. This bill also saved the livelihoods of the commercial pack operators in the park and the jobs of their employees."

Congressional action was needed due to a lawsuit filed by the High Sierra Hikers Association against the NPS concerning its management of commercial packer access to the wilderness areas of the parks. In January, a federal judge ruled that the NPS had violated the Wilderness act because it had not adequately addressed commercial stock use in a 2007 park management plan. The NPS then decided not to issue any permits to commercial packers for the 2012 season until the court case was settled.

The bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to continue to issue permits to commercial packers to operate in the parks and complete a new wilderness stewardship plan within 3 years. The NPS will now have the time it needs to address the judge's concerns in a new management plan without interrupting the operations of the commercial packers in the parks.

"Preserving commercial and private equestrian access to wilderness is important not just to horse owners, but for everyone who does not have the physical ability to hike in the backcountry and for the communities that rely on jobs created by tourists traveling to our national parks and forests to have these experiences," said Pendergrass. "We are grateful to Congressman Nunes for taking action when this access was

Colorado Equine Herpes Virus

LAKEWOOD, Colo. – The Colorado Department of Agriculture is continuing to investigate and monitor horses exposed to one horse with a confirmed case of Equine Herpes Virus (EHV-1) within the state; a Douglas County premises remains under quarantine. Strict bio-security and disease prevention practices have been instituted on the quarantined premises. This quarantine may be released in seven days if there are no additional horses showing clinical signs.

Three facilities received horses from the same transport vehicle. Horses at those facilities remain free of clinical signs of EHV-1. The movement restrictions on these facilities will be released on May 22, 2012, as they have completed the 21-day observation time period.

Unlike the EHV-1 outbreak in 2011, the initial case in Colorado originated from an out-of-state stable where there have not been any other positive horses. To date, no other Colorado exposed horses have become ill with similar signs. With the exception of the initial case and contact horses' premises the State Veterinarian is not recommending movement or event restrictions.

The State Veterinarian encourages horse owners and event managers to observe basic biosecurity practices such as limiting horse-to-horse contact, separating feeding, watering and tack supplies, and eliminating shared water sources at events to minimize transmission of all infectious diseases.

EHV-1 is not transmissible to people; it can be a serious disease of horses that can cause respiratory, neurologic disease and death. The most common way for EHV-1 to spread is by direct horse-to-horse contact. The virus can also spread through the air, contaminat-

ed tack and equipment, clothing and hands. Symptoms include fever, decreased coordination, nasal discharge, urine dribbling, loss of tail tone, hind limb weakness, leaning against a wall or fence to maintain balance, lethargy, and the inability to rise. While there is no cure, the symptoms of the disease may be treatable and owners are encouraged to talk to their veterinarian about vaccine which can offer some level of protection against EHV-1.

EHV-1 Vaccines:
The common vaccines available for EHV-1 immunization do not protect against the neurological form of EHV-1 disease which is commonly called equine herpesvirus myeloencephalopathy (EHM). These immunizations do protect against the respiratory and abortion forms of the disease.

The EHV-1 vaccines are thought to reduce the shedding of the virus and may decrease the amount of circulating virus in the system of infected horses; therefore, vaccinations prior to exposure may help reduce the severity of infection.

• Consult with your veterinarian to determine the best vaccination and treatment strategy for your horses in your particular situation.
Additional Resources:

- A Guide To Understanding the Neurologic Form of EHV Infection at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/nahss/equine/ehv/equine_herpesvirus_brochure_2009.pdf
- USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service Resources at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/nahss/equine/ehv/>
- American Assoc. of Equine Practitioners Fact Sheet at http://www.aaep.org/pdfs/control_guidelines/Equine%20Herpes%20Virus.pdf

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2012 North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame Inductees Announced

Continued from page 12

heart of a Jamestown girl and persuaded her that setting up housekeeping on the ranch out west was her destiny. They had one son, Edwin. Highly respected and well known as a rancher, Bell not only ranched for more than 30 years, but he also traded horses and ran a livery stable in Medora. Tom Mix depended on Bell to train and board his horses. Lucky and/or skilled in poker, Bell won the Rough Rider Hotel in a card game and became its proprietor for years. Bell died in the dead in the winter of 1935 and is buried in the Medora Cemetery.

NDSU Agriculturalist of the Year, Red Angus Breeder of the Year, MT Red Angus President's Award and ND Stockmen's Association Honorary Membership Award.

Ranch Price Ranch - Established north of Mandan in the early 1900s by William and Emily (Watkins) Price, the Price ranch started with a quit claim deed of range land. The ranch, now, consists of 18,000 acres, with 5,000 acres being irrigated and a 10,000 head feedlot. In the feedlot, the Prices background calves, finish beef and have a dairy heifer development project. They work closely with the NRCS to improve their pastures and a veterinarian to improve the genetics of their cattle. In the mid-1990s, a delegation from the Republic of Kazakhstan toured the Price Ranch. After two more visits, Bill and Dan Price were invited to Kazakhstan to meet with their President and Secretary of Agriculture. As a result, the Price Global Beef LLC formed a partnership between the Government of Kazakhstan to form Kazbeef LTF, LLP. The Prices are responsible for acquiring the cattle and managing the 209,000-acre ranch, with the assistance of a ranch manager out of NE and local Kazie cowboys.

These nine inductees will bring to 148 the number of men and women who have been honored since 1998. This year's inductees come from across eastern, central and western North Dakota. Inductees are voted on by the 200 Trustee of the NDCHF.

Modern-era Ranching

Melvin Leland - Born in 1944, Leland grew up on the family ranch homesteaded by his father. His father died in 1948 so Leland started helping on the ranch at a young age. He attended the Squaw Gap School in McKenzie County and Sidney High School. He earned a B.S. degree in Animal and Range Science from NDSU in 1966. Leland married Luella Mary Roedeske in 1967 and had three children. After his mother died in 1971, he purchased his sister and brother's shares. In 1980, the couple purchased an adjoining ranch and, in 2005, another one. They started marketing Red Angus bulls in 1971 and became known as the Leland Red Angus Ranch. They have hosted annual production sales for 28 years. He has been recognized as Society for Range Management's Rangeman of the Year, Saddle and Sirlion Agriculturalist of the Year, McKenzie County Soil Conservation,

A Leg Up for Domestic Abuse Survivors: Horses Helping Humans "Show'deo"

Saint Paul, MN, — What do horses and domestic abuse have in common? The Show'deo at the Leatherdale Equine Center on Saturday, June 9. Horses Helping Humans will host an afternoon of equine entertainment, live music, and fun. This benefit is open to the public, admission is free, and donations are requested to support Horses Helping Humans.


Kevin Bolf and Monica Gay will perform musical, bridless riding while displaying extraordinary equine connections through natural horsemanship. Live music and a raffle will be part of the fun as the public is invited to support the Horses Helping Humans mission "to give women a place where they can learn who they are, trust their instincts and boldly claim their purpose in life."

Horses Helping Humans provides equine-assisted learning programs specifically designed for women dealing with domestic abuse. There is no cost to program participants. The program is sponsored by Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women and serves women throughout the Twin Cities. The program is 100 percent volunteer staffed, facilitated by certified EAGALA (Equine Assisted Growth & Learning Assn.) professionals, and operates solely on donations.

Horses Helping Humans "Show'deo"
Saturday, June 9, 2012
from 2:00 pm - 4:30 pm
Leatherdale Equine Center,
Barenscheer Arena, 1801 Dudley Ave., St. Paul, MN (UofM campus)
Cost: No charge for admission
Info:
www.southernvalleyalliance.org/hhh or email:
shannon5bruce@frontiernet.net

Chris Vinson of 3-5 Ranch and the Midwest Equine Agility Association will perform an exciting agility demonstration, followed by local equestrians competing in an agility contest.

Contact:
Shannon Bruce, Director Horses Helping Humans at 612-554-4627 or shannon5bruce@frontiernet.net



The Oldest Horse

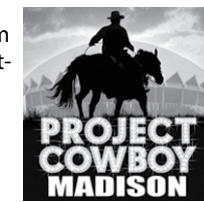
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Send a photo and description (short or long) of your old horse (age 25 or 30+) for publication in an upcoming issue of the Valley Equestrian Newspaper.

Email: thevenews@gmail.com or mail a photo (with stamped returned envelope) to: **The VEN, PO Box 64, Sabin, MN 56580**

Project Cowboy-Madison to Offer Divisions for English and Western

Madison, WI, May 21, 2012 – The playing field for Project Cowboy-Madison has now been leveled across all breeds and disciplines. The producers of "Project Cowboy, Battle of the Sexes" to be held at Taking The Reins, August 17 & 18, will now offer both Western and English/Gaited Divisions for all talented horsemen and women from all breeds and disciplines. The "Western" and the "English/Gaited" Divisions will compete under an equal point system where a contestant on a Reiner will have the same chance of winning as someone riding Dressage or presenting a Paso Fino. Appropriate rail work, patterns, obstacles and judges will be used in each round.



Although Project Cowboy has always been open to participants of every breed and discipline, the addition of the English/Gaited

Division along with the Western Division will be a valued asset to the competition and widens the playing field for the Midwest's diverse horse industry. Project Cowboy is a live event and reality show taping that will match cowgirls, cowboys and their horses for the chance to become a star, win \$10,000 and the title of "The Next Great American Cowboy." Project Cowboy is presented by Patti Colbert and Tootie Bland and will be filmed and aired as an RFD-TV three-part series on February 14, 21, and 28 – 2013. (Airtimes are subject to change.)

Applications for Project-Cowboy Madison will be accepted until July 9, 2012. For additional information about this competition and to access the application and requirements, visit www.TakingTheReins.net or www.ProjectCowboy.net.

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