



The COACHMAN

VOLUME 11, NO. 4
NOVEMBER, 2009

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DAIRYLAND DRIVING CLUB, INC.

Dairyland Driving Club, Inc. BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2009

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DDC ONLINE NEWSLETTER



LAST DRIVE OF THE SEASON AND OVERALLS ARE IN FASHION IN REMEMBRANCE OF OTHER DDC FOLKS WHO OFTEN WORE THEM

Above: Wally Pasbrig, Howard Kietzke and Harry Radtke at a DDC drive at the Didier Farm in the 1990's. Below left: Marilyn Radtke and Pat Didier at the Harry Radtke Memorial Drive in October, 2009. Right: Kim Stagbauer, Debi Radtke, Donna Crossman, Melissa Schoenicke, and Pat Didier are all wearing overalls in Harry's honor. Others wore overalls as well but did not pose for the camera as these ladies did.

What's inside: November board meeting minutes, News You Can Use, President's Message, Candidates for the DDC Board, Walking Iron Drive, On-Line Horse Show, Harry Radtke Memorial Drive, Over the Plateau (or Good Stuff I Learned) by Myrna Rhinehart, Good-Bye to Tootsie, Good-Bye to Bear, Services Offered, Classifieds.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT COACHMAN: February 28, 2010.

Send your articles, photographs and ads to Jane Licht's email: jlicht@sprynet.com, or her home at 2965 County Rd AB, McFarland WI 53558.

Board of Directors Meeting

November 3, 2009
Licht residence

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by President Donna Crossman.

Treasurer's Report – Sheri Haviza moved to accept, Roger Houk 2nd. MC.

Secretary's Report - Jane Licht moved to accept, Sheri seconded.

Old Business:

Newsletter – Donna said that some members that have a dial-up Internet connection had a long time to download the file sent out electronically. Other members were very happy to get the newsletter directly instead of via the website. Jane will compress photos to help with long downloads.

Website – Jane reported that the sidebars on the website are updated. Classified ads are constantly being updated.

2010 Member Clinic – Nancy Nelson got information from the Marquette County Fairgrounds in Westfield, WI, about 20 miles north of Portage. There are stall barns and a large indoor arena. There are fees associated with using it, but it is feasible. Overnight accommodations include camping on site or local motels. There are fast food and sit down restaurants in the area. Any weekend in May is available.

Sheri received info from The Natural Gait just over the border in Iowa. There are cabins to stay in and meals on site as well as trails for riding and driving. People could be encouraged to sign up for the entire weekend as a nice horse getaway. The more people that sign up, the cheaper the cost per person would be.

Each facility would have a little different offerings. We did decide that early to middle of May are the desired dates. We need to finalize the facility, clinician, and date. The target number of students is 16, with the potential for many auditors.

Drives – The Harry Radtke drive at Didier's in Port Washington was on Oct. 4. It was a successful drive with many people that came. There will be more info in the newsletter. The Old World drive attendance has been challenging in the last few years because of weather and changes to the facility, but we will keep trying to make it happen.

Myrna asked again about hosting a "Trail Drive Clinic" next year for members that would like to learn more about driving safely on trails. We would like to have this in conjunction with a scheduled trail drive. A possibility is having experienced members and their horses available for newbies to drive with.

Myrna also suggested putting a physical address of the Trail Drive locations in the newsletter for those that have GPS mapping systems.

DDC Brochure: Jane sent out another sample brochure via email. Donna asked if we needed to get Photo Releases for the youth pictured in the brochure. We agreed that we should pursue this.

New Business:

Mischka calendars – Nancy will contact Bob to see if he is interested in offering driving calendars at a discounted price, as in other years.

Annual Meeting – Jan. 24 at the McFarland Municipal Building with social hour starting at 1:00 p.m. The business meeting will start at 2:00, with dinner and the end of the silent auction afterward. Members may pay for multiple years' membership if they so wish.

Election of Officers – Myrna and Jane's terms are up and have offered to rerun for the board. Sheri, Roger, Loren, and Nancy are finishing their 2nd terms next year. Donna and Tom Smiley will not run again for the board. Jennifer Thompson and Debbie Radtke have offered to run for the board.

Roger moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:11 p.m. Sheri 2nd. MC.

Next meeting will be at the Annual Meeting. There will be a board meeting after the Annual Meeting to pick a date for the next board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Myrna Rhinehart, Secretary

NEWS YOU CAN USE

2010 Annual Meeting

Our DDC Annual Meeting and Social will be held at the McFarland Municipal Building (5915 Milwaukee St.) on Sunday, January 24 beginning at 1 PM. The plan is to finish by 5:30 PM to allow early departure for home.

2010 Pleasure Drive Schedule

Your DDC Board of Directors will be determining the new pleasure drive schedule. Please let Roger Houk know about any ideas and suggestions that you may have.

Want to Serve on the DDC Board of Directors for 2010-2011?

Please let Sheri Haviza know and get a brief bio to Jane Licht by January 15, 2010, so that your name and information about you can be printed on the ballot.



MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT DONNA CROSSMAN



This is a hard message to compose as it will be my last official president's message. I've decided not to seek re-election for the Board of Directors for 2010. It's been a fantastic experience and I have met so many wonderful driving people over the years, but it's time to take a step back and focus on other things. Thank you so much for your support and encouragement!!

Annual meeting news: We are trying something new for the annual meeting this year. We will gather Sunday, January 24th at the McFarland Municipal Building beginning at 1 PM. The business meeting and election of officers is scheduled to start at 2 PM with the pot-luck to follow. We'll also have the ever-popular silent auction. I look forward to seeing you there!

CANDIDATES FOR THE DAIRYLAND DRIVING CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our Bylaws were changed so that board members have two-year instead of one-year terms. Two of our members are up for re-election plus two new people have volunteered to serve. A huge thanks to Donna Crossman who served as secretary, Coachman editor and President for a total of 14 years, and Tom Smiley who served 3 years on the Drives committee. These two DDC Board members decided not to run again and they will be hugely missed. At our Annual Meeting on January 24, 2010, you will be asked to vote for four of these four candidates. Anyone else wishing to run should contact our Vice President, Sheri Haviza, so that we can add your name and bio to the list of candidates prior to the meeting.

New or not currently on the board:



Debi Radtke lives on a farm in Eagle. Debi owns four horses, all of which have been trained to drive. Pietje, a Friesian mare, her daughter, Rayna, Dove a ¾ Friesian Sport Horse, and an English Shire named Sugar Baby. Debi also has a goat named Dog (Debi's Oklahoma Goat) who sleeps next to her bed at night and spends his days with Sugar Baby. Debi and Pietje attend a few shows but Debi's real love is spending time on the trails. Debi has been a Dairyland member since 1997. Through activities with the club she has learned enough about driving to know there is always more to learn and has had the opportunity to have several special people in her life. Debi would like to "give back" to a club that has given her so much and would be honored to serve on the DDC Board of Directors.



Jennifer Thompson, DVM, grew up in the Madison, Wisconsin area and has owned horses since she was 11 years old. Her first horse was an Arabian gelding that she showed in open shows and 4-H. She started driving with this horse but hates to think of all the things she did wrong! She currently lives on a farm near Lodi with 4 horses, 2 dogs, and 3 cats. She started driving again when her mother bought a Belgian draft horse named Babe. Babe and Jennifer can be found competing in pleasure driving shows and occasionally taking some time to attend the DDC pleasure drives. Jennifer has been a member of DDC for 7 years and has contributed veterinary articles to the Coachman newsletter. Recently, she volunteered to instruct the participants of the ADS Midwest Young Drivers Camp about conditioning the driving horse, and the basic physical exam of the horse. To support her addiction to horses, she became an equine veterinarian. She has been employed by the Lodi Veterinary Hospital since 2000. Outside of horses, other interests are reading, camping, music, skiing and volunteering with the National Ski Patrol.

Returning:



Myrna Rhinehart lives near Reedsburg with husband Chad and son Kyle. They have several mini horses plus a Pinto Arabian gelding and a young Dutch Harness/Arabian mare. Chad and Myrna build their own carriages and now build customized carriages for others. They enjoy showing at carriage classics, combined driving events, fun shows, and DDC drives. They also enjoy helping others get started in carriage driving. Myrna serves as Secretary on the DDC Board. She also volunteers at the Dairyland booth at the Midwest Horse Fair, mentors at the DDC Safety Clinic, and in 2008-2009 she chaired the ADS Young Drivers' Camp committee and helped write the driving manual for the camp.



Jane Licht lives near McFarland with her husband Wes who were both founding members of DDC. Wes and Jane own 11 Morab horses and most of them are trained to ride and drive, with Wes doing the training. Jane helps with breeding mares to their stallion and she enjoys working with the babies. She also enjoys taking photographs and writing stories for various publications. Jane serves as the Coachman editor and the Webmaster for Dairyland Driving Club, Inc. She also served on the ADS Young Drivers' Camp committee and with Myrna and Wes, co-wrote the driving manual for the camp. Jane is retired from serving as the Dane County Register of Deeds.

WALKING IRON PLEASURE DRIVE

On Sunday, September 27, DDC members met at Walking Iron County Park in Mazomaine. "Walking Iron" was the term the Native American Indians used for the railroad that goes through the Village. Dane County Parks officials decided to use the name for this park that is near the railroad tracks and they decided to offer trails for multiple uses, including miles of wide, grassy equine trails.

Twelve horse trailers filled the horse parking lot as many DDC members and their families attended this drive. The morning was sunny and pleasant. After driving the grassy, nearly flat trails through woods and next to corn fields, groups of people gathered for lunch and conversation. Dessert proved to be quite elaborate since the Houks brought extra cookies, Lora Dadam made chocolate brownies to pass around, Charlotte Hensler shared her pumpkin bars, and Donna Thomas was very popular with her huge apple pie made with cranberries and brandy. After lunch, groups went out for more driving in partly sunny weather, but rain drops started falling about 2:30 PM. All in all, it was a splendid drive.



Al and Mary Wittkopp with guest member Sally in the middle.



Susan and Mia Acker



Terri Delke



Sharon Makurat and Myrna Rhinehart



Dani Oster

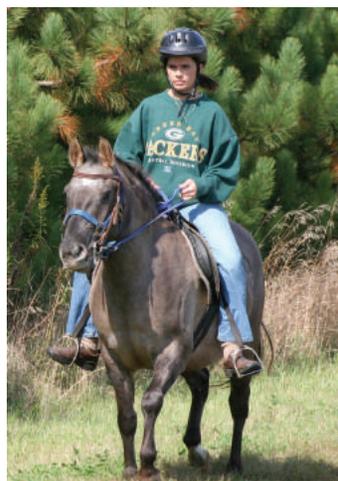


Kim Drake, Penni Klein and Wayne Schutte

WALKING IRON PLEASURE DRIVE CONTINUED



Donna Thomas



Lora Dadam



Roger and Dana Houk



Charlotte and Ron Hensler



Chad & Myrna Rhinehart, Susie & Mia Acker, Anna Koos.



Chet Thomas, Peggy Spear, Donna Thomas.

Check out the International Morab Breeders' Association

On-line Open Horse Show—www.OnlineMorabShow.com

There is a special category for driving horses. You can download any of the photos Jane took of you at Columbus, Prairie du Chien, Three Gaits, or on the DDC Pleasure Drives and use them for the next show. Contact [Jane Licht](#) for more info.

HARRY RADTKE MEMORIAL DRIVE

The first annual Harry Radtke Memorial Drive held on October 4, 2009, was well-attended and well-enjoyed. Pat and Pete Didier first suggested the title of this drive and offered to host it on the lovely Didier farms near Port Washington. Despite cool, windy weather, 13 rigs appeared and a great time was had by all. Quite a few people came in overalls in remembrance of long time DDC member Harry Radtke who passed away in March of this year. Dana Houk ordered a cake with his name and photo on it. Pat Didier decorated Pete's airplane hanger with flowers in "vases" decorated with



photos of Harry and friends on them. Most DDC folks came in the morning and tried the cones course, the winding trails and even the old hazards that were part of the American Heritage CDE from years ago.



Top photo:
Ingrid
Krause,
Peter Heck,
Caro
Krause,
and Dani
Oster.

Middle
photo:
Children of
Harry Radtke:
Liesl,
George,
Todd (son-in-law) and
Rhonda.

Left is Jim
Dingman
and his
family.

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Molly with Melinda and Therese driving a Marathon 172

HARRY RADTKE MEMORIAL DRIVE CONTINUED



Gary Hartman-Deters and Sue Deters



Peggy Spear and Annette King



Jennifer Thompson and Gina Meroneck



Loren Gettelman



Debi Radtke, Kim Stagbauer, Pat and Ken Eglund, Peter Heck , Carlo Krause, Dani Oster and Ingrid Krause (riding).



Marge Gettelman and Jennifer Jones



OVER THE PLATEAU

Or, Good Stuff I Learned This Year!

By Myrna Rhinehart

I would consider myself a “student of carriage driving”. I crave to learn more everyday. I have a collection of carriage books that is just short of a library, I am a subscriber to three carriage magazines, the Carriage Driving List (CD-L) and a couple of computer forums, and yet, I felt that I was stuck on a plateau. I knew there was more to learn that would make my driving skills increase, and knew I was going to have to find it in places other than where I was.

I received one of those fluffy emails this year that said, “To get something you never had, you have to do something you never did.” This sentence sat in my head all summer. I took it to heart and applied it to my carriage driving. One of my first big ideas that I learned was from Jeff Morse who was a clinician at the Midwest Horse Fair. I attended all of his presentations, but the one on The Division of Labor and Management was all about me and my horse. Initially, I thought it might be the most boring of all his clinics, but after Jeff started telling us that horses do not make good managers, I realized that my horse was making WAY too many decisions about us.

Anyone at the Didier’s drive last year remember when our black mini, Alax, bolted from the goat? Yeah, that was our horse. I asked Jeff about how to get Alax to not do that. Jeff suggested that we find all the ways that Alax was making little decisions, because if he doesn’t make little decisions, he is less likely to make big decisions, like bolting. I had no idea what Jeff was talking about, so he gave the example of harnessing and putting to. Does Alax stand stock still when being harnessed, or does he move around? I never considered wiggling while harnessing to be a big deal, but Jeff pointed out that when he is making the decision to wiggle after he was told to stand, he is in a management role! Jeff told me not only to make Alax stand still, but to put Alax back where I put him in the first place. After a few times of really paying attention to this, Alax finally gave in and decided that it was much easier to stand where Mom put him, than to get tugged back in place. Now Alax stands (almost) perfectly while being harnessed and put to. We also really pay attention to

when our horses try to make other decisions they are not qualified to make, and it’s making a big difference, but it’s a work in progress.

Another thing we did that we have never done before was to get some professional lessons. We had Mary Ruth Marks come out to our place and work with our horses and us. Chad was already driving Spider when she pulled in the driveway, and the first thing she said with a grin was, “Your horse is counterbending and falling in.” It



The final result of months of hard work. Even though Alax is working pleasantly for Myrna at the Villa Louis Carriage Classic (she is even SMILING!), he could bend a bit more through the corners.

wasn’t at all what I expected to hear, because even though we knew that bending was important, we didn’t realize it was THAT important. We also knew that there was an outside rein, but also didn’t realize that the outside rein was also THAT important. For three weeks after that lesson, I was so frustrated with Alax for counterbending, and at myself for letting him, I thought I would go CRAZY! Bending was something that I hardly even noticed before, and now it was screaming at me every time I drove!

Then, all of a sudden, the counterbending was gone. Alax’s withers were upright in the corners, and his circling was smooth and correct. Wow, what a differ-

ence! Alax still counterbent a little at the shows, but I realized that it is probably me. In the last class of the season, I was pretty relaxed and amazingly his withers were upright in the corners! Now to work on relaxation of the driver for next year!

That leads me to another good thing I “learned” this year from Dave Dunn. We were parked next to Dave and Pam at Villa Louis. While I was cleaning my brass, Dave and I were talking about horse show nerves, something that I have totally mastered! I can stress out better than the best! Dave brought up a good point, that “It’s just a horse show! It’s not like it’s a major business deal where there is a ton of money involved (don’t we all know that!), or life and death. It’s just a horse show!” I had to keep telling myself that all weekend, and praying for the “right” frame of mind, but I think it helped. I wasn’t nearly the bundle of nerves that I was at the Columbus Carriage Classic! I actually had fun, and (most) of the photos that I have seen taken of me exhibit a smile on my face! (This is a big deal, as my husband has said that I usually go around the ring looking like I want to kill somebody!) Now to

qualify that, it's a whole lot easier to smile while going around the ring after practicing the last point below....

That last big idea that I utilized was from an article wrote by Hardy Zantke in the May issue *The Whip* from American Driving Society. In it, he concludes that more practice equates to a better-trained horse and driver, hence why a lot of professional drivers win. If you drive your horse once a week for an hour all summer, that equals twelve hours of training. Whereas, if you drive your horse with "focused practice" as he calls it, three times a week for (most) all of the year, well, you rack up the hours! I can't tell you how far Alax (and myself) came along this year. Alax had the month of January off, because an outside temperature of 20 degrees is my cutoff for driving, and it was less than 20 degrees all month! However, the rest of the year, we drove about three times a week. In past years, I was one of those that drove once a week and "hoped" that my horse would do well in the show ring. This year, Alax hardly missed a beat. I even had a fellow competitor say that she could hardly believe it was the same horse that I had two years ago! I can't wait to see how much more he comes along next year!

There were other nuggets of information that I gleaned over the year, and if you want to know them, let me know. I'm running out of space here. I am so grateful to everyone that helped me with my driving this year! Regardless, I'm going to keep looking for things that I have never done before and hopefully keep learning all I can about carriage driving.



Chad with Spider bending quite nicely at the 2009 Columbus Carriage Classic while finding position on the rail.

Put this on your calendar for 2010—The DDC Annual Meeting, January 24, from 1 PM to 5:30 PM at the Village of McFarland Municipal Building, 5915 Milwaukee Street, McFarland, Wisconsin, 53558.

GOOD-BYE DEAR TOOTSIE

The driving and riding world lost Tootsie on October 10, 2009. On that morning, Tootsie refused to eat her pellets, which was very unusual for her. Dr. Elaine Burkhart came out and did all the recommended treatments for colic but we couldn't pull her through. She was very stoic through it all but her high pulse and breathing and lack of gut sounds indicated she was in a great deal of pain. Wes and Jane Licht both cried but knew they made the right decision for Tootsie. They remembered how the whole family was so excited to buy her from the Nanias in 1982. The following March, Sara (age 12), sat down with Tootsie on a warm, sunny day and she put her head in Sara's lap. Tootsie gave the Lichts 2 wonderful foals and a ton of great memories. She was Sara's special 4-H project. Later she was paired with her daughter Mariah for sleigh rides, carriage rides, shows and eventing. Katie put Liam on her back when he was just a small baby. This past summer, Wes put baby grandson Finn on her back, too. She was the perfect lesson horse who taught hundreds of young children how to ride. During her last lesson just 2 days before her death, an 8-year-old girl cantered her in both directions for the first time by herself. Tootsie was 34 years old and she owned the Licht family for the last 27 years of her life.

It is a time to grieve but also a time to rejoice in the companionship of a dear horse who had a very full and interesting life. Here's to Tootsie, who has now found greener pastures in which to run free, tail up and flowing like a flag, leading the herd once again.



Wes Licht driving Tootsie (L) and Mariah at the Villa Louis CC. Below, 12-year old Sara Licht with Tootsie, her 4H project. Bottom: a young riding student on Tootsie in 2005.



GOOD-BYE TO BEAR

Back in 1986 when Carol Pasbrig was working at the Midwest Horse Fair with Annie Randall, she mentioned that she was looking for a young horse. Carol and her friend Nettie Sadel later drove up to Baraboo to see Annie's 15 month old colt. The young horse found a great home with Carol and Wally, but he amazed them with his tremendous growth spurts. Carol fed him bone meal because he was growing so fast. And he did end up with very good bone and grew to a height of 16.3 hands even though his dam, Banadon Lady, was 15.2 and his sire only 14.3. Carol attended lots of clinics to learn how to train a horse to drive. She trained "Bear" as the huge Morgan was affectionately called, to drive at the age of three. As a four-year old, Carol started showing him in pleasure driving shows and combined driving events. Carol and Bear also took dressage lessons together and eventually, he could even do second level dressage movements.

There was a very special bond between Carol and Bear. He seemed to want to be near her, observing all her outdoor activities with interest. He was a good student who had a wonderful working trot with a powerful stride. Carol enjoyed taking him on DDC pleasure drives. Carol served as the DDC President for many years and initiated the drive at Old World Wisconsin. For Laura Ingall Wilder Days at Old World Wisconsin, Bear would stand quietly while hitched to Carol's vehicle as many children enjoyed petting him.

He seemed to be in good health until the day he died, October 4, 2009. That morning he had colic and the vet came immediately, but it was soon obvious that he must be put down. Bear's death hit Carol very hard. "It really takes the joy out of going to the barn," she remarked. But she is so glad to have had him as an important part of her life for over 23 years. "He was a great horse!"



Carol driving Bear at a DDC Pleasure Drive near Germantown, Wisconsin. They took the property owner for a fun ride.

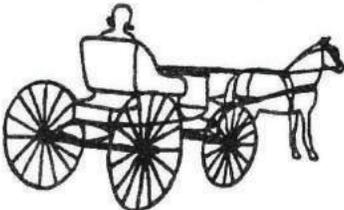


Bear looks down at little Tarzan owned by Donna Crossman. He is either trying to make friends or wondering what is this little creature! Carol is driving Bear and Marilyn Radtke is seated next to her.

Carol and Bear won Best Marathon at the American Heritage Combined Driving Event at the Didier farm near Port Washington.



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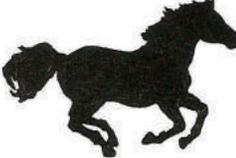
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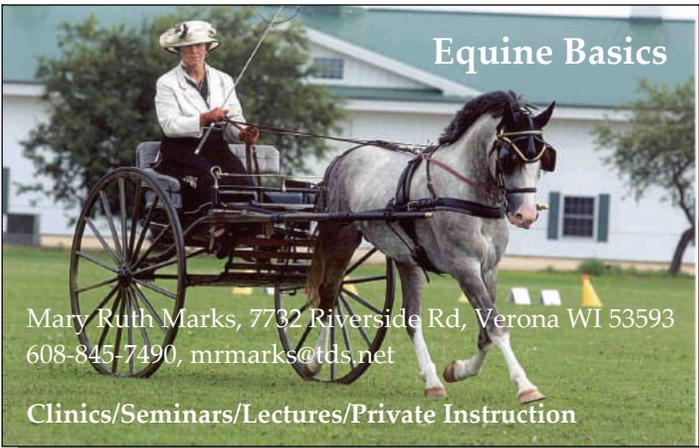


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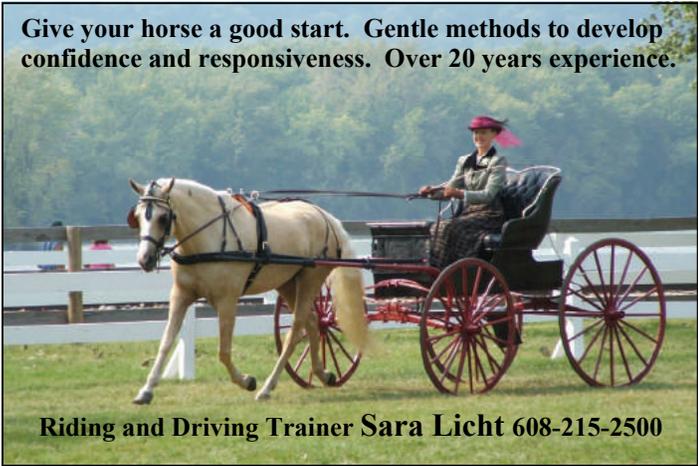


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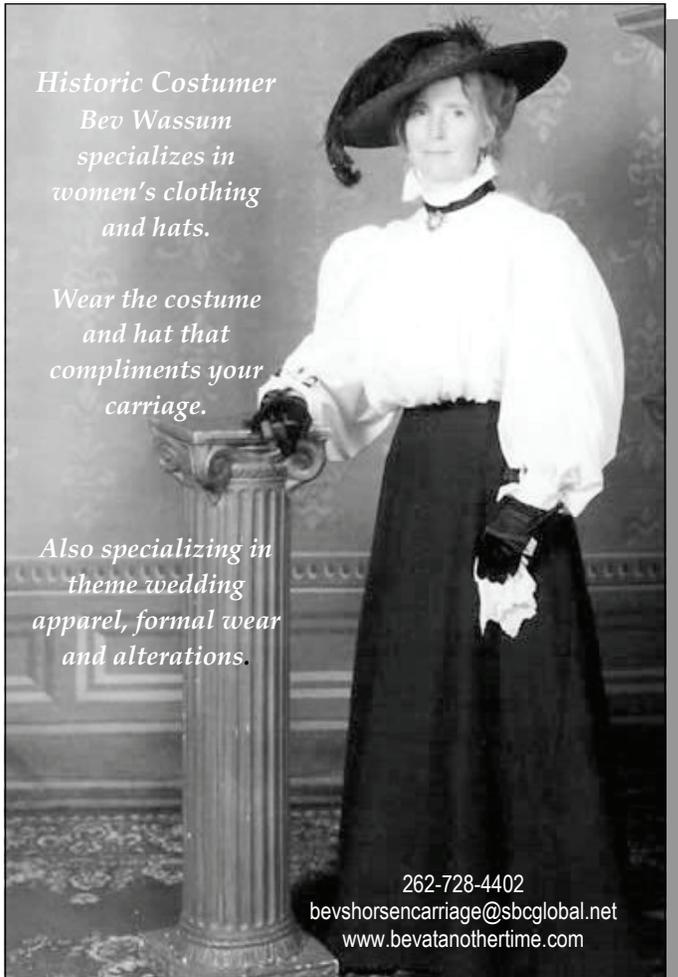


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Dairyland Driving Club, Inc.

Jane Licht
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McFarland WI 53558

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

www.dairylanddriving.com

ALL ITEMS FOR SALE

Unless otherwise specified

Vehicles, shafts, poles, wagon tongues, draft-type eveners, collars, harness, etc. For sale because of move and lack of storage space. Call us for prices and items that you might want. Kirk & Suzanne Gillespie. (H) 608-764-5507 (C) 220-3296

Four-horse **stock trailer**. 2000 year, 20 by 6 feet. Double tack doors. Trailer mats. Lights inside tack compartment and in trailer. All lights, brakes excellent. Ready to go condition. \$4,200. Trisha Thiede at 920-689-0167 or cell 920-382-9879.

All leather **pairs harness** with stainless steel buggy hames. 19" collars. Very good condition. (No bits) \$900. Free deliver can be arranged. Call Dave at 715-387-8917.

Pairs harness, black bio with chrome, made for a Friesian and Morgan Percheron cross Never used. Asking \$1200. **Phaeton** over 110 years old, fully restored and ready for the show ring. \$6200. Metal **wardrobe** \$10. Slide in camper, sleeps 5, frig, heater, 2 sinks, toilet. Everything works. \$1000. Call Debi at 414-588-5576 or e-mail enchantment@centurytel.net

New, horse size, **pairs harness** brought home from Holland. Heavy Black Leather with light brown trim. Horse size. \$950.00 Please call with questions or email. BJ at 920-420-7012 or email affarm@sbcglobal.net

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Portland cutter, sleigh is black, upholstery is aqua-colored velveteen, excellent condition. Purchased in 2003 and never used; stored in the barn under cover. Contact Pam Talsky, 262-534-2478 or email pamtalsky@wi.rr.com

German Hanoverian Sport Ponies/Horses - varying degrees of training. \$1,000 and up = can't beat this bargain! Contact Mary Ruth Marks at (608) 513-7490.

Wanted: pair harness to fit 1000-1200 # horses; would prefer to have breeching and breast collars. Contact Charlotte Hensler at 715-592-4916 or cell 715-572-4916.

Morab driving horses for sale. Variety of levels. Excellent health, attractive, people-oriented, smart, willing, forward moving with no major vices. Around 15 HH. Load and trailer well. Most ride as well as drive. Contact Wes Licht at 608-838-8178.

Small farm house for rent with horse board on site, Burlington area. Leather pony harness for sale; fits about a 10 to 12 hand equine. Contact Bonnie Denko at 262-539-2986 or email bdenko@tds.net

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