



The COACHMAN

VOLUME 12, NO. 3
SEPTEMBER, 2010

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DAIRYLAND DRIVING CLUB, INC.

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DDC Trail Clinic and Member Clinic

In May, DDC held a Trail Clinic for new members and inexperienced drivers as part of the Blackhawk Unit Drive near Sauk City, Wisconsin. Our clinician was Myrna Rhinehart (photo lower right) who talked about horse health, training and fitness, trailering, equipment, harnesses, horse-drawn vehicles, safety, and trail etiquette. New drivers were paired with volunteer veteran drivers. Everyone had a great time learning, practicing and getting acquainted.

A member clinic designed for more experienced drivers was held in June at the Marquette County Fairgrounds. Muffy Seaton was our clinician who worked with Loren Gettelman's horse inside (photo lower left). Many DDC members listened intently (photo above). Muffy spent most of her time working with horses and drivers in the outdoor arena. Donna Crossman

DDC ONLINE NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE FOR NEXT COACHMAN: October 30, 2010.

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

Dairyland Driving Club Board of Directors Meeting

September 13, 2010
Licht residence

The meeting was called to order at 7:21 p.m. by President Roger Houk. Present were Loren Gettelman, Jane Licht, Nancy Nelson, Debi Radtke, Myrna Rhinehart, and Jennifer Thompson.

Jane Licht moved to approve June minutes. Debi Radtke 2nd. MC

Nancy Nelson stated that there is \$5947.79 in the checking account. There are 186 members (families and individuals). The 2011 Midwest Horse Fair booth (\$245) has been paid. An annual insurance premium of about \$1200 will be paid as soon as application is approved. Two CDs have matured and have been renewed. Jennifer moved to approve Treasurer's Report, Debi 2nd. MC

2010 Drive Update: Roger reported on the condition of Old Plank Road in Greenbush. The drive will be held Sept. 26th. The grassy area is not mowed, so Roger is hoping that people won't be disappointed. There is room for about eight trailers.

Old Business:

Memberships: Applications from the Midwest Horse Fair needs to go to the Treasurer and Webmaster in a timely fashion. We need one person to collect the information and money.

Website: Should we require a password for the newsletter? We definitely want to protect the membership list and bank information. Jane will send another "how to" list for operating the password protected areas of the website. Jane has a new email account.

Member Clinic report: We made \$324.65 on the clinic. Nancy had the evaluations from the clinic, and they were very positive. Myrna will compile the results.

Old World Wisconsin Update: Many trees are gone from the tornado that went through this spring. We will have to have lunch in other areas now.

Fun Show: Debi brought up an idea about having a fun show. One-day participants have to volunteer in order to show the other. We will have volunteer judges. We will discuss this idea more.

Safety Clinic: Wes Licht reported that he was talking with a family at Villa Louis that suggested that we have a Safety clinic every year. Quite a bit of discussion ensued about combining the Safety Clinic and the Trail Drive Clinic. The subject matter of both clinics was discussed. It was suggested that the participant fee for the Safety Clinic include a DDC membership like the Trail Drive Clinic to encourage people to continue to come to DDC events. Members should check out potential facilities for the Safety Clinic geared towards absolute beginners.

Loren, Roger, Nancy, Sheri are up for reelection. Loren, Roger, and Nancy will run again, and we will check on Sheri. (Note: Sheri indicated in a follow-up email that she will not be able to run again.)

There will be an article in the Coachman about Coggins testing.

Next meeting will be at Lichts on November 9, 6:00 p.m.

Jennifer moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:00 p.m. Nancy 2nd. MC.

Respectfully submitted,



Myrna Rhinehart, Secretary

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR and DDC WEBMASTER Jane Licht

The Coachman is published 4 times each year. It is mainly an electronic newsletter except for those members who have no Internet connection or only dial-up service. If you feel you need to have a black and white paper copy, just contact me at licht.jane@gmail.com or 608-838-8178. You are encouraged to submit articles, photographs and advertisements. Classified ads are free to members and cost \$25 for non-members. There is a 100-word limit for classified ads and photographs can be added to your classified ads on our website (but not in the Coachman).

Website Information

When you go to www.dairylanddriving.com you are usually asked to enter your user name and password. Actually, you don't really need to do this for access to most of the website. It is only needed for access to the Coachman newsletter and the Member Directory.

If you want to set up a DDC website account, your user name should be your own name. Your password is known only to you. (You may have a special password that you use for everything.) The DDC website system may tell you that your password is of low or medium security but it will still accept it.

If you forget your password, just contact me and I will assign a new password to you and send you an email to inform you of your new password. You can edit (change) your password again if you wish. If you can't remember your user name, I can help you with that too. Both your user name and password are case sensitive so capitol letters are important! You must use exact matches for your user name and password.

Some members have remarked that it would be better to allow public access to the Coachman and only require a user name and password to our Member Directory. (We don't want to have all of our names with addresses, email addresses and phone numbers available to the public on the Internet.) This is an item that we may wish to discuss at the 2011 Annual Meeting.

We encourage you to check our website for the date and directions to DDC pleasure drives. If a drive must be cancelled, that information will also be posted. After the drive is over, photos from the drive are usually posted.

Be sure to check the classified ads to see what is for sale. And be sure to check the services offered ads in this Coachman.

www.dairylanddriving.com

Are you interested in running for the Dairyland Driving Club, Inc. Board of Directors?

We meet bi-monthly on the first Tuesday of the month to plan the pleasure drives and special events for the year. Let Jane know by November 1st if you wish to be a candidate so she can put your bio in the November Coachman.



MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT ROGER HOUK



Since our last visit, a lot of activities have taken place in our driving community. June 4th, our member clinic featuring Muffy Seaton was held at the Marquette Co. Fair grounds in Westfield, WI. This was undoubtedly one of the finest events our club has provided its members. The committee covered every detail. The weather was great (all but a few hours), and Muffy was great; the whole group loved her wit and common sense approach with students. I compliment all organizers and attendees for their participation. It was a true testament of our club's focus on education for drivers.

On June 21, 2010, a tornado touched down at Old World Wisconsin, in the village and the town of Eagle. The once beautiful stand of pines at the main parking area where we gathered this past April are gone. I'm sure you read the details and saw the photos of the site. We are all thankful no one was seriously injured during the storm. Although we lost the pines, our gatherings will continue at our yearly inaugural drive.

As the summer season started, members endured wet and hot weather; we fought off mosquitoes, flies and bees with every type of insect repellent known to modern man. On August 15th, the rigs started entering the parking lot at Walking Iron County Park in Mazomanie. Nine turnouts, and 17 members prepared for a great day of driving. Sun and warm temperatures highlighted the day. As always, the trails were well groomed. When we broke for lunch, Jane Licht started a wonderful conversation introducing Rod Sale who is one of our founding members. He and his wife, Jackie, hosted the very first organized meeting of the DDC at their home. Rod and Jackie talked about how the club evolved with help from the other founding members. From there, we went around the circle as each member shared a short bio. on themselves and their horses and explained how they had become a part of the club. What an easy way to enjoy a day of great driving and great friends!

Do to circumstances beyond our control, we must cancel the Old Plank Road Drive. Our last drive of the season is the traditional Harry Radtke Memorial drive at the Didier Farm on October 3rd. Come out and enjoy the fun. (See the drive schedule for details.)

Drive safely, Roger Houk

Destination Maine: Skyline Farm By Marti Phillips

Skyline Farm, at North Yarmouth, Maine, is just a hop and skip from Portland, so I checked out the website (www.skylinefarm.org) when I recently went to Maine on a family visit. Skyline Farm is a unique place because of its many missions. You may know of it as a carriage museum, but it is also a conservation land trust, and a membership-based trail system for riding, driving, hiking, skiing and snowshoeing on the 46 acre farm.



The carriage museum consists of a large, airy building housing carriage and sleigh exhibit space and a nicely finished multi-purpose room, for additional exhibits, meetings, etc., plus three large sheds for storage of the vast (over 100 vehicles) collection of sleighs and carriages. During the year, the main museum space will feature new exhibits focused on a theme, and carriages or sleighs will be rotated from the storage areas as needed.

As my visit happened to coincide with their 8th annual fundraiser and Skyline Summer Celebration, I didn't hesitate to sign on for their day of activities. The summer exhibit, co-sponsored by "Bound by Books" was titled "Anna Sewell's Black Beauty," and featured vehicles that exemplified parts of the book. The exhibit was informative and very well put together. While wandering through the exhibit I met one of their board members, Ursula Baier,* who graciously pointed out special features of many of the carriages and told me more about Skyline.

During the afternoon of the celebration, you could shop in a tent where local vendors rented space to sell tack, books, and horse-related items. Pony rides were offered to visiting children. A silent auction was set up inside, which again included many fine horse-related items and local services ranging from restaurant meals and massages to lobster and household services.

For me, the Midwesterner, the exciting part of the day was the benefit lobster bake, Caterers brought the makings for a fire, seaweed, lobsters, steamers (clams), corn on the cob, and potatoes, and we all ate on tables outside, overlooking the hills and pastures of the farm. (I needed a little help attacking my lobster and clams, but horse people are always helpful, so I managed to eat every last bit of lobster lurking in the nooks and crannies of the shell). Following the lobster bake, there was a lovely wine and dessert buffet inside the museum, and a band that played for a while. I met people who had horses and were drivers, people who had once had horses at Skyline in its riding stable days, and neighbors who were there to support the cause. Everyone there was friendly and welcoming. If you have a reason to be in Maine, Skyline Farm is a very worthwhile visit

*Ursula seemed familiar to me, and when I came home I checked my old video, "Sleighs and Sleigh Bells" (www.ruralheritage.com). Ursula Baier is the fountain-of-knowledge narrator on the sleigh section of this video. I wish I could spend a few days with her looking at vehicles; she knew so much, and was very so willing to share it all.

TRAIL CLINIC & BLACKHAWK DRIVE A BIG SUCCESS!

The first Dairyland Driving Club Trail Clinic held May 16 was well-planned and well-attended by participants and mentors. The clinic was free to members and attracted many new folks to sign up and attend. They listened attentively to Myrna Rhinehart's fine presentation on various aspects of the horse and getting a horse fit for driving trails, appropriate harness, the carriage vehicle and maintenance, the tow vehicle and horse trailer, packing lists, safety practices and trail etiquette. Wane Schutte talked briefly about the trail system at the Black Hawk Unit of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway. Then Myrna paired up inexperienced members with veteran drivers. DDC members really turned out for this event all did such a nice job of mentoring the new folks. There were lots of smiles as new people rode along with mentors and many even got to take over the reins if they were comfortable doing so. After the morning drive, members unharnessed horses and had lunch in the open air shelter across from the horse pavilion. Quite a few people brought extra snacks, salads, and desserts and no one went hungry! Several turnouts and new members stayed for another drive in the afternoon.

Thanks to all the veteran DDC members who volunteered their time to work with the new members who participated in the trail clinic. See photos of some of the new members on page 6. More new members are on the DDC website under Pleasure Drives. After you



Participants listened to Myrna's presentation.



Bob Hathaway let Laura Dadum take over the reins.



Chad Rhinehart mentored Margaret, Maggi and Beth.



Wes, Ali Parker, Sharon and Gayl Christensen. Laura Parker is hidden.



Bev Bruner and mentor Debi Radtke



Linda Faivre and Kathy Reland.

TRAIL CLINIC & BLACKHAWK DRIVE



Ann Nelson & Susie KoosAcker



Teri Delke and Penni Klein



Chet Thomas, Gerd Muehllehaer, Mark & Mary Wickkam.



Donna Crossman and Laura Stonehill.



Scott Statz and Steve Wassam.



Pat Egland and Rich Bruner.



Denise Marino and Kim Drake.



Lunch time.



Roger Houk and Erica Esser

2010 DDC Drive Schedule

The major focus of the Dairyland Driving Club is to provide safe, scenic and enjoyable pleasure drives throughout the driving season. We think the following are all excellent driving opportunities. You can invite a friend to ride along in your carriage by purchasing a "guest" membership for them for \$5. Go to our website for the membership form. This will satisfy our DDC insurance policy.

Your **2010 Coggins Test must be brought to all sites.** [Debi Radtke](#) (S75 W35390 Wilton Rd, Eagle WI 53119) will accept your copy prior to the first drive. If you fail to get your name on her list, then you will be asked to provide a copy [at](#) the drives. State [trail passes](#) or county trail passes may be required. The common courtesy of cleaning your parking spot before leaving is expected; this includes manure. In case of inclement weather, check your email or the DDC website notices. For most drives, we encourage you to arrive at 10:00 AM, have a morning drive, return to your trailer at 12:15 and have lunch together at 12:30 PM. (Unless otherwise specified, bring a picnic lunch.) The afternoon drive starts at 1:30 PM. For directions to the drives, check the DDC website.

We have had a great pleasure drive season with the first three drives enjoying good weather and good attendance. Don't miss the last two drives of the year:

THIS DRIVE IS CANCELLED!! September 26, Sunday: Old Plank Road, Greenbush to Plymouth, WI CANCELLED!!

Roger and Dana Houk recently visited the trail and discovered that it is not nearly as wide as it used to be. After further investigation, Roger found that part of it is under construction. Therefore, the drive is cancelled and we encourage everyone to attend the Harry Radtke Memorial Drive.

October 3, Sunday: Harry Radtke Memorial Drive; Port Washington, WI.

This drive in honor of long time DDC member Harry Radtke is held at a favorite spot, the lovely farms of the Didier Family. Bring something for the chili dump lunch. This drive has it all – lovely scenic trails, a bridge and water crossing, some old hazards from the American Heritage CDE for you to try if you wish, plus an area for practicing dressage and cones. Check the DDC website for directions.

Welcome to these new members. See more on our website under Pleasure Drives, Black Hawk.



Sharon & Gayl Christensen

Phil Berg



Beth LeRoy

Katryna Endres

Laura Parker



Ann Nelson

Bonnie Weitzel

Corrine & Scott Statz

Freiburger Carriage Works

From drivers to drivers

Marathons
Pleasure Vehicles
Training Vehicles
Commercial Vehicles

Fun Fast Safe Suitable

See us at www.hickoryknoll.net or frei@chorus.net

Fitchburg, WI



Molly with Melinda and Therese driving a Marathon 172

DR. JENNIFER THOMPSON IS FOCUSED ON HER GOALS

By Jane Licht

Marilynn and Bill Thompson arranged for their 8 year-old daughter Jennifer to take lessons through the YMCA at a stable near Oregon, Wisconsin. Jennifer loved it and soon decided she was going to be an equine veterinarian. "Everyone thought I would outgrow it but I never did," commented Dr. Jennifer Thompson, DVM. When she was ten, Jennifer had a private instructor at Triple-K stables not far from where the family lived on the west side of Lake Waubesa in the Town of Dunn. Her instructor, Deb Hamele, found a horse for her to lease. Father Bill thought leasing was okay but owning a horse was not a good idea. However, after watching Jennifer and old Missy come in last in every horse show, he changed his mind and told Marilynn to buy a better horse.

So at the age of 12, Jennifer was the proud owner of Lawrence, a bay Arab gelding that she showed in 4-H. Jennifer's legs soon grew so long that she was too tall for her beloved gelding and her parents bought Remel, a Hungarian warmblood. She rode Lawrence and then Remel huntseat, and later used Lawrence for saddleseat riding, and Remel for Dressage and Eventing. Jennifer tried her hand at driving Lawrence just to keep him busy. Jennifer was a dedicated young rider and driver who did well at the county level, always going on to 4-H competitions at the state level and at the National Level with Pony Club.

Jennifer went to college at Iowa State University at Ames and completed her pre-vet Animal Science degree. Her parents attended her graduation but father Bill died during a humanitarian mission in El Salvador shortly before she achieved her goal of getting accepted into the veterinary school at ISU, a triumph she would have loved to share with him. After achieving her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine she took an internship with the Wisconsin Equine Clinic in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. One year later in 2000, she started working at Lodi Veterinary Hospital.

When Jennifer left for college she gave Lawrence to her cousin with the stipulation that she have right of first refusal to get him back again. Her cousin showed him until she went off to college and thus, was the third girl Lawrence guided through 4-H and horse showing. "I was boarding out at Windsor Park near Deforest and he came home to retire." Jennifer still had her warmblood mare and continued to do dressage and eventing. "I started taking dressage lessons with Pat Fitzgerald in 8th grade and continued even through college when I would take lessons during semester breaks."

In 2001, Jennifer bought an acreage outside of Lodi where she could keep her aging horses. Lawrence finally passed away at age 32 and Remel died at 28. Her mother Marilynn bought a draft horse from Dottie Ellfers who stayed with Jennifer but "Scotty" died of cancer. But she still had Remel's colt named Sully and in 2004, she went with her mother to purchase a sad looking draft horse in Michigan named Babe. Babe thrived under Jennifer's care. Marilynn wanted Babe for a riding horse but was happy when Jennifer expressed interest in driving her. "Babe has a great personality, good training, and is smart and eager to please. I just wish she were younger. This will be her last hurrah at the Villa Louis Carriage Classic," said Jennifer. The two of them have won many blue ribbons, entire divisions and the coveted Carriage Dog Class.

Jennifer wants to devote more time to her 6 year-old Hanoverian that she purchased at the age of 18 months. "Hannah" is a good prospect who drives and does ridden dressage. She did well in hand as a two and three year old, being nationally ranked.

Jennifer enjoys her life with horses, both for pleasure and in her profession. "I really enjoy all aspects of vet medicine: surgery, breeding work, lameness evaluations, client education, presenting at the Midwest Horse Fair, and working with kids such as at the ADS Young Drivers' Camp." Jennifer says she especially enjoys pre-purchase exams where she can have an



Dr. Thompson presented horse health and conditioning at the Young Drivers' Camp sponsored by ADS with DDC volunteers.

important impact on new horse owners.

Jennifer heard about Dairyland Driving Club through Deb Bevan. She remembers her first DDC pleasure drive in 2004 at the Green Lake Baptist Center where Carol Pasbrig road in the carriage with her mom. "She was my mentor and very reassuring."

Later that year, Marilynn and Jennifer visited the Carriage Classic at Prairie du Chien and both remarked, "That looks like fun!" They had already purchased the Bronson Wagon mainly for its beauty so the next year they entered the Columbus CC with Marilynn's horse Babe.

In 2009, Donna Crossman asked Jennifer to consider serving on the Dairyland Board of Directors and Jennifer agreed that it would be a good thing to do. Jennifer is especially enthusiastic about the clinics that DDC is offering to youth and new members as well as opportunities for more experienced drivers. "I think we should continue to reach out to new members and those



Babe, Jennifer and dogs at Villa Louis CC in 2010 where they again won the Carriage Dog Class.

WALKING IRON DRIVE AT MAZOMANIE

Sunny, breezy and cooler weather made this day perfect for driving. Nine rigs and 18 members attended, including new members Kristi and Jim Slovik who used Wes Licht's Buckskin Morab mare, and Bob Erickson who drove his pair of mammoth donkeys. Most folks arrived for the morning drive but Rod and Jackie Sale had a flat tire so they called their friends Ingrid and Carlo Krause to come to their rescue. The Sales and Krauses joined us for our picnic lunch. We all sat in a big circle and each couple or individual explained how they came to drive horses and join Dairyland. Many stayed for the afternoon drive. The hoards of mosquitoes, especially fierce in the woods, make us think that Walking Iron Park is a better choice for Spring or Fall and not during the height of



Donna and Chet Thomas protected Trina with a fly mask.



Rod Sale drove his well-trained Haflinger pair. Ingrid Krause, is seated next to him and Bob Erickson is behind.



New DDC member Bob Erickson drove his Mammoth Donkeys.



Teri Delke and Dani Oster participate in many DDC drives.



New members Kristi Slovik and husband Jim borrowed Annie from Wes Licht for this drive.



Alice and Ray Hubert drove their Standard-breds. They got into driving after winning a driving horse.

WALNUT HILL DRIVING COMPETITION

By Myrna Rhinehart

On Monday, August 9, 2010, the Rhinehart family made their first trip to the 39th Anniversary of Walnut Hill. For those of you unfamiliar with Walnut Hill, it is known as the largest carriage driving competition in the United States with over 200 turnouts entered in 20 divisions.

We decided to take my 37" Miniature Horse, Alax, to show in the Small Single Pony division for ponies above 34" to 12.2 hands. I was a bit concerned about showing against the "bigger ponies" considering that we usually are entered in the Very Small Equine division of 39" and under, but they don't have this division at Walnut Hill. So I "sucked it up" and played with the "big boys".

Our trip included a 14-hour one-way drive to Pittsford, New York, outside of Rochester. Along the way, we passed through Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and a corner of Pennsylvania before reaching New York State. We left our house at 5:00 a.m., and reached the show grounds at about 8:00 p.m. eastern time. It's a long time to be in the sitting position! My mother-in-law went with us on the trip and she brought all sorts of food. During fuel ups, Chad pumped the diesel, our son Kyle and I checked Alax, and Grandma prepared sandwiches and snacks in the trailer so that we could keep the "pedal to the metal".

When we reached the show grounds it was about dusk. We found out that our stall was in tent #15. Each tent held twenty stalls, and some people had multiple tack/hospitality stalls. Alax was very ready to stand on solid ground so we unloaded him, gave him his food and water, dropped the trailer, and headed to the hotel in Rochester.

The next day, we had a well-deserved sleep in, then ate a warm complementary hotel breakfast before heading out to the show grounds. While Alax ate his breakfast, we went to check out the rest of the grounds. The stabling is across the road from the arena and cross-country course. All during the show, volunteer crossing guards monitored the cross traffic so that nobody was run over by the passing cars. The grounds were well laid out, keeping spectators at bay from the horse holding areas while still allowing for good viewing. Vendors were busy on Tuesday setting up their wares and the caterer was hauling in necessary food and supplies. There were flowers EVERYWHERE. Every other post of the arena had a basket of red flowers on it. We also checked out the Carriage Museum where locals make some vehicles from their collections available for spectators to see. Each vehicle had a comprehensive written description.

Walnut Hill allows exhibitors to practice with their horses in the arena and drive through one of the water hazards on Tuesday before the show, so I took advantage of this. We don't have a board fence at home for our arena, so it was good for Alax to check out the fence and those "goofy" flower buckets all over the place! At one point, show manager Ed Young was putting a sign up on the fence as we went past and Alax was a little

surprised by that body crouched down in "pouncing position" on the outside of the fence! By the end of his practice session, Alax was used to all the goings on outside the arena and settled in. While we were practicing, so were other turnouts such as

other single horses and ponies as well as pairs and four-in-hands.

We checked out the water hazard, too. It is the end of a small pond with a gravel bottom but it had a very "black hole" look to it. Alax took a bit of encouraging, but trusted Mom and eventually trotted through it without any problems. When we were finished, we went back to the trailer for hours and hours of cleaning and polishing before my first class on Wednesday morning.

Later, the office was open and we checked in. They gave us a welcome Walnut Hill bag filled with all sorts of good stuff including a Walnut Hill hand towel, a magazine, two Walnut Hill cookies, a bottle of wine, and a print-style poster (which I am having framed). I said to the nice lady, "Well, at least I won't go home empty handed!" to which she said, "Nobody goes home from Walnut Hill empty handed!" At 5:30, the informal Beer and Ear Arrival Party boasted a picnic menu, and competitors and grooms chatted while sitting on hay and straw bales. We noticed that there were very few bugs and NO mosquitoes!

Wednesday morning came quick and my first class of Progressive Cones was the third after 8:00 a.m. I went clean in Progressive at the Columbus Carriage Classic this year, so I figured I had good chance at doing well. However, Michael Ridge, fellow Midwesterner from Minnesota, quickly pointed out to me that at Walnut Hill, more than just half a dozen competitors make it through clean, like what happens at the whole Columbus show. At first I thought this was because the drivers were just that good, but I soon figured out that at Walnut Hill, all the classes including obstacles are held in the stone dust arena. We are used to driving Progressive on grass where there are bumps and lumps that jostle your vehicle sideways! At Walnut Hill, there are no bumps and lumps! You may slide in between cones, but you more than likely won't jump sideways at the cones. Three quarters of my division (about 10 of 15 competitors) made it through clean! You had to be fast as well as clean! I decided that I would drive the cones faster than I would at Columbus, but still maintain a controllable pace so that I could drive clean. I did go clean, and was in second place after my go....for a while. I ended up in 6th. I got a ribbon at Walnut Hill! I wouldn't go home skunked!

Obstacle classes are pinned right after the class, and while ribbons were being distributed, the amazing grounds crew went to work. Within a matter of about 3-5 minutes, the cones, balls, and gazebo that were in the arena were cleared and flower planters and decorative chain connecting them were in place for Reinsmanship. On to the next class! There was a Reinsmanship class before mine, and one of the competitors



WALNUT HILL Continued

had an accident that dumped him out of his gig while his horse ran around the arena, over the flower planters, through the chain, and into the fence breaking a couple of boards. Over lunch, the boards were repaired and painted so you couldn't tell there had ever been a wreck!

I didn't think my Reinsmanship pattern was that good because Alax first decided to shy at the flower planters they used in the arena for the patterns. I found out later that a lot of other horses looked at those, too. Then he threw a small hissy fit when facing the in-gate and another when facing the out-gate. After my pattern, I felt like going back to the trailer and saving myself the time of sitting there, but decided that I needed to be a "big girl" and wait it out. Wouldn't you know, my number and seven others were called back for rail work. I made the cut! Well, I figured that was probably because they needed someone for "fail" (or people who don't place), but I was pinned for 2nd!

On Thursday, Chad, Grandma, and Kyle went to Niagara Falls, about an hour and a half drive away, for the day while I stayed at the show and took some photos. That night, we went to dinner at a fabulous restaurant right on the historic Erie Canal with fellow Wisconsinites Mallory Gorman and Nancy Nelson, who came along to help Mallory. We dined on the patio on a gorgeous summer night and noticed a number of show officials and competitors that had the same idea as we did, dining at the same location.

Friday was Cross Country day for me. They don't post the course until the morning of your go, so we couldn't walk it before that. The course included obstacles such as a covered bridge, the two water crossings, and a couple of small buildings to drive past. There was also a mock railroad crossing, but that wasn't part of our course (Too bad, because I thought that would have been fun!). The course started and ended in the arena, and like all the other obstacles, the spectators and competitors could see your "time" on the digital board as soon as you crossed the line. The volunteers on the course radioed back to the arena whether or not you had any penalties and the announcer told the audience what your ranking was right away. I was the first go for my division, and at 1.5 seconds off the ideal time, was in first place...for a bit. The lady behind me was less than a second off and won. My 1.5 seconds held up until the last go, which dropped me to 3rd. Our division was tough!

Friday evening is special at Walnut Hill because that is when they hold the evening classes. Each competitor was given four tickets to the evening events including picnics if you wanted to partake. We decided to eat at the trailer rather than lug all the food to the arena, but others had some impressive picnic dinners spread on the lawn. You could also get a dinner from the show caterer if you wanted. The evening classes included a Trade/Commercial class and Carriage Dog class. The always fun Costume Class had a three abreast of minis dressed (painted) as "horses of different colors" performing for their winning turnout of the Wizard of Oz. The sign carried on the turnout said, "There's no place like home Walnut Hill."

I did "double-duty" at this show, also grooming for Mary Jo Stockman on the dickey seat of her George IV Phaeton. I told my mother-in-law, "I am like string gloves. I'm a prop." While we were waiting for Mary Jo's Evening Bonnetted Phaeton class, we watched Mallory Gorman win the Gig class! When Mallory came out of the arena, we "stole her fire". Actually, we needed some flame to light the lamps on Mary Jo's carriage, as the sun was setting enough for lamps! Evening classes are quite a

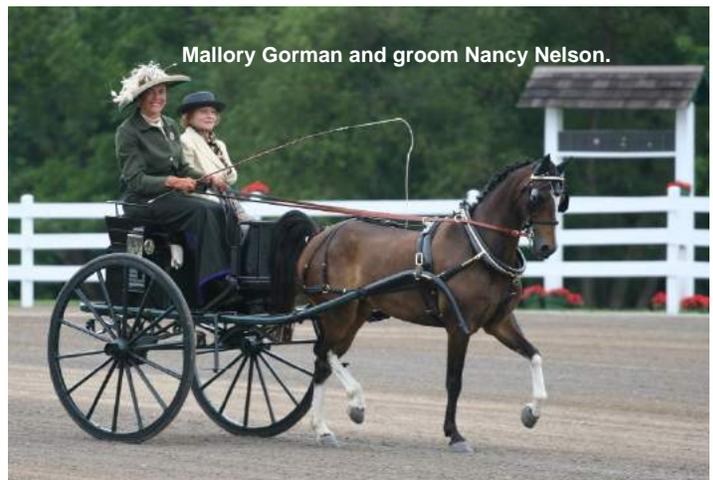
novelty for us, and Mallory was practically "giddy" that she finally got to light her lamps!

Saturday was my Pleasure Turnout class, the last class of my division. I really did not enjoy the idea of having to get all spotless again, as we are used to having our Turnout class first, and then just "touch up" for the rest of the show. It was especially frustrating considering that I had to plow through the water hazard the day before and get all "smutchy". However, my class was in the afternoon, so we had time to get ready. While we were cleaning, we could watch the coaching crews get their vehicles ready, too. The amount of work that it takes them made us glad we only brought one little pony! I took the opportunity to ask the "neighbors" what clothes I should wear for my class. I have an outfit that I typically wear for Turnout, but I was concerned that my hat was too big for my pony. They told me, "This is Walnut Hill. Go big!"

After my class (I got 6th), we had time to watch the rest of the show that day, especially the VSE Multiples. Chad was interested in those classes because we are working on a VSE Multiple at home. One small unicorn had a really fast time in Fault and Out Obstacles because two of the three horses were cantering, but one wheeler just wouldn't break that trot! All of the horses need to break for it to count against a driver, so she won the class.

We also took the time to peruse the vendors. Chad sampled wine at the wine vendor and ended up purchasing a case! (Remember, you don't go home from Walnut Hill empty-handed!) Earlier in the week we bought some shirts and a couple of commemorative glasses from the Walnut Hill booth. There were also some vendors for driving equipment, clothing, hats, books, furniture, jewelry, and firearms. While we were up by the office, we checked out the results board for the first time. I was pleased to see that I finished 3rd in points for my division! I had done much better than I expected!

Overall, we found everyone to be very pleasant. We met some wonderful people who were very helpful. For lots of people, Walnut Hill is their "local" show, while for others, it is *the* show to be at. It was interesting for us to see the variety of vehicles including the elaborate coaches that you just don't see around here. Many people bring multiple vehicles to show in different divisions, and with five days of classes you have the time to show more than one division if you want, but we were glad that we had time to take it all in. And we are looking forward to the potential of going back again next year!



Mallory Gorman and groom Nancy Nelson.

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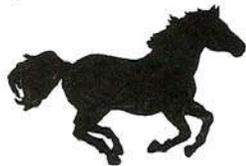
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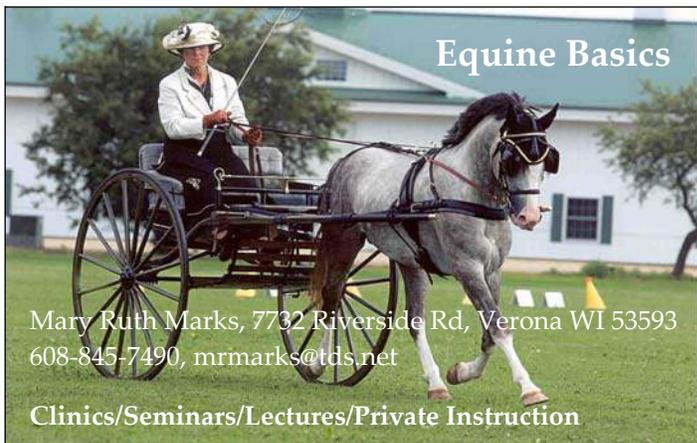
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rayalhubert@hotmail.com photos on website

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Wanted: pair harness to fit 1000-1200 # horses; would prefer to have breeching and breast collars. Also need an aluminium stock trailer, 16 by 7 by 7 feet. Contact Charlotte Hensler at 715-592-4916 or cell 715-572-4916.

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

Pony cart for sale. Fits medium to large size pony. I sold my Arab/Welsh mare so now I have no use for this cart. It was carefully restored by Chad and Myrna Rhinehart and has

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windrif@centurytel.net

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kimcameron1975@aol.com