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President's Message:

Happy New Year! 2014 appears to be coming in with a statement. A cold one that is! Despite the chilly weather that has us bundling up, DDC has several things cooking on the burners for 2014. Events are still in the development and planning stages and I hope for them to be detailed out a little more at the January 14, 2014 BOD meeting. Stay tuned to future email blasts, newsletters, and the Annual Meeting for updates. These events and plans involve the need for volunteers from our membership in various different roles.

There are two positions opening up on the DDC BOD, plus other individuals are up for re-election. Do you know someone that would be an excellent addition to our leaders? Are you willing and interested? If so, contact Chet Thomas. Please consider giving back to the organization. Fresh blood, energy and ideas are always welcome and healthy for an organization.

Don't forget about the Annual Meeting on March 2, 2014 at the McFarland Municipal Building. As always, it is an excellent time to reconnect with members, socialize, and eat! Until then, STAY WARM! Keep your ponies healthy, and THINK SPRING!

Annual Meeting

Our 2014 Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, **March 2, 2014** from 1 to 5 PM at the McFarland Municipal Building, 5915 Milwaukee Street, McFarland WI 53558. Please bring a dish to share for the meal, and your own dining ware plus beverage of your choice.

As is customary, we will hold a silent auction to benefit DDC programs. Funds raised in the silent auction work to defray some costs of member clinics, insurance, and community driving show and class sponsorships just to name a few. Please think about bringing an item to donate. New this year will be the ability to put a minimum starting bid on the item if desired.

Do you have an item or topic you would like to discuss or present to the membership? Please let Jennifer Thompson know so she may add it to the agenda for the member meeting.

See you in March!

Calendar of Events

(Every thing in italics is tentative)

February

8 Columbus Sleigh Rally

March

2 DDC Annual Members Meeting

April

11-13 Midwest Horse Fair

?? Old World Wisconsin Drive

May

3 Suds and Fun ADT

17 Black Hawk Drive

31-1 Eastern Iowa Carriage Glow

June

13-15 Columbus Horse and Carriage Festival

27-29 Skunk River Driving Trial

July

5 Notara Farm HDT

19-20 Hickory Knoll CDE

September

5-7 Villa Louis Carriage Classic

A First-Timer's Guide to the Fall Martin's Auction

by Laura Kunze

There are so many reasons to make the pilgrimage to the Fall Martin's Auction in Lebanon, PA. Maybe you have the basics and wish to expand or upgrade your carriage collection. Or, perhaps you would like to add lamps to your existing antique carriage, find a sleigh for winter, score a great deal on harnesses or discover some antiques and horse-related treasures you never knew you couldn't live without! You will find Western and English saddles and tack, attire, horse equipment, lawn and garden ornaments, artwork, antique appointments, lamps, antique and newer pleasure carriages, marathon vehicles, fur coats and muffs, umbrella baskets, furniture and unique antique household items. The list could go on. You will feel like a kid in a candy store. Besides the huge assortment of all things driving, there is the attraction of spending the weekend with people who find this hobby/sport just as exciting as you do! Here are some tips before you go:

First of all, determine your mode of transportation. It is no secret that we are a friendly group here in the Midwest. Send out an e-mail to Dairyland members and other area drivers you know to find out who might be making the same trip. If you would like to bring a trailer, you will very likely find at least one person who would love to either ride along or chip in for treasure-transport home. Should your schedule not allow you to make the 15-hour drive, arrange to have a trailer-driving friend cart your carriage or other purchases home. They will appreciate your contribution towards gas money, and it will cost much less than professional transport, which Martin's will gladly arrange for you, should you require it.

Book your accommodations early. Martin Auctioneers' website, <http://martinauctioneers.com>, lists links to area hotels. Consult with area drivers so that you may potentially coordinate accommodations. If you are lucky, the hotel may have a restaurant or bar at which you may gather to unwind and review the day's excitement.

Next, make sure that you take proper measurements for any and all tack and vehicles that you may wish to purchase. "Proper measurements" means that you should know how to measure for whatever item(s) you are shopping - no winging or ball-parking it, as I had done. Not.Good.Enough. The American Driving Society has a helpful harness and cart/carriage measurement guide that can be found at [http://www.americandrivingsociety.org/](http://www.americandrivingsociety.org/new_drivers_index.asp)

[new_drivers_index.asp](http://www.americandrivingsociety.org/new_drivers_index.asp). Take your own measurements, based on the categories listed. The following UK website also contains useful harness and carriage/cart measuring guides and tips: <http://www.ukdrivingclub.com>

www.ponyandcarriage.co.uk/horse-and-carriage-sizing-guide.htm Following is a link to Country Carriages USA Carriage for "How to Measure for Harness": <http://www.countrycarriagesusa.com/home.html>. Similar charts are available on other sites as well. Don't forget to measure your trailer or pick-up bed, as you need to be sure that you can transport your new carriage home and to the next show! Notice that I suggested you measure for "any and all" tack and vehicles that you "may" wish to buy. Consider measuring for harnesses, bridles, saddles and vehicles that you may not plan on purchasing, but might like to have. This is an auction. You may find yourself face-to-face with a deal that you simply can't refuse! For example, even though I was in the market for a large horse cart, I might like to have taken advantage of a great price on a carriage or harness for the family pony. In hindsight, it is just as well that I had not measured, as it allowed me to exercise some restraint. There were several beautiful small-pony vehicles this year.

That leads us to budget. If an antique carriage is what you desire, the Carriage Association of America has a wonderful assortment of books available for purchase that will help to educate you on a variety of vehicles: <http://caaonline.com>, click on "CAA Book and Gift Store". The internet is a wonderful tool. Use it to research sale values of the suitable/desirable carts, carriages, harnesses and tack. Decide the maximum amount you are willing to spend on each item, based on its condition. Know that restoration of an antique in rough shape could cost around \$12,000.

Another valuable resource is the plethora of knowledge of our fellow drivers and collectors. I had the pleasure and good fortune of attending the auction with John and Betsy Freiburger, Deb Bevan, Mike Rider and Howard Kietzke - all very experienced and knowledgeable in this wonderful world of driving. In fact, the assistance they gave was unbelievable! They helped measure many different vehicles, tossed around ideas as to which would be most appropriated, pointed out features, benefits and disadvantages of each one, and even polled Audrey Bostwick for her opinion as well! Betsy was taking pictures of me in the vehicles to show me how I looked in them. I had a veritable carriage shopping team around me! At one time, I happened to be standing next to Howard while bidding. I was getting close to the limit of what I wanted to spend, and he gave me that last elbow-nudge of encouragement for one more bid. Sure enough, that did it, and I am now the proud owner of a new cart! While I am always overwhelmed by the kindness of fellow drivers, I should no longer be so surprised. You drivers are such a supportive group of people. While I can't even count how many other Midwesterners I happened to run into, I also had the opportunity to meet many drivers from other regions. Everyone had a story to tell and information to share - simply delightful!

Prior to your trip, purchase the printed auction catalog, available from Martin's for \$25. Purchase your reserved or general admission seat ticket at that time as well. Mark the pages/items in which you may be interested. Jot down notes about what you would like physically examine, measure and pay for each vehicle. Know that there is so much more than what is listed in the catalogue. Thousands of other items, including many other vehicles, will be sold in other areas on the grounds.

And you're off... Get to the auction early, even late Friday afternoon, if you can. Check in at the desk to pick up your number and seating ticket. Take time to find and inspect each item on which you may like to bid. The auction of the carriages in the catalogue will take place in the main seating area in the order in which they are listed. No need to wave your arms and jump up and down. These people are professionals. I did not even swat at a fly that was buzzing around my head during the auction of the carriage that went for \$92,000! The order of sale of other items, along with payment information, can be found on Martin's website. Admittedly, the experience was a bit dizzying when there were two or three auctions going on under one roof. Be aware that Saturday's auction can run

late -- up to 11 p.m. That was a little too late to catch a proper sit-down dinner. Gas-station cheese, chips, fruit and wine in the hotel room was how that evening ended!

The Martin's staff is knowledgeable and friendly. Given the vast and varied inventory, the event could, potentially, be a chaotic experience. Instead, Martin's expertise and experience ensure that it is organized, well laid out and efficient.

Don't be disappointed if you did not get what you intended to purchase. You may not have found the perfect carriage, or perhaps it sold for more than you were willing to spend. After all, this is an auction. Inventory is driven by happenstance of what people bring to sell, and price by the general principles of supply and demand. There is always next year!

Members News

Congratulations to **Robert and Mary Hathaway** on celebrating 60 years of wedded bliss on January 1st! **Kirk and Suzanne Gillespie** recently celebrated 42 years of marriage on New Years Eve Day.



Wes Licht has been giving lots of sleigh rides this winter to family groups who seem to appreciate the rides very much. He reserved Christmas Day for our family and friends. Here is a photo of that sleigh riding group.

www.rockingLacres.com

Sparkles the Pony, by Sandra Nowicki

I have just completed my second children's book, Sparkles the Rainbow Pony. I have authored the book, created 15 full color original illustrations, and published the book. In this story, Sparkles, after a rough start in life, gives joy and happiness to many sad and lonely people. This book is written for children, but appeals to people of all ages. I think everyone will enjoy reading my new book. My first book about Sparkles the Pony, Sparkles the Christmas Pony, is also available for purchase



Sparkles the Rainbow Pony is available online at www.createpace.com and at www.amazon.com I also have copies available for purchase.

Pictured Left: Sandra Nowicki driving Julius put to an 1885 Cutter. Picture was taken in December after the first snowfall. To quote Sandra: "We live in WI, so it's important to enjoy winter too, as long as it's not too cold!"

What NOT to do for a winter vacation AKA, "An Oat Story"

by Mary Ruth Marks

I'd had a total hip replacement on my right hip about 3 weeks earlier. My sister Barbara came up from MS to help me rehab. Things went well, I was walking unaided so she went back to MS and I was back to doing things on the farm ---- slowly. Then Adeszko (my stallion) broke a board in his paddock and it took me about 3 hours to fix - now that was moving slower.

Well darn if I didn't get home the next day and was going to head out to Ingrid's and I saw Adeszko out in the pasture with the herd. Dang it. The board I'd fixed wasn't fixed good enough.

So I called him and he and my older mare M&M and her 4 year old daughter Sedona came too - all down to the paddock by the barn. I didn't really care about his advances to the old gal M&M, but not to Sedona. I didn't need an unwanted pregnancy.

Well, he was making advances to this cute young thing and it terrified her and so I opened the gate into the barn to get her inside and separated, and about that time he made advances toward her snorting, it scared her and she bolted into the barn, knocking me down in her haste to get away from Adeszko and into the barn. Splat! Down I went. Darn, at first I thought I'd dislocated my hip (a real no-no) but then I realized it was my leg. Hurt like ; \$&(@/\$&.

So I'm laying on the barn floor with this filly standing over me and eating the oats in the bucket that I had beside me and dribbling them all over my face, hair, blouse, jacket etc. It was kinda funny even with the pain of the broken femur (directly below the hip implant on my right leg).

Anyway, called 911 to come get me. At one point I grabbed some oats and threw them at the filly and shouted at her to "go away". The dispatcher thought I was telling him to "go away". I said "no", that I was talking to the horse. He was worried and asked if there were loose horses there and I said "yes". "Wasn't I worried about getting stepped on?" - "no" I said to him. He asked if neighbors nearby could help. I gave him my neighbor's number across the road who had a boarding stable and the neighbor across from her - and up the hill from me. The funny thing about all that is when they called the neighbor up the hill, somewhere ... something was lost in translation, he thought the lady that had the boarding stable was on the ground in HER barn and was hurt so went over to her place, not to mine. Sounded like that old kids game - Telephone.

Anyway, they finally came with the ambulance - it'd been on another call - but the time seemed like forever. They came down to the barn, asked me what my name was, etc., then asked on a scale of 1 - 10, what was my pain level? I told them it was a "13"!!!!!!

They put the board under me, put me on the gurney thing to roll me up out of the barn and every time it went over a tiny bump, the pain was unbearable and I'd scream. (I'm really not a sissy) So I told them they'd have to just carry me on the stretcher – which is what they did. I asked them to put the filly in the stall and close the gate AND grab my cell phone charger out of the house. It all worked out.

I do know this, a spiral fracture of the femur after a hip replacement is not a lot of fun. Don't do it. Having a baby was less painful.

Adeszko was a good boy and stayed in the paddock and could have come in but didn't for some reason. Guess its that Guardian Angel of mine working overtime. So off to the emergency room, and a pin put through my shin bone to put that leg into traction till the surgery the following day. Surgery went well, but the funny thing is that two days after surgery, I told the hospital nurse that there was an 'oat' under my right butt cheek. She said it had to be a fold in the ace bandage on my leg. "No" I said as I knew what an oat felt like. She said they scrubbed me up for the surgery so couldn't happen.

Well, the next day when Mal and Gary Gorman and Deb Bevan came to visit, I'd just gotten out of bed for the first time to go get my hair washed and had gone down the hall in a wheelchair. When I got back, I noticed one "oat" on my room floor and asked Gary to pick it up. We had a good laugh, I took a picture of it and saved it for my surgeon.

Moral of the story for all of ya'll watch where you put your oats!!

I'm healing well, not as fast as I'd like, but as Deb told me, your guardian angel has been working overtime for you for many years, so maybe I need to slow down a bit as she may need a vacation. So I'm vacationing! Thanks to all of you who've helped me so much and for the well wishes. I was told I could possibly be riding again by May.

Hugs, Mary Ruth

The Hermitage Classic Combined Driving Event

by Cathy Thomas

WOW is the best description of my impression of the Hermitage Classic Combined Driving Event which was held September 13-15, 2013 in Goshen Kentucky (just outside of Louisville)

In it's 4th year this event was bigger and better! One of the few combined driving events to offer Training thru Advanced Level! This was a USEF sanctioned event with top international officials. The Barry Hunter designed marathon course was what I consider the best marathon course of any I have seen. Trade Fair and I have been lucky enough to compete at a lot of

different venues over the years, including Iron Horse in IL, Live Oak in Florida, and The Laurels in Pennsylvania, so I don't say this lightly! The course was appropriate for all levels! The obstacles were beautiful and spectator friendly. The dressage and cones courses were equally wonderful! The competitor's party was well worth the cost!! The stabling consisted of permanent and temporary stalls. The stabling was a considerable distance from the show venue but an easy golf cart ride and a good warm up for the horses. Trailer and camper parking was ok for the fine weather we had but this is an area for improvement in coming years, in my opinion. The warm up areas for dressage and cones could be improved upon as well, kind of rough and on a slope. That being said this is an international caliber event and I strongly urge you to put it on your calendar for next year!!

EDITORS NOTE: please check out the Hermitage web site ~ the history of the Farm is very interesting! <http://www.hermitagefarm.com/about/history/>



2014 Coggins

Debi Radtke set up a gmail account to hold our 2014 coggins. Pretty easy, coggins papers can be emailed to 2014Coggins@gmail.com. The password is Dairyland, so any member can check if they are hosting a drive or just want to verify their coggins was received in the email account. OR if you do not have access to email, please bring extra copies to the pleasure drive and give to Debi Radtke.



STAR DRIVER Program

As 2014 begins, we all look back on the previous year & decide what was good, what could be better, what should be repeated, and what should not. As you mentally review your driving experiences for 2013, it's a great time to qualify for the Dairyland Driving Club's Star Program.

The program, begun by Andy Halbach, is designed to recognize DDC members for what we do with our horses; to give those who invested time and energy in the sport of driving a positive recognition as a member of DDC. Take a moment, note which activities you completed and email the information to Terri Delke, Membership Coordinator, at stargeorge@hotmail.com by February 15.

Which of these activities have you completed:

- Driven at least 50 miles during 2013
- Driven at least 25 hours during 2013
- Driven at a minimum of three (3) DDC scheduled events during 2013
- Driven in two (2) or more ADS recognized events
- Driven in three (3) other horse events (parades, open shows, sleigh rallies, County or State Fair, clinic lessons, etc)
- Mentored a driver for at least ten (10) hours during 2013

Special category THE DRIVING FOOL

- number of days you drove in 2013 (minimum 200)
- number of miles you drove (the horse, not the trailer) in 2013. Minimum is 500.

Submit your entries to Terri by February 15. Stars will be announced at the annual meeting. One (or more?) of the Stars at the meeting will receive a special prize.



Pictured above are Sharon Makurat (L) and Trisha Thiede (R) at the 2013 Columbus Sleigh Rally. Mark your calendars for another great event to be held on Saturday February 8, 2014. Classes start at noon. For more information contact Melanie Lichtfield Mell@lichtfeldplumbing.com

Business Card Directory

Please contact Donna Crossman if you'd like to have your business card displayed here. Cost is \$25/year



MEMBER CLASSIFIEDS

Contact Donna Crossman crossman@gdinet.com to list your driving related items. Ads are FREE for members.

FOR SALE: Pairs harness, like new black bio with chrome, made for a large horse. \$1200. Phaeton over 110 years old, fully restored \$6200. Metal wardrobe \$10. Slide in camper, sleeps 5, all extras & everything works. \$1000. Call Debi at 414-588-5576 or e-mail deb@theenchantedcarriage.com

FOR SALE: 2004 Morgan mare - B Hawks Georgie Girl (Tory) broke to drive and ride (driven more than ridden) sired by Nodaway Torger out of Hylee Radiant (Serenity Flight Time) She is a large solid chestnut mare, standing 15.2 and well built. \$2900 or best offer.

Horse'n Around Miniature Equines Wayne and Linda Schutte, 6721 Demby Road, Arena, WI 53503
608-574-4769
schuttewl@gmail.com <http://www.horsenaroundminiatureequines.com>

FOR SALE: Large pony pair runabout, sized for Fjords or Haflingers but with an adapter for a large single horse. Steel pole that should have a vinyl cover for pleasure shows. Lamps available if you wish to show pleasure. Vehicle is very strong with a steel frame. Has rubber mats to cover the oak slat floor, only used a few times, \$5995.

Hickory Knoll Farm: frei@chorus.net

It's time to Renew Your Membership!!

DAIRYLAND DRIVING CLUB MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Family Membership. Includes two adult partners and all children under the age of 18 living in one household. **\$20**

Individual Membership. Includes one adult person over the age of 18 (as of January 1 of the year of the membership). **\$18**

Junior Membership: Includes one child under 18 (as of January 1 of the year of the membership) who is not included in a Family Membership. **\$10.**

Guest Membership: Includes one adult or child. Not entitled to voting privileges or publications but may attend DDC events and ride along as a passenger. Must be sponsored by a Family Member or Individual Member and may not bring a horse or drive a horse at a DDC event. **\$5**

DAIRYLAND DRIVING CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

Type of membership (circle one) Family \$20, Individual \$18, Youth \$10 (not part of family membership), Guest \$5*

*Guest Membership only - name of DDC member sponsor: _____

Name - Primary Contact: _____

Name - Secondary Contact: _____

Children: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

You will receive a notice when your Coachman Newsletter is ready, and reminders of DDC events by email.

Send this form and your check made out to DDC for the proper amount to Terri Delke, Membership Coordinator, 7100 W. Layton Avenue, Greenfield, WI 53220.



Donna Crossman
W8267 Hope Lake Road
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