



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

June 2019

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



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Praise Reports
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Second Chances

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

A terrible racing accident ended Percy's five-year racing career. A few years later, the pacer's owner let Cali Karbler have him for a dollar.

According to an October 26, 2018 article in *The Chronicle of the Horse*, Cali said, "He's so eager to learn but the first time I rode him he basically tried to kill me. We just paced around with no control." Eventually she broke him to ride but he just was not interested in cantering.

Jesus said, "We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified; and on the third day he will be raised" (Matthew 20:18-19). This was the third time, according to Matthew's gospel, that Jesus told this to his disciples (also Matthew 16:21, Matthew 17:22-23). He knew He would soon suffer a terrible death and be disowned by most of his friends.

Percy loved jumping! Cali said, "He'd go in the ring and pace everything, but he was jumping the top of the standards." Cali gave him the show name, High Standards.

The Chronicle article reports, "Cali Karbler asked her mount, High Standards, to pick up a canter in the opening seconds of their trip around the Capital One Arena in the \$10,000 WIHS Children's Jumper Championship. Percy, a 12-year-old Standardbred gelding, stepped into his signature gait—a cross between a canter and the high speed pacing he retained from his days as a harness racer. Unusual gait aside, Percy and

Karbler, 16, made their debut at the Washington International Horse Show with only a single rail down in a highly competitive class."

On Easter Sunday Jesus rose from the dead, leaving his tomb behind. For Jesus, there was life after the Crucifixion! He appeared to Mary Magdalene (John:20:14-16), Mary the Mother of James, Salome and Joanna (Matthew 28:9), His disciples (John 20:26-28) and at least five hundred other people (1 Corinthians 15:6).



Like many retired racehorses, Percy enjoyed a full life after racing. Cali gave Percy a second chance. You may see some of CHHA member and police equestrian trainer, Susan D'Ambrose's, standardbred students patrolling the streets, controlling riots or at special events, enjoying their new careers as police horses. Dot Morgan's New Vocations has an extensive retraining and adoption program. Check out her website at: www.horseadoption.com/ standardbreds. The Standardbred Retirement Foundation (SRF) and Horse Lover's United (HLU) also

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breathe new life into retired racehorses. Susan, New Vocations, SRF and HLU give retired racehorses a second chance.

Just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life" (Romans 6:4). Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10). Jesus wants us to enjoy the fullness of life here on earth and, when we die, to spend eternity with Him in heaven. On the cross, Jesus told the thief, "This day you will be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43).

There are many scripture verses referring to God's gift of eternal life to those who believe. Perhaps the most famous is, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Cali Karbler bought Percy a second chance for one dollar. Jesus paid for our second chance with His life. Thank you, Jesus!

Obituaries

Chester V. Ault, 104, of Chattanooga, TN, died recently. His many ventures included founding a chain of Ault Hardware and Appliance Stores, developing North Crest Estates on Missionary Ridge and managing Ault Properties, where he worked until his death. Chester came into international prominence in 1971 while he and his first wife Katie were managing the harness racing stable of the Dave L. Brown Trust. It was under their leadership that Steady Star became the fastest harness horse in the world (TT1:52) and held the world record for nine years. In 1997, both the horse and Mr. Ault were featured in *Sports Illustrated* and on CNN.

Harry W. "Bill" Braden, 87, of Morton, IL, formerly of Las Vegas, died March 11. Bill served in the US Army, where he received the Korean Service Medal, with two bronze stars. He was a trainer and driver in Illinois. He and his wife, Patty, raced Standardbreds throughout the country.

John W. Conquest, Jr, 72, died April 14. Johnny is a third-generation farmer and spent more than half his life farming. Although growing crops was his passion, he particularly enjoyed raising Angus cattle and showing and racing horses. Johnny played a vital role in the foundation of the Eastern Shore Agri-Fair in the 1980s and was a 4-H leader in northern Accomack County. Since the mid-1990s, Johnny managed the grounds maintenance at NASA Wallops Flight Facility, and the Navy Surface Combat Systems Center, on Wallops Island. He was also a long-time active member of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. He served on the Board of Trustees at Temperanceville United Methodist Church and was involved in his family's business, John W. Taylor Packing Company.

Ronald D. Barker, 79, died March 25. After retiring from the WearEver/Newellfactory, Ron began a career as owner, trainer and driver. Later, Ron passed the reins to his family, leaving the



COUNT YOUR
BLESSINGS.
NAME THEM ONE BY ONE.
COUNT YOUR
MANY BLESSINGS
SEE WHAT GOD HAS DONE.

From Chaplain Ken Carter...

Noah has continued to make a miraculous recovery. He is now in rehab and improving daily. The doctors are amazed at his recovery. Praise God. Thank all those who continued in prayer for him.



training and driving to his children and grandchildren. He still enjoyed owning several horses, going to the races, and always loved to go to the horse sales. He was well known for having a used auto parts business and loved wheeling and dealing in anything cars, which he passed on to his kids. Anyone that knew him well, knew that he lived for his family. His love and devotion to his wife was visible to everyone. He loved to hear about the exploits and escapades of his children and grandchildren.

Stephanie D. Cruise, 62, of Margate, FL, died April 2. Stephanie began her lifelong career in harness racing at Roosevelt Raceway in 1972. She took great pride in providing the best nurturing care to every life she touched, including animals. Stephanie was best known for her infectious smile, contagious laughter, outgoing nature, and straightforward candor.

Charlie Day, 84, Brentwood, NH, died recently. Charlie is a long-time New England trainer and driver. Most recently, he was the track superintendent at Scarborough Downs. Chaplain Lee Alphen bought her first horse, Speedy Bonnie, from Charlie at a Rockingham Park Sale for \$500.

Sylvester DeCample, 76, Freehold, NJ, died March 20. Sylvester recorded 1,231 wins as a driver with his horses earning more than \$3.4 million. As a trainer, he recorded 323 victories and more than \$1.2 million in purses.

Mark D. Fransen, 64 of Big Rock, IL, died March 28. Mark has been training harness horses since 1972 winning over 700 races and \$7 million in purses. He was inducted into the Illinois Harness Horseman's Association Hall of Fame in 2007. He trained two horses which were inducted into the IHHA Hall of Fame: Plum Peachy (1995) and Broadway Preview (2001).



Obituaries continued on page 4

Sources for Obituary information include:

www.harnessracing.com and www.ustrotting.com

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Choose a Free Gift with your \$20 donation

Gifts for family and friends

- 10 Rambling Willie Note Cards (see picture)
- CHHA Blue Hat

Horseshoe Nail Cross necklaces and key rings—see below

Books

- Daily Oats by Chaplain Sam Ed Spence
- Downloading God by Jack Levine
- Live A Life That Matters for God by Jack Levine
- My Addict Your Addict by Jack Levine
- Where the Rubber Meets the Road with God by Jack Levine
- Don't Blow It With God by Jack Levine
- Sound Mouth—Sound Horse, The Gager Method of Equine Dental Care by ER Gager and Bob “Dusty Rhodes”
- Still: A Story of the Black Doctor of the Jersey Pines by Edmund R Gager



CHHA Hat



Rambling Willie Remembers

These lovely 5 x 7 Rambling Willie cards are packaged in sets of 10 cards. They are blank inside.

Horseshoe Nail Cross Necklaces and Keyrings

Horseshoe Nail Product Descriptions

Key Ring: Horseshoe nails are bent into a cross and tied together with colored wire. Key ring is attached with rawhide.
Necklace: Key ring: Horseshoe nails are bent in to a cross and tied together with colored wire.

Horseshoe Nail Item Order Form—Orders can also be placed at www.chha.net/products

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Mail with \$20 each + \$4 shipping to:

Roger Huston · 225 Fieldbrook Dr · Cannonsburg, PA 15317

Necklace Qty: **Red** ____ **Blue** ____ **Turquoise** ____

Keyring Qty: **Red** ____ **Blue** ____ **Turquoise** ____ **Silver** ____

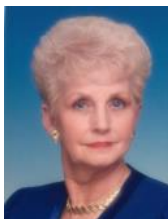
Other colors are available upon request.



Obituaries continued from page 2

Ron Graham, 62, of Toronto, died Oct 27, 2018. Ron was proud of his career grooming at Woodbine, Greenwood and Blue Bonnets. Unfortunately, he hit on hard times in later years and died homeless. If you happen to know his family, possibly from the Sydney, NS area, please contact Melissa Keith through www.harnessracingupdate.com.

Virginia "Ginny" Lee Glover, 81 of Mt Orab, OH, died March 28. Ginny was the owner and operator of Ginny Lee's Beauty Shop in Mt.Orab and a member of the Peace Lutheran Church in Arnheim, OH. Her son, Ronnie, is an avid harness racing fan and owner.



Ken Grant, 87, Ontario, died March 16. Ken was recognized with the Chris VanBussel Award in 2010 in recognition of his work in the formation of Standardbred Canada. Writing for the Hamilton Spectator, racing journalist Harold Howe noted that in 1998 Mr. Grant was "pivotal in finally uniting the Canadian Trotting Association and the Canadian Standardbred Horse Society into a single administrative body." In 1986, with his son David, a veterinarian, Ken created Oaklea Farms, as a Standardbred breeding operation.

Dorothy "Dottie" Houghton, 87, of Newfields, NH, the widow of the late Hall of Famer Billy Houghton, died April 1. Dottie was known as the First Lady of harness racing. She grew up watching her father, Whitney Bischoff, race horses at the fairs around the Goshen, New York area. He was also a judge at Yonkers Raceway. One day he invited a talented 27-year-old horseman named Bill Houghton home for dinner. Bill asked 19-year-old Dottie to the track to jog a horse. About a month later, they were married. In 1986, Bill died from injuries sustained in a multi-horse racing accident at Yonkers Raceway. Following her husband's death, Dottie became an active and ardent supporter of the Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame and served as a trustee and secretary for over 26 years.



Gary C. Hammer, 74, of Bedford, PA, died April 7. He worked for his brother, Roger, as a Standardbred trainer.

George J. Karam, 60, died April 16. For many years, George ran the family business, Thrifty Food Store. He trained and raced in Upstate New York. He served as president of the Saratoga Harness Horseperson's Association. Later George found his dream job, judging harness races. At the time of his passing, he was the presiding judge at Yonkers.



Barry W. Langley, 33, died March 6. He was a member of the American Indian Coushatta Tribe in Louisiana. Barry was a well-known Standardbred trainer in the states of Illinois, Minnesota, Ohio, New York and New Jersey for the last 15 years. He was known as "The Chief" and the "Gentle Giant" who stood 6'5". According to harnessracing.com, "Barry was arguably one of the most well-liked and popular horsemen in the Buckeye State and in harness racing."

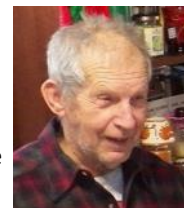
Paul E. McCune, DVM, 59, of Cedar Lake, IN, died March 24. Paul settled in northwest Indiana, where he established Illiana Equine

Clinic in 1991. People in a wide area relied on him for his compassionate care on and off the racetrack. His free time was spent traveling with family. He was a long time member of Holy Name Catholic Church in Cedar Lake.



William Allen "Bill" Orr, 93, died April 15. Bill was a renowned equine artist, particularly Standardbreds. He taught in an artists' school and later became a civilian illustrator for the U.S. Air Force in Orlando. When his sons became friends with the sons of Billy Houghton, the Orr family began visiting the Ben White Raceway training center. Throughout the years, he painted scores of Standardbred greats for many.

Joseph A. Riley, 82 of Everett, PA, died April 11. Joe Riley served in the United States Army for many years. He was well known from traveling the Pennsylvania fairs and Grand Circuit with the Roger Hammer Stable. He also worked for the Burtnett family.



Orville A. Rursch, 85, of Taylor Ridge, IL, died April 23. Orville farmed all his adult life. Earlier he owned Rursch Trucking and had a Minneapolis Moline Implement dealership with his brothers. He was a member of Edgington Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Orville enjoyed standardbred horse racing.



Mary Sewell, 78, died recently. She was the booking administrator for Brittany Farms Stallion Management for 21 years. Mary spent more than 40 years of her life in the Standardbred horse business. She was the office manager for three farms and did pedigree research and writing for Pedi-Type. Her husband, Bob, who passed away in October of 2018, was the stallion manager at Almahurst Farms and farm manager at Fair Chance and Killydonnell Farms in Ohio.

E. John Spindler, 89, of Owosso, MI, died March 7. John served in the US Army in Korea. Later he taught high school then served as principal for 30 years. He bred and trained many trotters and pacers who competed at Michigan county fairs and pari-mutuel racetracks. John wintered and trained his homebreds at Pompano Park with the Michael Deters stable for many years, earning the nickname "Owosso Flash." A pacer named after John is still racing. He was a member of the First Congregational Church of Owosso, involved in the Boy Scouts and was a sheriff deputy for the Shiawassee County Animal Control. Two of his daughters, Janet and Jeri, followed his love for the sport, having their own racing stables for a time.

John (Jack) VanDreason, 88, of Vernon, NY died April 10. Jack was best known as a trainer-driver at Vernon Downs. He built, owned and managed Jack's Turf Goods in Vernon for many years until his retirement. He proudly served his country in the Korean Conflict with the U.S. Army.

Wilbur R. "Bun" Zendt, 99, of Mifflintown, PA, died April 12. A farmer all his life, Bun also trained and drove Standardbreds from 1949 until recently. He was a member of Centre Lutheran Church and also attended Cedar Grove BIC Church. He enjoyed playing the keyboard, hunting, traveling, spending time with his family, and drinking coffee with his friends at "the barn."

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The student replied, "Once again you are wrong sir, darkness does not exist either. Darkness is in reality the absence of light. Light we can study, but not darkness. In fact, we can use Newton's prism to break white light into many colors and study the various wavelengths of each color."

You cannot measure darkness. A simple ray of light can break into a world of darkness and illuminate it. How can you know how dark a certain space is? You measure the amount of light present. Isn't this correct? Darkness is a term used by man to describe what happens when there is no light present."

Finally the young man asked the professor, "Sir, does evil exist?"

Now uncertain, the professor responded, "Of course, as I have already said. We see it everyday. It is in the daily examples of man's inhumanity to man. It is in the

multitude of crime and violence everywhere in the world. These manifestations are nothing else but evil.

To this the student replied, "Evil does not exist, sir, or at least it does not exist unto itself. Evil is simply the absence of God. It is just like darkness and cold, a word that man has created to describe the absence of God. God did not create evil. Evil is the result of what happens when man does not have God's love present in his heart. It's like the cold that comes when there is no heat, or the darkness that comes when there is no light."

The professor sat down.



Prayer Corner

Please pray for all the people on our Prayer List who are battling cancer, especially:

Lynn Antonelli, Lew Arsenault, Dan Ater, Emily Bier, Debbie Boardman, Amy Bondon, Jeanne Duso Boudot, Jana Brocco, Gary Bryant, Chaplain Bo Bullock, Rick Carson, Karen Carter, Sam Castimore, Candice Coleman, Barbara Connors, Sharon Cromer, Joe Crothers, John Cross, Rolly Day, Mike Deeters, Barbara Dinning, Maryanne Doherty, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Francine Federici, Tiffany Fisher, Lloyd Fortune, Rodney Grady, Pastor Bill Grant, Margaret Groce, Remi Gunn, Marilyn Hankins, Warren Harp, Rose Hennessey, Morris Hoagland, Glenda Holloway, Jeff Hurst, Betty James, Rita Jacobs, AJ Keaton, Harold Kelly, Bob Kinsey, Jim Kolnick, Donnie Knight, David Kovach, Larry Lederman, Rox Liles, Anabelle Lisi, Kevin Mack, Ricky Macomber, Nelson Malin, Wilma Mattuci, Joyceann McClelland, Donna McIvor, Mrs Miller, Frank Mirahmadi, Lalya Mosley, Corey Murphy, Howard Nields, Pierre Noel, Jay O'Neil, John Panetta, Dee Parsons, Margie Polhamus, Leigh Raymer, Robyn Rembleski, Emily Roper, Daren Richner, Taila Kaponinskyi, Del Smart, Elaina Storlazi, Doug Stringer, Jack Taylor, Carrie Thompson, Gary Tyron, Fred Ward Sr, Roland Wardel, Marty Woebkenberg, Maddy Wright, Joyce Zeasapolowski.

These friends are also in need of our ongoing prayers:

Jason Apperti, Jordan Aracena, Chaplain Kelly Blanton, Ken Bartels, Pleasant Batson, Gary Bennett, Peter Blood, Marilyn Bondon, Stephanie Bouchard, Danny Breton, Charlie Brigham, Betsy Brown, Kevin Burns, Mary Burton, Bob Cain, Carol Ann Case, Thelma Chrisman, Mary Clements, Joan Collins, Anthony Coletta, Bev Crane, Chet Crane, Karen Crothers, Dale, Jim Ferguson, Melanie Fisk, Scott Freck, Sylvain Gagnon, Greg Gehman, Dr Howard Gill, Bob Goth, Barbara and Brent Graham, Debbie Gray, Bob Hilliard, Vickie Howard, Bob Jones, Ruby Hensley, Miguel Hernandez, Paul

and Mrs Hershey, Carol Heusinkveld, Trudy Hite, Jerry Hissam, John Hostler, Jason Hughes, Jesse Hughes, Donna Ingram, Don James, Kenny Kane, Dave Kelly, Barbara Kinsey, Thelma Klark, Michael Klark, Victor Kiss, Art LaPlante, Larry Lawter, Ray Levay, Sam Lilli, Katherine Lonager, Sharon Lowell, Faye Mackey, Terry Mahar, Joanne Maiorca, Pedro Martinez, Jr, Kaye McDonnell, Dean Miller, Raymond Miller, Nancy Miner, Mike Murphy, Doug Nash, Elaine Parlin, Ronnie Parker, Waverly Parsons, Susan Parks, Louise Pelletier, Rita Polese, Noreen Paulen, Art Plant, Joanne Ranger, Donnie Richards, Lori Romanetti, Tori Scott, Delma Smart, Madisyn Smith, Brad Strawser, Lee Anne Taylor, Monica Thors, Marsh Townley, Lorraine Truitt, Mel Turcott, Justin Vance, Barry Vicroy, Max Walton, Steve Warner, Greggie Welch, Jr, Alice Williams, Anne Winters.

Please try to keep me updated about the people on our prayer list. Please pray for those serving in the military, especially:

John Beauregard, Joshua Hankins, Yann Lamiqu, Chris Petrullo, Sgt David Thomas, and Elizabeth Welch.

Special Intentions for this month:

Please continue to pray for Maryanne Doherty.
Pastor Lloyd Fortune's cancer has returned with a vengeance.
Sarah Greaney has cancer.
Bruce Aldrich, Sr, has his leg amputated.
John Hallett has kidney stones.
Dan Hennesy had surgery to restore a detached retina.
From Roger Huston is recovering from gall bladder surgery.
Gloria Myers has Alzheimers.
Ronnie Norman has a really bad infection in his hands.
Doc Parry has been having breathing problems due to congestive heart failure and pulmonary artery hypertension.
John Prescott's mom, 93, has a torn aorta.
Valerie Prescott began her second round of chemo.
Marsh Townley continues to have back problems.
Helen Voskersian, 92, broke her wrist, pelvis, ribs and shoulder.
Mike Weller has esophageal cancer.
Pray for the ministry at the Neshoba County Fair in July.



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USA



Information at www.chha.net

Please indicate
Address corrections

Did God create everything that exists? Does evil exist? Did God create evil? *Author Unknown*

A University professor at a well known institution of higher learning challenged his students with this question. "Did God create everything that exists?"

A student bravely replied, "Yes he did!"

"God created everything?" The professor asked.

"Yes sir, he certainly did," the student replied.

The professor answered, "If God created everything; then God created evil. And, since evil exists, and according to the principle that our works define who we are, then we can assume God is evil."

The student became quiet and did not answer the professor's hypothetical definition. The professor, quite pleased with himself, boasted to the students that he had proven once more that the Christian faith was a myth.

Another student raised his hand and said, "May I ask you a question, professor?"

"Of course", replied the professor.

The student stood up and asked, "Professor, does cold exist?"

"What kind of question is this? Of course it exists. Have you never been cold?"

The other students snickered at the young man's question.

The young man replied, "In fact sir, cold does not exist. According to the laws of physics, what we consider cold is in reality the absence of heat. Every body or object is susceptible to study when it has or transmits energy, and heat is what makes a body or matter have or transmit energy. Absolute zero (-460 F) is the total absence of heat; and all matter becomes inert and incapable of reaction at that temperature. Cold does not exist. We have created this word to describe how we feel if we have no heat."

The student continued, "Professor, does darkness exist?"

The professor responded, "Of course it does."

God Created continued on page 5

Susan Kelly

Susan Kelly, of Manalapan, NJ, went home to be with the Lord on November 27, 2014. According to www.harnesslink.com, Susan worked side by side with her husband, CHHA member, Harold, for many years in his racing stable. With her help, Harold won close to 5,000 races. They acquired many friends in their 50 some years in harness racing. One such friend, CHHA member, Herman Drenth, continues to sing Harold's praises. As his friends pass on, Harold often memorializes them with a donation to CHHA. Already he has made over 20 memorial contributions, which are listed on our website at www.chha.net and in our newsletter. I enjoy visiting with Harold whenever I pass through Freehold. He is a wonderful Christian man.



Thank you Harold!



*May the angels
lead you into paradise*
Memorials posted at www.chha.net

Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Terry Altmeyer** by: Grace Rankin
In memory of **Booty Beltrami** by: Grace Rankin
In memory of **Virginia Lee Glover** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz
In memory of **Sherie Hankins** by: Kim Hankins
In memory of **Leslie Lederman** by: Larry Lederman
In memory of **Billy Lichtensstiger** by: Cindy and John Morr and Robert and Judy Morr
In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables