



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

November 2020

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

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Wanted
Praise Reports
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Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen
leealphen@comcast.net
or
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**“We wager with
our lives,
gambling that God
exists or God
does not exist.”**

Blaise Pascal

The Perfect Bet

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Winning Colors was a 50-1 Kentucky Derby futures bet at Tijuana's Aqua Caliente Racetrack in January 1988. Gary Stevens won easily with the filly in her second and last two-year-old race for Wayne Lucas. Dan Mateo spent the night studying the numbers and convinced his friend, Mark “Miami” Paul, to drive him to Tijuana so they could place a \$5,000 bet hoping to win \$250,000. In *The Greatest Gambling Story Ever Told* Mark recounts that Dan said this would be “the bet of a lifetime.”

A librarian friend provided Dan an ongoing stream of news articles highlighting the dangers involved in dealing with the Mexican drug cartel leader who owned the track. They already knew it was not safe to carry large sums of money in Mexico.

Does God exist? Seventeenth century philosopher, theologian and mathematician Blaise Pascal studied the question extensively and insisted **either we believe in God or we don't**. Miami and Dan bet \$2,500 each for a chance to win \$250,000 with Winning Colors. We wager with our lives, gambling either that God exists or he doesn't.

Pascal considers the results of these two bets in what has been called Pascal's Wager. He purports that the benefits received during our lifetime are about the same whether God exists or not, regardless of our belief. According to Pascal, if God does not exist, belief in God won't matter at the end of our lives. If God does exist, however, those who believe in God will, when they die, enjoy much happiness forever with God in heaven, while those who do not believe in God will spend all of eternity in

misery.

Winning Colors, a big, strong, long-legged filly got away on top and held the boys at bay. She accelerated in the final turn, opening up six lengths on the colts. Two hundred feet before the wire, she was three lengths ahead and tiring. Pat Day was gaining on the outside, getting after Forty Niner with his whip.

Just before the wire, Forty Niner drifted in towards Winning Colors. Feeling the challenge, Winning Colors dug in and lengthened her stride, pulling away to win the Derby. Fans in Louisville and Tijuana erupted, ecstatic to see Winning Colors beat the sixteen colts. Miami and Dan hugged everyone in sight.

“Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart” (Psalm 37:3-4).

At the Tijuana teller window, Dan asked for \$50,000 in \$100 bills for their first winning ticket. The track manager insisted they would have to come back another day since they did not have the funds at the track to cover their bet. A week later, with a dozen backpacks, three wrestlers and their friend, Big Bernie, Miami and Dan headed back to Mexico. Big Bernie and the wrestlers

Pascal's Wager

	God exists	God does not exist
Believe in God	Eternal happiness	Lose little Or nothing
Do not Believe in God	Eternal misery	Gain little or nothing

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Perfect Bet continued from page 1

took a borrowed car while Miami drove Dan in his red 300 Z convertible.

After much arguing and waiting in the back offices, the manager finally filled the backpacks with bills and told them never to set foot in his track again. Giving Big Bernie and the wrestlers each \$9,900 to carry in the borrowed car, Miami and Dan followed in the Z with the rest of the cash.

At customs, the Z was waved right through. However, when dogs found marijuana butts in the borrowed car's ashtray, Big Bernie and the wrestlers were taken into custody, stripped and searched. The winnings were confiscated. Miami, parked at the side of the road, finally told Dan to take the Z to Del Mar and wait in the parking lot under the security cameras until he called.

Miami walked back and told the customs officer of their adventure with the Winning Colors bet, changing only the amount they bet to \$1,200. With the winnings restored, the five men thankfully crowded into the car and met up with Dan at Del Mar.

Jesus asked his followers, "Who do you say I am?" Peter replied, "You are the Messiah, the son of the living God" (Matthew 16:15-16).

We may like exciting adventures like Dan and Mark and fear living the Christian Life is boring. Let me assure you it is not! I've thoroughly enjoyed working with horses at the track. In addition, God blessed me with a career in business, giving me the time and resources to participate in several mission trips to Haiti, serve as volunteer chaplain at Rockingham Park for over 30 years and head up a very successful mission in the mountains of Mexico. When in 2010 God called me to CHHA, it was the frosting on the cake.

Sharing God's love with the people involved made each of my endeavors rich. I am certain Miami, Dan and Big Bernie would agree relationships with the people sharing their adventure helped make it fun. The only thing that provides more lasting excitement than relationships and sharing God's love is looking forward to spending eternity in heaven with God!

Believing in God is the perfect bet!



Blessings from God

From Chris Coyle...

Carol Parker is receiving treatment for lung cancer with no side affects so far. Greg Peck sounded real good on the phone today as doctors have switched his medication. Frank Reinhardt did not need surgery after all and his wound has healed up. We are working hard here with 70 horses on the farm, always short on money and help but happy to be healthy and still here on earth ! God Bless !

From Art Plant...

Thank you for your prayers. I gained 1/2 lb. It's a slow process which I am confident our Savior will continue to bring me through. Blessings & Love - Art

From Susan Strawser...

God has certainly been good to Fry's Equine Insurance Agency. About 8 years ago, we started working from home on a part-time basis. Ron Johnson came to the office, which was in Susan Strawser's home, three days a week and worked from home the other two days. When Susan moved to a condo three years ago, Ron only came in a half day each week to bring in mail and pick up anything he needed. When the pandemic hit and most companies were scrambling to figure out the work-at-home concept, we were already there and had only a little more adapting to make it work full-time. While our workload has slowed down a bit as people are working and schooling from home, the Lord continues to provide for us.

Foiled Again Bids accepted at:

- www.chha.net/foiledagainbid
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- CHHA 157 North Main St Salem, NH 03079

Name _____ Bid _____

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Meadow Twaddle continued from page 6

God has impacted my life. My mindset has completely shifted and my optimism about negative situations has changed. I frequently encourage my friends to pray through their problems and I have seen God at work in their lives.

CHHA Scholarship coordinator, Lisa Schwartz, reminded us, Rambling Willie, the Hall of Fame horse that God loved, was born to a mare named Meadow Belle. We know Meadow Twaddle with her outstanding application and references is an excellent candidate for the Rambling Willie Scholarship.



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Choose a Free Gift with your \$20 donation

Gifts for Family and Friends

10 Rambling Willie Note Cards (see picture)

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


**Great
Gift
Ideas**



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 \[www.chha.net/products\]\(http://www.chha.net/products\)](#)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

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

Roger Huston · 2249 Grey Oaks · Grove City, OH 43123

Necklace Qty: Red ____ Blue ____ Turquoise ____

Keyring Qty: Red ____ Blue ____ Turquoise ____ Silver ____

Other colors are available upon request.



Obituaries continued from page 5

Pleasant Batson, Jr, 84, of Greenwood, DE, died Sep 1. He enjoyed a 65-year career owning, training, and driving harness horses and running Batson's Harness Shop where he specialized in making custom leather handstitched items for harness and show horses. Pleasant also used his leather working abilities to help people with hard to fit prosthetic limbs. When he received the 2019 Special Appreciation Award from the Delaware Standardbred Owners Assoc. (DSOA) in January this year, the emcee summed it up perfectly by introducing him as an "all around wonderful and much loved friend in the harness racing industry." Prior to his illness, he faithfully attended church where he served as the front door greeter.



Phil Carroll, 58, of Miamisburg, OH, died Sep 4. Phil was the proud owner of the historical Dairy Queen in downtown Miamisburg. He was a harness horse trainer and driver for many years.



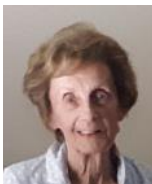
Gail D. Conte, 65, of Yorktown, IA, died Sep 17. Gail worked for Hall of Fame trainer John Patterson, Sr at Monticello, Roosevelt and in Dalton, GA. She and her husband, Michael Conte, moved to Iowa where they continued their passion for breeding, training and racing standardbreds. Over the years, they trained/owned numerous Iowa Bred Champions and sent several "back East" to race in New Jersey and New York. She was a founding member of the Southwest Iowa Humane Society.



Ross Arthur Curran, 83, died Sep 14. Ross began his harness racing career at 16. He was leading driver at many of the major tracks in Canada and also enjoyed heading out to the local fairs to race a few. He was nicknamed Cowboy for his ability to handle horses that were considered unmanageable. Ross was inducted to the Smiths Falls Sportsman Hall of Fame and received an Ontario Harness Horse Association Living Legend Award.



Vivian Farrington, 88, of Kissimmee, FL, formerly of Richwood, OH, died Sep 11. From the time she was a little girl Vivian wanted a horse of her own. Her husband, Bob Farrington, purchased a horse by the name of Rambling Willie. Since it was close to her birthday he gave the horse to her as a present. Her other passion was her faith in Jesus Christ and sharing it with others. Little did she know that her vision for spreading God's Word would come through her horse. Rambling Willie had many racing injuries and illnesses that would have ended the career of many horses, but Mrs. Farrington's prayers and faith helped to turn Rambling Willie into a Hall of Fame champion. A book was written about him called "Rambling Willie, The Horse That God



Loved." This enabled Rambling Willie and Mrs. Farrington to travel nationwide spreading the Word of God. She felt Rambling Willie's success was because she tithed 10 percent of his winnings and always trusted in the Lord to help heal him.

Robert L. Johnson, 71, of Tonawanda, NY, died Sep 1. Robert was a regular on the western New York harness racing circuit since 1970 and won the training title twice during that time.

John "Jack" Kelley, 93, died Sep 16. Jack was a legend in hockey circles, especially in Maine, and also owned a few Standardbreds that raced in Maine. He attended horse sales with his son, trainer Paul Kelley. In the 1950s, Jack transformed Colby College men's hockey into an indomitable force in New England and made a profound impact on the lives of hundreds of players. He was inducted into the US Hockey Hall of Fame in 1993.



Joseph (Joby) Blake Lanning, 93, of Newark, OH, died Sep 6. Joseph was a U.S. Army veteran serving in World War II, a firefighter for the City of Newark for 21 years and an independent painting contractor. He was an owner and breeder of Standardbreds.



Darryl Maccannell, 54, died Sep 14. Darryl spent most of his life involved in horse racing. He harnessed and saddled winners on both sides of the horse racing industry as an owner and trainer.



Gordon E. Norris, age 87, of Plymouth, MI, formerly of Fowlerville and Pompano, Florida, died Sep 8. Gordon was a harness horse owner, trainer, and driver his entire life. He owned a horse farm in Fowlerville where he trained Standardbreds that raced all over North America. Gordon was inducted into both the Michigan and Florida Horse Trainer and Driver Halls of Fame. Gordon had a strong faith. He loved to read the bible and attend church services of all denominations. His whole life revolved around horses and the bible.



Joseph Shahan died Sep 3. Joe drove a potato truck, then a taxi before embarking on a 27-year career in construction as a heavy equipment operator. Horse racing with his family was the love of his life.



Virginia Lee "Ginger" Rinker, 90, of Springfield, OH, died Sep 14. Virginia was CHHA member, Kim Rinker's mother. Kim drives, trains and owns harness horses. Virginia's husband, Donald, also a USTA member, owns Speed Minister.



Obituaries

Mae Jean (Davis) Allen died Sep 6.

Mae Jean served as secretary for Michigan Harness Horseman's Association in the early 1970's. She and her husband, Carl, owned and bred of many stakes winners and record holding Standardbreds. She loved all aspects of the sport, especially the experiences of the Grand Circuit and the friendships of people she met along the way. Jean was the biggest fan of Carl and his endeavors on and off the racetrack. She was a loving mother and cheered "her boys" on at every high school wrestling meet or tournament. Wherever Jean went, so did her camera, capturing church steeples, wild life, and horses throughout her travels.



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

Memorial Contributions

In memory **Mae Jean Allen** of by: Arnold Williams, Winbak Farm
In memory of **Bonnie Battis** by: Bruce Ranger
In memory **Pleasant Batson** of by: Salvatore DiMario, Rich and Sandy Thorstenson
In memory of **Phil Carroll** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz,
In memory of **Vivian Farrington** by: Amy Bondon, Angela and Brenton Laman, Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association
In memory of **Sherie Hankins** by: Kim Hankins
In memory of **Warren Harp: 6 month anniversary** by: Joan Harp
In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables

Obituaries continued on page 4

Sources for Obituary information include:

www.harnessracing.com, www.ustrotting.com
www.standardbredcanada.ca

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, Lore Burke, Rick Carson, Barbara Carter, Karen Carter, Sam Castimore, Candice Coleman, Barbara Connors, Sharon Cromer, Joe Crothers, Mike Deeters, Ashley Dennon-Cohen, Barbara Dinning, Maryanne Doherty, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Francine Federici, Tiffany Fisher, Dorothy Geer, Rodney Grady, Pastor Bill Grant, Margaret Groce, Remi Gunn, Marilyn Hankins, Rose Hennessey, Morris Hoagland, Glenda Holloway, Layla Hundertpfund, Jeff Hurst, Donna Ingram, Betty James, Rita Jacobs, Jennifer Jugg, AJ Keaton, Harold Kelly, Bob Kinsey, Jim Kolnick, Donnie Knight, David Kovach, Larry Lederman, Rox Liles, Anabelle Lisi, Tommy Long, Kevin Mack, Ricky Macomber, Nelson Malin, Wilma Mattuci, Joyceann McClelland, Meagan McKee, Mrs Miller, Frank Mirahmadi, Lalya Mosley, Corey Murphy, Howard Nields, Pierre Noel, Jay O'Neil, John Panetta, Carol Parker, Dee Parsons, Margie Polhamus, Valerie Prescott, Leigh Raymer, Robyn Rembleski, Emily Roper, Daren Richner, Julie Schwartz, Del Smart, Larry Smith, Doug Stringer, Jimmy Takter, Bobbi Tanner, Jack Taylor, Betty Ann Thomas, Carrie Thompson, Gary Tyron, Fred Ward, Sr, Roland Wardel, Kate Williams, John Wing, Steve Wiseman, Marty Woebkenberg, Allan Wright, Maddy Wright, Joyce Zeasapolowski.

These friends are also in need of our ongoing prayers:

Jason Apperti, Jordan Aracena, Ken Bartels, Pleasant Batson, Rick Beinbauer, 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, Vivian Farrington, Jim Ferguson, Scott Freck, Sylvain Gagnon, Greg Gehman, Dr Howard Gill, Bob Goth, Barbara and Brent Graham, Debbie Gray, Jimmy Hart, Joyce Hart, 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, Michael Klark, Victor Kiss, Larry Lawter, Ray Levay, Sam Lilli, Katherine Lonager, Sharon Lowell, Faye Mackey, Terry Mahar, Joanne Maiorca, Pedro Martinez, Jr, Cheryl Mauran, Kaye McDonnell, Dean Miller, Raymond Miller, Nancy Miner, Mike Murphy, Doug Nash, Elaine Parlin, Ronnie Parker, Waverly Parsons, Susan Parks, Doc Parry, Louise Pelletier, Donna Phillips, Rita Polese, Noreen Paulen, Art Plant, Joanne Ranger, Donnie Richards, Ray Romanetti, Tori Scott, Jody Sexton, Delma Smart, Madisyn Smith, Brad Strawser, Lee Anne Taylor, Marsh Townley, Lorraine Truitt, Phillip 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:

Wendy Blevins is recovering from surgery and has pancreatic symptoms.

Harold Kelly's cancer continues to wreak havoc.

Meghan McKee has a tumor at the base of her spine.

Tom Passante is on Hospice with Pancreatic Cancer.

Brad and Dil Stawser have Covid-19.

Jimmy Takter, Jr really needs some prayers.

Sam Trembley, Jr has colon cancer.

Jim Willard is on hospice.

157 North Main St
Salem, NH 03079
USA



Please indicate
Address corrections

Information at www.chha.net

CHHA 2020 Scholars

Meadow Twaddle, our Rambling Willie Scholarship recipient, plans to study Biology and Health at Washington and Jefferson College.



Meadow's parents race at the Meadows. According to Lori Romanetti, "Meadow has always been involved with the horses, helping out her parents when she was available. She has worked many times for the Meadows Standardbred Owners Association, helping with family fun events designed to promote harness racing for the whole family."

Meadow's chaplain, Pastor Joe DiDonatto, says, "Meadow has been part of our various ministry programs for many years and is one of the nicest and most polite young ladies I have ever met."

Meadow says in her essay, "My family has always made it a priority to teach me about God's presence in my life." Through my years at the Meadows Racetrack Chapel, [...] I enjoyed taking on leadership roles during the children's church and teaching the younger kids about the word of God. [...] Along with this, I volunteered at the Washington Hospital.

"My faith and educational accomplishments have shaped me into the young woman I am today. Through my connection to God, I have learned to love myself and the person I was born to be. In high school, it is very easy to lose your identity and force yourself to change in order to fit in. I was always comparing myself to everyone else and I knew deep in my heart that I wasn't loving who I truly was. When I took the steps to strengthen my relationship with God, I realized he made me to be who I am. God makes no mistakes and I learned I needed to live as the person he intended for me to be. After making this realization, I have become a much happier and stronger person. I can handle difficult situations and overcome obstacles the best I can. I know it's in the Lord's hands and he has a plan for me. I can't even put into words how much a stronger relationship with



Meadow Continued on page 2

Foiled Again Posters Signed by Yannick Gingras

Bids are open

9 Foiled Again posters signed by Yannick Gingras have been donated to CHHA for a FUNDRAISER.

Posters are 16 x 24 sticky vinyl

Great Gift Idea

Bid until Noon Wednesday, December 9, 2020. Posters will go to the 9 highest bids over \$100 and arrive before Christmas.

Bid instructions are on page 2 Please provide bid amount, name, address, email and phone number.

