



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

May 2022

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



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*For newsletter questions or
ideas please contact:*

Lee Alphen, Editor
leealphen@comcast.net
603-898-1927
603-401-7271 (cell)

Wanted

Praise Reports and Articles
Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen
leealphen@comcast.net
Or
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Cast Sheep, Horses & Cares

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Cast in the field after settling comfortably into a hole, the ewe flails, unsuccessfully trying to right herself. Eventually she gets stuck on her back while her legs continue to move. Sheep can remain this way for hours or even days.

Lying on their backs causes gasses to build up in a ewe's stomach. This can quickly kill her. The diligent shepherd, realizing she is missing, hurries off to search for her. The rescuer must carefully help the stomach gasses to dissipate and gently rub her legs to get the circulation back.

Hopefully, when our horses get cast in the stall, someone hears them banging against the walls and calls for help or is able to free them. They can also become cast in the field against or under something. When they don't show up at feed time, a caretaker generally goes looking for them.

A colicky horse may get cast thrashing around, trying to get rid of their belly ache. Like the sheep, they can seriously hurt themselves.

A good shepherd knows the sheep and their habits. When one is missing, they go in search of it, fearing it might be cast or may have ventured to another field or water source riddled with parasites and other dangers.

Walking through a local golf course, I imagine that, as beautiful as the course is, the fields in Jesus' pasture would be even more lush and green and the setting more peaceful. The stately trees provide shade when it is hot. This time of year, though, before the course opens, I prefer to walk the sunny paths. Certainly, Jesus would have shade trees in exactly the right places.

A pristine pond at the golf course with crystal clear water cascading over the rock-hewn waterfall adds to the atmosphere. It would also provide the perfect watering hole for the horses and sheep.

Sometimes what seems like a good hole on the rail at the quarter pole turns out to be the perfect place to get boxed in and watch the rest of the field fly by, going down the stretch.

We sometimes find ourselves boxed in or realize we've dug ourselves into a big hole in life. At times like this, we do well to remember our Good Shepherd is right there by our side, ready to help us. When we finally remember to ask, the Lord gently helps us to right ourselves and sets us back on track in a much better position. Then God cheers us on, opening our eyes to realize that with the Spirit's help we will reach the happiness, peace, love, joy and prosperity awaiting us in the winner's circle.



Sheep are happy and at peace when the shepherd is present. Trusting the Lord who is always present, we will have all that we need. We can rest easy, knowing we are safe with God at our side and cast our cares on the Lord (Psalm 55:22).

Let's not let our souls be downcast but rather put our faith and trust in God (Psalm 42:5).

Cast continued on page 2

Cast continued from page 1

Note: Lyndel Adamsky and I were conversing about shepherd psalms. She recommended Phillip Keller's book, *A Shepherd Looks at the 23rd Psalm*. Reading the first few chapters triggered lots of thoughts. The ideas here having to do with sheep, their habitats, idiosyncrasies and habits come from Keller's book.

God Minded

By Chaplain Sam Ed Spence

My Dad, Doc Spence, had a reputation for putting the best "handle" on his horses that you could find anywhere. Dad always broke and started his colts in a hackamore, then he'd take them on to a light snaffle bit. By the time he had ridden a horse for thirty days, he'd have that youngster doing about anything he asked him with only the slightest touch on the reins.



Perhaps the greatest example of Dad's putting a handle on a horse was Knocky, a Quarter Horse gelding that was the Honor Roll (high point of the year) horse in the American Quarter Horse Association for both reining and calf roping in 1956. Dad also won the novice cutting on Knocky at the Denver National that same year.

Although I started riding about the same time I learned to walk, I never had the patience or ability to put a handle on a horse like Dad; it just wasn't my gift. But I never ceased to enjoy going home and getting on one of his horses to cut a few cows or maybe just ride pasture. It was such a treat to ride a horse that was so responsive and just waiting to do what you wanted him to.

A few years ago, I was warming up a horse, getting ready for a little ranch sorting contest, and my mind wandered back to riding with Dad, who passed away in 1990. Instantaneously, I heard that "still small voice" in my heart: *"I want you to learn to be as responsive to Me as your Dad's horses were to him."*

As I meditated on those words, it occurred to me that Dad's horses were always *rider-minded*. Regardless of the task at hand, the horse never seemed to lose sight of the fact that the rider was in ultimate control. It was as if the horse had one ear on the business at hand and the other ear cocked on the rider. The passage below from Proverbs really fits in here. The Message translation puts verse six like this: "Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track."

So, what the Word is really telling us to do is get *God-minded*. But it takes some training, just like Dad's horses that were so rider-minded. For most of us, our days are so chocked full of work, family, friends, television, horses (busyness of all sorts), that we seem to have little time to be God-minded, at least other than maybe Sunday morning at church.

But that can change; it's really not that difficult...and just imagine the tremendous benefits of having God directs

God Minded continued in next column

Blessings from God

From Larry Lederman...

Sincerest thanks for thoughts and prayers to everyone from me. When I had my last mini-stroke, they determined that was the cause of the brain bleeds showing up on my MRI. My blood thinner was collapsing all my cells, so they changed my blood thinner prescribing a lower dose. I didn't dodge a bullet; it was more like a cannonball. Now I'm taking 10-minute walks in the house to try to avoid any more clots, with the new change in plans. Larry

From Bob Miller, Jr...

I'm doing better. They took the staples out of my back. I have a praise report. My brother Nelson is doing much better! Thank you God for answered prayers and thank you and all your prayer partners. They stopped his shots as his PSA is now normal.

God Minded continued

your steps and "keep you on track." For starters, think of all the dead ends, bad deals, blown turns, and missed opportunities that would be avoided! God is totally on your side, greatly desires your complete success, and is never going to lead you down the wrong path.

My first step came by putting God first place every morning...at least first place after taking my vitamins and brewing the coffee. As soon as a cup had run through Mr. Coffee, I take it to my easy chair and read my little devotion for the day (*God*



God First

Calling), followed by a chapter in the Word. I meditate on what I've just read for ten minutes or so and just keep my ears open to anything the Lord might want to say. Sometimes I hear a word or two, but most often I'm just aware of His sweet and peaceful presence.

A little word of caution here: those results didn't come the first few times I attempted my "time with Him." The undisciplined mind has a tendency to wander, often far, far away from the things of God. You have to take hold of it, just like riding a green colt. (There's scripture for that in *II Corinthians 10:4-5*).

But the more you practice, the better it gets. Then you'll get to the point that a team of wild mules couldn't keep you from that "quiet time with Him in the morning."

And that sets the stage for the rest of your day in God-mindedness. You'll soon find yourself talking to Him about even the little things, asking for advice on where to go, what to say, little decisions as well as big ones.

Someone will say, "But what if I ask Him and don't hear anything?" That's when the trust factor comes in. It's called "walking by faith"...and it comes by getting God-minded.

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10 Rambling Willie Note Cards (see picture)

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CHHA Hat

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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

Still: A Story of the Black Doctor of the Jersey Pines by Edmund R Gager

Sound Mouth—Sound Horse, The Gager Method of Equine Dental Care by ER Gager and Bob “Dusty Rhodes”



Rambling Willie Remembers

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

Foiled Again Posters Signed by Yannick Gingras
Posters are 16 x 24 sticky vinyl.



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www.chha.net/products



Obituaries continued from page 5

John Francis "Jack" Fay, 95, of LeRoy, NY, died March 20. Jack was a Navy veteran of World War II and the Korean War. He served as the presiding judge at Buffalo Raceway and Batavia Downs for many years. He was a lifelong member of Our Lady of Mercy Parish.



Matthew Alan Garner, 64, of Gambier, OH, formerly of Radnor, died March 14. Matt began his career at the Delaware County Sheriff Department as a mounted deputy. After 22 years of service, he retired in 2011. He enjoyed spending time training and racing his Standardbreds.



John Thomas "Tom" Gray, 78, of Dayton, OH, died Feb 19. Tom loved harness racing and owned and trained many horses over the years. He also loved his dogs. In addition, he owned many local bars in the Dayton area.

Meir Israel Geller, 73, of Middletown, NY, died Jan 11. Meir was the owner, trainer and breeder of Belle Amore Stable. Meir began studying race statistics and betting in his teens. He put college on hold for a while and worked as a groom. After college he became a computer programmer then joined Metal Processing Company and began importing steel rebars for construction.



Adrian Kent died March 24. Adrian was Sandy Weis's husband. His obituary will be listed when available.

Stephen "Steve" Mitchem, 74, of South Solon, OH, died March 14. Steve owned and bred Standardbreds. He worked for the Ohio Department of Agriculture and at Pickaway Correctional Institution. He was a 4-H advisor and a lifelong farmer who loved hogs. Steve enjoyed doing woodworking projects in his spare time and made numerous items of furniture.



Christine Bondon Olsen, 71, of Stuart, FL, died March 9. Chris loved the Lord with all her heart and raised her children to do likewise. She was a talented artist and loved to capture His creation in watercolors. Likewise, she had an enduring love of nature and treasured the beautiful changing skies and azure waters as well as the shells and marine life of her Florida coastal home. Her laughter and red-headed, feisty character will live on in our hearts always.

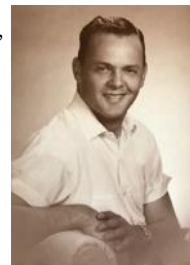


Chrissy was loved and cherished by many people including

her life partner and devoted caregiver husband, Rick, her children; Joshua, Erin and Jonathan; and her granddaughters, Gabriel, Lily, Eva and Finley, sisters Marylou Dodge, Amy Bondon and brother David Bondon as well as many loving nieces and nephews. Chrissy was CHHA President, Amy Bondon's sister.

Cathy Schultz Parker, 69, died March 23. Cathy was an owner/breeder of Standardbreds and a member of the USTA.

Everett Patrick, 88, of Beavercreek, OH, and formerly of Riverside, died March 3. Everett served in the U.S. Army while stationed in Japan during the Korean War. He worked and retired from Delco Moraine. He owned and trained many Standardbreds over the years, finding much success with a colt named Ima Looking Sharp in the early 1990s.



Ellison Leland Roach, 83, of Columbiaville, MI, died Feb 22. Ellison was a former driver, trainer, owner and breeder of Standardbreds. He was a member of the Columbiaville United Methodist Church. He was also a past boy scout leader and helped coach area little league baseball.



Annette P. Roydon, 75, of Brattleboro, VT, died March 5. Annette was born in Copenhagen, Denmark and emigrated to the USA in 1952 with her family. After college, she began training harness horses. She eventually became a nurse. Then, in 1983 she and her second husband, Leon Roydon, developed a premier hotel in Anguilla, BWI, which they ran into the 90s. Finally, she moved back to Vermont as CEO of Malhana Farm where she managed the breeding and racing career of hundreds of Standardbred horses until her death.

John Ludlow Surbrook, 82, of Rives Junction, MI, died March 10. John dedicated his life to his passions — his farm, his community, his horses, and his family. He owned and operated Surbrook Farms while at the same time starting The Beef Barn which he owned and operated for more than 50 years. He proudly served his community as a fire chief and also served as a director of the United States Trotting Association.



There is nothing more important than
Your Eternal Salvation

Kirk Cameron

Sources for Obituary information include:
www.ustrotting.com and www.Standardbredcanada.ca

Obituaries

Susan Allehoff, 64, of LaGrange, KY, died Nov 26. Susan was a co-owner of several Standardbreds and was a lover of animals. She supported non-profits oriented around service animals. She was a regular in the Bounteous #pets Slack channel, always sharing good advice and silly videos. Susan spent 20 years helping clients leverage digital services to drive long-term business success.



Philip Henry Cable, 82, of Pompano Beach, FL, died Oct 23. He moved to South Florida in 1960 and took a job as a private farrier. He and Mary "Phyllis" Hemmings were married for 59 years when she died in April 2020. In 2000, Philip was the first blacksmith to be inducted into the Florida Harness Racing Hall of Fame. In the same year, he was honored by the United States Harness Writers Association with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Obituaries continued on page 4

Prayer Corner

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

Lynn Antonelli, Lew Arsenault, Emily Bier, Debbie Boardman, Amy Bondon, Jeanne Duso Boudot, Dianne Boyken, Georgianna Brocco, Jana Brocco, Gary Bryant, Lore Burke, Rick Carson, Barbara Carter, Sam Castimore, Candice Coleman, Barbara Connors, Joe Crothers, Thomas Daniel, Mike Deeters, Ashley Dennon-Coen, Barbara Dinning, Maryanne Doherty, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Francine Federici, Tiffany Fisher, Katie Folkins, Sarah Gehman, Rodney Grady, Pastor Bill Grant, Cody Greeno, Margaret Groce, Remi Gunn, Marilyn Hankins, Rose Hennessey, Morris Hoagland, Glenda Holloway, Layla Hundertpfund, Betty James, Rita Jacobs, Jennifer Jugg, AJ Keaton, Julie Kerr, 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, Nelson Miller, Frank Mirahmadi, Lalya Mosley, Linda Moyer, Corey Murphy, Howard Niels, Pierre Noel, Jay O'Neil, John Panetta, Carol Parker, Dee Parsons, Misti Parsons, Margie Polhamus, Valerie Prescott, Leigh Raymer, Robyn Rembleski, Emily Roper, Daren Richner, Julie Schwartz, Del Smart, Larry Smith, Roger Smith, Doug Stringer, Jimmy Takter, Bobbi Tanner, Jack Taylor, Carrie Thompson, Gary Tyron, Brittanty Vondenhuevel, Fred Ward, Sr, Roland Wardel, Kate Williams, John Wing, Steve Wiseman, Marty Wobkenberg, Allan Wright, Joyce Zeasapolowski.

These friends are also in need of our ongoing prayers:

Jason Apperti, Jordan Aracena, Ken Bartels, Gary Bennett, Peter Blood, Marilyn Bondon, Stephanie Bouchard, Danny Breton, Betsy Brown, Kevin Burns, Mary Burton, Bob Cain, Carol Ann Case, Thelma Chrisman, Mary Clements, Joan Collins, Anthony Coletta,



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

Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Doug Ackerman** 8th anniv. By: Ada Jean Ackerman
In memory of **Joe Adamsky** by: Lyndel Adamsky
In memory of **Ed Geer** 10th anniversary by: Dorothy Geer, Dr Wes Parry
In memory of **Dr Howard Gill** by: Amy Bondon, Chris Coyle, Shelley Gray, Patrick and Mary Beth Schilbine
In memory of: **Sam McKee** by: Lyndel Adamsky
In memory of **Steve Mitchem** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz
In memory of **Christine Bondon Olsen** by: Amy Bondon
In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables

Facebook and Instagram

Please visit us, like and share.



We have giveaways!

Chet Crane, Karen Crothers, Anna Farley, 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, Don James, Kenny Kane, Dave Kelly, Michael Klark, Victor Kiss, Larry Lawter, Ray Levay, Sam Lilli, Art Lisi, Jr, Katherine Lonager, Sharon Lowell, Faye Mackey, Terry Mahar, Joanne Maiorca, Pedro Martinez, Jr, Cheryl Mauran, Dean Miller, Peg 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, Frank Profaci, Joanne Ranger, Del Richards, Donnie Richards, Ray Romanetti, Tori Scott, Jody Sexton, Delma Smart, Madisyn Smith, Ryan Stahl, Brad Strawser, Lee Anne Taylor, Carol Tebo, Marsh Townley, Lorraine Truitt, Charlotte Truitt, Phillip Truitt, Mel Turcott, Justin Vance, Barry Vicroy, Steve Warner, Greggie Welch, Jr, Charles Weiss, Lucille Wick, 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 Lamiq, Chris Petrullo, Sgt David Thomas, Elizabeth Welch and Nigel Willabus.

Special Intentions for this month:

Larry Lederman's heart rate is very low, and he has an irregular heart beat

Meagan McKee hopes to return to the California trial program May 8th.

Robbie McNeight is recovering from multiple surgeries following a motorcycle accident.

Nigel Willabus was deployed. Pray for his safety.

157 North Main St
Salem, NH 03079
USA



Please indicate
Address corrections

An Interesting Analogy

By Anonymous

When GOD wanted to create the fish, HE spoke to the sea,
when GOD wanted to create the trees, HE spoke to the earth,
But when GOD wanted to create Man, HE turned to Himself.
Then GOD said, “Let US make Man in Our image, and in Our likeness.

If you take a fish out of the water; it will die, and when you take a tree from the soil; it will also die.

Likewise, when Man is disconnected from GOD; he dies.

GOD is our natural environment. We were created to live in HIS presence. We must be connected to HIM because it is only in HIM, that life exists.

Let’s stay connected to God.

We recall that water without fish is still water, but fish without water is nothing.

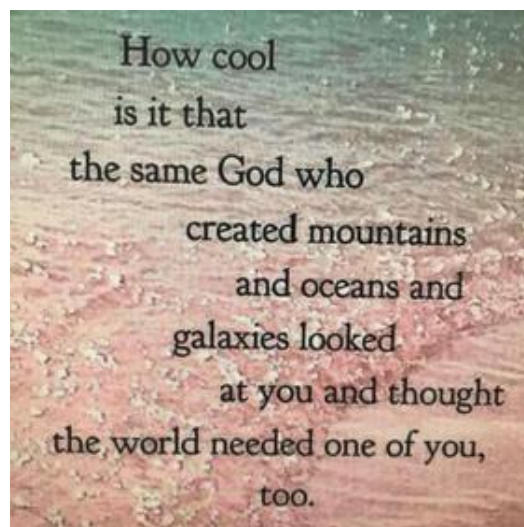
The soil without the tree is still soil, but the tree without the soil is nothing.

God without man is still God, but man without God is still nothing.

“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” (John 15:13).

As we all know, many brave men and women loved our country enough to fight for our freedom. Some gave their lives so we could live free. Others lost limbs or were severely injured.

As we celebrate Memorial Day, let’s remember to pray for all the brave men and women, past and present willing to give of themselves to preserve the United States of America as “One nation under God with liberty and justice for all.”



Scholarships

CHHA will award three scholarships for the 2022/2023 school year. These are available to graduating high school seniors and/or students enrolled in an educational institution of higher learning. Students, who demonstrate a strong commitment to their Christian faith and are involved in harness racing, are encouraged to apply. Students must be full-time and may be enrolled in degree or certificate programs. Graduate students are not eligible. **Applications available at www.chha.net are due May 31.**

