



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

October 2025

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



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Wanted

Praise Reports and Articles

Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen

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Or

157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079

God always
hears and
answers.
Isaiah 65:24

Mud In Your Eye

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

At 38, Stanley Dancer became harness racing's first to win over one million dollars in a single season. However, a 1965 article in *Time*, "Harness Racing: Mud in Stanley's Eye," tells us Stanley had never yet won trotting's most prestigious race, the Hambletonian. To make matters worse, his wife's horse, Egyptian Candor, won the race against him that year.

Heavy rains fell the night before the Hambletonian, leaving the racing surface the consistency of soft fudge. Noble Victory, with Stanley aboard, broke stride in two heats, then finished third in the final heat. Stanley said, "He seemed like he was anchored. He just couldn't handle the going."

According to the article, "Unlike flat-racing thoroughbreds, who plant their hoofs, then pick them straight up—and often revel in the softer footing of an off track—trotters slide their hoofs slightly forward each time they take a stride; they tend to slip and get mired in the mud."

Stanley's niece, Linda, and her husband, Bob Condon, participated in a 2021 search and rescue for a quarter horse named Diesel who escaped from his paddock. Armed with prayers from our CHHA prayer partners, Linda and Bob led a two-day search, which included neighbors and a hunter/tracker, several miles into the woods where they found the 1,200-pound horse buried neck-deep in mud.

During the four-hour rescue effort, the horse's owners, firefighters and a veterinarian joined the search. The search party used a winch, shovels, axes and straps to free Diesel. Then they put down a track of rubber mats which

provided solid footing and allowed him to exit the forest unharmed.

God answered our prayers. Praise God! Linda said, "It was really a miracle, he (Diesel) had less than an hour to live... only his head was exposed out of that swamp/mud."



City officials took offense at the prophecies of Jeremiah and reported him to King Zedekiah who gave them permission to punish him. The officials dropped Jeremiah down into a mud filled cistern with ropes, forcing him to sink in the mud.

When Ebed-melech the Cushite, a eunuch in the king's house, went and told Zedekiah the officials had treated Jeremiah poorly, Zedekiah sent for him. He listened to Jeremiah's prophecy in private (Jeremiah 38:1-16).

Jeremiah told the king, "This is what the Lord God Almighty, the God of Israel, says: 'If you surrender to the officers of the king of Babylon, your life will be spared and this city will not be burned down; you and your family will live.'

Mud continued on page 2

Mud continued from page 1

But if you will not surrender to the officers of the king of Babylon, this city will be given into the hands of the Babylonians and they will burn it down; you yourself will not escape from them (Jeremiah 38:17-18)"

I've read various suggestions concerning the origins of the term "mud in your eye." We can relate to the idea of the winning horse being congratulated for throwing mud at those behind. In World War I the saying equated to wishing the soldiers, who got very muddy living and fighting in trenches, good luck. Some say farmers referred to the soil as mud and toasted a good harvest with a drink in the taverns. Personally, I'm betting the saying originated when Jesus healed the blind man by smearing mud in his eyes (John 9).

God brings good from all things for those who love Him (Romans 8:28). I am sure Stanley celebrated with his wife when her horse won the big race even though she beat him. Certainly, Linda Condon requesting our prayers helped in the rescue of Diesel, blessing his owners and causing all his rescuers to give thanks to God. Unfortunately, King Zedekiah did not follow the instruction the Lord gave through Jeremiah. He tried to escape through a tunnel and was captured. It did not go well with him. Jeremiah, however, remained with the people of Judah and continued to serve God.

Linda Condon got it right when she turned to God to save Diesel. The prophet Jeremiah was also saved from the mud filled cistern because he trusted God. When we find ourselves in the muck and mire, the best thing we can do is to cry to the Lord for help, trusting in His mercy and goodness. The psalmist had the right approach with Psalm 40. Verses 1-4 are printed below.

Psalm 40:1-4 (NIV)

I waited patiently for the Lord;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.
² He drew me up from the desolate pit,
out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock,
making my steps secure.
³ He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear
and put their trust in the Lord.
⁴ Happy are those who make
the Lord their trust.

Blessings from God

From Lyndel Adamsky...

Tommy Dawson got a good report-no chemo needed. They are watching a spot on his bladder.

From Lynn Antonelli...

We look forward to your newsletter every month and enjoy the inspiring articles. Also, I can be removed from the cancer prayer list – I am cancer free Praise God! The prayers are very much appreciated – thank you!

Joe and Lynn Antonelli.

From Steve Byrd...

Harold Coder is pretty much healed from the horse running over him. He says thank you for your prayers.

From Rich Wojcio...

Mia came home last week and is doing well. Thank you with all my heart for all your love and prayers. Rich



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

Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Joe Adamsky** by: Lyndel Adamsky
In memory of **Sarah Gehman Allen** by: CHHA-The Meadows
In memory of **Jack Baggitt, Jr** by: Jill Norton
In memory of **Bob Cain** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz, Rich and Sandy Thorstenson
In memory of **Lois Combs** by: Paul and Loren Combs
In memory of **John Emonin** by: Emily Emonin
In memory of **Larry Farrington** by: Debbie Farrington
In memory of **Daryl Gager** by: Ed Gager
In memory of **Barbara Huston** by: Jim Buchy, Rich and Sandy Thorstenson
In memory of **Harold and Sue Kelly** by: Deb and Jeff Tillia, Linda and Tom Moyer
In memory of **Tommy Long** by: Patricia Menne
In memory of **The McKee Family** by: Amy Bondon
In memory of **Steve Moore** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz
In memory of **George Resta** by: Dona McDonald
In memory of **Dixie Russell** by: Paul Russell
In memory of **Frank Utter** by: Ann Utter
In memory of **John D Wardman** by: Rev David Wardman
In memory of **Walter and Pauline Warrington** by: Steven Warrington
In memory of **Betsy Wood** by: Longshot Stables

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Gifts for Family and Friends

10 Rambling Willie Note Cards (see picture) ☐

Horseshoe Nail Cross necklaces and key rings—see below

CHHA Hat ☐

Books

God Wants You Well by Andrew Wommack ☐ **New***Daily Oats* by Chaplain Sam Ed Spence ☐*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 ☐*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 ☐**Jack Levine's books are also available FREE as downloads at:**<https://www.jackalanlevine.com/ebooks>*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

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Necklace Qty: Red ____ Blue ____ Turquoise ____ Fuchsia ____ Green ____

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

Obituaries continued from page 5

Suzanne F. Christensen, 83, of Monmouth, ME, died Aug 19. Sue loved harness racing and owned a few horses. She worked for the Department of Transportation. At the same time, she worked for Winner's Circle OTB for several years. She also ran money for the tellers in the infield to the money room at the Fryeburg Fair. Her horse, Grandma Finn, was named Horse of the Year.



Gaetan P. Cloutier, 79, of Leeds, ME, formerly from Quebec, died Aug 13. Gaetan owned and trained harness horses throughout his life. He co-owned and operated Imperial Flooring in Lewiston for twenty-nine years before becoming self-employed and retiring at the age of seventy.



Lallah Cummings, 80, of Hamburg, NY, died Aug 7. Lallah's husband, John, trained and drove harness horses. Their four sons, John Jr, Tony, Todd and Kevin are all trainers/drivers as is Todd's son, Kyle. All have been competing at Batavia Downs since the late 1970s.



Lonny L. Hale, 64, died Jul 20. Lonny followed in his father, George's, footsteps training racehorses at Vernon Downs and various harness racetracks in New York where he was leading trainer multiple years. To many he was considered an expert in troubleshooting a racehorse.



David Helstowski, of Hanover, PA, died Jul 26. Dave worked at Hanover Shoe Farms for over two decades and became a familiar face in the industry—whether leading yearlings in Hanover's sale videos or in the Harrisburg sales ring throughout the 1980s and '90s. From 1993 to 1999, he managed Hanover's New Jersey stallion farm. In the 2000s, he went on to serve as breeding manager at Fashion Farms.



Mique Ann Malibashka, 76, of Cream Ridge, NJ, died Aug 16. Mique and her late husband, Thomas, established Camelot Farm in 1979. They worked together at White Birch Farm where Tom trained horses and Mique ran the lunch truck. Mique was a CHHA member.



Richard L. "Ricky" Murphy, 65, of Dover, DE, died Aug 22. Ricky worked with horses all of his life. Ricky owned, trained, and drove race horses. He was indeed gifted, oftentimes taking on the "outlaws," the unruly horses that no one else would take. He often turned those horses into winners. Many fellow horsemen would characterize Ricky as a great horseman with great hands and a great driver. Ricky worked for and trained for numerous stables over the years and worked for the Sean Bier Stable at the time of his passing. If you could not find Ricky tending to the horses, you could always find him tinkering in his barn or playing around on a tractor or skid loader.

Joseph G. Muscara, 74, of Huntingdon Valley, PA, died Jul 16. Joe worked for many years alongside his father building homes, developing the Jacksonville Road Industrial Park, and later found immense success in harness racing and horse breeding. Joe was a man of broad interests. A multi-instrumentalist, he played the piano, guitar, cello, and drums, and dabbled in songwriting in later years. He and his wife, Johanna, enjoyed sailing the Chesapeake Bay.



Michael Paradise, 83, died Aug 10. "Mike was an ambassador for the sport who served for several years as president of the Illinois Harness Horsemen's Association (IHHA)" said Marty Engel. He had a passion for harness racing, and he was a promoter who helped grow the sport through the years on cable TV, as a PR man, and a newspaper handicapper.



Sources for Obituary information include:

www.ustrotting.com, www.standardbredcanada.ca and www.harnesslink.com

There is nothing more important than
Your Eternal Salvation

Kirk Cameron

Obituaries

Carl Eugene Anders Jr, 81, of Pinehurst, NC, originally from Washington CH, OH, died Aug 31. Carl was a longtime Standardbred owner. In his retirement, Carl was a ranger at Pinehurst Golf Course and visited the Pinehurst Harness track often to watch the 2-year-olds train.



Walter Calvin Birney Sr, 94, of North East, MD, died Jul 29. Walter was a harness horse owner, trainer and driver who raced on the Maryland and Delaware circuits. He continued to enjoy watching races in his later years. After his service in the US Army during the Korean War, he built a long and steady career as a kiln fireman at Harbison-Walker International.



Prayer Corner

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

Lew Arsenault, Emily Bier, Debbie Boardman, Amy Bondon, David Bower, Bob Briley, Georgianna Brocco, Jana Gary Bryant, Lore Burke, Glenn Byrd, Rick Carson, Barbara Carter, Mike Carter, Sam Castimore, Candice Coleman, Loren Combs, Joe Crothers, Danny Daniel, Mike Deeters, Ashley Dennon-Coen, Declan Donaway, Scott Dube, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Francine Federici, Tim Finley, Tiffany Fisher, Katie Folkins, Ron Fraker, Teresa Hubbard Givens, Holly Graffam, Pastor Bill Grant, Cody Greeno, Margaret Groce, Marilyn Hankins, Rose Hennessey, Morris Hoagland, Glenda Holloway, Audrey Henry, Layla Hundertpfund, Betty James, Rita Jacobs, Jennifer Jugg, AJ Keaton, Julie Kerr, Donnie Knight, David Kovach, Betsy Krantz, Rox Liles, Anabelle Lisi, Kevin Mack, Ricky Macomber, Nelson Malin, Kim Maples, Wilma Mattuci, Joyceann McClelland, Nelson Miller, Frank Mirahmadi, Paul Molnar, Bob Montane, Lalya Mosley, Corey Murphy, JC Napier, Howard Nields, Jay O'Neil, John Panetta, Carol Parker, Margie Polhamus, Valerie Prescott, Leigh Raymer, Robyn Rembleski, Ray Romanetti, Emily Roper, Daren Richner, Del Smart, Larry Smith, Cheri Stambaugh, Doug Stringer, Jimmy Takter, Bobbi Tanner, Ellen Taylor, Jack Taylor, Brenda Tippin, Gary Tyron, Brittanty Vondenhuevel, Roland Wardel, Teresa Willabus, Kate Williams, Steve Wiseman, Marty Woebkenberg, Alan Wroblewski, Allan Wright and Joyce Zeasapolowski.

These friends are also in need of our ongoing prayers:

Dennis Albert, Jason Apperti, Jordan Aracena, Ken Bartels, Ellen Beinbauer, Gary Bennett, John Berry, Peter Blood, Marilyn Bondon, Stephanie Bouchard, Danny Breton, Lillie Brown, Kevin Burns, Mary Burton, Bob Cain, Carol Ann Case, Thelma Chrisman, Robin Cino, Anthony Coletta, Chet Crane, Karen Crothers, Brenda Jo Dennon, Richard Dunmire, Anna Farley, Scott Freck, Sylvain Gagnon, Greg Gehman, Richie Gillock, Bob Goth, Barbara and Brent Graham, Debbie Gray, Janice Hankins, Jimmy Hart, Joyce Hart, Rich Heffington, Bob Hilliard, Vickie Howard, Ruby

Memorial Contributions

Memorial gifts can be made on our website at www.chha.net or by mail to CHHA · 157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079.



Obituaries continued on page 4

Hensley, Miguel Hernandez, Paul and Mrs Hershey, Carol Heusinkveld, Trudy Hite, Jerry Hissam, Joyce Hollingsworth, 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, Lowell Lockhart, Katherine Lonager, Diane Long, Ernie Lowell, Sharon Lowell, Tommy Luchento, Faye Mackey, Terry Mahar, Joanne Maiorca, Pedro Martinez, Jr, Cheryl Mauran, Dean Miller, Peg Miller, Raymond Miller, Nancy Miner, John Morris, Mike Murphy, Doug Nash, Elaine Parlin, Ronnie Parker, Waverly Parsons, Susan Parks, Doc Parry, Donna Phillips, Rita Polese, Noreen Paulen, Frank Profaci, Del Richards, Donnie Richards, Denis Rogers, Tori Scott, Jody Sexton, Lynn Silver, Delma Smart, Rev Edward Smith, Madisyn Smith, Ryan Stahl, Caryn Stellino, Brad Strawser, Lee Anne Taylor, Dick Terien, Al Terwilliger, Marsh Townley, Lorraine Truitt, Charlotte Truitt, Phillip Truitt, Mel Turcott, Vincenzo Villante, Justin Vance, Barry Vicroy, Steve Warner, Greggie Welch, Jr, Charles Weiss, Alice Williams, Pat Wilson, 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, Chris Petrullo, Sgt David Thomas, Elizabeth Welch and Nigel Willabus.

Special Intentions for this month:

Barbara Bosley is receiving radiation following surgery.
Claudia Carey-Dari needs prayers for strength and healing.
Ray Farmer has prostate cancer.
Georganna decided to stop her oral chemo due to side effects.
Richard Linihan is recovering from heart surgery.
Julie Manchester has a bad liver number.
Joe Paver's sciatic nerve is acting up.
Joe Paver's mother has had heat exhaustion issues.
Robyn Rombleski's cancer returned.
Ray Romanetti is in Hospice.
Dick Terrien has CHF and kidney cancer.
Phillip Truitt is recovering from cancer surgery.
Bobby Williams has leukemia. He flatlined twice.

157 North Main St
Salem, NH 03079
USA



Please indicate
Address corrections

CHHA Scholars

Lexi Twaddle was awarded the John and Janet Klark scholarship to help fund her senior year at Walsh University. She is majoring in biology with minors in business and psychology. Beginning right after graduation she plans to pursue a master's degree at Carlow University and complete her training to become a pediatric perfusionist.

Lexi has been involved in her family's business for as long as she can remember. Her dad, Tim Twaddle, has a stable at the Meadows. Lexi helps around the barn, works as a groom, and promotes her dad and harness racing on social media.

It is very evident from her essay that Lexi has grown in her faith, academics and determination tremendously this past year. She says her "relationship with God has become more personal, more present and more powerful." She has been reading the Bible slowly and intentionally to understand it. She and her mother have also been reading the Bible together. This has helped them develop a much closer relationship.

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes provides community, support and growth for Lexi. She says, "each week, we gather to talk about the scripture and how to live out our faith in daily life. It has become one of the most meaningful parts of my college experience. Lexi signs letters to her boyfriend with 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 or 1 Peter 4:8.

Lexi was selected to present her research paper on the role of AI (artificial intelligence) in biological research and cardiology at the 2025 National Conference of Undergraduate Research. Her work was also accepted for publication. She says, "These experiences challenged me and confirmed that I am on the right path."

Lexi, CHHA is proud of you for the professional Christian woman you have become. Stay strong in your faith, and I am certain God will bless you and your career.



Bible Study online

There is still time to join our Psalms Bible Study at 7:00 Monday evenings on Zoom. This study will likely continue into November.

In December we will begin our Christmas Bible Study. Each week is a new lesson and does not depend on prior weeks.

Go to <https://chha.net/bible-studies> for information and to register. You can also reach the registration page from our home page at www.chha.net.

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105).



Smile Time:

By Chaplain Sam Spence

Teacher: "What was the name of the first man ever created?"

Johnny raised his hand and answered, "Little Joe."

"No," replied the teacher, "It was Adam."

Said Johnny, "I knew it was one of those Cartwright boys!"



Finances and the Newsletter

Thank you to everyone to sent in extra contributions in response to our plea for help as we strive to **Keep Christ Alive in Harness Racing!** As a cost saving measure, **CHHA will not publish newsletters this coming November and January.** Our plan is to reevaluate our situation the first of the year.