

November/December 2017

Volume III, Issue 6

HERITAGE HIGHLIGHTS

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IHWWA.com

On our cover:

From left to right: Uphill Sand'N Sable and her daughters Uphill Heiress, sired by Uphill Heir Trigger and Uphill Star, sired by Walkien Jesse Skywalker, on a frosty November day at Uphill Farm, Edson, Alberta. Marjorie Lacy is the proud owner of these mares.

Our lovely covers are designed courtesy of Jennifer Klitzke. Please visit her blog: www.NaturallyGaited.com for stories, videos, and information about training your gaited horse using dressage and natural humane training methods. Thank you, Jennifer!!

PERFORMANCE HORSES

By Franne Brandon

Petersburg, Tennessee

(Reprinted from Canadian Walking Horse News, October 2017 issue)

When horsemen hear the term “performance horse”, they have visions of race horses thundering down the stretch, stadium jumpers clearing impossible obstacles, hunters keeping a perfect pace as they tackle the terrain where they are working. Or if they are more western oriented, they could envision barrel racers turning for home, reining horses demonstrating perfect sliding stops, or roping horses holding steady with a calf in the loop. Dressage horses, either English or Western, epitomize the highly trained horse, while driving horses demonstrate skills for either cross country courses or arena maneuvers. A performance horse is a skilled animal, trained, honed, ready to do its best for whatever the activity might be. UNTIL --- a person enters the world of the Tennessee Walking Horse, and then a term that is easily understood across breed lines takes on a new and sinister meaning.

The plantation walking horse which provided the seed stock for the breed now known as the Tennessee Walking Horse was bred to be a fine saddle horse. In the American South, especially 50-100 years ago, the term “saddle horse” meant a smooth gaited riding horse with a balanced canter that could carry its rider for miles with no stress to either horse or rider. A fine saddle horse was not bred for flash in the show ring nor was it bred for speed, although the underpinning of native mares was crossed to both Standardbred and Thoroughbred bloodlines. In the show ring, the plantation horses were not judged on speed. An exaggerated gait was not what the judges were looking for. But when drought and farm mechanization led to the demise of the old farmers’ horse, those left to compete in the show ring changed. Bloodlines were selected with more fire and forward motion. Pads and bell boots and artificial tail sets became the norm during the fifties. After the fifties, horses were expected to show with built-up shoes and in bell boots, and there were very few classes in which the class sheet indicated that the horse was to be flat shod and shown as a pleasure riding horse.

I myself do not recall when the term “Performance Horse” was first coined for show Tennessee Walkers. Leon Oliver, whose family has been involved with the breed for four generations now, served in the United States Army until 1965, and did not join TWHBEA until 1977. He remembers the term as originating at some point in the mid-to-late eighties. Allanna Lea Jackson, author of Back Yard Walking Training Tips, got her first walking horse, Sacia’s Pride, in 198__, at which time she began following breed activities around the country through various publications. Allanna remembers reading both the term “performance horse” or the alternative “high performance horse”, as descriptions for the padded up show horse as a means to distinguish it from the natural movement of the “plantation horse” which was becoming popular as a show horse in the early eighties. The plantation horses of this period were carrying a normal shoe and performing a gait that would be considered acceptable by most other horsemen around the world.

But the times, and the shoes, they were a-changing. As flat shod pleasure competitors in the American Southeast began competing in shoes that were wider, thicker, and heavier, to create an artificial show gait, so the padded show horses lost the smooth lines of the old padded competition packages that looked like long toes. They began wearing a bigger, heavier, stack of shoe, pad, and wedge that eclipsed the size of the horses’ hooves. While the term “high performance horse” might have caught on to distinguish a high breaking show horse from its naturally moving cousins in the ring, the shortening of the term to simply “Performance Horse” had other implications.

A performance horse in the general sense of the term indicates a horse that is highly skilled in whatever the task is that has been set before it. When this term is applied to a show horse that performs an exaggerated gait, it skews the perspective of the breed fancy to the belief that all horses within the breed should emulate this exaggerated show ring movement. Bloodlines within the breed that have not been developed for this exaggeration are often denigrated as being inferior stock. Horses within the

performance lines that do not exhibit exaggerated movement are rejected as well. Ordinary trail horses, the work horses of any breed today, are expected to “look through the bridle” and exhibit movement that is faster and flashier than what a working trail horse would be expected to show. The entire breed perspective can be compromised by use of this one term.

The Tennessee Walking Horse Celebration has completed its annual run as I finish up this column. Hurricane Harvey impacted the show as everyone in Middle Tennessee experienced several days and a couple of nights of rain, although not torrential. The premium list for this show is readily accessible online. The classes are broken into four divisions: the Halter Division, the Equitation Division, the Flat Shod Pleasure Division, and the Performance Division. The premium list states “in all flat shod pleasure classes, a four-beat walking gait with a cadence head motion (note the term “nod” is not used) is required. Manners and suitability are paramount.” The description goes on to list other attributes under which the flat shod horses will be judged. For the Performance Division, no gait description is provided, rather requirements of how the horse is to be shod, with the addition of gait accentuating chains and a set tail and essentials to competition. From reading this premium list, a newcomer to the breed could finally decide that the highest echelon of the breed is reserved for professionally trained horses performing an exaggerated but undefined gait that could easily vary from horse to horse.

The walking horse breed has seen many changes since I was a kid watching the padded show horses with rapt attention. I have learned with time that my daddy was correct when he scoffed at the show horses we watched a couple of weekends a month as being “totally artificial”. The padded up show horses of today wearing huge stacked packages are even more artificial than those which brought out my father’s laments. I, for one, will not refer to these show ring competitors as Performance Horses. The original horses of the breed, and the old show horses of eighty years ago that my father had groomed, were horses of an entirely different category. Some were trained by professionals, but others by owners after the chores were done

in the evenings. These horses performed nodding and relaxed gaits that were cadenced and smooth. They cantered on signal in the show ring and on the trail as well. These horses set the performance standards for the breed, and they are the ones setting the standards for the horses that I ride today. I don't think I will ever ride or breed a Merry Wilson, but a gal can dream!!

THESE are example of the true performance side of the walking horse breed and the stacked horses are show ring only are not the performance goal to be emulated.



Mark Pacovsky herding cattle with Slush Creeks Jubal S.



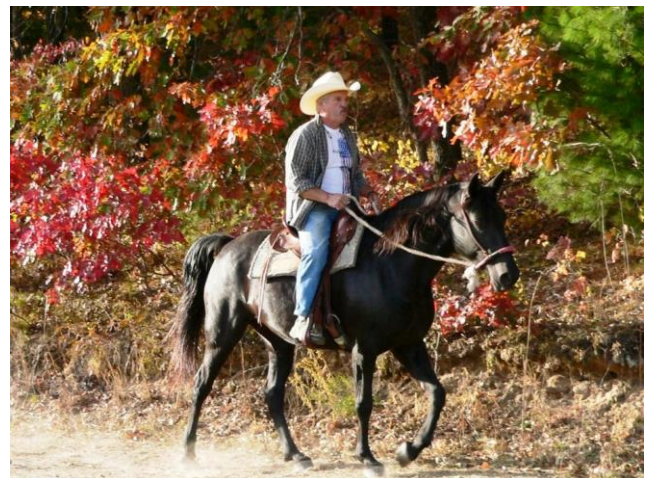
Silver Rain in Dixie out trail riding with Adam Brandon



Austin Turley and NFF Echo's Blue Moon training dogs for field trial



Sunbeam and Rachel Hill competing in an endurance race



Bill Scott on Honey Boy's Dolly Mae trail riding



Greg McCandless and Silver Rain in Dixie compete in an obstacle course



Mike Davis and Tennessee Moonshine enjoy a trail ride in the Minnesota bluffs



Malia Nelson and NFF Wilson's Lady Scarlet practice their jumping skills



Bullet's Elusive Angel and NFF Wilson's MayFlower on a pack trip for Roberta Brebner



Cynthia Preibe and Temp's Red Rascal with their horse show winnings



Yona Hefer with CHF Laurabelle Taylor taking a break on the trails in Israel

CALCULATING HERITAGE PERCENTAGES

By Diane Szczepanski & Franne Brandon

A few questions have come up regarding how we calculate percentages of Heritage blood in the horses that are being registered. We also realize we made a mistake in some of the levels in the last newsletter so that will be corrected here. There will be examples of horses that meet the three levels and horses who do not meet levels 2B and 3.

The IHWHA is dedicated to the preservation and promotion of horses with rare bloodlines which perform the evenly timed, nodding gait known as the running walk. Bloodlines without a basis in gait are not desired. For that reason, all horses, foals or adults, registered with IHWHA must be gait certified with a video following the video guidelines on this website.

Color genetics is a science and does not lie. It is one way to determine that horses registered prior to bloodtyping and DNA testing do trace to the animals indicated on pedigrees. Various colors and patterns are exhibited within the Heritage Horse ranks. All colors, patterns, and modifiers must trace, generation to generation, to horses of those colors, patterns, and modifiers registered in the original TWHBAA Studbooks.

LEVEL 1- 100% Heritage Walking Horse

The 100% Heritage Horses (or the pure Heritage Horse) must have all older bloodlines, with a minimum of four stallions and/or mares with pre-1950 registration numbers still showing on the registration certificate. Foals born of two Heritage parents will be eligible to be registered in this category regardless of how many numbers are still showing on the papers. These horses will have no modern show horses in the pedigree that were shown padded/stacked after 1976 and **no** Pride of Midnight.

Level 2A - This level will be for horses who do not have the required minimum of four pre-1950 numbers on their four generation registration certificate but are otherwise old bloodlines with NO Pride of Midnight or modern stacked/padded show horses after 1976. If bred to a Heritage Horse, their foals will be considered full Heritage.

Level 2B - Horses that are all old bloodlines, with a minimum of 87.5% Heritage blood, except for ONE line to a performance horse shown after 1976. This show horse may be the descendant of any stallion. If the horse meets this criterion and is bred to a 100% Heritage Horse, the foal will be registered in Level 1 as FULL Heritage with the percentage of Heritage blood noted on the registration certificate.

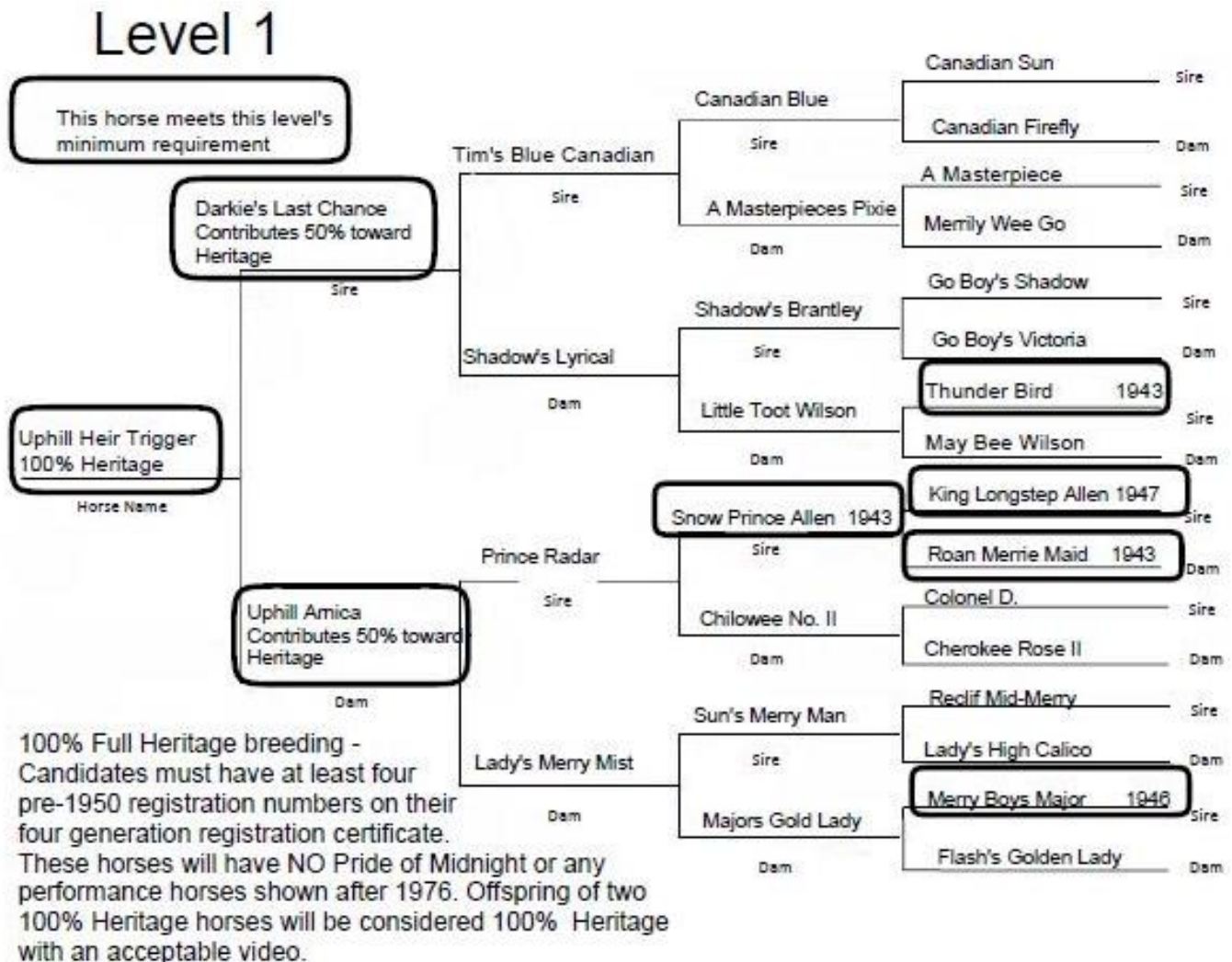
Level 3

This category is for those horses that have a majority of old bloodlines but have no more than two performance horses exhibited after 1976 on their papers. These performance lines can only trace to Pride of Midnight ONE time and may not be linebred to POM. These horses are not considered Heritage nor will their offspring. No horse registered with IHWHA will have more than two lines to any performance horses shown after 1976.

This is the current criteria. We will not be going backwards and redoing pedigrees that are already certified unless the horse's owner requests it, but will work forward using the examples in this article.

Example of a horse that meets the Level 1 criteria:

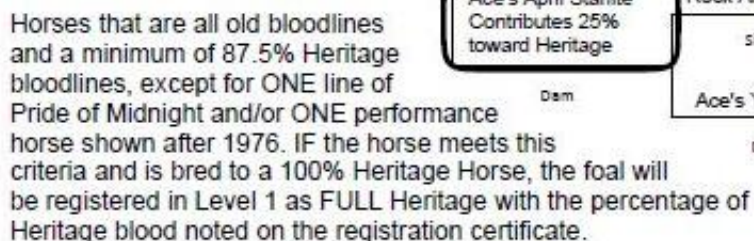
As you can see this particular horse has FIVE horses on his four-generational registration certificate that show pre-1950 numbers and no Pride of Midnight, no padded horses after 1976. The horse is 100% Heritage Eligible. The sire, Darkie's Last Chance contributes 50% toward Uphill Heir Trigger's 100% Heritage total, as does the dam, Uphill Arnica. 50% +50% = 100%



Level 2A is self-explanatory and is much like Level 1 except there aren't four pre-1950 numbers showing on the registration certificate. No illustration needed for this category.

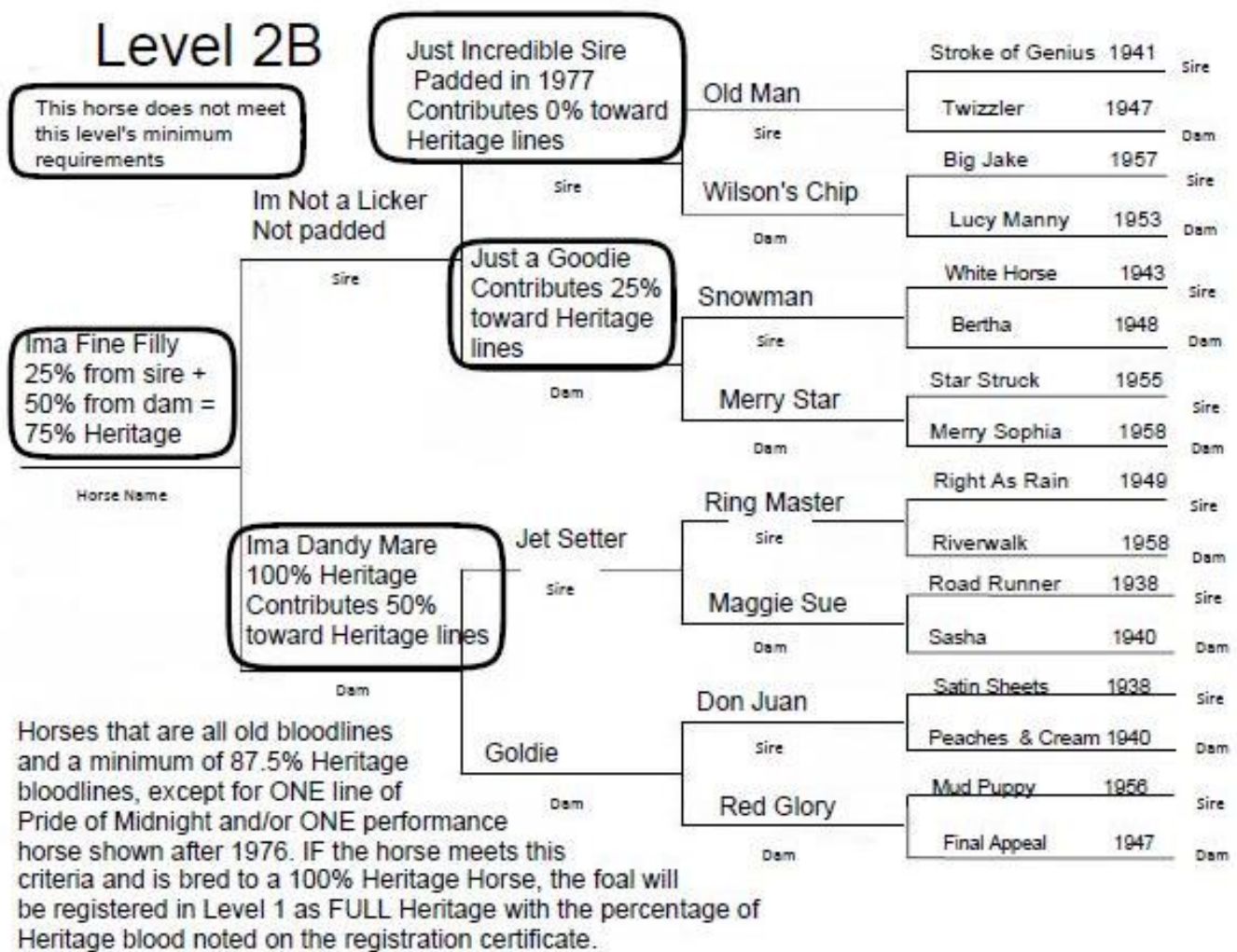
These are horses who are a minimum of 87.5% Heritage lines but might have one line to Pride of Midnight and/or one performance horse shown after 1976.

Level 2B



Now let's look at a **Level 2B** horse that does not meet:

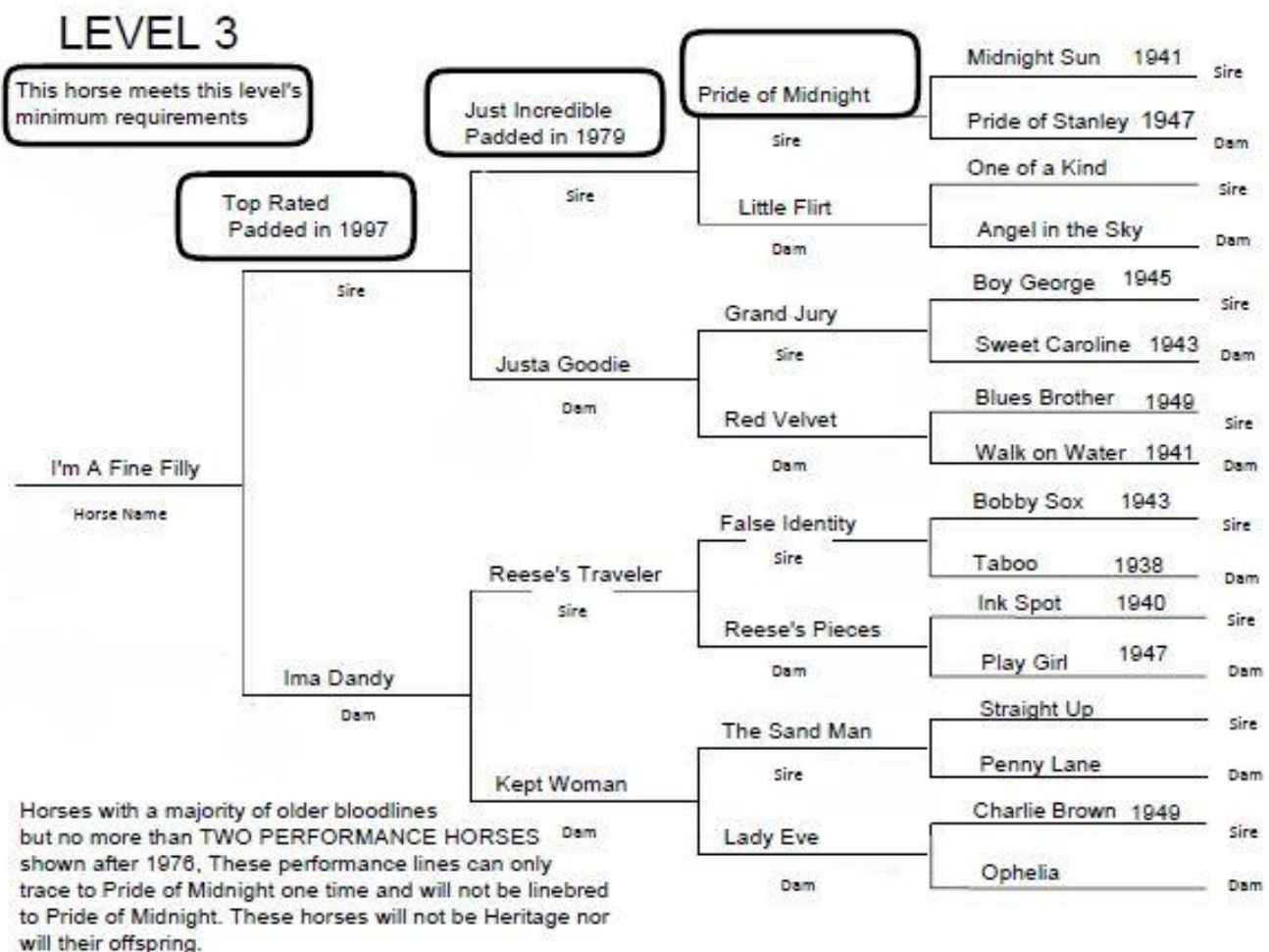
Ima Fine Filly has Just Incredible in her pedigree and he was padded in 1977 so he counts as 0% in her pedigree. Just A Goodie has no big lick or POM so she contributes 25% Heritage lines to Ima Fine Filly through her sire, I'm Not a Licker. Ima Dandy Mare is 100% Heritage and gives 50% toward Ima Fine Filly's Heritage total. As you can see in the illustration below, Ima Fine Filly has only 75% total Heritage blood and is not eligible for this level. She could, however, be registered in Level 3.



Level 3

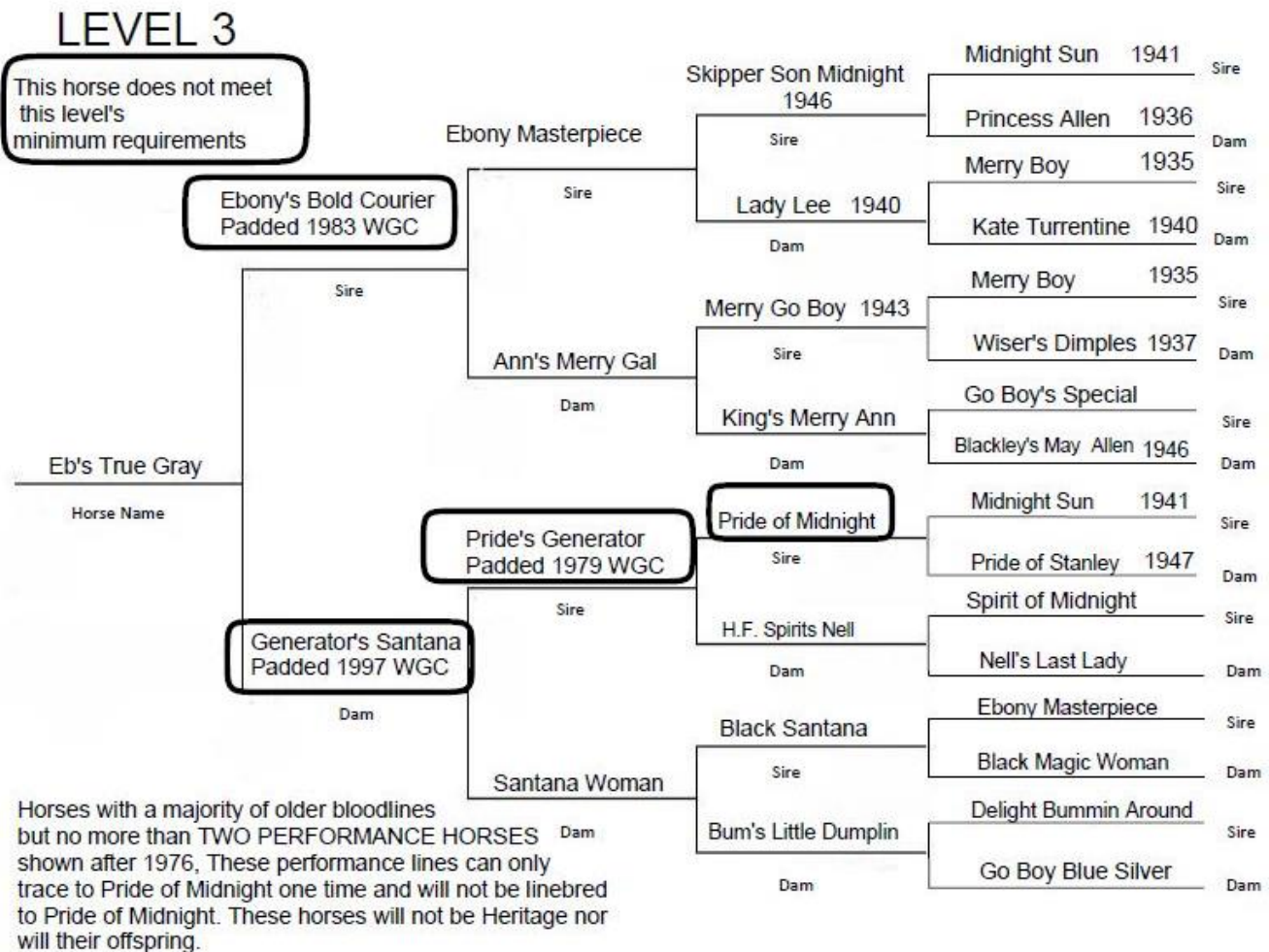
These are horses with mostly old bloodlines but have no more than two performance horses shown after 1976. These performance lines can only trace to Pride of Midnight one time and will not be linebred to Pride. **These horses will not be Heritage and they cannot breed up to Level 2 or 1.** No horse registered with IHWhA will have more than two lines to any performance horse shown after 1976 and no more than ONE line to Pride of Midnight.

Look at the pedigree below. There are 11 horses in the pedigree with numbers that fall pre-1950. There is one line to Pride of Midnight and two padded horses after 1976. This filly is eligible for Level 3.



Let's look at a **Level 3 horse** who does not qualify:

As you can see in the illustration, Eb's True Gray was sired by Ebony's Bold Courier, a 1983 padded WGC horse. On the dam's side let's pretend Generator's Santana is a mare for this example. She was the 1997 padded WGC, sired by the 1979 padded grand champion, Pride's Generator, sired by Pride of Midnight. So we have one line of Pride of Midnight and three horses who were padded after 1976 in the pedigree which makes Eb's True Gray ineligible for registration with IHWWA.



Merry Christmas!

The Heritage Breeders below wish everyone a Merry Christmas and healthy New Year!!!





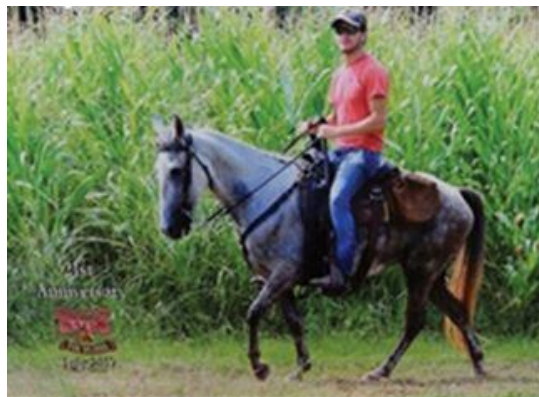
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!!

Confederate Hills Farm
Billy & Mary Taylor
Winchester, Tennessee

have
YOURSELF
a
Merry
LITTLE
Christmas

From Northern Foundations Farm
Whitehall, Wisconsin



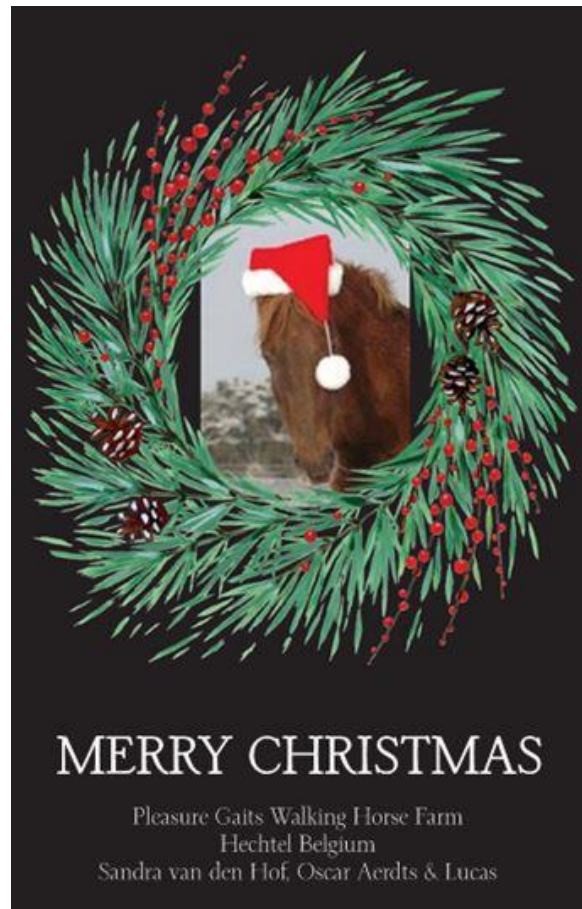


HAVE
YOURSELF
Merry
little
CHRISTMAS

Bill & Trish Nix
Overstride Farm
Petersburg, Tennessee

Merry Christmas!!!

Harry & Franne Brandon & Grandkids
Pinefolly Farms
Petersburg, Tennessee





UPHILL FARM



Presents Our Trigger Jr. bred Heritage Walking Horses...



We Wish You A Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year!



Walkien Jesse Skywalker

*From
Marjorie &
All the
UPHILL horses.*

1-780-723-2547

whn@telus.net

*Box 7326,
Edson, Alberta
T7E 1V5*



Uphill Sand 'N Sable



Uphill Smoke 'N Sand




Uphill Star

IHWHA memberships for Family and Individuals go from January 1 to December 31 each year. Enclosed in this newsletter is a membership application.

Come on join us! We are a sound horse organization and the only registry that requires gait certification and our fees are very low compared to other registries.

TRAIN THE TRAINER



The *Train the Trainer* program was designed to assist individuals from different disciplines who may not be familiar with the gaited breeds. The program will assist trainers, owners, and riders to recognize and/or achieve gait in both American and Spanish gaited breeds.

Our clinics, lessons, and horse training are tailored to each situation, location, and/or group. Individuals can bring horses to the ranch in Idaho, or plans can be made to travel to the local area.

For more information contact:
Nya Bates 208.559.2755
Website: www.batesgaitedhorses.com



IHWHA Membership Application

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE OR PROVINCE _____

ZIP CODE _____

COUNTRY, IF OTHER THAN US OR CANADA _____

TELEPHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Enclosed is my check or money order for:

☐ \$ 40 Family Membership (Husband, Wife, one child under 18)

☐ \$ 25 Annual Adult Membership (18 years or older)

☐ \$ 350 Lifetime Membership (18 years or older)

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

DATE OF APPLICATION

SEND APPLICATION TO: IHWHA, PO BOX 267, Whitehall, WI 54773-0267

Readers Write

“Interesting changes going on in the registry. What will happen to those of us already registered? Will we be reviewed and put into a new status? I was sorry to hear of Sharon Corr's passing. I showed with her for many years and we fought side by side to destroy the padded horse industry as members of the same horse club in NY.” Paula Veravet, Georgetown, New York

“I always enjoy reading the Highlights and got a kick out of the latest cover. What a great web, and Jennifer was right to add a horse. I had to look twice to see that it wasn't a real one in the distance. Very clever. I especially enjoyed the cattle drive story. Keep 'em coming”, Natalie Speckmaier, Vancouver, Canada

“Highlights downloaded and safely filed. Thank you. I was not really expecting it. Featuring the Hardscrabble Hollow Farm story was a very kind, generous, and thoughtful gesture. The cream of the crop was grabbed, and we had to watch some choice stock get away, again! Someday...Who knows. The Tweak story was touching, very human. At least Mike was energetically and entertainingly doing his thing, as usual. So you had three features. I will admit that I am somewhat disappointed in some of the (founder) members. They are surely still going about their business, and they should surely have something to share with Highlights. The Christmas edition will hopefully have cards from the unusual suspects to cheer us all up. Stay strong, stay tuned
Regards,” Henry Ferreira, Johannesburg, South Africa

“Just got done reading Highlights from yesterday. Thanks for spending the time searching for that picture of Sandra watching Danny's granddaughter riding Tweak! Having that picture included made it a lot more fun story!” Joan Hendricks, Owen, Wisconsin



Readers seem to be enjoying the stories of every day people and their horses so we thought we'd share a publication dedicated to Tennessee Walking Horses that are not show oriented:

Canadian Walking Horse News, is published bi-monthly by Marjorie Lacy of Alberta, Canada. The magazine is dedicated to the plain shod horse in Canada and features articles by the Heritage Society's Franne Brandon on the history of the Walking Horse breed.

Website: www.walkinghorsenews.ca

HOW TO SUBMIT MATERIAL TO HIGHLIGHTS

By Franne Brandon, Petersburg, Tennessee

Do you enjoy reading the articles in Heritage Highlights and sometimes wish that you could share your own adventures, experiences, or knowledge with the readership?

You can! Heritage Highlights encourages all articles, long, short, or of moderate length, about all aspects of the Heritage Horse world.

Submissions can be sent via email messages or in Word format as email attachments. Grammar is not a major issue because we have a copy editor (C'est moi!) who reads each article before the layout editor works her magic touch.

Highlights welcomes all photo submissions that accompany an article.

Photographs tell the story in many cases, and because we are a non-print publication, we do not have the photographic limits of a magazine.

It is best to send all photographs separately from the text, as downloadable email attachments, with each shot accompanied by a clear caption. This works out best from the layout perspective. The Heritage Highlights staff looks forward to hearing from more of the readership in future issues.

Advertising in Highlights:

If anyone would like to place a classified ad in Highlights, our set up fee is \$10 for photos and text.

Also, if you purchase a Heritage Horse from someone who already has a certificate for the horse and you would like the certificate in your name, we can print a new certificate and mail it for a \$5.00 fee to cover the certificate, mailer and postage.

You can find us on Facebook!!

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+32 (0) 11 666 158

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Diane Szczepanski, Whitehall, WI
(715) 538-2494

Email: northern_foundations@yahoo.com

The Heritage Society does not endorse any trainer, style of natural training, or tack and horse equipment, to the exclusion of others, as each horse is an individual and not all will respond positively to a particular trainer or training style. Articles published by the Society, which include such endorsements, reflect the view of the author, but not necessarily that of the Society.