

Boots and Saddles



Summer, 2002

Director's Chair, by Glen E. Keller, Jr.



BOOTS & SADDLES IS FOR
PARENTS & RIDERS!
PLEASE READ AND SHARE!

Many exciting things are happening around Westernaires! First, the Red Division has taken some truly special trips this summer. Teams have been in Limon, Evergreen, Greeley and Fairplay in Colorado, Vernal, Utah and Burwell, Nebraska. Precisionettes has performed for the second year at the Easter Seal Camp. We also did an All-Mustang Performance with Red Team, Trick, Liberty and Riders of the Steppes at a BLM Auction in Longmont on July 5th. Still to come are the Peruvian Paso Regional Show, the Gilpin County Fair and Trinidad. On the 23rd the new Tenderfoot Induction will start a new class. How can you have a better summer?

The most exciting thing of all is really the arrival of the steel to build the new building. We ordered the steel to be delivered in order to avoid the price increase in steel of nearly 30% because of the new trade tariffs imposed by the Federal Government. As it was, we paid \$376,833 for that pile of steel and the engineering to build the building. Think what the increase would have done to us – an

additional \$113,000!!! That would have put the new arena out of sight for us. As it is, WE STILL DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO COMPLETE THE CONSTRUCTION! We are making appeals to many sources for the extra dollars we need, but it still seems to me that we can do it in the Westernaire tradition. Our founder had a saying: "Don't ask others to do for you until you have proved you can't do it yourself." Frankly, if every Westernaire family would find \$500 to donate to the Building Fund, we could get the job done. Yes, I know times are tough. I also know that not every family can afford to donate \$500. Maybe they can buy a brick for \$100 to do their part. I do know, however, that there are some families that can donate \$5,000, some \$2,500 and many \$1,000. What I ask is that each family, including mine, look at what additional they can give this year to the Building Fund. If everyone will do that much, I think we can put us over the top! Let us set a goal of \$500 average per family and finish the building by winter! We can also remember that any contribution is tax deductible.

There will be a large board in the lobby of the new building recognizing contributors in the Director's Circle (\$5,000 Gift), Benefactors (\$1,000 Gift) and Patrons (\$500 Gift). It is exciting to know that there are already seven members of the Director's Circle, several Benefactors and Patrons. We also have already sold at least 100 bricks and we have room for many more to pave the entry of the building as well as the area in front of the bleachers in the building and recognize all who wish that recognition.

All of us can step up in other ways, too. We had a group of dads and other volunteers unload all of the steel. Stu Rydgren, Doug Fast, John Adamson, Dale McAvoy, Alan Courtright, Julian Oser, Ron Parr, David Sunshine and Terry McDaniel all labored hard to accomplish a great effort. One of the truck drivers said to me that the Westernaire volunteers were better than most of the construction companies that regularly unload their trucks. Of course, none of that could have happened without Bruce Slaugh, Frank Yates and John Skelton who rebuilt the old forklift that Westernaires owns on Saturday between deliveries. Similar things can be said for Carlene Slaugh, Sally Rydgren, Coleen Adamson and Liz Keller who furnished lunch on Sunday for the truck drivers and unloading crew. We also thank the various monitors and

parents who brought water and other liquids to the crew on the evenings during the week when we all worked to unload trucks. Volunteers are wonderful, aren't they? There will be more places for volunteers, too. The only problem is that **IT STILL TAKES DOLLARS FOR THE FINAL PUSH.**

All of this comes at about the time we prepare for the Annual Show, its Ad Sales and Ticket Drive. We cannot let those take second place, however. Operations are just as important as the construction of the building. Let me give you an example of one member of Gauchos who undertook to help the organization on the operational side. I am speaking of Chelsea Brown, a young lady who worked all summer and saved her money. Just last week, she used that money to buy a new saddle and headstall for her favorite string horse, Ringo. We say a big thank you to Chelsea for her thoughtfulness and generosity. As I was writing this, another mother called to tell me that her employer was downsizing and that there was some furniture that Westernaires could have for our use. We all pitch in wherever we can to keep the place running. How great it will be to have a new indoor facility for the winter months so that everyone gets to ride at their appointed time.

Wish Lives On By Diane Dynis

Submitted by Dana Rommerdahl

Last Christmas I heard from a friend who was commenting on how horse crazy her daughter was, and she was only 6. At a party a few weeks ago, the hostess showed me her daughter's room that was plastered with pictures and figurines of horses. That brought back memories because I, too, was one of those horse-crazy girls whose mission in life was to convince my parents that one corner of our back yard would be just the right size for my dream horse.

I gave my friends the news that this was not an infatuation that would pass like a case of puppy love. No, it is far more intense than that, and I am living proof. This "unbridled" passion at early age doesn't seem to affect boys. If so, they keep the object of their feelings hidden very well. Not girls. We figure if we read about them, draw them, write about them and watch every TV show that has horses in it, eventually one of the four-legged creatures will magically show up Christmas morning.

Every year as a youngster, I wrote Santa the same letter requesting a real horse as I had been an especially good girl and would promise to love it, take care of its, etc. But the closest I came was another glass horse to add to my collection. I'm sure my parents thought I would eventually give up. But while I quit writing to Santa, I never lost the desire to own a horse.

There's just something special about them – a different love than one has for a dog or cat. And in a way, it's odd because they are such huge animals, it seems funny for a little girl to want something so big. They aren't cuddly, can't curl up on the couch or play fetch – they are just there, the most beautiful animals on earth (to me)! I love to watch them run, kicking up their heels, tails flying in the breeze. Especially wonderful to watch are the babies ... all legs and huge eyes trying to keep up with Mama. There truly is a God to create such spectacular creatures.

While Santa never came through for me in the live horse department, I did eventually adopt a horse, just five years ago this December. My mom couldn't believe I still wanted one after all these years, but you don't understand the passion if you don't have it. Soon after learning about "Kismet", Mom sent me a letter I had written to Santa when I was 8 years old. That letter described in detail the horse I wanted ... and now

finally had! I copied that letter and enclosed it in my Christmas cards along with a picture of my new horse.

So parents, if you have a daughter with a love for horses, get ready for the same letter to Santa year after year and for a passion that will stay with her forever. And girls, don't give up on your dream – it will be worth the wait.

Test Your Knowledge

Here's a chance to test your horse knowledge or just learn some interesting facts about horses.

1. What is the difference between a pony and a horse?
2. Are Shetlands the smallest breed of horse?
3. Can horses swim?
4. What is a roached mane?
5. Is a 'sire' male or female?
6. What is a hack?
7. What is meant by a 'green' horse?
8. What is the height measurement used for horses?
9. Why do you groom a horse?
10. Can you have a bridle without a bit?
11. What is a male foal called?
12. Do horses make friends?

ANSWERS:

1. A Pony measures 14.2 hands and under, while a horse is over 14.2 hands high.
2. Falabellas from Argentina are the smallest breed of horse.
3. Yes, horses can swim. Many really enjoy the water!
4. A roached (or hogged) mane is one which has been shaved off.
5. A sire is always a male horse. He is the father.
6. A hack is a riding horse.
7. A green horse is one who has not been broken in very long.
8. The measurement used for horses is "hands high" or "hh" (1 hand = 4 inches or 10 cm)
9. You groom a horse to keep it clean and to enable its skin to breathe properly.
10. Yes. A bridle without a bit is called a hackamore.
11. A male foal up to three years old is called a colt.
12. Yes, horses do make friends and will often have a special "buddy".

Basic Rules for Horses Who Have a Barn to Protect

Submitted by Ruth Smith

The art of snorting: Humans like to be snorted on. Everywhere. It is your duty, as the family horse, to accommodate them.

Neighing: Because you are a horse, you are expected to neigh. So neigh – a lot. Your owners will be very happy to hear you protecting the barn and communicating with other horses. Especially late at night while they are sleeping safely in their beds. There is no more secure feeling for a human than to keep waking up in the middle of the night and hearing you, “Neigh, neigh, neigh ...”

Chewing: Make a contribution to the architectural industry ... chew on your stall wall, the fence or any other wooden item.

Fresh bedding: It is perfectly permissible to urinate in the middle of your freshly bedded stall to let your humans know how much you appreciate their hard work.

Dining etiquette: Always pull all of your hay out of the hay rack, especially right after your stall has been cleaned, so you can mix the hay with your fresh bedding. This challenges your human the next time they're cleaning your stall – and we all know how humans love a challenge (that's what they said when they bought you as a two-year-old, right?).

Doors: Any door, even partially open, is always an invitation for you and your human to exercise. Bolt out of the door and trot around, just out of reach of your human, who will frantically run after and chase you. The longer it goes on, the more fun it is for all involved.

Nuzzling: Always take a BIG drink from your water trough immediately before nuzzling your human. Humans prefer clean muzzles. Be ready to rub your head on the area of your human that you just nuzzled to dry it off, too.

Holes: Rather than pawing and digging a BIG hole in the middle of the paddock or stall and upsetting your human, dig a lot of smaller holes all over so they won't notice. If you arrange a little pile of dirt on one side of each hole, maybe they'll think it's gophers. There are never enough holes in the ground. Strive daily to do your part to help correct this problem.

For Horses with a Human Family to Support

Shots: Humans are characteristically nervous when providing veterinary care for you. In order to sooth your human, raise you head, immediately after the injection, and provide a swinging vine. Genetically predisposed, humans are comforted by swinging back and forth on the lead rope while screaming primeval noises.

Shoeing: Humans are creatures driven by instant gratification. After a good foot trimming or shoeing, trot smartly around to show your human how nice the shoes fit. The next day, drag one foot when you walk, to provide your little busy body with yet another project to work on.

Visitors: Quickly determine which guest is afraid of horses. Rock back and forth on the cross ties, neighing loudly and pawing playfully at this person. If the human backs away and starts crying, swoosh your tail, stamp your feet and nicker gently to show your concern.

Children: Human children require much nurturing in order to develop a healthy self-ego. Never offer your right lead canter to an adult rider. However, permit the child the honor of the right lead. Older children may be denied the first one or two canter cues. In order to prepare them for adulthood. Very young children **MUST** be given the right lead on the very first trey.

Marriage: Your personal human attendant may also have a spouse, who professes non-equinity. Whenever your attendant brings the non-equus spouse to visit, you are to lavish unimaginable amounts of charm on the non-equus spouse, and more importantly, you must act fearful of your personal human attendant.

Ballet Slippers: Your human attendant will often risk his safety by wearing shoes that might not provide full protection from hazardous ranch situations. You can correct (not punish) this behavior by applying pressure to the unprotected foot. Humans are known to move away from pressure, but only after making loud noises. Keep pressure applied until your human responds correctly to this cue.