



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

May 2016

Remember,

I pray for all
our members
every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

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ideas please contact:

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Have Courage

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

On March 12th 7-year-old Moshannon Mojo took a new lifetime mark of 1:55.1 at The Meadows. Owner, Lori Romanetti said, "She is the smallest horse racing at The Meadows but has the biggest heart of any horse I have ever had. She endured a horrible bout of botulism and survived to come back to the races." Mojo is a courageous little mare. Generally, as horses gain courage, they race better.

After Pentecost, the disciples, filled with the Holy Spirit, had the courage to speak boldly about Jesus and His teachings (Acts 4:31). This upset the local leaders who began to persecute the disciples. The other Christians were scattered away from Jerusalem and began to spread the Good News everywhere they went. God was with them. (Acts 8:1)

Number one on the pop singles chart in 1958 was the African American spiritual, "He's got the whole world in His Hands". Indeed, God does! God's got "you and me," "the little bitty baby," "the wind and the rain," and "the whole world in His hands." Do we believe this?

Do we trust Jesus? Do we really trust Him? Trusting Jesus makes everything easier. That's not to say we won't have struggles. We will. However, Jesus will help us through them. The Apostles trusted enough to heal many people in the name of Jesus.

These miraculous healings disturbed the leaders and the elders

who tried to silence Peter and John after they healed a man lame from birth by arresting them. When questioned, Peter and John said, "There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). The leaders saw the courage of Peter and John, who were ordinary, unschooled men, and the faith they instilled in the people and were too afraid to do anything but to admonish them not to speak of Jesus again. Then they let Peter and John go (Acts 4:13-18).

More and more the rights of Christians to express their faith are called into question while profanity and other questionable behavior are protected. It's not all rosy on the political front either, and we live with the threat of ISIS. Yet, praise God!

People here and abroad continue to profess their faith in the Lord. More and

more Christians are speaking out. Many pray faithfully asking God's blessings on their country.

Peter and John are right. Jesus is the way to heaven. Heaven is real. Eternity with God is what really matters. Let's stand with the Lord. "All who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved" (Joel 2:32, Acts 2:21 Romans 10:13). "Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near" (Isaiah 55:6). Choose Jesus and be filled with the Holy Spirit. Have courage. Join us in prayer. Join us in faith. Join us when we get to heaven.



Wanted
Praise Reports
Testimonies
Articles
Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen
leealphen@comcast.net
or
157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079

This edition of the newsletter is published in memory of Susan Kelly. Rest in peace Susan.

Bill Wick honored at Pompano Park by Announcer John Berry

Ladies and gentlemen...

Directing your attention to the winner's circle where our first race honors the memory of Bill Wick, one of harness racing's greatest, who passed away recently.

Many of you haven't heard of Bill Wick.

He wasn't a driver...he wasn't a trainer.

But he was responsible for making many owners, trainers and drivers millionaires in this great sport.

Bill Wick, you see, was a shoer, a blacksmith, a farrier...a gentleman who could balance a trotter or pacer so they could perform to the peak of their ability.

A 2011 inductee into Florida's USHWA Hall of Fame, Bill Wick was hired by the best horsemen in the sport, as they came to realize that Bill Wick had few, if any, peers.

Beginning in the 1950's, Bill traveled the grand circuit and, from the mid-1950's to the early to mid-1970's, shod 18 of 19 Little Brown Jug winners and 14 Hambletonian winners, enriching owners, trainers and drivers to the tune of millions of dollars.

He started his trade in 1949 and, finally, retired from shoeing horses in 1993.

Having known Bill Wick for many years, I can tell you that he was a gentleman...and a gentle man.

He was kind, always greeted everyone with that famous smile...and loved this sport to his dying breath.

Bill Wick is survived by his wonderful "bride" of 42 years, Lucille, daughter Susan, granddaughters Michele and Kymberlee.

Bill and Lucille had a partnership—a relationship—a marriage—that was--and is—rare in our society today. Bill Wick...a great man, who is sorely missed every day...and every race...every 18 minutes.



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

Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Harold "Sonny" Dancer** by: Richard and Dorothy Farrington, Freehold Raceway and Harold Kelly

In memory of **Walter "Boots" Dunn** by: Harold Kelly and John and Judith McMullen

In memory of **Donnie Conrad** by: Roslea Conrad

In memory of **Pat Hall** by: Ann and Frank Utter

In memory of **Weldon and Nancy Stockwell** by: Donald Osborn

In memory of **Dick Macomber** by: Peter Blood

In memory of **Dick Taylor** by: Kim Hankins

In memory of **Doug Ackerman** by: Ada Jean Ackerman

In memory of **Shirley Ann Finn** by: Susan and Alan Finn

In memory of **Bill Weaver** by: Harold Kelly



Bill and Lucille Wick

In and Around Ocala, FL

Spring Garden Ranch is a beautiful place. Perhaps it is a little bit like heaven. Sandy Weis does a terrific job managing the facility. They even have a weekly race schedule. I visited with Sandy and Terry Raymer as they were officiating from the roof of the Restaurant.

After the races we gathered in the Spring Garden Ranch Restaurant for our event. Jack Levine gave a dynamic presentation encouraging everyone gathered in in their relationships with the Lord using analogies from his racing career and as a gambler. Jack's talented musician friends, Steve and Cynthia Navarro, led us as we praised the Lord in song.

It was great to finally meet Rambling Willie's owner, Vivian Farrington. She joined us at the ranch with her daughter and son-in-law, Karen and Joe Ewing.

Diane Hugel prepared a wonderful lunch with fresh baked rolls, gourmet meats and healthy chips. The ever faithful Chaplain Joe DiDonato flew down from The Meadows to be with us.

The decision was unanimous to have this event again next year. Jack Levine is already checking his calendar. It will be a Monday in February. As much as we enjoyed the races, we realized many could not join us because they were cooling out their horses. They don't race Mondays.

CHHA President, Amy Bondon, and I had a nice visit with Warren and Joan Harp at the Gilchrist Training Center. Warren looks terrific. Thanks again for your prayers.

We also spent some time with Rod Allen and Roy Dingess at Rod Allen's farm.



At the Spring Garden Ranch Restaurant

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Please return to: lealphen@comcast.net

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157 North Main St.
Salem, NH 03079

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Circle one:

Please accept my donation of _____. Check Cash   

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To Donate Now—Click here

Choose a Free Gift with your donation

Gifts

10 Rambling Willie Note Cards (see picture) (\$20) donation

Horseshoe Nail Cross necklaces and key rigs—see below

Black Tie with harness horse—boxed (\$20) donation



Rambling Willie Remembers

Books

Live A Life That Matters for God by Jack Levine (\$20) donation

My Addict Your Addict by Jack Levine (\$20) donation

Where the Rubber Meets the Road with God by Jack Levine (\$20)

Don't Blow It With God by Jack Levine (\$20) donation

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

People love these beautiful handmade horseshoe nail crosses. The keyrings are every bit as beautiful as the necklaces. They work well for those who prefer not to wear jewelry.



Roger Huston

Roger Huston is selling them to benefit the Christian Harness Horsemen's Association. The cross necklaces are available in red and blue. The keyrings are silver. They make great gifts for a donation of only \$20.

Complete and mail the order form to the right to Roger and he will send you your crosses.



100% of the proceeds of these beautiful crosses will go to the Christian Harness Horsemen's Association. Thank you Roger!!!

Horseshoe Nail Cross Order Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Necklace Qty: Red _____ Blue _____

Keyring Qty: Silver _____

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

**Roger Huston
225 Fieldbrook Dr
Cannonsburg, PA 15317**

Obituaries (Cont. from page 5)

Ryan Paul Case, 28, died April 3. The son of Cathy Huston Case and Walter Case Jr, he lived in Lisbon, Maine, his entire life. Ryan was the nephew of David and Kelly (Case) Ingraham.



He was very accomplished at anything he set his mind to. His greatest pride and joy in his life was his son Hunter and he had looked forward to teaching him the joys of anything related to gears, tires, and motors. Ryan was a kind and generous soul with a huge community of friends and family. He was always looking to help others before helping himself. He was previously employed at Central Maine Power Sports in Lewiston and currently was proud to work at Bath Iron Works as a pipefitter.

Michael Anthony Crocco Jr, 74, died April 1 in FL. He was a longtime business owner in the restaurant and nightclub scene in Fort Lauderdale, FL. He trained a small stable and drove on occasion. He owned many horses over the years, including Soothsayer, who won the Dexter Cup Trot in 1976 at Freehold Raceway and also started in the Yonkers Trot. He also owned Star Investment, who captured Grand Circuit events at the Du Quoin State Fair and Hazel Park in 1979.



Donald E. Hay Sr, 91, of Coldwater, Ohio, died April 2. He was a member of the Holy Trinity Church, Coldwater, Coldwater V.F.W., Coldwater American Legion and the United States Trotting Association. He worked for the former New Idea Coldwater and retired from the Mercer County Highway Department. He was a veteran of the World War II U.S. Army. He loved the horses he owned and trained them for many years.



James Myron "Jimmie" Hofler Sr, 79, died Feb 24, in his home in Sunbury, NC. He, with his father and brother, were the owners and operators of H.S. Hofler & Sons Lumber Company, where he retired as its President. He was a member of Sandy Cross Baptist Church and for many years had served on its Building and Grounds Committee. He served in the United States Army, had a life-long love of horses and enjoyed membership in the US Trotting Association.

Gary Maciejewski, 67, of Lebanon, OH died March 18. Gary is a longtime harness horseman as well as a paddock security guard at nearby Miami Valley Raceway. He drove in 15 county fair races winning one in 1998. As a trainer, he enjoyed considerable success. His lone horse at the time of his passing was Atoka Millionaire, who has been trained and driven to 11



victories over the past two years by close friend Roy Wilson. Gary was liked by all who came in contact with him over the years. His friendly demeanor and constant smile were perfect for his role as "greeter," checking horses in and out of the Miami Valley Raceway paddock every day since the track opened in January of 2014. Previously, he was the gate guard at Lebanon Raceway, congenially greeting owners, trainers, drivers and caretakers as they entered the backstretch.

Majorie Ann Marsh, 83, of Fostoria, OH, and formerly of Findlay, Ohio, and the wife of noted horseman Joe Marsh Jr., died March 29. Marjorie owned her own beauty salon and was a homemaker. She was loved and will be missed by all of her family and friends.



Margaret J. "Marge" Williams Provost, 83, of West Alexander, PA, died April 6. She retired after many years from St. Clair Hospital as a medical transcriptionist. Marge was also an avid gardener and pianist. She was an accomplished equestrian, who enjoyed showing and riding, as well as training and racing Standardbreds. Most of all, she loved spending time with her family, especially going to watch her grandkids play sports.

Tom Stubbs, 89, of Alledonia, OH died March 15. Tom was a US Navy Veteran of WWII, a former teacher, coach, and a retired Professor and Assistant Dean Emeritus with Ohio University Eastern. He was a member of the Armstrong Mills United Methodist Church. Tom will always be remembered for his love of horses and his passion for harness racing.



Richard D. Taylor, 88, of Westfield, IN, died March 25. Dick was a chauffeur for the staff of General Douglas MacArthur in Japan while he was in the US Army. He began his training and driving career with his father at their training headquarters at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. He traveled county fair circuits throughout the Midwest and shipped to pari-mutuel racetracks on both coasts. His gift came in the form of developing young horses, particularly 2-year-old trotters. His undeniable patience resulted in considerable success as he developed champions including Dauntless Ann, Matann, Majestic Cliff, Allot, Will Sikes, Gold, Isaac C, Home Court, and Spinning Ranger. He summed up his nine decades of experience by saying, "I want to know more about a horse tomorrow than I do today." Dick served as president and director of the Indiana Trotting & Pacing Horse Association and assistant to the director of harness racing at the Indiana State Fair in the early 1970s. He worked hard in the fight to legalize pari-mutuel wagering in Indiana and was inducted into the Indiana Standardbred Hall of Fame. Kim Hankins, Director of The Meadows Standardbred Owners Association, said he was a "great horseman and an even better person."

Obituaries

Murray John (Muzz) Bartels, 43, of Eaglehawk, Australia, died March 13. Murray was a CHHA member as are his parents, Ken and Margaret Bartels also of Australia. They printed in his obituary "Sleep dear Murray sleep Your work is done Your crown is won How sweet to sleep On blessed shore Where pain and sorrow will be no more. Love from Mum and Dad". He ran several small businesses' (Wired and Wireless communications) and also (Barts Parts -- Car parts recycler) and also worked as a truck driver. Murray loved the horses. He was a licenced reinsman from 1988 until 2001 with 176 drives. He had 11 wins with horses trained by his father Ken. In 1998 he was diagnosed with advanced Hodgkin's Lymphoma and went through a 2-year battle and a stem cell transplant to get him into remission. Doctors believe all the chemo and radiation caused the lung cancer that



eventually took his life. Murray raised his 3 sons as a single parent for the past 15 years.

Orriene Magee Buckley, 89, of Shawano, WI, died March 20. She was the mother of horsemen Dave and Dean Magee. She lived on the home farm until she moved to Chicago to work for the U.S. government typing war bonds. She returned from Chicago and worked at Larsen Canning Company. She also worked in a pizza parlor, a cheese factory, a shoe factory, a canning factory and as a bookkeeper for the family owned business, Magee Feed and Fertilizer in Embarrass, WI. She enjoyed gardening, sewing, making quilts, and bowling. Most of all, she loved spending time with her children and grandchildren. One of her fondest memories was the birth of each of her sons.



Obituaries continued on page 4

Prayer Corner

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

Sherry Adams, Lew Arsenault, Dan Ater, Debbie Boardman, Jeanne Duso Boudot, Jana Brocco, Gary Bryant, Rick Carson, Karen Carter, Sam Castimore, Ginny Chudoba, Sharon Cromer, Janet Dehart, Maryanne Doherty, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Tiffany Fisher, Pastor Bill Grant, Margaret Groce, Remi Gunn, Marilyn Hankins, Rose Hennessey, Morris Hoagland, Betty James, Rita Jacobs, Bob Kinsey, Donnie Knight, Larry Lederman, Rox Liles, Ricky Macomber, Leo Macnamara, Nelson Malin, Wilma Mattuci, Joyceann McClelland, Donna McIvor, Mira McKnight, Leo McNamara, Mrs. Miller, Corey Murphy, Randy Nix, Pierre Noel, Jay O'Neil, Dee Parsons, Leigh Raymer, Robyn Rembleski, Daren Richner, Del Smart, Alice Samartis, Elaina Storlazi, Doug Stringer, Beverley Sweeney, Jack Taylor, Carrie Thompson, Gary Tyron, Butch Ward, Fred Ward Sr., Roland Wardel, Alice Wardman, Evan Wellwood, Marty Woebkenberg, Joyce Zeasapolowski

These friends are also in need of our ongoing prayers:

Joe Adamsky, Jason Apperti, Chaplain Kelly Blanton, Gary Bennett, Peter Blood, Marilyn Bondon, Danny Breton, Gaetane Breton, Kevin Burns, Mary Burton, Carol Ann Case, Thelma Chrisman, Joan Collins, Linda Conlon, Anthony Coletta, Bev Crane, Dale, Dennis Drenth, Jeff Frizzell, Sylvain Gagnon, Greg Gehman, Dr. Howard Gill, Bob Goth, Barbara and Brent Graham, Debbie Gray, Harry Harvey, Bob Hilliard, Bob Jones, Doug Haskell, Nancy Haskell, Ruby Hensley, Miguel Hernandez, Paul and Mrs. Hershey, Carol Heusinkveld, Jerry Hissam, John Hostler, Jesse Hughes, Don James, Kenny Kane, Thelma Klark, Michael Klark, Larry Lawter, Sam Lilli, Katherine Lonager, Billy Long, Sharon Lowell, Faye Mackey, Joanne

Maiorca, Tom Malibashka, Pedro Martinez, Jr., Melissa MacNeill, Kaye McDonnell, Melissa McKee, Dean Miller, Raymond Miller, Gordon Murphy, Margaret Nields, Bill Parker, Elaine Parlin, Ronnie Parker, Waverly Parsons, Susan Parks, Aaron Petternel, Rita Polese, Joanne Ranger, Donnie Richards, Lori Romanetti, Gerald Russell, Tori Scott, Madisyn Smith, Brad Strawser, Lee Anne Taylor, Marsh Townley, Lorraine Truitt, Mel Turcott, Justin Vance, Max Walton, Steve Warner, Greggie Welch, Jr.,

Please try to keep me updated about the people on our prayer list.

Please pray for those serving in the military, especially Joshua Hankins, Yann Lamiqu, Chris Petrullo and Elizabeth Welch

Special Intentions for this month:

Sherry Adams has stage-4 cancer throughout her body.

Candice Coleman's cancer is back in her upper body.

Diane continues to be plagued by extreme fatigue and likely the Epstein Barr.

A family in Vernon, NY had their house ravaged by fire killing an eight-year-old girl.

William Fournier has cancer.

Leo McNamara's cancer continues to spread.

Lalya Mosley, the five-year-old granddaughter of Joe Hundertpfund, is fighting cancer.

John Panetta has cancer.

Lori Romanetti is scheduled for more surgery on her esophagus.

Elena Storlazi has stage-4 cancer.

Joanie Suzie is in the hospital following a recent kidney transplant.

Neil Draper has cancer.

Doc Parry is on another mission trip.



157 North Main St
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USA



Information at www.chha.net

Please indicate
Address corrections

Praise Reports

From Lorrie Jones, Mighty Oak Farms

Bob and I have a breeding farm and the first foal this year was having trouble. She just couldn't get enough energy to stand and suck on her own. We milked mama out, bought some colostrum for added vitamins and nothing seemed to work. For two full days we got up every two hours trying to save this baby. Then on the 3rd night she drank about a half bottle and just laid there. Her breathing was shallow, and we figured she would not make it through the night.

We looked at each other and stood over her with our hands together. As we prayed for this little one this is what we said, "Father we are at the end of ourselves, we do not have the energy for one more night. If this baby is going to make it, it will be because of Your Mercy and Grace." We went home to the house at 9:00 pm. We both slept like a rock.

When I woke at 6:30 am, I went to the barn knowing that without God's intervention, the foal would be dead. Well, I went around the corner of the barn and guess whose head was sitting up? Yep, our precious baby. I started laughing and crying as I ran (which I don't do often at 74)

back to the house to tell Bob. Guess what else?! The baby who could hardly stand on its own, let alone get up on its own, was standing! Our excitement and joy was overwhelming. Needless to say, her name is "Mercy and Grace."

In His Love,
Lorrie Jones
Mighty Oak Farms



Mercy and Grace with D Fluffy One

From Dot Morgan...

I wish to thank all those that prayed for my brother Morris who was fighting cancer. Morris is a strong Christian and has lived all over the world during the past 20 years. The prayer network was vast, including those of many different religions. He had stage 4 of the most aggressive squamous cell variety. The doctors at MD Anderson gave him poor odds. I'm pleased to report that through the power of God, Morris is Cancer Free!

From Amy Bondon...

Jockey Remi Gunn's cancer and infection has been brought into remission once again after four months in the hospital. Please pray she finds a fully handicap accessible place to live.



Remi is pictured at left.

From Chaplain Ken Carter...

Karen got the results of her MRI this week. The tumors that were there on the first one were gone. Praise God! The doctor feels her problems are related to her stroke. She is following up at the stroke clinic. We are still waiting for the results of the CAT scan on her abdomen to see if the cancer there has returned.

New Jersey Event



CHHA will be at Gaitway Farm in Englishtown, NJ Monday, August 8th. Join us for lunch and a message from Meadowlands announcer, Sam McKee. Music will be provided by Marybeth DiAngelo and her friends.