



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

September 2017

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

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**Wanted
Praise Reports
Testimonies
Articles**
Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen
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or
157 North Main St • Salem, NH 03079

**MJB Got
Faith and
Breana
Carsey
praying
before
the race.**



Wonders

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

What's most important? What do you want so badly it aches? Scripture tells of a man "who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it" (Matthew 13:46).

Do you remember the story of Solomon in 1 Kings 3:5-12? God came to Solomon in a dream and told him to ask for something and God would give it to him. God was delighted when Solomon asked for an understanding heart so he could serve God well as he ruled over the people. God was so pleased, He gave Solomon a heart so wise and understanding that no one would equal or surpass him.

A story tells of a teacher who asked her students to list what they thought were the present Seven Wonders of the World. Though there were some disagreements, the following received the most votes:

1. [Egypt's great pyramids](#)
2. [Taj Mahal](#)
3. [Grand Canyon](#)
4. [Panama Canal](#)
5. [Empire State Building](#)
6. [St. Peter's Basilica](#)
7. [China's Great Wall](#)

We could visit the Harness Racing Museum and Hall of Fame and learn about all the greats in harness racing. They recently honored Greyhound. Sam McKee, who was inducted in 2012, was certainly a great man. Herve Filion recently passed away leaving quite a legacy. Since last month's Gaitway Farm event was in New Jersey, I think of Stanley Dancer. Of course, we can't forget Secretariat even if he was a thoroughbred. Rambling Willie was the horse that God loved because his owner, Vivian Farrington, donated his tithe, 10% of his winnings, to the church her father pastored. Speaking of horses and their owners who are determined to bring glory

to God, Briana Carsey and MJB Got Faith (picture bottom left) are great examples.

Continuing with our classroom story... While gathering the votes, the teacher noted that one student had not finished her paper yet. She asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list. The girl replied, "Yes, a little. I couldn't quite make up my mind because there are so many."

The teacher said, "Well, tell us what you have and maybe we can help."

The girl hesitated, then read, "I think the Seven Wonders of the World are:

1. [To see](#)
2. [To hear](#)
3. [To touch](#)
4. [To taste](#)
5. [To feel](#)
6. [To laugh](#)
7. [And to love"](#)

The unknown author of this story says this is "a gentle reminder—that the most precious things in life cannot be built by hand or bought by man.

I thought of another list...

1. [God's creation—the galaxies, animals, plants, people](#)
2. [New life—flowers in the spring, crops emerging, a baby born into the world](#)
3. [The virgin birth](#)
4. [Answered prayer—do we ever stop and wonder when God comes through for us?](#)
5. [Christ died for us](#)
6. [The Resurrection](#)
7. [Eternal life—we will meet Jesus face to face and live forever in God's presence.](#)

What is the pearl that you would give up everything else for? What is your pearl of great price?

Without God we have nothing. With God we have everything.

I am asking God to help me be a good servant of the Lord and to serve you well as chaplain. Please pray for me.

Blessings

From Sharon Lowell...

Sharon has been suffering with myasthenia gravis for several years with monthly doctor visits. Jim Frahm and I went and prayed with her in May and I asked you to join us in praying too. The doctor said to wait six weeks before returning and that he would likely extend that to eight weeks between visits. Praise God! She is very grateful for your prayers and knows God is the reason why she is improving. Praise God again!

From Chaplain Ken Carter...

Karen just has one chemo treatment left to go. Her numbers are almost normal and the tumors have shrunk quite a bit. Praise God!

I saw **Cathy Baitzel** at the Hambo. She told me Sophia had four good scans and her colon cancer is in remission. She was not supposed to be able to have children. Well, I guess they forgot to tell God that. She's expecting her first child and thanks you for your prayers. Praise God! Yes! Prayer changes things!

From Dot Morgan...

I'm thrilled to share that my brother, Morris Hoagland, just received a clean cancer scan 18 months following a horrific combination of treatments for throat cancer. He had stage 4 and they gave him slim odds of survival. Morris was and continues to be surrounded with prayer and, Praise God, he has returned to full strength and vitality. A clean cancer scan six months from now will move him from "remission" status to "survivor." I'm counting on that! Our God Reigns!

From Dick and Loretta Hughes...

Thanks so much for the prayers. Jason is out of the hospital and recuperating at home. He has a long way to go. He was really banged up, so please continue to pray.

From Joan Harp...

Warren's last lab came back unchanged. At least the cancer is not spreading.

From Lyndel Adamsky...

Doug Hinklin came from Re-hab - we give God ALL THE GLORY - Blessings- Lyndel

CHHA Scholars

Jonathan Hallett is the recipient of the John and Janet Klark Scholarship. He is in a combination Bachelor and Master's degree program at the University of Central Florida (UCF), majoring in Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Computer Science. He says he has always been and always will be involved in harness racing. "My entire family is very active in the sport. Both my parents race at Pompano Park every winter and move to Tioga, New York for summer racing. I was lucky enough to grow up on the backstretch with some of the best horsemen in the business, including Bruce Ranger and Wally Hennessey. My Grampa and my Uncle Bruce Aldrich race in New York. Having all these great people in my life taught me work ethic and being an honorable man. The love of horses, family and God will guide me to success.



Jonathan wants to be an inventor at NASA and perhaps one day start his own engineering company. He says, "I joined the Student Design Competition where we designed a robot that can compete in five different events." [...] God was what really helped me focus on my career and overall wellbeing. Through him, I prayed and continue to build up what I want to accomplish in my life. [...] By getting uplifted at church and youth church at Real Life UCF, allowed me to have the motivations to continue forward and keep my grades high. [...] I also joined the Society of Automotive Engineers. I find it so fascinating that our club will build a car from scratch. I am also planning on looking into Aerospace Engineering more, for I think NASA is so amazing." Another consideration is becoming a Disney Imagineer. He goes on to say this is "possible with the support of my family, engineering community and my faith in God. I appreciate all the opportunities and I appreciate you reading my journey for furthering my intelligence and faith in myself and God. Thank you.

Next month we will tell you about Jessica Hallett, Kacey Burns and Alexis Schwartz.

More Gaitway Farm Pictures



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Please activate my FREE membership. My address is on the back. ☐

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To Donate Now—Click here**New on-line store:** Check out our new on-line store at www.chha.net/products to select a free gift for your \$20 donation. More items will be added later. Credit card and PayPal donations are accepted.**Choose a Free Gift with your \$20 donation****Gifts**10 Rambling Willie Note Cards (see picture) ☐

Horseshoe Nail Cross necklaces and key rings and heart bracelets—see below

Books*Downloading God* by Jack Levine ☐ **New Book***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 ☐*Sound Mouth—Sound Horse, The Gager Method of Equine Dental Care*
by ER Gager and Bob "Dusty Rhodes" ☐*Still: A Story of the Black Doctor of the Jersey Pines* by Edmund R Gager ☐**Rambling Willie Remembers**

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

Horseshoe Nail Heart Bracelets and Cross Necklaces and Keyrings**Horseshoe Nail Product Descriptions****Bracelet:** Horseshoe nails are bent into a heart and tied together with coordinated wire and attached to a leather strap.**Key Ring:** Horseshoe nails are bent in to a cross and tied together with color coordinated wire. Key ring is attached with rawhide.**Necklace:** Key ring: Horseshoe nails are bent in to a cross and tied together with color coordinated wire.**Horseshoe Nail Item Order Form—Orders can also be placed at www.chha.net/products**

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

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

Roger Huston · 225 Fieldbrook Dr · Cannonsburg, PA 15317

Bracelet Qty: Black / Silver ____ Rawhide / Gold ____ Rawhide / Turquoise ____

Necklace Qty: Red ____ Blue ____ Turquoise ____

Keyring Qty: Red ____ Blue ____ Turquoise ____ Silver ____



Obituaries continued from page 5

Jack Elliott, 91, the former director for televised productions at Scioto Downs and long-time film producer for the Little Brown Jug, as well as many other events in harness racing history, died July 3.

Vincent Fusco Sr., 74, of Freehold Township, NJ, died July 24 with his beloved family at his side. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Grace.

Maynard Hagemeyer, 98, a long time advocate, owner, driver, trainer and breeder passed away July 16 in the same room he was born in November 22, 1918. He was a WWII Captain in the Army from 1941-1946 having served in Africa and Italy. He is more recently known as the founder of Hagemeyer Farms, a standardbred boarding, breeding, foal care and training center in Clarksville, Ohio. In 1957, he traded two burrows, a pony and a hog feeder for a standardbred broodmare, Miss Win Dale. In his peak, the whole family was involved in training 60+ horses. Eventually, he focused on breeding with his first stud, Billy Jo Byrd. His last stud, Look Sharp, stood at Hagemeyer Farms for 25 years until he passed at 31. Ironically, Look Sharp passed away July 17, 2014, nearly 3 years to the day before Maynard. Maynard was very involved in promoting Harness Racing as a Director with the O.H.H.A. and the first president of the Harness Horse Youth Foundation. He also served as a Warren County Fairboard Director for 42 years. His proudest accomplishment was his family. He celebrated his 70th anniversary with his wife, Stella in 2015.



Jack Johnson, 64, of Decatur, IL, died March 23. Following graduation from college Jack worked for the Soil Conservation office for his entire career. He was heavily involved in harness racing as part of Johnson Brothers Farm. Jack was a member of the Pleasant Mills United Methodist Church.

Dwayne Pletcher, 85, of Shipshewana, IN, died July 5. Pletcher was one of the nation's top drivers and developers of colts and a member of one of Chicago's most famous harness racing families. He drove his first race the day before he turned 15 at the Cassopolis, MI county fair, where in three heats with P.J. Volo he finished 2-2-1, his first win. After serving in the US Army Korea, he resumed harness racing as his career and passion. Dwayne won 1,477 races including the Sportsman's Park Midwest Derby three times. In 1972 he trained Chaw, 1972 Illinois Horse of the Year.



Margaret Ann Phillips "Peggy" Cherrix Rodgers, 87, died July 12. Nicknamed "Sunshine" as an infant, she continued to spread that her entire life. She married Robert P. Cherrix, who always said he knew he would marry her in first grade. Together they built a successful harness horse racing stable until his untimely death at 43

years old. Peggy taught 2nd grade for 16 years while she spent her summers at Ocean Downs eventually serving as Assistant Racing Secretary. Eventually she semi-retired to Pompano with her second husband.

Earl Wayne Short, 71, of Greenwood, DE, died July 4 after a lengthy illness. Earl was always happy to help someone in need and volunteer his time, without expecting anything in return. He enjoyed farming, working in the produce market, training and racing standardbred horses, and riding the golf cart with his dog Sophie around the family farm. He loved spending time and talking on the phone with his family. He was always the person that everybody loved to be around because he made them laugh.

Gerald Leighton Smith, 72, of Old Orchard Beach, ME died June 9. Gerry graduated cum laude from Springfield College in 1966, and later received his master's from University of Southern Maine. He taught physical education at Greely from 1967 until his retirement in 1985. After leaving teaching, Gerry pursued his real passion, harness racing. He bred, raised and raced standardbreds with his partner Barry Howell.



Kelly Staten, 71, died July 23. Kelly, who learned to work with plow horses as a young child, got his first glimpse of harness racing after sneaking off to the West Virginia State Fair when he was just 8 years old. Though he served in the U.S. Army and worked for many years as a machinist, Mr. Staten bought his first racehorse in 1969. He went on to spend much of his life in the horse business, training and driving his own standardbreds as well as those for outside owners in Ohio, Pennsylvania and on the East Coast. Kelly was known for his success with problem horses.

Carroll Tiernan of Maine died last month following a long battle with cancer. Back in the 70's, Carroll worked in the racing office at Scarborough Downs. According to then Presiding Judge, Roger Smith, She was a special lady and always available to help a green clerk or program director who was new to the racing office and often to the industry." Carroll was married to Billy Pillsbury. For many years, she served as Nature Store manager for the Maine Audubon Society. In that role, she welcomed tens of thousands of visitors to Gilsland Farm, getting to know their interests and favorite birds, and finding ways to educate them about their work and Maine's wildlife.



Obituaries

Marc Bourgon, 60, died July 7. He suffered cardiac arrest while jogging a horse at Pocono Downs on July 4. Marc's father, Wilfred Bourgon, was a horseman and blacksmith at Blue Bonnets Raceway in Montreal. Marc dedicated his entire life to harness racing, working as a groom, trainer, driver and blacksmith at tracks all over Canada and the United States since the early 1970's right up until his death.

William James "Billy" Carroll died July 26. Billy spent his adult life as a standardbred horse trainer. He raced summers and returned to Pinehurst to train and break horses during the winter months. Billy worked for Mike Medors for a long long time. He was a great guy and a great horseman. His Grandfather trained horses with Earl Avery and for Norman Woolworth for many years in Pinehurst and many places. His Father trained in NJ for many years.

Clarence "Sonny" DeLong, 76, of Grove City, OH, died July 6. Sonny retired from the banking industry. He owned more than 60 harness horses and bred 17. He was a familiar face on the Ohio circuit. Sonny was a mason in the Grove City Masonic Lodge, treasurer of the Ohio Special Olympics for many years, and was on the board of directors and served as treasurer for the Grove City Kids

Association.

Sherie Hankins, 62, of Canonsburg, PA, died July 25 after a long illness. Sherrie loved the CHHA and was always thinking of ways to improve our organization. She was a great inspiration. Her ideas and enthusiasm will be greatly missed. She was the beloved wife of Kim Hankins, a longtime horseman that raced extensively in California and Illinois before becoming the Executive Director of the Meadows Standardbred Owners Association. CHHA is very grateful to Sherie and Kim for their years of support and encouragement. Sherie and Kim have two wonderful children. Staff Sargent Joshua Hankins is very well decorated for his 17 years serving in the United States Army. Neva also has an important job in emergency response.



Obituaries continued on page 4

Sources for Obituary information include:

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

Prayer Corner

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

Lew Arsenault, Dan Ater, Debbie Boardman, Jeanne Duso Boudot, Jana Brocco, Gary Bryant, Rick Carson, Karen Carter, Sam Castimore, Candice Coleman, Sharon Cromer, Joe Crothers, John Cross, Mike Deeters, Barbara Dinning, Maryanne Doherty, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Francine Federici, Tiffany Fisher, Lloyd Fortune, Pastor Bill Grant, Margaret Groce, Remi Gunn, Marilyn Hankins, Warren Harp, Rose Hennessey, Morris Hoagland, Glenda Holloway, Janett e Hughes, Jeff Hurst, Betty James, Rita Jacobs, Bob Kinsey, Donnie Knight, Larry Lederman, Rox Liles, Ricky Macomber, Nelson Malin, Tom Maloney, Wilma Mattuci, Joyceann McClelland, Donna Mclvor, Mira McKnight, Mrs. Miller, Frank Mirahmadi, Lalya Mosley, Corey Murphy, Howard Nields, Pierre Noel, Jay O'Neil, John Panetta, Dee Parsons, Leigh Raymer, Robyn Rembleski, Emily Roper, Daren Richner, Taila Kapo Rinski, Del Smart, Elaina Storlazi, Doug Stringer, Jack Taylor, Carrie Thompson, Gary Tyron, Butch Ward, Fred Ward Sr., Roland Wardel, Evan Wellwood, Marty Woeckenberg, Maddy Wright, Joyce Zeasapowski

These friends are also in need of our ongoing prayers:

Jason Apperti, Jordan Aracena, Chaplain Kelly Blanton, Ken Bartels, Gary Bennett, Peter Blood, Marilyn Bondon, Stephanie Bouchard, Danny Breton, Kevin Burns, Mary Burton, Carol Ann Case, Thelma Chrisman, Mary Clements, Joan Collins, Anthony Coletta, Bev Crane, Karen Crothers, Dale, Dennis Drenth, Jeff Frizzell,

Sylvain Gagnon, Greg Gehman, Dr. Howard Gill, Bob Goth, Barbara and Brent Graham, Debbie Gray, Sherie Hankins, Bob Hilliard, Bob Jones, Doug Haskell, Ruby Hensley, Miguel Hernandez, Paul and Mrs. Hershey, Carol Heusinkveld, Jerry Hissam, John Hostler, Jason Hughes, Jesse Hughes, Don James, Kenny Kane, Barbara Kinsey, Thelma Klark, Michael Klark, Larry Lawter, Sam Lilli, Katherine Lonager, Billy Long, Sharon Lowell, Faye Mackey, Joanne Maiorca, Pedro Martinez, Jr., Melissa MacNeill, Kaye McDonnell, Dean Miller, Raymond Miller, Nancy Miner, Gordon Murphy, Doug Nash, Bill Parker, Elaine Parlin, Ronnie Parker, Waverly Parsons, Susan Parks, Aaron Petternel, Rita Polese, Noreen Paulen, Art Plant, Joanne Ranger, Donnie Richards, Lori Romanetti, Gerald Russell, Tori Scott, Madisyn Smith, Brad Strawser, Lee Anne Taylor, Monica Thors, 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 John Beauregard, Joshua Hankins, Yann Lamiqu, Chris Petruccio, Sgt David Thomas, and Elizabeth Welch

Special Intentions for this month:

Mike and Brittany Bounds lost five racehorses in a barn fire. Frank Crouch had leg and ankle surgery Aug 4. Jim Ferguson has back problems. John and Carol Pierce lost everything in a house fire. Donna Ingram has back problems. Pauline Woulf has numerous health issues. Kristen and her kids need prayers for safety. Joyce Youshock's cousin's daughter has complications from lupus.



157 North Main St
Salem, NH 03079
USA



Please indicate
Address corrections

Information at www.chha.net

Join us at 7:30 am Wednesday, September 20th at the Jug

Gaitway Farm Event

Left: Meadows Chaplain Joe Didonato and Del SOA Exec Dir Sal DiMario.

Below: Herman Drenth, Harold Kelly and Hank Kuchinski



More Gaitway
Farm pictures
on page 2

Thanks for your prayers for our **Gaitway Farm** event. Chaplains Humberto and Karen Chavez delivered an excellent message and Mary Beth and her friends helped us praise God's name with their music.

The forecast was despicable—heavy rain with flood watches all day and thunder in the afternoon. Driving from the Meadowlands to the Gaitway Farm area Sunday morning, God told me not to concern myself. He said the weather was His problem and He had it. Indeed He did! We held our event in the pool house. Praise God! Tim Hundertpfund does an excellent job managing the farm and has a terrific crew. They keep everything immaculate. As the horses were finishing their swims, Tim's crew was putting the final touches on cleaning the building and bringing in our tables and chairs. It was kind of fun sitting poolside.



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

Jug Prayer Breakfast Wednesday, September 20

Join us in the Hospitality tent across from the Log Cabin at 7:30 AM Wednesday, September 20th for a **FREE** Gourmet breakfast.

Breeder Jeff Stacy is sure to inspire us with a great message. Faith Hawes of the Truitt Family assures me, "Pastor Jeff will bless your heart."



Jeff Stacy

Of course, we will praise God with the beautiful music of the Truitt Family. Come and pray with us for good racing and the safety of everyone at the fairgrounds.

Left: The Truitt Family Singers



Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Billy Carroll** by: Harold Kelly, Twila & Stephen Maher

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

In memory of **Herve Filion** by: Harold Kelly

In memory of **Maynard Hagemeyer** by: Jim & Judy Ferguson and Dr Bob & Lisa Schwartz

In memory of **Sherie Hankins** by: Kim Hankins, Peter Blood, Amy Bondon, Covington Class of 1972, CSC Insurance, Michalik & Daniels, Inc, Dillon McCandless King Couler & Graham, Sandra Dyson, Ross and Marilyn Hankins, Jim Knowlton, Edward Kobesky, Joesph Layman, Jr, Sam and Ellen Lilly, Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association, Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Rodney Pinske, Thomas Pollack, C Edward Rogers, Jr, Dirk Simpson Stables, Martin Wollam

In memory of **Doug Haskell** by: Bob & Cindy Heleringer

In memory of **Michael Luchento** by: Harold Kelly

In memory of **Dr John J Steele** by: Arnold Williams