



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983



In God We Trust

Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

November 2016

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

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- Roger Huston
The Meadows and Little Brown Jug
- Lori Romanetti
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Wanted
Praise Reports
Testimonies
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Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen
leealphen@comcast.net
or
157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079

Can you write
or draw? Please
send us
something for
the newsletter!

Trophies of an Era
By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Rummaging through the sports memorabilia at Rockingham Park was sad as the auctioneer played on our emotions to up the bids. Bins of win pictures and head numbers mixed in with cases of umbrellas, tote bags and other one-time giveaways sat in the sports bar along with the quarter pole markers and the finish line. The tractors, water trucks and an old ambulance went earlier in the day for a song. Some benches and picnic tables did bring a decent price as did some framed jockey silks and a few paintings.

Old friends, who came to witness the end of an era spanning over a century, reminisced about the great track that Rockingham Park was in its heyday. The best part of racing at Rockingham was the people. Yes, it was sad to see everything sold off, but the shared memories, friendships and experiences are the real treasures. Praise God! These are ours to keep!

How will we be remembered? That's the question. The rich man begged Abraham to send Lazarus to quench his thirst as he endured the flames of Hades but was reminded that during his life he enjoyed the best of everything while ignoring this poor man who sat begging at his door (Luke 16:19-31).

Some people we admire for all the good that they do. Others we remember fondly because of a bond we share. Then, there are those who, though stabled next to us, never even learned our names.

Rockingham Park is slated to become a complex of town houses, shops and a bowling alley. For those of us who raced there, it is more than a property

and a building of stuff. It was a place where people loved and cared for one another. The legendary Lou Smith, who took over the reins in 1936, showed us that putting people first made for a great racetrack. He also spearheaded the Horse Retirement Fund in 1940, donating one percent of every purse at Rockingham so the racehorses could live out their days on a farm.



Times are changing in racing. As we look back on yesterday, last month and years ago, what stands out? Yes, the greats—both human and equine. We've crossed paths with many people. Some we call friends; a few became our family. We've left our mark; others helped shape who we have become. How many people in racing have we encouraged down the right path and to be all God made them to be? Have we set an example to love God with all our heart and our neighbor as ourselves (Luke 10:27) by caring for those around us and the animals in our barn?

Yes, Rockingham Park has shuttered its doors to racing. Its winner's circle is empty. Yet, the real trophies are awarded as friends reminisce, digging deeper into their souls and recognizing one another's blessings. Friends and relationships are a gift from God. They are trophies that urge us on through the race of life. Hall of Fame friends will show us the way to the winner's circle in heaven. These are the friends I want to keep. This is the kind of friend I want to be.

Blessings

Roger Huston Breaks in a New Announcer

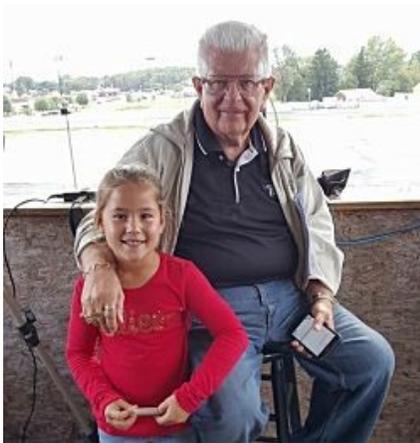
Roger Huston, also known as "The Voice," met 8-year-old Morgan Marston at Shenandoah Downs where he spent a few days calling the races.

"She looked up at me and said 'I want to be an announcer too,'" Roger Roger told Charlene Sharpe, USTA Web Newsroom Senior Correspondent.

The very next day, Roger helped Morgan announce her first race, a qualifier.

"For a first effort from an 8-year-old I thought it was unbelievable" said Roger .

Roger helped Sam McKee learn to call races when he was 14. Now he is the announcer at the Meadowlands. God only knows what is in store for Morgan. By the way, In 2017, Roger Huston will call his 50th Little Brown Jug.



Morgan Martson and Roger Huston

Photo by Betsy Brown

Beth Cain Honored at The Jug

Beth Cain is the 2016 Lady Pace honoree. She was recognized with a winner's circle ceremony Jug Day at the Delaware County Fairgrounds for her many contributions to racing in Ohio. Beth was one of the founders of the Ohio Breeders Championships and has worked tirelessly with the program since its inception in 1986.

Beth also spent many years as a CHHA Trustee. She was one of the Trustees who voted to bring Lee Alphen on board as Executive Director when Weldon Stockwell wanted to hand over the reins.



Delaware County Fair photo



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

Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Donnie Conrad** by: Roselea Conrad
In memory of **Jerry Foster** by: Jim and Judy Ferguson
In memory of **Leo McNamara** by: Cathy McNamara
In memory of **Paul E Pollara** by: Paul Pollara

Bruce Ranger and Mary Beuareguard Wedding



Chaplain Lee Alphen was honored to officiate at the Wedding of Bruce Ranger and Mary Beth Beuareguard in West Cumberland, Maine. It was a lovely wedding. Family and friends gathered in a country church where Bruce's dad, Lloyd Ranger, serves as sexton.

Stewart Nemiro came from Pompano to be Bruce's Best Man. Mary's sister, Ann Marie Mancini, took a day away from the Judge's Stand at Plainridge to serve as Maid of Honor.

Mary's boys, John and Stephen, walked her up the aisle while Bruce's grandsons all stood with Bruce and Stewart.

The ceremony took place on Bruce's birthday. Now the couple has two reasons to celebrate the day.

Thank You

Kirby Klark would like to thank God for the CHHA and for Chaplain Lee and all the Prayer Partners. He is very grateful to God for prayers answered. Kirby is especially grateful for our ministry to **Keep Christ Alive in Harness Racing!**

Vote November 8th

"This is probably the most critical election in our lifetime since we have fallen away from biblical principles the past several years and the impact the next President will have on the Supreme Court. In 2012 an estimated 30 million Evangelical Christians did not vote. Our religious freedoms are in jeopardy. " *Gary Cartwright*

Yes, your vote counts. Decisions are made by a majority of those **who vote** rather than by the majority of people in the country.

Please verify or add address on back

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

Email Address _____

Please pray for my intentions _____

Phone _____

Circle one:

Please send my newsletter (circle below)
electronically in the mail both

Please accept my donation of _____. Check Cash   

Please return to: leealphen@comcast.net

Credit Card # _____ Exp Date ____/____

OR

CHHA
157 North Main St.
Salem, NH 03079

Name on Card _____

[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 rings—see below

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
Sound Mouth—Sound Horse, The Gager Method of Equine Dental Care
by ER Gager and Bob "Dusty Rhodes" (\$20) donation

Artwork

Three Dates With Destiny - Secretariat

Artist's Proof
Signed by Jockey Ron Turcott **\$250**
and Artist Fred Stone
Very Rare—no more available on line
We can email you a photo of the actual picture



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

Roger Huston is selling these beautiful, hand made horseshoe nail cross necklaces and keyrings to benefit the Christian Harness Horsemen's Association. The cross necklaces are available in red , blue and turquoise and the keyrings in red, blue, turquoise and silver. They make great gifts for a donation of only \$20. Complete and mail the order form to below to Roger and he will send you your crosses. 100% of the proceeds will go to CHHA.

Horseshoe Nail Cross Order Form

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____



Necklace Qty: Red ____ Blue ____ Turquoise ____

Keyring Qty: Red ____ Blue ____ Turquoise ____ Silver ____

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

Roger Huston · 225 Fieldbrook Dr · Cannonsburg, PA 15317

Obituaries cont from page 5

life, he would often stop to share a memory. He also worked for Dow Chemical, Luce's Real Estate, and Byler Builders. He had a special relationship with the Amish community; particularly Will, Harvey, and Jr. Byler, and Allen Yoder. Throughout his life, Dean enjoyed hunting, fishing, golf, bowling, and over 50 years of harness racing as an owner, breeder, and trainer. Nothing made him happier than enjoying these pastimes with his son, Mike. He helped to establish and operate Winwood Farm with his son and daughter-in-law, Mike and Dawne Luce.

William Edward "Bill" McBride, 83, died Aug 31. Bill wrote the "Betting with Bill" column for *Hoof Beats* for the past year. He was a scuba instructor and an instructor/trainer for 30-plus years and is remembered as a diving legend. Founder of Sub-Aquatics, Breathing Air Systems and Grand Host East, he retired in 1995. He was named as the Licking County and Ohio Small Business Person of the year in 1988.

Robert H. "Beans" McWhinney died Aug 29 in DeLand, FL. He was the person responsible for shoeing the great trotter Mack Lobell in the 1988 Elitloppet. Beans began working as a farrier for riding horses while still in high school in order to accommodate his family farm horses. He then practiced under local blacksmith Charlie Morse, followed by a farrier course at Michigan State University. His Standardbred career began in 1963 when he was the paddock farrier at The Meadows. He set up shop at many tracks and training centers before moving to DeLeon Springs Training Center in 1975. Due to an autoimmune disease, McWhinney was forced to retire in 1998 and took up his second love, fishing, in both fresh and salt water. Beans always had a quick wit and fun sense of humor, as well as a general love for all people and wished to be remembered that way.

Thomas "Tom" J. Mello Sr, 69, of Rehoboth, RI died Sept. 17. He grew up working on his parents' dairy farm and later served in the Massachusetts Army National Guard. He then attended the University of Maine, Farrier School and served his apprenticeship under James Mitchell of Johnston, RI. Tom shod horses at many of the New England area racetracks and most recently at Plainridge Park, where he worked as the farrier for the past several years. His true passion in life was farming; he enjoyed raising horses, pigs, goats and poultry. Together with his wife Judy and their sons, they owned and operated Rainbow Turkey Farm in Rehoboth. He also loved spending time with his family, friends and "Cronies", attending auctions and stopping in at the many area farms and diners.



Michael Edward Murphy, 79, of Forney, Texas, formerly of Bloomington-Normal, IL died Aug 10. Michael served on the USTA Board from 1978-1987. He was a partner in Van Gundy Agency, insurance specialists for harness breeders and horsemen and was also a director of the American Livestock Insurance Company. He served as director of racing at the Du Quoin State Fair and as secretary of the Illini Colt Association and the Illinois Trotting and Pacing Colt Association. A former secretary of the Hambletonian Society, he served as a

judge at the Illinois State Fair and the Delaware County (Ohio) Fair. Michael was also active in local civic affairs, including as a director of the Bloomington Youth for Christ and Race Track Chaplaincy of America, Inc.

Larry Wayne Rheinheimer, 72, of LaGrange, ID., died Sep 24. He collapsed in the paddock at Hoosier Park while getting ready to warm up his beloved horse Freaky Feet Pete. Larry was a trainer and also director of the Indiana Standardbred Association. In 2015, he won the Breeders Crown with Freaky Feet Pete. For many years Mr. Rheinheimer worked for Dutch Housing in LaGrange, where he retired as a plant manager.



Nicholas Dominic Salenetri, 66, of Crosswicks, NJ, died Sep 30. He owned and operated BNS Exhibit Pros, a trade show logistics company for 21 years. His true passion was racing Standardbreds as the owner, driver, and trainer at Funny Farm Racing Stables. He loved spending his time golfing with friends at OYCC, watching sports, cooking for family and friends, and walking with his favorite daughter, Sammie, his yellow lab and partner in crime.



Brett Smith, 34, of Bainbridge, NY died Sep 7 as the result of injuries sustained while jogging his horses at Afton Driving Park. Brett was an avid and beloved member of the horse racing community and was a regular competitor at Monticello Raceway, Tioga Downs, Vernon Downs and Saratoga.



General Washington Jr, 77, aka "Bubba", a retired harness horseman and staple of the Monticello community, died Sep 30. Bubba was born to humble beginnings and migrated north where he mastered his craft and love of horses and was noted as one of the top African-American harness racing drivers.



Paul Weinrich, 79, died Aug 27, 2016, five days after his birthday. He was a graduate of New York Military Academy. After earning graduate degrees, he taught in Orange County then returned to New York City where he was an elementary school teacher in Brooklyn. His true passion was always horses. He bought his first horse when he was a teenager, working on the Wertheim Farm in Livingston Manor. He loved training and teaching horses, taking exceptional care of them, preparing for harness races and having his horses compete in those races.

Patricia (Campbell) Woityra, 75, of Churchill, NY died Sep 2. She was an avid reader and a beloved high school English teacher. Woityra was the first woman elected to the Riga Town Board in 1974 and served again upon her retirement from teaching. She and her husband William, who predeceased her on July 15, 2016 were active participants in harness racing. The couple were a familiar presence at Batavia Downs and Buffalo Raceway. The Woityras bred, owned and trained their own horses.

Obituaries

Louis J. "Booty" Beltrami, 82, of Drums, PA, died Sep 25. Louis wore many hats during his lifetime--coal magnate, noted restaurateur, community leader, and above all else, devoted family man. In over 50 years in the sport, "Booty" made friends with every person he met in the industry. His favorite was Hurricane Bay. He was a close friend of late boxer Muhammad Ali, as well as Chicago Cubs manager Joe Maddon. "His favorite quote was one that Muhammad Ali wrote for him on a picture," son Michael said. "Service to others is the rent we pay for our room here on earth."



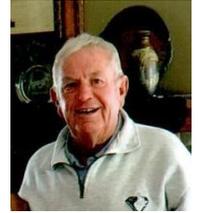
Gordon Brown died Sep 30 peacefully following a brief illness. He was retired from Wyeth, Inc. Gordon's daughter, Jo-Dee Brown of Ontario, is a CHHA member.



Joseph Konen, 82, of Croswell, MI, died Sep 11. Joseph was a member of Ave Maria Parish/St. Patrick Church. He was a real estate salesman for 30 years, and owner and auctioneer of the Croswell Stockyard.

He owned Moore & Carter Lumber as well as Wolverine Racing Stables for 20 years where he bred and trained Standardbreds, including several state champions. In 2003 he was inducted into the Michigan Harness Horsemen's Association Hall of Fame.

Dean Davis, 82, of Wooster, Ohio died Sep 27. Dean was a fixture at Northfield Park, where he was inducted into the track's Hall of Fame. He was also presented the Dr. John D. Stevens Humanitarian Award from the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association and was a supporter of racing at the Delaware County Fair. Dean won his biggest purse with the pacer Royal Art, who he and Jim Snyder bought at Harrisburg. He never missed Grand Circuit week in Delaware, Ohio, sitting in his box in the grandstand. In addition to his love of harness racing, Dean loved watching his grandchildren and great-grandchildren play sports.



Dean Luce, 78, of Farwell, MI died Sep 20. Dean taught and coached at Farwell. When he ran into those students later in

Obituaries cont. on page 4

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, Ginny Chudoba, Candice Coleman, Sharon Cromer, Joe Crothers, Janet Dehart, Barbara Dinning, Maryanne Doherty, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Tiffany Fisher, Pastor Bill Grant, Margaret Groce, Remi Gunn, Marilyn Hankins, Warren Harp, Rose Hennessey, Morris Hoagland, Betty James, Rita Jacobs, Bob Kinsey, Donnie Knight, Larry Lederman, Rox Liles, Ricky Macomber, Nelson Malin, Wilma Mattuci, Joyceann McClelland, Donna McIvor, Mira McKnight, Mrs. Miller, Frank Mirahmadi, Lalya Mosley, Corey Murphy, Pierre Noel, Shari Okusko, Jay O'Neil, John Panetta, Dee Parsons, Leigh Raymer, Robyn Rembleski, Daren Richner, Taila Kapo Rinski, Del Smart, 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, Jordan Aracena, Chaplain Kelly Blanton, Gary Bennett, Peter Blood, Marilyn Bondon, Danny Breton, Gaetane Breton, Kevin Burns, Mary Burton, Carol Ann Case, Thelma Chrisman, 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, Nancy Haskell, Ruby Hensley, Miguel Hernandez, Paul and Mrs. Hershey, Carol Heusinkveld, Jerry Hissam, John Hostler, 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, Melissa McKee, Dean Miller, Raymond Miller, Nancy Miner, Gordon Murphy, Margaret Niels, 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, Reggie 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 Petruzzo and Elizabeth Welch

Special Intentions for this month:

Bo Bullock had surgery on his liver
Emma Cleeb, 3, has ulcerative colitis.
Mary Clements had a few small heart attacks.
Betty Crouse had a knee replaced. Now, even with follow up surgery, the knee cap keeps slipping
Kaleb Deshetsy suffered a mild concussion.
Bob Ford has cancer
Bobbie Grissom broke her neck galloping at Turf Paradise.
Louise Kranz, who is not feeling well.
John Haines in your prayers? He has been diagnosed with leukemia
Ann MacNeill's dad is hospitalized with heart issues. Please pray for his salvation.
Karla MacNeill just started her 5 weeks of radiation treatments.
Melissa K. Melissa is in need of emotional healing.
Sophia Oaks had cancer surgery
Dr Mark Philips had a horse flip on him breaking a couple of vertebrae. Now the vertebrae are infected.
Daniel Reed is suffering with complications from a car wreck
Lisa Yanak has breast cancer.
Let's pray for all those who have lost loved ones.



157 North Main St
Salem, NH 03079
USA



Racing for Christ

Your horse can too

Information at www.chha.net

Please indicate
Address corrections

Visit us at the Harrisburg Sale

CHHA at The Little Brown Jug

Jug Week was great and our Prayer Breakfast was fantastic! Sam McKee really inspired us all as he shared many instances of God working in his life and the importance of his relationship with God.

People walking by the Hospitality Tent commented on the upbeat music as God's name was praised by the Truitt Family. They are friends of CHHA member, Jeff Stacy, who drove them to Delaware. The good news is they have agreed to join us at Spring Garden Ranch in February and again next year at the Jug. You can listen to them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/thetruittfamily.

Rob Stano brought a 4' X 8' Wiggle It Jiggle It *Fathead* poster to hang above our booth. He thinks posting these at tracks and other places would stir up some excitement for harness racing.

Breanna Carsey and her family are also working to promote harness racing thanks to the foal she raised, MJB Got Faith, who was last year's Ohio Sire Stakes Championship winner. Breanna now has book and movie deals in the works. She donates a good portion of her purse money to charity. God is certainly blessing Breanna for her faith and generosity.



Connie Polhamus



Steve and Lynn Smith, Marcie and Pastor Joe DiDonato and Lori Romanetti



Melinda Bailey



Jennifer Brown and Amy Hollar



Rob Stano and Wiggle It Jiggle It Fathead

Stallion Auction—Breeding Wanted... please...

Our Stallion auction will be January 24-28, 2017. Please consider donating a breeding. This is our major fundraiser in support of our mission to **Keep Christ Alive in Harness Racing!**. Funds are used to publish and distribute our newsletter, host evangelization events and much more.

The
Truitt
Family

