



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

August 2018

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

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For newsletter questions or
ideas please contact:

Lee Alphen, Editor
leealphen@comcast.net
603-898-1927
603-401-7271 (cell)

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Praise Reports
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Jug Prayer
Breakfast
Wednesday,
September 19

Our Rich Inheritance

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Have you ever had a free-legged pacer? In the early 70s, most trotters and a few pacers were free-legged. Dan Patch never wore hobbles. In a 2009 Harnesslink.com article, John Manzi said, "Back when Dan Patch was racing it was rare to see a pacer with hobbles!" However, John says it is rare to see free-legged trotters or pacers anymore. Last July at the Lee County Fair, CHHA member Wilda McDanel's free-legged pacer, Rockme Amadeus, broke a track record set in 1939.

The U.S. Declaration of Independence declared the country's dependence on God. The closing words of the Declaration solemnly state: "With a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor." God is mentioned four times in the 1,300 word document.

Do you remember Patrick Henry who was primarily responsible for drawing up the Bill of rights? He said, "Give me liberty or give me death!" One of his neighbors went to see him and found him reading the bible. He said, "This book is worth all the books that ever were printed, and it has been my misfortune that I have never found time to read it with the proper attention and feeling till lately."

Patrick Henry's Last Will and Testament can be read online at www.redhill.org. As most people do, he bequeathed everything to his family. However, the last paragraph in his will is especially interesting. He wrote, "This is all the Inheritance I can give to my dear family, The religion of Christ can give them one which will make them rich indeed."

Moses reminds the Israelites, "The Lord your God is bringing you into a good land of flowing streams and pools of water" (Deuteronomy 8:7 NLT). Moses goes on to tell them about the bounty of the land. Then he says, "But that is the time to be careful! Beware that in your plenty you do not forget the Lord your God and disobey his commands, regulations, and decrees that I am giving you today" (Deuteronomy 8:11 NLT).

Jesus went to Nazareth with His disciples. On the Sabbath, He taught in the synagogue. Unfortunately, the people did not want to hear what Jesus had to say. They didn't think He was important enough to listen to. They had no faith in Him, so He was not able to do any miracles there.

There are many who would like us to forget God. They are pushing hard for us to leave God and His laws behind. They think that freedom means being free of the very laws that protect our rights and us. We know better.

Breeding has improved our horses. They are stronger and faster. Yet now most trotters and pacers wear hobbles. The hobbles help them to stay on gait and keep them more focused on the race. Following Jesus and living by God's Word set down in the scriptures keeps us more focused on the race of life and leads us to that inheritance that will, as Patrick Henry said, "Make us rich indeed."



Blessings

From Larry Lederman...

Praise the Lord! Larry's cancer is in remission. He had his MRI and met with his oncologist. It is right there in black and white, "remission." Praise God! Thank you for your prayers!

Obituaries

Dr. James E. (Doc) Bennett, 93, died June 21. Doc Bennett was a gifted leader in the reconstructive plastic surgery profession and received many awards during his years as a surgeon and professor. After retirement he realized a lifelong dream, establishing Benaire Farm in Morgan County, Indiana and spending the next 30 years breeding and racing Standardbred horses. He started in harness racing as an owner in 1981, and his first star was Raven's Arrow, an Indiana Sires Stakes winner in 1981. He went on to breed more than 10 sub-2:00 trotters and won breeding awards in 2000 and 2001. His crowning racing achievement was having his finest broodmare, Crunchess, inducted into the Indiana Standardbred Hall of Fame in 2014. Always an advocate of racing, he played a role in making pari-mutuel racing a reality in the state of Indiana.



Susan Brickell, 67, of FL, died May 19 one month before her 68th birthday. Susan was one of the most stalwart of supporters and workers on the Pennsylvania fair circuit. She won the 2008 US Harness Writers Association Mary Lib Miller Award. She served as Clerk of Course at the majority of fairs in Pennsylvania over the last couple of decades, and as race secretary, charter, and a board member of the Pennsylvania Fair Harness Horsemen's Association. She trained a generation of people how to serve in the various functions needed to keep the fairs going.

Audrey W. Christman, 80, of Washington, PA, died March 28. She served for several years as a nurse and night supervisor in Washington County Hospital before becoming a full time mother to four children. She assisted her husband, Walter Christman, in the management of Christman Trucking which operated local and over-the-road trucking, Christman Air Freight, Christman Air System, an air charter and commuter regional airline, and Travel



Concepts, a travel agency. Along the way, she qualified as a single-engine aircraft pilot. She was an avid quilter, and her quilts were displayed in conventions across the nation in recent years. Her son, Mark Christman, races

Continued from back page: Parker Steck essay

everything and at times, I was overwhelmed and tired. During those times, I remembered Ryder and his nurses. I thought about my Lord and Savior, and how He showed me light during the darkest time of my life. I would think about my parents and how they lost a piece of their heart when Ryder went to heaven but they get up and go to the barn every day and lean on God to help them through. I know I would not have made it through without God. It is my prayer that He is the One who shapes my character, and it is my hope that I can live up to all He has in store for me."

at the Meadows.

Michael Guy Cox, 62, of Ada, MI, died June 9. One of his great true personal passions was being involved in the Standardbred horse business as the co-owner of Suttons Bay Racing with his wife, Linda. He spent a lot of that time pouring through yearling books or discussing what draw would work best for which horse in the early part of the week. His goal was to win the Breeders Crown. Michael would be happy to know his family said they, "Feel so blessed to appreciate and be involved in his passion for the horse racing business."

David G. Eades, 77, of London, OH, died June 5. His 3 year old filly trot in 2:00 in her first life time race on June 6th. After retiring from General Motors, Dave served as Mayor of London from 1992-2015. He was a US Navy Veteran. Dave was a member of the American Legion, the First United Methodist Church, the US Trotting Association, Ohio Mayor's Association and was a past president of the following: London Kiwanis, Ohio Municipal League, Madison County Fish and Game and Madison County Harness Horseman's Association.

Becca Galloway, 21, of Otsego, MI, died June 27. Becca was double majoring in Criminal Justice and Psychology at Grand Valley State University. She had a passion for helping people and her heart desired to help convicts on probation become productive members of society. She also wanted nothing more than to rescue horses. Her plan was to work at a therapeutic equine riding center and eventually to found and run her own. Becca had a passion for harness racing.

Robert Gary Gray, 56, of New England, died June 10. Robert learned to drive trucks in the Army. After his discharge, he drove everything from commercial tractor-trailers to horse transportation vans making many friends while shipping race horses all over New England and the Northeast for years. His true passion was always harness racing. He and his father and later his children all enjoyed the races together as a family affair. He was an amateur driver his whole life and competed in the Billings as well as amateur races in Maine and Massachusetts. He also trained a small stable.

Obituaries continued on pg 4

Sources for Obituary information include:

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

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Gifts

10 Rambling Willie Note Cards (see picture)

CHHA hat **Blue hat with CHHA Logo**

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

Books

Daily Oats by Chaplain Sam Ed Spence

Downloading God by Jack Levine

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 2

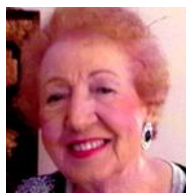
Stella Hagemeyer, 96, died June 12. Stella and her husband, Maynard, moved to the family farm near Clarksville, Ohio, in 1947. She had a passion for volunteering with church, community, 4H and political organizations and received many honors and awards. Stella worked as a Clerk of Course at 10 County Fairs in Ohio for 40 years. She also served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Dr. H.M. Parshall Futurity for 22 years. Stella received several honors from the Ohio Harness Horse Association and the United States Trotting Association and received the "Rambling Willie" award for her lifetime work with harness horses. CHHA knows of Stella best in her role in helping to operate her family's standardbred racing and breeding business with her son, Scott, and granddaughter, Lyndsey.



Ralph Lewis Holloway, 92, of Frankford, DE, died June 5. Ralph was a harness horse breeder, owner, trainer and driver. He served his country during World War II. After the war he became an agent in tax accounting, farmer, and as a harness horseman. Ralph's career in public service was extraordinary. He served on the school board, was a volunteer fire fighter, was elected to the Frankford Town Council and later as Mayor. He was also elected as the First Vice President of the Delaware Standard Bred Owners Association (DSOA) for over 20 years. Ralph was a member of Frankford United Methodist Church.

Barbara R. Jenkins, 84, of Charlottetown, PEI, died June 5. Barbara will be remembered for her kind and nurturing way, the love and devotion to her husband and family, and her service to her community (Red Cross, FISH, Lillibets, CNIB, Y's Menettes). She is Ann MacNeill's mother.

Antoinette "Toni" L. Linden, 104, has died. She owned Sly Attorney, a world record holding harness horse.



Mike MacDonald, 70, of PEI, died June 19. Mike, a legend in the Prince Edward Island harness racing community, was inducted into the Prince Edward Island Sports Hall of Fame in 2009. He won a record-setting five Gold Cup and Saucer races over his 45-year harness career, which was largely based at Blue Bonnets racetrack in Montreal. Mike never forgot his Island roots and always came back every Old Home Week with top horses to support the Charlottetown Driving Park.

Peter L. Rhulen, 79, died on June 2. Peter spent over three decades helping to build Rhulen Agency into one of the biggest privately held specialty insurance agencies in North America. He was recognized as having the largest animal mortality insurance program in the US and was a well-respected authority on standardbred horse racing. He

devoted a significant amount of time and resources to establishing the Sullivan Country Recovery Center in the mid 80s, a treatment facility for alcohol and drug addiction. One of Peter's greatest pleasures was going to the track to watch his horses train and race. And he held on to that passion through his very last days.

Charles Thomas "Tom" Sells, 72, of West Alexander, PA, died June 1. While still in high school, Tom began exercising thoroughbreds and then became a Standardbred groom for Dick Buxton on weekends and during the summers. Eventually Dick entrusted some horses to Tom to train. When Tom was 30, he began training and catch driving at the Meadows. His career statistics are impressive, totaling 2,635 driving wins for purse earnings of \$15.4 million and 184 training wins good for \$972,700 purse earnings. The later part of his career was spent as one of the top drivers at Pompano Park, where many seasons he was in the top 10 standings. He was inducted into the Florida Harness Racing Hall of Fame in 2015 by the Florida Chapter of the United States Harness Writer's Association.

James Daryl "Jim" Thompson, 84, of Danville, KY, died May 29. He bred and raced horses under the banner of Fountain Valley Farm. Among Mr. Thompson's most accomplished performers were the homebreds Duke Duke and Whittingham. Mr. Thompson graduated from Oneida Baptist Institute where his grandfather, Reverend D. Chester Sparks, was president. Jim served his country as a navigator in the United States Air Force. He graduated from the University of Kentucky. He retired from Farmers National Bank of Danville as Senior Vice President of Marketing and Business Development after 33 years of service.

Russell Tippin, Jr, 67, of Shady Cove, OR, died May 23. His wife, Brenda, is a CHHA member.

Stanley Zombick, 90, of Clinton, NY, died May 29.

Stanley served his country faithfully during World War II and the Korean War as a United States Marine. He was employed by General Electric. His true passion was horse racing and training, which he did at Vernon Downs for more than 60 years. He was a past director of the Harness Horse Association of Central New York. He will always be remembered as a loving father and grandfather.



Jug Prayer Breakfast

Wednesday, September 19

Join us in the Hospitality tent across from the Log Cabin at 7:30 AM
Wednesday, September 19th for a **FREE**
Gourmet breakfast.



Gary Cartwright, past president of the Racetrack Chaplaincy of America, is sure to inspire us with a great message.

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.



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, Chaplain Bo Bullock, 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, Paul Fontaine, Pastor Bill Grant, Margaret Groce, Remi Gunn, Marilyn Hankins, Warren Harp, Rose Hennessey, Morris Hoagland, Glenda Holloway, Jeff Hurst, Betty James, Rita Jacobs, Harold Kelly, Bob Kinsey, Donnie Knight, David Kovach, Larry Lederman, Rox Liles, Ricky Macomber, Nelson Malin, Wilma Mattuci, Joyceann McClelland, Donna Mclvor, Mrs. Miller, Frank Mirahmadi, Lalya Mosley, Corey Murphy, Howard Niels, Pierre Noel, Jay O'Neil, John Panetta, Dee Parsons, Margie Polhamus, Leigh Raymer, Robyn Rembleski, Emily Roper, Daren Richner, Taila Kapo Rinski, Del Smart, Elaina Storlazi, Doug Stringer, Jack Taylor, Carrie Thompson, Gary Tyron, Fred Ward Sr., Roland Wardel, Marty Woebkenberg, Maddy Wright, Joyce Zeasapolowski

These friends are also in need of our ongoing prayers:

Jason Apperti, Jordan Aracena, Chaplain Kelly Blanton, Ken Bartels, Pleasant Batson, Gary Bennett, Peter Blood, Marilyn Bondon, Stephanie Bouchard, Danny Breton, Betsy Brown, Kevin Burns, Mary Burton, Carol Ann Case, Thelma Chrisman, Mary Clements,



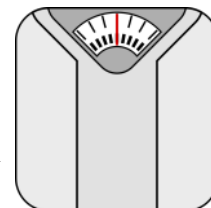
*May the angels
lead you into paradise*
Memorials posted at www.chha.net

Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Bill Dailey** by: Bob and Beth Cain, Jim and Judy Ferguson and Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz
In memory of **Dave Eades** by: Albert Adams
In memory of **Sherie Hankins** by: Kim Hankins
In memory of **Susan Kelly** by: Harold Kelly
In memory of **Gene Kurzrok** by: John and Emily Emonin
In memory of **Leslie Lederman** by: Amy Bondon
In memory of **Mike MacDonald** by: Twila and Stephen Mahar
In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Ken and Betsy Wood

Smile Time By Chaplain Sam Ed Spence

If you weigh 200 pounds on earth, you'll only weigh 76 pounds on Mars. I'm not overweight; I'm just on the wrong planet.



Joan Collins, Anthony Coletta, Bev Crane, Chet Crane, Karen Crothers, Dale, Jim Ferguson, Melanie Fisk, Sylvain Gagnon, Greg Gehman, Dr. Howard Gill, Bob Goth, Barbara and Brent Graham, Debbie Gray, Bob Hilliard, Vickie Howard, Bob Jones, Ruby Hensley, Miguel Hernandez, Paul and Mrs. Hershey, Carol Heusinkveld, Jerry Hissam, John Hostler, Jason Hughes, Jesse Hughes, Donna Ingram, Don James, Barb Jenkins, Kenny Kane, Dave Kelly, Barbara Kinsey, Thelma Klark, Michael Klark, Victor Kiss Art LaPlante, Larry Lawter, Ray Levay, Sam Lilli, Katherine Lonager, Sharon Lowell, Faye Mackey, Joanne Maiorca, Pedro Martinez, Jr., Melissa MacNeill, Kaye McDonnell, Dean Miller, Raymond Miller, Nancy Miner, Gordon Murphy, Mike Murphy, Doug Nash, Bill Parker, Elaine Parlin, Ronnie Parker, Waverly Parsons, Susan Parks, Rita Polese, Noreen Paulen, Art Plant, Joanne Ranger, Donnie Richards, Lori Romanetti, Tori Scott, Madisyn Smith, Brad Strawser, Lee Anne Taylor, Monica Thors, Lorraine Truitt, Mel Turcott, Justin Vance, Max Walton, Steve Warner, Gregg 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 Petrullo, Sgt. David Thomas, and Elizabeth Welch

Special Intentions for this month:

AJ Keaton has stage 4 pancreatic cancer.
Archie Wyatt is hospitalized.



157 North Main St
Salem, NH 03079
USA



Your horse can too

Information at www.chha.net

Please indicate
Address corrections

Details on Page 5

Jug Prayer Breakfast Wednesday September 19th at 7:30 AM

Scholarship Recipients: Excerpts from their essays

Ryan Fusco was awarded the John and Janet Klark Memorial Scholarship. He has been accepted into the Pre-Med program at the University of North Carolina Charlotte. Ryan says,

"I am a practicing Catholic, have received all my religious sacraments and am proudly encouraging my younger sister and preparing to be her confirmation sponsor in a couple of years. I respect others beliefs but stand strong and true to my Catholic upbringing. I hold myself to the highest standards and do my best to live by the Ten Commandments. I volunteer at Catholic Charities, which is my favorite charity, as well as other community service projects. Knowing I make a difference helping those less fortunate, fuels my soul.

Ever since I can remember, I wanted to become a doctor. Over the years, the specific type of doctors has altered from cardiologist to veterinarian to oncologist.

Horses are my passion. However, growing up in the horse business, my parents have struggled financially all my life. They instilled in me the need to get a degree. I am a proud third generation horseman who was always surrounded by people and horses.

I have always reached out to those in need and what better way to help than by saving lives. On a camping trip in my early teens, I saved a toddler from drowning in a pool. That day sparked the beginning of a journey that will help save lives around the world.

I look forward to being a horseman's doctor offering affordable healthcare to those in need. I also hope to be the owner of good race horses and winning the Hambletonian, Breeder's Crown and the Kentucky Futurity.

Racing horses is a tough lifestyle, but I am grateful I was part of it as it made me who I am today."



Parker Steck was awarded the Rambling Willie scholarship to pursue a nursing degree at Ashland University. Parker says,

"In July of 2014 my entire family's life was changed forever. While on his way to work, my older brother, Ryder, was involved in a car accident. He passed away on August 2, 2014. It was during those days at Grant Medical Center that I realized that becoming a nurse was what I wanted to do with my life.

My family has always been active in our church. I am raised to believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross to save me from my sins, and that He went to prepare a place for us to reign with Him forever. I also know God does not give you more than you can handle, but when you lose someone so young, so full of life, with such a bright future ahead of him many people may question God's plan. Not my family! Of course, we miss Ryder and my parents still struggle everyday with their grief but have never wavered in their faith that God's plan is not our business.

Going through life, I learned that we are not promised tomorrow. We may never get another change to be kind to someone. That is why it is so important for me to be kind and forgiving. To be able to show people that even though bad things happen, we can stand strong in our faith that God knows what He is doing. Becoming a nurse is not just my dream. I believe it is God's plan. I think He used the nurses who worked daily on Ryder to show me that this was my chance to give back to people who are hurting, sick, and even passing away.

I have worked hard throughout high school. It has not been easy to balance



Continued on Page 2

Essays from scholars Ronnie Huff, Casey Hite and Alexis Schwartz are coming next month.