



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

January 2019

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
leealphen@comcast.net
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157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079

**God's Best
in 2019**

Blessings from Indiana

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Ray bred his \$175 mare for the third time to his father's stallion giving him a colt. In time he began training the colt in the Indiana corn fields where his dad had created a couple of training tracks. When he got him down to 2:45, Ray began racing him at the Ohio fairs.

One of Bob's grooms told him about Ray's horse. Bob and his wife, a prayerful Christian woman, went to check him out. After waking from a nap in the car, she told Bob the horse would have one white leg, and she said God was blessing the purchase. Bob thought she was crazy.

Sure enough, Bob's thorough examination revealed one white leg, a decent confirmation, build and gait. Bob's wife was ecstatic to hear her birthday gift was half the horse.

Mary was planning to marry a humble carpenter and live a simple life. She probably never expected to set foot outside of Nazareth. She didn't have any grand ideas except to serve God and be a good wife and mother.

Perhaps Mary was daydreaming about her life in her own house with Joseph when an angel came to visit her. In a flash, her world changed. The angel said she had found favor with God. She was chosen and blessed and would be the mother of God. "How can this be?" she asks (Luke 1:34). The angel tells her, "Nothing is impossible with God" (Luke 1:37). The Holy Spirit filled her with peace, and joyfully Mary went to visit her elderly cousin, Elizabeth, who needed her. The angel also said Elizabeth was six months pregnant. Wow! Elizabeth was in her 90s and never had any kids. Now, at 90, she was pregnant (Luke 1:26-38)!

God comes to us where we are—in the stall, on the track, in the kitchen, even at the football game. God comes in the ordinary places of life knowing exactly what we need and all that is happening in our lives.

Mary actually saw the angel. Vivian, Bob's wife, felt God's presence and knew that still small voice was God speaking to her heart. Yes, God speaks to us too. Sometimes God shows us signs to serve as guides leading us to God's will. Often we just know what God is telling us as the Holy Spirit speaks to our hearts.

Like most racehorses, Rambling Willie got sick and injured. He bowed both front tendons early in his racing career. While racing at Hollywood Park, he underwent an operation for a severe bout of colic. Rambling Willie went on to be a great racehorse. As he got older, he just kept getting better and better.

Rambling Willie was inducted into the United States Harness Racing Hall of Fame in 1997 and into the Indiana Standardbred Hall of Fame in 2003. He also won the US Pacing Championship and the Canadian Pacing Derby 3 times.

"When Willie died, Bob Farrington was asked what he had seen in Willie that others missed. Bob quoted legendary thoroughbred trainer "Sunny" Jim Fitzsimmons, "The most important thing about a racehorse, you can't see."¹

Mary knew what the angel was offering would not be easy. However, she knew it was God's offer, and that God would be with her helping her through the difficult parts. She knew in the end everything would turn out so well that the journey would be worth it.

Continued on page 2

Blessings

Update from Parker Steck Rambling Willie Scholarship recipient

Hello Ms. Schwartz and Ms. Alphen,

First, I want to tell you, Mrs. Schwartz, that your letter saying that you and Mrs. Wornstaff prayed for my brother made me cry, just because it seems like all the time someone tells me they prayed for Ryder or for us during and after his passing. Thank you for that. Even though we all prayed HARD for Ryder to be healed I know that God had other plans for Ryder and as hard as it is, I truly try to live a life in honor, so to speak, of what Ryder didn't get to do...like college!

I would love to tell you that moving to college was easy and that I haven't missed home at all but that would not be true. It was a lot harder than I ever thought it would be and I am still trying to adjust to being away from my parents and my little brother but I think I am doing ok. I currently am taking Chemistry with a Lab, Anatomy, Stats, and a French Woman's Writers class. I have As in all my classes. But I do have a B in the French Woman's Writers class. I am totally ok with that, because, as I told you Ms. Alphen at the Jug this professor is a little difficult but I am figuring out what she is looking for and doing my best to just get through the class.

It was so nice to meet you face to face at Delaware and I enjoyed talking with you. I wanted to make it to the prayer breakfast but I couldn't make it back in time. Also, Ms. Schwartz, I am sorry I didn't realize that you were at the Ohio Select Sale or I would have looked you up to say Hi my dad didn't think about telling me that you were there until we were eating dinner that night but I was there for a little bit but I left bc it was so HOT that day.

I cannot thank you enough for selecting my for the scholarship I am super proud that I received that one from the horse racing industry that I love so much. I am working hard to make you proud of your selection and I will continue to do so as I move through this year. I am excited to finally be a college student and I am so thankful to my parents, to the CHHA, to both of you, and mostly to My God for the amazing opportunities that He has given me this far. I pray that I am living a life that is Gods will and I know that if I keep my eyes on Him that He will guide me and I can never fail.

Thank you so much again you truly have no idea how much it helped me to be able to apply that money to my tuition bill.

Blessings, Parker Steck
Ashland University 1st year Nursing major thanks to God!



Indiana blessings cont. from Page 1

Vivian Farrington believed very strongly that owning Rambling Willie was God's idea and she tithed on all of his winnings to the church her father pastored. Willie really was the horse that God loved.

God loves us too. I believe God loves us even more than Rambling Willie since we are made in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26-27). As the angel told Mary, with God all things are possible (Luke 1:37).

What are we struggling with today? Are there big decisions facing us? Remember, God is with us. All we have to do is ask, and God will direct our paths. Trust me, when we follow the Lord, we will not be disappointed.

The Farringtons walked with the Lord. Vivian trusted God implicitly and lived her faith. God led them to a champion in the cornfields of Indiana. Rambling Willie retired when he was 13 years old as the leading standardbred money winner of all time, earning over 2 million dollars.

Mary, a poor girl from Nazareth, trusted God and responded to the angel, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). She became the mother of our Savior. People in every corner of the world know about her and her faith and life of service to God.

Bob Farrington said, "The most important thing about a racehorse, you can't see." Willie's heart and determination were visible in his accomplishments and long career. Our faith in God is visible in the way we live our lives.

God has great things in store for all who believe. God has great things in store for us. May God's will be done in our lives.

Source: Donald P. Evans, *Rambling Willie: The Horse that God Loved*, 1981.



*May the angels
lead you into paradise*

Memorials posted at www.chha.net

Memorial Contributions

In memory of **David Brocco** by: Amy Bondon
 In memory of **Ed Fortney** by: Susan Robbins
 In memory of **Sherie Hankins** by: Kim Hankins
 In memory of **John and Janet Klark** by: Joanne Mann
 In memory of **Larry Nichols** by: Carol Karter
 In memory of **Martha Riegler** by: Larry and Joan Martin
 In memory of **Weldon Stockwell** by: Kim Rinker
 In memory of **Frankie White** by: Larry and Joan Martin
 In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Ken and Betsy Wood

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Gifts for family and friends

10 Rambling Willie Note Cards (see picture)

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 \[www.chha.net/products\]\(http://www.chha.net/products\)](#)

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

William "Bill" Gale, 70, died Nov 19. Bill was one of Canada's leading drivers during the 70s, 80s and 90s. Between 1982 and 1997, Gale recorded 16 consecutive \$1 million-plus seasons. In the fall of 1991 at Pompano Park, he won a pair of Breeders Crown Championships. Also in 1994, he received the O'Brien Award as Canada's Driver of The Year, and in 2015 he was inducted into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame.



Terry Lee Kibler, 60, of Woodstock, VA died Nov 26.

Terry was the owner of Kibler's Furniture in Woodstock for more than 30 years and ran a successful harness racing business. He was past president and current board member of the Shenandoah County Fair Association, and Secretary of Harness Racing at the Fair. "Terry got involved in every aspect of racing you can think of," said Woodstock based trainer Betsy Brown, who trained and co-owned horses with Kibler. "If someone needed a hand to help paddock a horse, jog a horse, tack a shoe on or anything else, Terry was there to help."



Harald Lunde, 72, died in Norway. He was regarded as one of the top Norwegian horsemen and enjoyed success in his native country as well as North America..

Melissa Dawn MacNeill, 40, of Stratford, PEI, died Nov 24 from a stroke. Her father, Don MacNeill, races harness horses in PEI.

Robert J. "R.J." Moore, 61, died Nov 3. RJ was the track superintendent at Hoosier Park from 1999 to 2011. He had been track superintendent for Hollywood Gaming since 2014. He was also owner and operator of Track and Construction by RJ for the past five years. He enjoyed harness racing, fishing, logging and his work.



James "Jim" P. Patten, 90, of Davenport, IA, died Nov 20. Jim proudly served in the U.S Army during the Korean War. Jim founded Midwest Publishing & Co. He was a successful entrepreneur who established or operated many businesses over the years including the Quad City Downs. His hobbies included a love of fishing and horse racing.



Dave Sabatelli, 53, died Nov 5. Dave trained the 2004 Older Pacer of the Year, Four Starzzz Shark who earned more than \$2.5 million over his career and was the 2004 Dan Patch Award winner.

Dominick R. Santarelli, 83, of Scranton, PA, died Oct 19. During his career, Dominick managed New Jersey's Lana Lobell Farm and Southwind Farms. During his years at Southwind, the farm stood the top two stallions in the sport, Artsplace and Valley Victory. He excelled in baseball and football and was sought after by professional teams in both sports. He pitched several no-hit, no-run games and lost only one game in three years.



John Schuberg, 80, of Perrysburg, OH, died Nov 24. John was elected to the USTA board in 1986 and served for 25 years representing District 2. During that time, he was very instrumental in the hiring of the past two CEOs of the USTA. He was active in harness racing as an owner, driver and trainer since 1955 throughout Ohio, Michigan and Indiana. He was an expert at buying young stock and producing "racehorses."



Kimberly Sholty, 57, of Westport, CT, died Nov 23. Kim was a daughter of the late Hall of Famer, George Sholty. She earned a degree in finance at the University of Florida before pursuing a successful career on Wall Street. Kim was active in PTA and was also an admired leader in Boy Scouts.



Charles M. "Chuck" Stillings Jr, 66, of DeLeon Springs, FL, died Oct 6. Chuck began working with horses while still in high school. During his nearly 50 years in horse racing, he bred, owned, and trained over 100 horses. His most recent prize winner, Cumberland Gap, earned him the 2018 Ohio Breeders Championship at the Delaware County fair in September. Chuck also worked as an air traffic controller for 20 years.

Frances "Frankie" Thornbury White died Aug 3. Frankie was well known throughout harness racing for her work at the Lexington Selected Yearling Sale office and before that, for many years at the Tattersalls office in Lexington. She was also the wife of Tom White, a member of the Communicator's Hall of Fame. The couple was married 60 years. She was a faithful and active member of Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church.

Wallace W. Wimbrow, 80, died Nov 2. He worked for NASA security for ten years and then moved to Delaware and was employed by Shellhorn and Hill, Inc. Wallace trained and drove Standardbreds for many years. He drove on the Grand Circuit, as well as at Rosecroft, Harrington and Ocean Downs. He had such a great love for the horses and the sport; he would often go to the races, just to watch the horses.

Obituaries

Joe Edward Black, Sr, 82, of Pinckney, MI, died Oct 27. As a young boy, Joe picked cotton in Tennessee. Later, he joined the U.S. Army where he received medals for Good Conduct and Sharpshooter (Pistol). Joe began his career in harness racing in 1968. He trained many of Howard Niles horses before hitting it out on his own. Doctor Keeran was a big part of getting Joe's stable going. They worked together for many years, helping lame horses with rest and retraining.



Robert B. Cottrell, 84, died Nov 22. Robert was one of the leading trainer/drivers at Buffalo Raceway, Batavia Downs and Vernon Downs during the late 1950s through the 1970s. He will be missed by many longtime friends, many of whom worked with him in equestrian training and harness racing.



Mary Lou Dondarski, 74, died Nov 8. Mary Lou was the longtime office manager at The Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown. She received the Unsung Hero Award from the U.S. Harness Writers Association (USHWA) for her behind-the-scenes role at the Hambletonian Society in 2006. She was also recognized by USHWA in 2013 with a President's Award.

James D. Heyden, 64, of Westwood, NJ, died Oct 5. Jim went to Wagner College on a basketball scholarship and later obtained his MBA from Manhattan College. He loved sports, children, biking and cars. Jim was Bob Heyden's brother.

Obituaries continued on pg 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:

Lynn Antonelli, Lew Arsenault, Dan Ater, Emily Bier, Debbie Boardman, Jeanne Duso Boudot, Jana Brocco, Gary Bryant, Chaplain Bo Bullock, Rick Carson, Karen Carter, Sam Castimore, Candice Coleman, Barbara Connors, Sharon Cromer, Joe Crothers, John Cross, Rolly Day, Mike Deeters, Barbara Dinning, Maryanne Doherty, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Francine Federici, Tiffany Fisher, Lloyd Fortune, Rodney Grady, Pastor Bill Grant, Margaret Groce, Remi Gunn, Marilyn Hankins, Warren Harp, Rose Hennessey, Morris Hoagland, Glenda Holloway, Jeff Hurst, Betty James, Rita Jacobs, AJ Keaton, Harold Kelly, Bob Kinsey, Jim Kolnick, Donnie Knight, David Kovach, Larry Lederman, Rox Liles, Anabelle Lisi, Ricky Macomber, Nelson Malin, Wilma Mattuci, Joyceann McClelland, Donna McIvor, Mrs. Miller, Frank Mirahmadi, Lalya Mosley, Corey Murphy, Howard Nields, Pierre Noel, Jay O'Neil, John Panetta, Dee Parsons, Margie Polhamus, Leigh Raymer, Robyn Rembleski, Emily Roper, Daren Richner, Taila Kaponinskyi, 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, Bob Cain, Carol Ann Case, Thelma Chrisman, Mary Clements, Joan Collins, Anthony Coletta, Bev Crane, Chet Crane, Karen Crothers, Dale, Jim Ferguson, Melanie Fisk, Scott Freck, 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, Mike Murphy, Doug Nash, Elaine Parlin, Ronnie Parker, Waverly Parsons, Susan Parks, Louise Pelletier, 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, Barry Vicroy, Max Walton, Steve Warner, Greggie Welch, Jr., Alice Williams

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:

Andy Fournier has an arteriovenous malformation.

Dan Clements had his knee replaced.

Linda Fournier had her shoulder replaced.

Rodney Grady has cancer.

Dorothy Greer's mother is hospitalized with heart problems.

Warren Harp is having a tremendous amount of back pain.

Taila Kaponinsky, 15, was recently diagnosed with two more brain tumors on the other side.

Rachael Kealey has many medical problems.

Jim Kolnick's cancer has advanced to his lungs.

Kevin Mack is scheduled for prostate cancer surgery.

Pvt. Jacob Perry developed shingles while serving in Poland.

Delma Smart was recently diagnosed with Parkinson's.

John Wing has stomach problems and chest and leg pain.



157 North Main St
Salem, NH 03079
USA



Your horse can too

Information at www.chha.net

Please indicate
Address corrections

Stallion Auction January 31- February 2 Breeding donations appreciated

Stallion Auction January 31—February 2, 2019

**Up to date List of Stallions at
www.chha.net/stallion-auction
Bid at www.ongait.com or 603-898-1927
from noon on Thursday, January 31, 2019 through
noon on Saturday, February 2, 2019.**

	Stallion	Standing at	G	StudFee
DE	Glidemaster	Winbak Farm	T	3,000
DE	Mutineer	Winbak Farm	T	3,000
MD	Charlie De Vie	Fox Den Farm	T	1,500
NY	Manningly	Morrisville College Equine	T	2,500
NY	Quality of Life	Surf Coast Paradise Farm	P	1,000
NY	Third Straight	Morrisville College Equine	P	1,000
NY	Whataworkout	Morrisville College Equine	T	3,000
OH	Lucky Chucky	Cool Winds Farm	T	3,000
OH	We Will See	Abby Stables	P	4,000
OH	Well Said	Sugar Valley Farm	P	5,000
PA	Up Front Ben	Rock Oak Farm	T	1,000



Above: Pastor Joe and Marci DiDonatto, Chaplain Lee Alphen and Roger Huston at the Longhorn in Washinton, PA. Roger bought dinner the night before the Meadows Chinese Auction.

Bottom right: About 400 people gathered for a very successful Chinese auction. Lori Romanetti, Janet Campbell and their friends work very hard organizing this event every year in support of Pastor Joe’s ministry at the Meadows. It was a really fun evening.

Bottom left: Suzanne D’Ambrose helped out at our Harrisburg Sale booth. She is responsible for many of the great posts on the CHHA Facebook page.

Bottom middle: Gunjan Patel is a cashier at the Harrisburg Sale. She is also our stallion auction contact at Hanover Shoe Farms.

