



Volume 2 Issue 1

Winter 2006

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Gypsy Vanners at the Royal Winter Fair Toronto 2005



Exhibiting my Gypsy Vanner Horses at the 2005 Royal Winter Fair in Toronto, Ontario November 3 to 13 was a dream come true. Attended by just over 100,000 people it was a huge opportunity for Vanners to become more recognized and popular. The breed venue was called "Spirit of the Horse". Each of the 10 breeds exhibiting had scheduled ring time three times daily with a commentary by professional announcer Doug Moore.

possibly touch these beautiful horses. We rotated 4 horses throughout the 11 days, taking the horses home each night for a good rest in a cool barn. It was close to 70 degrees in this area. We had to travel 75 miles each way, deal with loading dock politics, a little rain and downtown traffic even at 6 am and 8 pm.



On Friday Nov.4th our first clinic opportunity turned out to be lunch with Ian Miller. He gave a mounting and dismounting lesson to the weatherman Tom Brown live on CHTV. It first aired on that day between 12:30 and 1 pm and since has been aired by Global and City TV.

There were also numerous clinics offered for these horses to participate in. Muffy Guthrie, the organizer of the event, called upon us regularly as my Vanners were all quiet and enjoyed the limelight. People were often lined up in front of the stall to get a good look and

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Gypsy Vanners at the Royal Winter Fair - Toronto 2005 *(from page 1)*

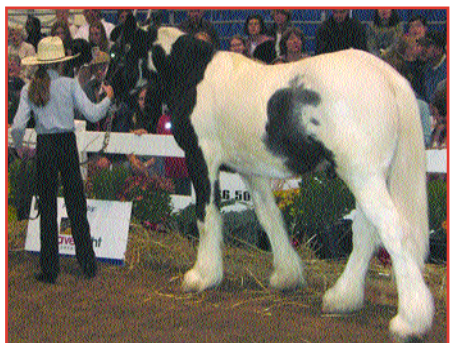
Ian Miller fell in love with our mare Candy Queen and she behaved perfectly for two men, larger than she was used to, climbing on and off. Taffy followed him around like a dog very unprompted and people were just in awe, so was I.



Candy Queen, our most mature horse, went 6 days, ABC's Royal Reign went twice, as did Harry Potter and our weanling filly ABC's Castle Sweeper went only once. The two yearlings had their heads out of the stall door for

people to pet all day long, only coming in for meals and the occasional mouthful of hay. It was great for everyone!

On Monday Dan, Julia and Jocelyn O'Neill joined us for the day bringing photos of their filly, Nimue, and support. Their assistance was greatly appreciated and it was wonderful having more Vanner owners sharing their experiences. Candy Queen was ridden in the mid-day clinic hosted by Frankie Chesler. It involved walk, trot, canter and some small jumps. The mare performed magnificently although she got very hot doing canter work in such a warm environment. In her last presentation of the day we harnessed her and drove her for the first time ever indoors. Candy Queen's performance was flawless. We were all amazed. In each presentation after the announcer had finished his script about the Gypsy Vanner Horse Society and some information about the particular horse in the ring there was a period of questions from the audience. It was great having help with that task.



On Tuesday my daughter, Shyla Cardy, took a day off school to help out. We brought our yearling colt, Harry Potter, and he was an absolute ham. He was shown in hand



walk/trot and stood on our ABC box with his front feet, a little trick we taught all the horses to do. It certainly showed how easy, manageable and eager to please these horses are. During the question period Shyla would take the colt around the perimeter and let anyone who wanted to pet Harry. He also stood the entire day with his head out of the stall so everyone could pet him. We watched him very closely for the first few hours thinking that maybe he would behave coltish and perhaps nip but he never made a wrong move the whole day.



Thursday was a special day for ABC's Castle Sweeper. She was just as cute as could be. She was the most spirited of all the

horses we exhibited. The "horse whisperer" Joseph Dunphy was so taken with her he asked if he could use her for one of his clinics. It was so entertaining to watch him work with her. She stole the show when she emptied his back pockets while he introduced himself. Most people thought it was part of a planned act but he did have to admit that the most beautiful horse he had ever seen was not his. Castle Sweeper did everything like she had done it before.



I also sold our yearling gelding, Apollo, that afternoon!! Brian Glass purchased him for his daughter's birthday.

Congratulations!! We have since shipped him to his new home in North Bay, Ontario.

Candy Queen was called upon again to be used for a demo prepurchase exam with Dr. Mike Pownall. It was great to see she past with flying colours!

Our printing costs were just over \$1700 dollars. We hadn't anticipated that, but it was great to see such interest in the breed.

A special thanks to my best friend, Louise Hewton, who was with me throughout, the GVHS and everyone who contributed to making this event possible as well as my family who scrambled through the past 6 weeks without me. I'd love to do it again but really need more people to take the pressure off! We are planning to do C a n - A m Equine Affair in London, Ontario on March 16-19 2006. Dan and Julia O'Neill will also be there with their Vanner filly, Nimue.



Gypsy Typsies/Vanner Manners

“Fine Feathered Friends”

Our beautiful, sacred treasures...Gypsy Vanners. As nature would have it, one of their infamous assets can be one of our most frustrating nightmares. With Vanners, the more feather they have, the better. While we can't change the genetic make up of a given horse, we can certainly try to preserve what already exists. Who among us hasn't gasped when we've noticed chunks of hair laying in the stall or pasture? Or sternly lectured, with pointed finger no doubt, at our equine companions to quit rubbing, stop stomping or cease chewing? And of course, just like little kids, they can't seem to just walk by a puddle, without it beckoning to them, "Come In". We cringe and re educate our farriers if they even think about using feather as a convenient handle. We diligently braid, wrap and covet each strand of hair. Fuzzy boots are indeed a dilemma. Part of the joy and mind challenge of being involved with these horses is trying to figure out what the next greatest gadget, product or "Hint from Heloise" will be that will help us keep our Vanners' feather looking impeccable.

Environmental things that seem to affect the deterioration of feather could include: constant stomping due to fly aggravation, extremely wet/muddy conditions as well as dry/drought type periods, wear and tear from walking/working in abrasive substances and of course, the season itself. We can't also forget the endless attempts to keep white feather...well, white.

In response to these battles, some of our wonderful members have shared their tricks of the trade for thickening and whitening feather:

*Claudette from Belladonna Gypsy Farm states: "I make White Mud. I make a paste of water and cornstarch and then muck it all into the feather... when they dry, most of it falls out, but enough stays to make the feather appear nice and white."

*Joyce Christian adds: "My Bandit has to die for feather. When he was in driving training, his trainer and I discovered the miracle support product for such feather. That product is Baby Powder. His feathers are groomed each evening-that means they are brushed out and then I massage in the powder. Actually I think it helps keep out some of the dust and dirt from the paddock. It also eliminates any moisture. I have not found that grooming/brushing pulls out feather. If anything, I have found that grooming enhances the feather and feather growth. Since this discovery, I now use this on my other Vanners as well. I am seeing the same good results."

*Kathy Ramey suggests: "Clyde people that show, wash feathers and then put them on saw dust and fluff it into the feathers to help with drying and to keep them fluffy." Barb Snyder agrees with this theory, and puts her horses in a clean stall with fresh shavings after bathing. She states, "the feathers dry fast and stay clean." She and I also observed gypsy folks doing this at Stow Fair. It was definitely a muddy mess when we went, and they had their horses standing on tarps and rubbed fine shavings on their legs to dry and fluff the feather.

*Linda Dennis states: "If one happens to be combing out the feather, my recommendation is to apply a detangler to prevent breakage. I don't make it a habit to comb the feather. Rather leave it alone, until a photo shoot/parade/exhibit/or a show."

What do you do?

Each person will have their own tried and true way...and finding what works best for you and your horses will be of utmost importance. Regardless of our preferences, whether we are in the show ring or not, it is the friendship that comes along with sharing and experimenting that is priceless.

In the end, we should not forget to admire the beauty in front of us, even in its most natural state.

When I stare out my window and see my girl rolling to her heart's content in the biggest mud pit she can find or rubbing against a big 'ole tree, all I can imagine is that she's thinking "Oh, life is good". And that's truly what matters doesn't it?

Please forward your ideas to me, Trish Stith, for inclusion in upcoming newsletters. SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE and see it in print!

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Member Profile: James and Barbara Snyder

We are James and Barbara Snyder and our farm is WildCreek Farm, home to, among others, *Romany King*, our Gypsy Vanner stallion.

We have been married for 18 years and between the two of us we have four adult children. Jim grew up in the general area where we live now, in west central



Barb during her time in the U.S. Army

Ohio. He lived in the country with his parents, one brother and two sisters. Jim spent a lot of time on his grandparents' farm working with cows and pigs, sheep and chickens but did not own a horse until we got married. He served in the Marine Corps and spent time in Vietnam during the war, then spent many years working in a factory until 1999 when he started working full time on our farm raising horses.

I was born into a family that already had ponies in the back yard, so I was held onto a pony and riding before I could walk. We always had at least half a dozen ponies at a time. I grew up in southern Ohio where you could ride your pony for miles on the back roads with no traffic or anyone to bother you. It was during this time that westerns were popular on TV, so we played "Cowboys and Indians" a lot while riding.

A big influence on me was my grandfather. He was on the board of the County Fair and was in charge of the horse department. This Fair was then, and still is, real big in Saddlebred and Tennessee Walkers. Each year he would take us kids to the Fairgrounds to help clean out the stalls to get the barns ready for the Fair. We thought it was so exciting to be in those barns and if you happened to find an old brush or something forgotten and buried in the stall it was a thrill, almost as if you had discovered gold! My grandfather also would bring home strays that people talked him into buying or didn't want anymore. At one time he owned a HUGE Saddlebred mare. I can remember she was close to 30 years old when I was a little kid. Another time he brought home a sleek little silver dapple stud pony. My grandfather was well known for raising registered Angus cattle and selling

top quality bulls. When we were old enough to join 4H he would give each kid their first steer to take to Fair. Once I saw that my older sister had to sell her steer at the Fair and a grocery store bought it, I decided to take a horse project instead. So I went the whole 4H route showing my half Morgan mare.

In the first few years after Jim and I got married we owned an assortment of horses; an Appaloosa (whom we still own and he turns 23 this year), a Paint, a Quarter Horse, and several Belgian drafts.

Soon we decided we wanted to get involved in some rare breed, and dedicate our time and funds in supporting and growing such a breed. We knew we wanted to stick to a draft-type breed, and we wanted it to be a smaller draft-type. After a lot of research we started breeding Dales Ponies. In 2000 we were looking for a small draft-y black and white mare of some type to cross breed to our black stallion. After looking at several generic spotted ponies, I remembered seeing the Gypsy Vanners. At that time there were only 4 people in the US that had websites when searching for a Gypsy Vanner. With no luck domestically, I contacted Jane and William Collard and they sent to us our first Gypsy Vanner mare Eimile. Of course I never did do any cross breeding because once I had her it wasn't long after that *Romany King* followed and arrived into the US. At the end of 2002 we decided it was too difficult to support two rare breeds in the way we wanted to be involved, so we sold all the Dales ponies and concentrated just on the Vanners.



Jim started his riding a little bit differently!

We now own 8 breeding age mares and our senior stallion Romany King, as well as several young Gypsy Vanners. We also imported and we now co-own the unique blue sabino stallion Cobalt with Old Mill Farm. One of our mares is the famous Jasmine who most know from her show career and competing in combined driving events with her previous owners Joanne and Bill Thorup. Jasmine rides English and Western, as well as drives. She is one of the original 16 imports. Our stallion Romany King, well known for the foals he produces, his superior temperament, and for his abundance of mane that hangs below his knees, is also broke to ride and drive. Last year we acquired the young mare Oakfield Savannah who already has a distinguished show career herself. Savannah, Romany King, and most of our other mares were imported and purchased from the fields and breeding program of Tom Price. We do offer Romany King to stud for outside mares, but the main focus of our program is to produce high quality foals for sale from our own mares. We strive to duplicate and continue the program by breeding the consistency of type with the same look and quality.



Romany King

We want to hear your stories and meet you and your horses! When did you see your first Gypsy Vanner? When did you bring your first Gypsy Vanner home? What was your first outing with your Gypsy Vanner Horse like? What was it like to deliver your first Gypsy Vanner baby? What are your plans for your horse(s)? What you are currently doing with your Gypsy Vanner Horses?

Annual General Meeting - Las Vegas

On February 18th, 2006, members traveled to the Sahara Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada for the Annual General Meeting. After the meeting everyone enjoyed a tasty buffet dinner. Then it was time for the awards ceremony with Toni Tidwell as the Master of Ceremonies. The GVHS has two types of awards programs. One for points earned at GVHS shows, and one for the Vanner Advantage Program for participating in any type of open shows, Expos, or other events with your Gypsy Vanner. Following are the list of awards handed out.

Show Points

Overall High Point – *Slainte* – Old Mill Farm

Reserve High Point – *Odd Job Bob* – El Brio Vanners

Sylvester the Marquis – North Star Gypsy

Silver Belle – Silver Feather Gypsies

Sterling Sylvia – Lucky Star Stables

The Impressionist N'Co – N'Co Gypsy Vanners

Sorcha of Beacon – Orcas Island Gypsy Vanners

KD Reagan – KD Farm

SFG Storm King – Silver Feather Gypsies

WW Seosaimhthim – Willow Wind Stables

Fionn Mac Cumail – Willow Wind Stables

The Headliner – N'Co Gypsy Vanners

Rackli – N'Co Gypsy Vanners

Oakfield Emma – KD Farm

Balaclava – Kincsem Farm

WW Leane – Willow Wind Stables



Gypsy Woods Windermere



Gypsy Woods Tumblin Dice

Vanner Advantage Winners

Gypsy Woods Windermere - Gypsy Wood Farm

Gypsy Woods Tumblin Dice – Gypsy Woods Farm

Gypsy Woods Vanna – Gypsy Woods Farm

WR Panda Rose – WR Ranch

Odd Job Bob – El Brio Vanner

Bodi's Pepperooga - Gypsy Rose Ranch

WR Tinker Toy – WR Ranch

Lake Ridge British Sterling – Lake Ridge Gypsy Horses

WR Rose Petal – WR Ranch

Finnegan – Lucky Star Stable

Clononeen Realtaine – Gypsy Woods Farm

Romipen – Gypsy Rose Ranch

Spencer – Julie Anthony

Gypsy Woods Dory – Gypsy Woods Farm

Don't miss out on these awards in 2006. For more information about our shows or about the Gypsy Vanner Horse check out the website at www.gypsyvannerhorse.org

Gypsy Vanners at CanAm Equine

This year, for the first time ever, Gypsy Vanner Horses will be represented at CanAm Equine in London, Ontario, Canada. Terry and Debby Elder of Spruce Ridge Stables near Ottawa are bringing their imported mare Bev and her foal Crystal. Julia, Dan and Jocelyn O'Neill of OnceUponA Farm will be there with their filly Nimue. Rita Cardy of ABC Gypsy Vanners will have their filly CastleSweeper on display. All the Vanners will be on display throughout the entire event as well as having an opportunity to participate in daily Breed Demos.

The CanAm Equine runs from Thursday, March 16 through Sunday, March 19 at the Western Fair Agriplex in London, Ontario.



The Gypsy Vanner Horse Society

The Gypsy Vanner Horse Society's mission is to bring honor, recognition, and a better understanding to one of the world's most colorful and least understood societies and the horses they love so dearly. This registry was established to protect a vision that was born over half a century ago to create the perfect horse to pull their colorful caravans.

Vanner Banner Newsletter is the newsletter of the GVHS and is published four times a year. Send articles and information for publication to anyone on the Newsletter Committee. Contact information can be found at: <http://www.gypsyvannerhorse.org>