

AMERICAN CREAM NEWS

VOLUME 1, NO. 1

SUMMER, 1991

Special Note: It is the intent of this newsletter not only to keep members aware of livestock for sale, but to educate and preserve the history of American Creams. This issue is dedicated to Karene Bunker Topp who's love and devotion has kept the American Cream Draft Horse Association going for 47 years.

From The Topp...

For Karene Bunker Topp it all started back in 1940, when her family moved to Hardin County, Iowa. Her father Merle R. Bunker worked for and then rented land from C. T. Rierson. Mr. Rierson was an enthusiast about Creams, but that is another story. Mr. Rierson drove Creams and Karene (a young teenager) helped Mr. Rierson when he showed his Creams at the Hardin County fair. Karene also helped drive Creams working on the farm.

In March 1944, a small group of people got together and the American Cream Draft Horse Association was formed. C. T. Rierson, along with other members, elected Karene secretary/treasurer of the new association. Karene was not only the youngest but the only female on the board of directors. Little did this young teenager realize that she would be involved with Creams the rest of her life.



Taken Sept. 24, 1978 at the Hans Jensen Farm, 1 1/2 miles S.E. of Jewell, IA. Bill Walczak and Karene Bunker Topp

The association set the secretary's salary at twenty percent of the money received from memberships, registrations, and transfer fees. The most that Karene can remember ever receiving was a little over twenty dollars a year back in 1944. By 1955, she voluntarily dropped to ten dollars per year and by 1971 the association was at a standstill. The balance on hand at this time was seventeen dollars and seventy-eight cents. Karene stopped drawing a salary and took the money out of the bank to stop bank service charges.

For fourteen years the association was inactive except for one transfer of ownership. Karene almost turned in the Charter, but she didn't and the association is once again active. Karene feels some credit should go to Frank Lessiter who wrote a book called *Horse Power*, published in 1977. One chapter is dedicated to American Creams. From that one chapter Karene received several letters inquiring about creams. Among those whose interest was piqued by this article was William Walczak. He came to Hubbard, Iowa to find out about the association and was the prime mover in having a reorganization meeting which took place at Dubuque, Iowa in 1982.

Mr. Richard Eads, Karene Topp, William and Gloria Walczak, and Clarene Ziebell met and raised the fees which had not been changed since 1944. The group elected a board of directors and new officers once again. Mr. Walczak was elected the new president; Mr. Ziebell, vice president; Karene Topp, secretary/treasurer; Mrs. Walczak, Mr. Eads, and Arnold Hockett were the other three board members. The treasury, thanks to updating fees and renewed interest in the

Creams, is now over one thousand dollars. This is quite a bit considering the association does not collect annual dues and relies strictly on income from registrations, memberships, and transfers.

Karene also wrote a pamphlet on American Creams entitled *The History and Development of the American Cream Horse*, which is filled with Cream history. In addition to the pamphlet, The American Cream brochure was also one of Karene's projects. Both have pictures which are interesting.

At the recent meeting, Karene Topp resigned as secretary/treasurer. One can not forget the love and devotion she has given to this breed of horse. Her determination not to turn over the records to an agricultural museum when times looked bad kept the association alive.

Karene is a certified Medication Aide and Geriatric Aide. She has worked at Bethany Manor Nursing Home in Story City, Iowa for seventeen years. Along with all this, she oversees the welfare and business of her parents. Although she has left office as secretary/treasurer she will always hold the American Cream Draft Horse Association and its members in a special place in her heart.

A.C.D.H.A. Meeting

On May 4, members arrived at the North Cedar Terrace meeting room for the second annual meeting of the American Cream Draft Horse Association. Clarence and Betsy Ziebell were the hosts. Members and guests arrived early to get acquainted and exchange stories as well as pictures.

The meeting started at 1:00 p.m. and continued until 5:00 p.m. The association gave a letter of appreciation and a small gift to five members for their dedication and devotion to the Association. The members were Mr. Eads, Karene Topp, Arnold Hockett, and Mr. and Mrs. Walczak.

The Articles of Incorporation and the

the association needs. Changes include:

- "Draft" would be written in whenever American Cream Horse is mentioned
- Production of a quarterly newsletter
- A meeting will be held every 3 years
- The new directors will be working on a new brochure

After the bi-laws were revised members elected six directors: Frank and Penny Sperlak, Ellsworth, WI; Dan Williams, Gilman, IA; Betsy Ziebell, Charles City, IA; Karen Smith, Lanexa, VA; and for his second term Arnold Hockett, Estherville, IA.

The new directors then elected officers as follows: Frank Sperlak, *President*; Dan Williams, *Vice President*; Betsy Ziebell, *Secretary/Treasurer*

See you in three years!!!



Members attending the A.C.D.H.A. meeting

Letters

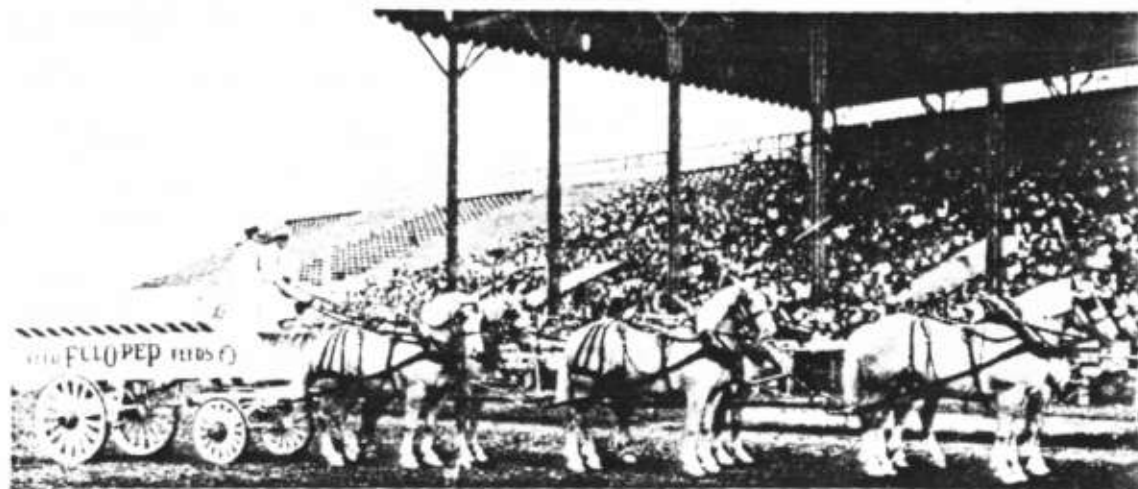
June 7, 1991,
Fonda, Iowa

Dear Sir,

Sorry this is so long in getting to you. I searched everywhere for the picture I was going to send you, but couldn't find it. I had my wife make a copy of the one I want to keep and am sending it. It is from a November 1952 copy of "The Full-O-Pep Dealer." Hope this is okay. (See picture below)

Orvill Lange

(Full-O-Pep Feed was a division of Quaker Oats)



Update

Blood Typing

Around March 1990, most of you received a letter from Dr. E. Gus Cothran about obtaining samples of blood. It is important that members help him out in his request. Dr. Cothran is comparing the genetic relationship among domestic horse breeds. If his research finds something unique about the American Creams it will further help us provide more proof that Creams are not just a color breed. It is important that American Creams be represented as a breed. If you can help or have new stock since you sent your last sample, please write to:

E. Gus Cothran, PhD
Director, Equine Blood Typing
Research Laboratory
University of Kentucky
Lexington, Kentucky 40546-0076
or call (606) 257-3777

Planning the Family Tree

The association has contacted Dr.

Phil Sponenburg of Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine and of the American Minor Breeds Conservancy. Betsy Ziebell is making copies of all registered livestock that show two generation pedigree. Dr. Sponenburg will study the pedigrees and develop a breeding plan to maximize genetic diversity. We hope there will be enough livestock and information that Dr. Sponenburg can work with. If you have not registered your animal, please do so they can be included in the study.

New Brochures

Directors are getting ready to work on a new color brochure on American Cream Draft Horses. They are looking for clear color photographs of Creams at work, play, and show. Please include date, name, and what the activity is on a separate sheet of paper. Send to American Cream Newsletter. When the new brochure is completed we will send a copy to every member.

Classified Ads

For Sale: 3 colts, Estherville, IA, Arnold Hockett, (712) 362-4864

For Sale: 1 filly, Lanark, IL, Richard Eads, (815) 494-2950

For Sale: 3 colts—10 months old, 1 two-year-old colt, 1 three-year-old geld., Blue River, WI, Darrel Aden, (608) 537-2053

For Sale: 3 stud colts, Cheboygan, MI, Jack Ackerman, (616) 625-9389



All submissions for the fall newsletter must be in by November 1, 1991.

American Cream Newsletter
P. O. Box 474
Lanexa, VA 23089

The American Cream Newsletter is a benefit of membership in the American Cream Draft Horse Association. Published quarterly from the Coach and Livestock Operation at Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. The American Cream Newsletter welcomes articles, pictures, letters, and classified ads for publication that deals with American Cream Draft horses.

Karen V. Smith, *Editor*
Mary Masengale, *Production*

ALL-AMERICANS—
Members of a new breed are these American Cream draft horses making up the Full-O-Pep six-horse hitch in Iowa. Owner is Merle Rubendall of Fonda, Iowa, the driver and trainer Ernie Bramble. The hitch carried the Full-O-Pep name to the Iowa State Fair, the All-Iowa fair and a number of other county and community celebrations. Mr. Rubendall became interested in draft horses because of his extensive cattle feeding in winter. He bought and sold more than 40 horses before he acquired a team perfectly matched in color, size and action. The breed was not recognized as standard by the U.S.D.A. until 1950.