Mike told of his interest in draft horses when he was a young boy helping out on his uncle’s farm. He enjoyed farming with the horses and putting up hay. Years later his interest became a curiosity when he saw an ad for HnJ’s American Cream Draft horses in the Small Farmer’s Journal. He had never heard of this particular breed of draft horse so he phoned Earl Hammond and Sheila Johnson for more information and a “look see.” He returned to their farm several times and finally purchased his first team, HnJ’s Kitt and HnJ’s CiarAnn as weanlings. He made many trips from his home in Wayland, Michigan to Three Rivers on weekends to work with his new draft horses and learn all he could from his friend the late Earl Hammond. He often would quote a saying he’d heard from Earl, “Aint they pretty and they’re all mine!”

In 2002, Mike was visiting his horses and decided to take one out for a ride. That day soon turned tragic when Mike somehow was thrown off his horse and ended up with a very serious closed head injury. He was months in the hospital and then recovery but he never lost the passion to farm with his horses. This accident led him to move and buy his farm on Mahnke Road, Mendon where he would keep his horses. In the time to follow he added two more to his herd to make a team of four across which he would put up against his Amish friends Belgians many times. He was so very proud of his “creams.”

Mike became a real ambassador for the American Cream Draft horse, showing his “working” creams at Horse Progress Days in Clare, Michigan and just last summer in Topeka, Indiana. He was also invited to Cook’s Mill Learning Center, Scotts, Michigan, home of Tillers International for plowing demonstrations during the annual American Livestock Conservancy Association meeting. The next day Cook’s Mill was having their Harvest Fest and requested he bring a team to give people wagon rides around the facility, all the while educating everyone about the American Cream Draft. There was also a team of Belgians pulling another wagon for rides, but most wanted to ride the wagon with the draft horses unfamiliar to many patrons.
from Page 1 -- in memory of Mike

When visitors arrived throughout the years to see his horses, Mike would peak interest in the American Cream Draft by demonstrating their willing temperament, from standing without assistance to be harnessed to hitching any kind of implement he was working with that day. Many weekends you could find Mike and Nancy with two of the horses hitched to his red wagon, giving people rides around their neighborhood and over the Langley Covered Bridge. He really loved the expression on the children's faces when he would hand them the lines so they could experience driving the horses all the while controlling the lines from behind them.

His greatest joy with his horses was when he was with them in the field working the earth, planting the seeds, and harvesting the crops while setting behind those beautiful cream horses. Thanks to his Amish friends he was able to realize his lifetime dream. The sign on his barn reads "Living A Dream." I truly believe he lived his dream to the very last.
Candidates for Director Position

Dear members,

This is my official notice to run for director of the ACDHA.

I presently do not breed or own a cream at this time. I would like to once again in the future. Presently I do represent Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and their interest in promoting the breed. Because I have nothing to gain or lose I think it give me an unusual outlook for the best interest in the American Cream Draft as a breed and the Association.

In 1990 was the first newsletter and I had the pleasure of being the first editor. In 1992, I showed the first American Cream Draft horses in Virginia at the State Fair draft horse show.

We as a association have come a long way in the last 21 years. More creams have been registered in the history of the association, a website, a color on line newsletter and membership is all over the USA. We have our meeting all over the country now to give the membership a better chance to attend and also educate the group. Be proud of yourself!

Karen V. Smith

Dear ACDHA Members,

This letter is to inform you of my intent to run for election to the Board of Directors. My husband and I have owned and bred American Cream Draft horses since 2000. We use our horses for trail riding, pleasure driving, showing at the County Fair and Draft Horse Classic and wagon trains. I co-hosted the 2005 annual meeting in California and will be doing so again in two years. We stand a stallion and breed to our own and outside mares. I am retired and have the time to devote to the Association. Creams are my passion!

Please consider me for a position on the Board. Thank you for your consideration!

Donna Miller

MILLERS' CREAM DRAFT
Grass Valley, California

All I pay my psychiatrist is the cost of feed and hay, and he'll listen to me any day. ~Author Unknown
My Life with Mike and our working American Creams

Our time together was very short, only 4 years, but I knew and could see how much Mike loved our American Cream Draft horses. He loved working them in the fields, whether it be plowing, raking hay, baling hay, doing silage, or just plain spreading manure. He loved to have people see them working. He also enjoyed the fun of doing horse-drawn wagon rides or on the stone-boat sliding through the snow. If there was something that could be done by horses, Mike would do it. Mike’s love for me and the horses will be in my heart forever. I enjoy the friendships I have made through Mike and the ACDHA. Mike you will always be missed.

All my love, Nancy

There is a Book of Memories on-line at: http://www.avinkcremation.com. If anyone has a story to share about Mike or a thought please feel free to do so. The family will appreciate your sentiment.
ATTENTION.....CREAM DRAFT SHOW EQUIPMENT.....FOR SALE

Carol Pshigoda writes:

We have all of our show stuff for sale, as we will not be showing in the draft horse show arena anymore. I will still be farming and doing some other driving events with our horses.

Items for sale include our show wagon (beautiful with American Cream Draft Horses painted on the side), our show cart, and one of a kind show harness. Parts for the harness are easily available from the Amish harness maker who also makes all of our field harness. He is in Pennsylvania. Our semi with sleeper cab and van hauls 6 horses, the wagon, harness, cart and has a loft for 32 bales of hay is also for sale. The semi comes with 2 winches, one pulls the wagon up into the semi, and the other lifts the show cart above the wagon where it rides. The horse area has new very thick rubber mats, managers, etc. Prices are very affordable.

I have all of this listed on draftsfor-sale.com and drafthorsetuff.com and drafthorseclassified.com.

Contact Carol and Dave at Cream Acres Ranch, 63125 Johnson Ranch Rd., Bend, Oregon 97701 Phone: 541-788-0809 or 541-382-6201

From the Driver's Seat

I start this column on a sad note. I have just been notified that member Mike McBride passed away on Monday, April 18 from cancer. Mike was a very interesting person who loved to work and display his Creams. Just last year he was featured in Rural Heritage and Draft Horse Journal. At our meetings Mike served as my unofficial guide to keep the meeting moving. If we bogged down on a discussion, he would get my attention and tap his watch as if to say -- get it moving! Mike made a difference and will be missed.

Our Annual Meeting is less than 2 months away. HAVE YOU MADE YOUR RESERVATIONS? Time is running out to take advantage of this group rate. Remember you have a choice of 2 motels this year.

If you are planning on attending please notify the Secretary, Nancy Lively, so she can make up the number of hand out packets for the meeting. We are not making reservations for a meal this year. On Wednesday, June 29, we have scheduled a tour to the largest privately owned collection of carriages. This collection is not open to the general public and this will probably be your only opportunity to view this collection. It will involve a drive of approximately 1 1/2 hours through Amish Country into Maryland. If you would like to take this tour, please contact me so necessary arrangements can be made.

Remember, your articles are needed to make this newsletter informative and successful. I hope to see many of you at our meeting and Horse Progress. HELP is needed to man our booth and to assist with our members horses.

Frank Tremel
President
EAST INDIA MEETS SOUTHWESTERN VERMONT
by Nancy Lively

Over the past 11 years, we have done numerous weddings, carriage rides, wagon rides, birthday parties, Equine Affairs, county fairs, parades, and events with several different Creams. We keep threatening to write a book because every job – and every wedding, in particular – is different. The most bizarre occurrence was on a “double job” (which means that David drove the vis-a-vis with a single horse and I drove our finished wooden, nicely decorated wagon with a team) for a - what we affectionately call - “a high maintenance” bride from Boston. Our job was to shuttle the wedding party between the B&B and the church – David with the stars of the show and me with the rest of the wedding party. There were 45 people in the wedding party… it was like a small town. The bizarre part was that the priest got on the carriage with the bride and heard her confession ON THE CARRIAGE before they would let her in the church to get married! I swear she was a serial killer…… her personality was that adorable!!

The most unique wedding, however, was the one that we did in East Indian tradition. In India, the groom is the one that goes to the bride to be married and the groom’s family pays for the wedding. Just to be clear, this was not a ‘we have to watch our expenses’ wedding. This was a full-blown, everything you could want, very expensive wedding. The families were originally from India but had lived in New Jersey for years. The groom’s father was a brain surgeon and the bride’s father was a professor at New York University. They had booked the entire Equinox Hotel (5-star hotel), the Hildene Mansion (Abe Lincoln’s son’s place), plus three large houses for a week in the middle of foliage season and flew people in from 14 different countries.

The Indian tradition is that the groom’s side gathers some distance away from the bride to prepare him for presentation. He is to ride on a white horse with the youngest male member of the family while the celebratory group walks him to the bride’s family. All is lead by the very loud continuous beating of a drum. The bride’s family ceremoniously accepts him into the family, he dismounts, and off they go to get married.
The father’s request of us was for a white horse to be saddled for before the ceremony and a horse drawn carriage for after the ceremony. We had to “audition”, if you will, before we got the job. We met with the father and wedding planner and did a slide show presentation on our laptop of one of our weddings. (Got to love computers!) Break out the pen…. the contract was signed! An additional part of the deal was that David had to wear the traditional Indian clothing – which they gave him. This included the ‘pajamas’, as they call them, very uncomfortable wooden shoes and he was required to be clean-shaven. NO PROBLEM!! For what they were paying us, we would have donated a kidney!

The captions under the photos help to tell the story, as well. It was a long, but good day, and now we have the outfit for the next one…. and the next chapter of our book!
DRAFT HORSE DEMONSTRATIONS ACROSS THE U.S.A.

BONNER COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
Sandpoint, Idaho
SHOW DATES
September 22-25, 2011
http://www.idahodrafthorseshow.com/index.html

16th Annual Big Sky Draft Horse Expo
Deer Lodge, Montana
SEPTEMBER 17 – 18, 2011
http://www.drafthorseexpo.com/

Murray County Fairgrounds
Slayton, MN
July 10-11, 2011
http://www.theiandonline.com
Historic Brown Farm
Central City, Iowa
Pioneer Day
July 17, 2011
http://www.historicbrownfarmiowa.com/pioneer_day.htm

Welcome to MGLI’s fantastic 35th anniversary event!
The Pavilion for Agriculture and Livestock Education
Michigan State University
East Lansing MI
http://www.mgli.org/
In Memory of:

Thank you Karene Topp for letting us know about one of our own. Our condolences to his family and may he rest in peace.

ROBERT G. ITES
Oct. 20, 1920-April 18, 2011
ALDEN, IOWA

Robert G. Ites, 90, of Alden, died Monday, April 18, 2011, at the Scenic Manor Nursing Home in Iowa Falls, after a courageous battle with cancer. Funeral services were held Thursday, April 21, at the Alden United Methodist Church with burial in the Alden Cemetery. The Surls Funeral Home in Alden was in charge of the arrangements.

Robert Glen Ites was born Oct. 20, 1920, at his parents' home, west of the Alden Cemetery, to Heiko and Alice (Harms) Ites. He graduated from the Alden High School in 1939. He married Ruth Geraldine Meyer on Feb. 3, 1944. They just celebrated their 67th anniversary. They moved to his folks' farms, 2 1/2 miles south of Alden. Robert was a charter member of the American Cream Horse Assoc. and raised and showed them at fairs. He farmed all of his life until moving to Alden in 1996. He was a member of the Methodist Church in Alden. He loved dancing, playing cards and sports. He is survived by his wife, Ruth; a daughter, Karen Lykam and husband, Jack of Davenport; a son, Larry Ites and wife, Patti of Alden; grandchildren, Shawn and Colleen Ites of Dexter, Shawn and Monique Ites of McCloud, Calif., Jerry and Deb Brown of Bettendorf, and Dee Lykam of Davenport; great-grandchildren, Madison Paige Ites, Melanie Ruth Ites, and Jason and John Brown; and "Honey," his little girl.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, Alleda Harms and her husband Jesse, and Marie Puttkamer and her husband Pat; a brother, Leonard Ites; a brother-in-law, Alvin Meyer; and his wife's parents.

God forbid that I should go to any Heaven in which there are no horses.
~R.B. Cunningham Graham, letter to Theodore Roosevelt, 1917

Bits 'n Pieces

Dan Zarske writes that he needs a ride or someone to share one with:
I am scheduled to arrive at the Baltimore airport about 7 pm on the 29th of June if anyone else is flying in at that time and would want to share a rental car to the annual meeting let me know.
Contact Dan by e-mail at DanielZarske@yahoo.com or phone at 989-884-2203

ACDHA members don't forget membership dues to our exclusive club are due on June 15th. Also please be prompt in sending your ballot for director back to Nancy Lively soon after receiving them since our meeting will be here before we know it.

Anyone with new foals this summer please take pictures and send to me, Sue Engel so I can use them in the newsletter or calendar. Without your help either project is impossible to put together. I want to say THANK YOU to all who contributed to this newsletter, you make my job easier.

I found this poem and thought it was a befitting sentiment to the ones who have gone from us.

He is Just Away

You cannot say, you must not say
That he is dead. He is just away!
With a cherry smile
And a wave of the hand
He has wandered into an unknown land
And left us dreaming how very fair
It needs must be, since he lingers there;
So think of him faring on, as dear
In the love of There
As the love of Here,
Think of him still as the same, and say
He is not dead, he is just away.

Author James Whitcomb Riley
2011 ACDHA ANNUAL MEETING
AT
HORSE PROGRESS DAYS,
KINZER, PENNSYLVANIA

The East Coast hosting of the 2011 Annual Meeting will be at, and around, the Lancaster, PA area in conjunction with the 2011 Horse Progress Days. We hope to have the largest showing of American Creams – and ACDHA members – at a Horse Progress Days ever.

Because of this, the meeting activities will BE MUCH EARLIER IN THE YEAR THAN THEY HAVE BEEN IN THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS
SEE SCHEDULE BELOW:

Tuesday, June 28th — 9:00am Travelers Rest Inn free one-hour tour. After tour, break into groups to sightsee
6:00pm Meet for dinner at one of the buffet restaurants.

Wednesday, June 29th — 9:00am Travelers Rest Inn free one-hour tour. After tour, break into groups to sightsee. If interested, drive 1 1/2 hours to Maryland to visit the largest privately owned collection of carriages on the east coast at Jack Day Carriage Museum. See the note Frank placed in the featured article "From the Driver's Seat" about making reservations now. Page 5
6:00pm Meet for dinner.

Thursday, June 30th — 9:00am Travelers Rest Inn free one-hour tour. Horses and equipment arrive at Kinzer. Set up Cream booth.
1:00pm ACDHA Annual Meeting — Bird in Hand Family Inn & Restaurant.
5:00pm Break for dinner at the motel restaurant.
6:00pm Reconvene Meeting, if necessary.

Friday, July 1st — Horse Progress Days.

Saturday, July 2nd — Horse Progress Days.

An unforgettable experience awaits you in Lancaster County! Nestled amidst acres of unspoiled farmland, a AAA cultural scenic byway links the villages of Bird In Hand and Intercourse. On one end, the Bird-in-Hand Family Inn & Restaurant sits on a 15 acre property with 125 clean, comfortable rooms, a restaurant showcasing farm fresh Pennsylvania Dutch foods, indoor and outdoor pools, walking paths and more.

Travelers Rest Motel, just doors from Kitchen Kettle Village in Intercourse, features 40 rooms and a complimentary continental plus breakfast.

You'll have a chance to enjoy these pastoral settings when you're treated to a tour of the neighboring farmlands and a visit to a local Amish and Mennonite farm stand and quilt shop. The Smucker Family is eager to welcome you to your home away from home.

This is a big tourist area so PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY.

Book now, rooms will not last. Regular rates will apply before June 28, 2011.

Group rate available starting on June 28.

Bird-in-Hand Family Inn & Restaurant 800-537-2535
2740 Old Philadelphia Pike
Bird in Hand, PA

Travelers Rest Motel 800-665-8780
3701 Old Philadelphia Pike
Intercourse, PA

AIRPORTS

Closest:
Harrisburg (MDT) flyhia.com/airlines 45 miles

Cheaper Airports:
Philadelphia (PHL) 215-683-9842 phl.org/index 62 miles

Baltimore (BWI) 410-859-7111 bwaairport.com 100 miles
Arabian Nights is home to two American Cream Drafts, Anita and Kerry. Both horses were born and bred in Tucson, Arizona at the same farm. They came to Arabian Nights in 2006 after two former Arabian Nights performers purchased them while on the Black Stallion Literacy Foundation’s 4th grade road show.

Since their arrival, the two horses have gained a variety of training. Both were not broke to ride or drive when they were purchased. Anita is now owned by Arabian Nights and Kerry is owned by Barn/Staff Manager Csaba Szilagyi. While both horses show the characteristic color, size and temperament of the American Cream breed, they do so on opposite ends of the spectrum. Kerry is a darker cream color, almost chestnut with a flaxen mane and tail, while Anita is lighter, with a more pink tinge to her hair and eyes. The horses also exhibit different personalities, even after going through similar training.

Kerry is certainly the braver of the two, being curious rather than concerned about new surroundings. She even participated in a student film project in 2009 as part of a created outdoor market scene with tents and vendors. Anita, on the other hand, is a bit more shy and requires some reassurance to learn new tricks or go new places.

Anita and Kerry were both taught first to travel in a circle without wavering inward or outward, then they were introduced to the inflatable ring curb that would create the circle for them to travel in during the show. The horses were also trained to be ridden and to have acrobats sit, stand and jump from the ground on their backs at a standstill and then while traveling. After all of that, the horses were first walked in the opening parade of the Gypsy act to adjust to lights and sound before being used during the show.

Both horses are seen in the Arabian Nights Gypsy Bareback act, where acrobats leap, flip and stand on their backs while the horses move rhythmically in a circle. Kerry and Anita are perfect for this act, not only in temperament, but in size and movement. Both horses are approximately 16 hands tall and weigh more than 1,700 lbs with wide backs perfect for an acrobat to balance on. In addition to their role in the regular show, both horses are also the mount for the Jack Frost character in the Arabian Nights Holiday show. In this role, whichever horse is in the show each night is ridden bareback into the arena to a pair of hanging silks, which the horse then weaves through while the acrobat wraps his arms in the silks and leaps into the air from the back of the horse. It is a beautiful scene that delights many guests.

Kerry is also learning to drive a carriage and she seems to really enjoy the variety of her routine. She and Anita are also featured nightly in the Arabian Nights pre-show breed presentation, where guests learn about the American Cream breed before seeing the show.

Information courtesy of Audrey Padgett, Executive Vice-President of Arabian Nights Dinner Attraction, Kissimmee, Florida
Photos printed with permission of Trisha Szilagyi, wife of Csaba Szilagyi, stable manager and owner of American Cream Draft horse Kerry, a.k.a. #608 Barney’s Benjamin’s Kerri, bred by Bazy Tankersley. American Cream Draft horse Anita, a.k.a. #563 Al-Marah Creme De Cacao, bred by Bazy Tankersley, is owned by Arabian Nights.
Kerry is featured on a video of our Performer for A Day program. The youtube link is: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eBceR49WKbo&feature=player_embedded
Happy Mother's Day

The American Cream News
54658 Bent Road
Marcellus, MI 49067

Rest in Peace
Dear Friend