

Giuseppe's Gazette ❧❧ December 2020

Greetings from Giuseppe! It's hard to think we're in the last month of the year! Of course, most of us are happy to see 2020 come to a close. Here's to a very exciting, happy new year!

We are happy to report that love is in the barn! Turf came in in the middle of October and very quickly became friends with the horses that go out on cross country. Well, one of the horses that spends the day out there is Poco, Nancy Nelson's cute Pinto. Turf fell in love! And, we mean he fell hard! They were coming in from cross country and Turf was brought into his stall and he was screaming for Poco. Fortunately, Poco lives right next door to Turf and he now understands that she is right next to him. We had a lot of rain the other day and we were rotating the horses for turn-out. The two of them were turned out together in the barnyard. When they were brought in, Turf was put in another stall so his stall could be finished. He was calling for Poco so much that Tara put her on the cross tie next to him. He was happy to touch noses with his girl and became completely quiet.

We extend a warm welcome to *Theadora LaBarbera*, Stillwater, our new junior rider and *Azlyn Andorko*, Highland Lakes, our new Oxbow Riding Club (Saturday Program) member.

We will be getting out ballots for our "Equestrian of the Year" Award. It's hard to think that we are a month away from 2021! We don't know about our awards dinner just yet. We'll keep you posted!

December Birthdays

"Happy birthday wishes" go out to Julia Godniak (2), Kayla Torster (12), Gary Allibone (19), Imani-Rose Galvin (20), Hannah Bedel-Franklin (21), Ann Kearney (22), Addisyn Fazio (29).

December Anniversaries

Our very best wishes go out to Matt Fletcher (2017) Gary Allibone (2018).

Early Winter Calendar

12/7	Pearl Harbor Day	12/21	First Day of Winter
12/26	Holiday Gymkhana		

Interesting & Fun Dates

12/1	National	Christmas Lights Day	12/10	National	Human Rights Day
12/3	National	Mutt Day	12/12	National	Gingerbread House Day
12/4	National	Disability Day	12/13	National	Ice Cream Day
12/5	National	Cookie Day	12/13	National	HORSE DAY
12/6	National	Gazpacho Day	12/20	National	Ugly Sweater Day
12/7	National	Pearl Harbor Day of Remembrance	12/21	Winter	Solstice
12/8	National	Brownie Day	12/22	National	Short Person Day

Holiday Gymkhana

Come and join us for our Holiday Gymkhana on Dec. 26th. We invite you to ride. We'll plan both team races and individual contests. It's a fun way to celebrate the holiday!

Hairy Horse Dressage Tests

We are planning a “Hairy Horse” Dressage Series over the winter. We’ll have a “Fix-A-Test” in January, February and March. In a “Fix-A-Test” you ride the test, the judge gives you feed-back on how it can be improved and then you ride it again. We’ll do it in the indoor and plan warm-up and schooling in the schedule. You can ride any of the dressage tests: Intro, Training on up, the Eventing tests as well as the Western Dressage tests. Come out and keep working over the winter. You’ll be pleased with the progress you’ve made come Spring!

Oxbow Clothing

We distributed forms for our Oxbow clothing. We’ve added a new warm heavy duty zippered sweatshirt. If you want your order for Christmas, please get your forms in by Dec. 12th. You can give Tara a call (973-903-3722).

Gift Certificates

We offer a variety of gift certificates for everything from a lesson, to a clinic, to a show, to Oxbow clothing. Just let us know how we can make the holidays merrier! (Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw!) Give Tara a call (973-903-3722).

The Queen’s private passion

(Taken from the Internet – article by Kari Bovee.)

We see a lot of photographs of England’s beloved Queen, but the ones I love most are of QEII with horses. She is either sizing up their conformation with a very concentrated, stern or discerning look on her face or she is simply beaming. In many photos, she is reaching out to touch the nose or neck – all the while with a girlish grin on her face. I recently watched *The Queen: A Passion For Horses*, a documentary made by Clare Balding. In it, England’s stoic Queen actually giggled with glee while inspecting one of her newborn Thoroughbred foals. One cannot hide one’s passion, not even the Queen of England. Horses have the ability to bring out the best in people. That is one of the aspects of horse and human relationships.

Queen Elizabeth, a woman whom many people have criticized for her lack of emotion, understands this relationship and bond extremely well. According to her cousin, Margaret Rhodes, when Elizabeth became Queen at the tender age of 25, she “had to sacrifice within herself many emotions. With horses, she is in another world.” It is a world in which she can be herself – just another human being.

It is said by many people closely associated with the Queen that she is unconditionally loved by her horses. She takes extreme care and caution to hire only trainers who treat her horses well, from Monty Roberts, the inspiration for the movie and book, *The Horse Whisperer* to Rochelle Murray, one of her stud grooms at Sandringham whose job it is to make sure that her young Thoroughbreds learn to be comfortable around people from birth. Not many racehorse owners go to this effort to ensure that their horses are sound in MIND and body. While the Queen is competitive with her horses and wants them to win, what is more important is that they know they are valued. That kind of care and devotion only comes from someone who is emotionally connected to her horses.

It is true that royalty and horses go hand in hand. Just flip through the pages of history and you’ll find many paintings and photographs of royals on horseback either enjoying a leisurely ride or storming into battle on their fiery steeds. Elizabeth’s passion goes back to her childhood when her father, King George VI, gifted Elizabeth, age 4 and her younger sister, Margaret, with a Shetland pony named “Peggy.” Since then, Elizabeth’s relationship with horses has remained constant, and like many royals, she has owned countless equines throughout her life.

During Princess Diana’s funeral, the Queen got her fair share of negative press for not showing enough emotion, As her cousin Margaret Rhodes revealed, one Elizabeth became Queen, she has had to keep her emotions to herself, by putting on a mask of stoicism for the public. Even in the presence of her great grandchildren, there is often but a hint of smile on her face. But, I believe that underneath the quirky hats and the regal mask of a Queen, there is a deeply benevolent person lurking beneath – one whose secret passion cannot be hidden. Just look at a photo of her, looking at a horse.

Oxbow Riding Club

(The following is reprinted from last year's newsletter. Good information about keeping warm!)

As the weather gets colder, remember to layer up when coming to the barn. Wearing two layers of pants, (I wear stretchy black tights under a pair of riding pants) has proven to keep me quite warm while working in the barn and riding. Also, bring a hat and gloves. I always prefer to ride with gloves during all seasons, but if you usually wouldn't, I recommend getting a pair of gloves for the winter season for riding and barn work, as cold fingers aren't much fun. Last, but not least, more than one layer of socks. Same as for fingers, cold toes aren't a pleasure. Wearing a thinner sock under a thick sock will usually do the trick. (TuffRider socks work really well. I got two pairs for Christmas last year, none of which have any rips yet). For working in the barn, winter boots are a good choice. They also make winter riding boots that are insulated to keep you warm while riding.

Oxbow raiders 4-H club

Although 4-H has been officially suspended because of the pandemic, we would still like to collect food items for the holidays. Items should be in by Dec. 14th.

A big thank you to all of you who purchased the holiday wreaths. We appreciate your support.

Capri Tanis
Vice President

Giuseppe's jottings

Giuseppe, here. It's the holiday time of year, again, so it's time to share with everyone my annual visit with Shadow. (For those of you who never knew Shadow; he's a grey Welsh pony and my surrogate grandpa. Shadow left us in May of '96, after we had moved to Hamburg and after he knew that I was secure and happy in my new home.)

Every Christmas Shadow comes to visit me from the Green Place. He says it's quite beautiful there, with green grass as far as the eye can see and streams and lakes and cross country jumps, just in case you feel like galloping and jumping! The very best part is that you can eat and eat, but you never get fat or colic or founder. And the grass never gets eaten way down so you can eat all day and all night long! (Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw!)

The Big Guy appears every Christmas to decide who gets to stay in the Green Place. There are famous horses like Man O' War and Justin Morgan. There are regular horses there, too. Some pulled circus wagons and milk wagons and some pulled plows. There are horses that carried kings and queens and horses that fox hunted and competed in the Olympics and horses that taught kids and adults to ride.

When Shadow went up, he was met by Impy and Rambunctious and Margarita and other horses we had known throughout the years. Shadow greeted Salem, Prima Donna, Gabriella and Huck. He was there to welcome Cinnamon Bear, Sarge, Gemini (Whitney's mom), Jester, True, Griffin, Richard, Romeo, Barnaby, Lina (Luke's sister), Patchmaker, Yankee, Charlie Boy, Sandy, Stranger, Rajah, and of course, Zeppelin, PC, Whitney, Cory and Pepper.

Shadow was the new guy on Christmas of '96. He waited in great anticipation for the coming of the Big Guy. The skies burned brightly as hundreds of thousands of horses waited expectantly for His arrival. Shadow was nervous and afraid because he wanted to stay in the Green Place.

Suddenly, a bright light appeared and everyone became very quiet. Through the blinding blaze of starlight, the Big Guy stood. Shadow whispered to Rambunctious, "He's the Big Guy? He's so little. What did he ever do? He's not even a horse!" Rambunctious whispered, "He's a donkey, of course. A very, very long time ago He carried a woman heavy with child to a small town on a night when the stars shone so bright."

Shadow got to stay in the Green Place. In fact, I'll share a secret with you. All the horses, ponies and donkeys get to stay in the Green Place. And, the only people allowed in are the ones who know an equine there. JoJo made it into the Green Place because she has so many horsey friends.

Have a wonderful holiday and don't forget presents for all your equine friends. And just remember, Giuseppe is a direct descendant of the boss! Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw!

Quotes of the Month

"I will honor Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year..."

- Ebenezer Scrooge

"Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it."

- William Arthur Ward

