

Spring/Summer 2025

American Indian Horse Registry

Colonial Dream: AIHR O-5652; HOA- 2002; SBHA APX-31



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President's Column: **HAPPY SPRING/SUMMER, Y'ALL**

Hope y'all had a great autumn/winter holiday time and that spring/summer isn't too bad on all of us, including our Indian Horses and other beloved animals. Here in Central Texas, we have already had 90degree days and high winds which is not a great sendoff for Spring.

So, my advice is this - **STAY HYDRATED AND KEEP WATER BOWLS AND TUBS FULL!** My horses and donkeys get water and salt in their food which helps with gas or impaction colic, particularly with the elder animals. And keep water bowls and tubs outside for the wildlife. Any banana peels or over ripe bananas are welcome for plants and animals, especially butterflies who will gather on top of banana peels soaking in water. The peels are full of potassium.

Now, on with the good news.....



Congratulations to the Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society who are based in Texas and will celebrate their 20th anniversary this year. Their annual Expo which takes off on October 4th, 2025, in Taylor, Texas. They are a not-for-profit horse and donkey rescue Organization and are brilliant at fostering and adoption.

Again, I want to thank all of you for your patience and compassion during my healing time from a fall I had in my home last September. I am slowly catching up and I appreciate everyone's patience more than I can say. Indian Horse people are the very best. Thank you all from my heart.

Nanci



(l-r) *Little Latin Lupe Lou* & Laura Christensen; *CWH The Sea King* & Tommi Grey; Nanci Falley

**Rancho San Francisco, 2013
Lockhart, Texas**

Colonial Dream: AIHR# O-5652; HOA# 2002; SBHA# APX-31

Where do I start?

Kendra Chavez

Dream came into my life unexpectedly as I was shopping for a cart for one of my horses, not looking for another horse...I ended up with 2 more horses and a beautiful 2 Seat Spring Wagon.

When I saw the ad for the buggy, I knew it was what I wanted! My husband and I went to see it, once the deal was made I commented on the horses in the field and their history was explained to me. They mentioned they were downsizing the herd due to the passing of their breeder/caretaker ☹️ I knew absolutely nothing about Colonial Spanish Horses or the Baca Chica strain. I quickly fell in love with a "low in the pecking order" buckskin mare, her name was Dream Keeper, but she wasn't trained so I turned away. A sorrel gelding caught my eye and I decided to make him part of my herd. Found out the buckskin mare was his half-sister...hmmmm. My husband said he wanted to take the mare also and he would train her, I laughed (he is NOT a horse person) but agreed.



A week later we arrived to pick up our new ponies!! Tostone loaded into the trailer no problem but Dream Keeper was quite the battle! 2+ hours later we had her in the trailer and headed to their new home with us and my other 3 horses. I guess Dream Keeper didn't want to leave those that loved her but I promised her continued love, 40 acres to run in and hopefully many adventures in the future.

I started my research on the Colonial Spanish Horse and the Baca Chica strain while they were settling in and adjusted into our herd. Annette, Virginia and Mary had given me a lot of information and a CD documentary featuring Joty Baca and his horses. The more I learned, the more time I spent with them, they more I fell in love!!! At first I only knew that Dream Keeper and Tostone could be registered with Horse of the Americas so I started the process. Dream Keeper couldn't be registered with that name so she became Colonial Dream, Dream is her barn name. A little while later I learned about American Indian Horse and registered Colonial Dream. She later became registered with Spanish Barb Horse Association.

I took my time training Dream, I had the help of a trainer friend and he guided my work. I brought her home Feb 1, 2014 and in May of 2014 I finally got on her! We did many months of round pen and small arena riding, then graduated to riding around our 40 acres. About a year into our adventure, I knew I couldn't keep Tostone. Dream was the right fit for me and Tostone was keeping her from reaching her potential. He was the overbearing big brother and it was impacting her training, he went back with the Baca family.

2 years of riding our property and local dirt roads, facing demons of white boulders, flying grasshoppers, butterflies and crazy dogs, I felt she was ready for bigger adventures! One of her first away from home rides was at my friend's house, she and Alex (my friend's horse) became BFF's that day and boy have we had adventures!

I decided to take the plunge and really test her by riding her at Red Canyon. It's a very technical loop trail on the mountain with some spots feeling like you will walk off the mountain as the trail disappears around a sharp turn with a steep climb! That little horse, with her deer legs and feet, proved that she would take care of me anywhere!! She earned the badge of Mountain Trail Horse that day and we haven't looked back!!!

We were camping at Fort Stanton NM one spring; we always do an easy ride the day we arrive. The next day is our long ride soaking in the beautiful scenery and history. The day went smoothly and after dinner over an open fire we tucked the horses in with extra hay as the wind had picked up. Barb and I



headed to the camper for warmth and sleep. The wind was pretty vicious overnight. In the morning Barb went out to feed and quickly returned, I knew something was amiss! She informed me that the horses were gone! WHAT???? HOW???? They were supposed to be in their corral!!!! I went out to find 2 of the corral panels down and horribly bent out of shape!!! The search was on! We walked and called for a couple hours, no luck (there was no way to track them as there is a lot of horse riding activity in the area). We called people we knew in the area for help, no

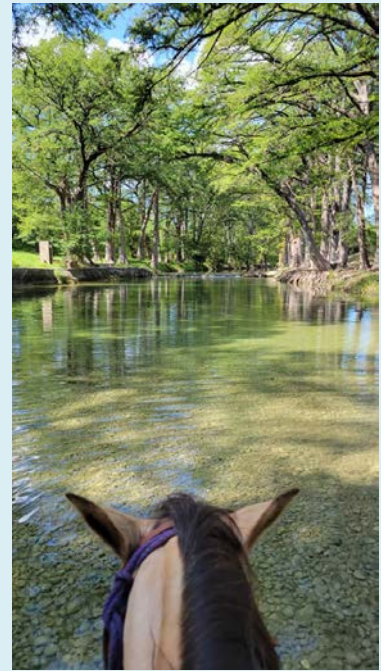
luck. About 5 hours later we had a truck pull up asking us if we were missing horses. They had seen them about 2 1/2 miles away which was amazing as they had access to the whole 10,000 acres! They gave us a ride to fetch them. They were standing at the corner of fencing headed the way home. We walked right up to them, haltered them and made them do the walk of shame behind the truck back to the camp site. Dream had several bumps and bruises and missing hair, we determined that she was the one that mangled the panels. Why? Only she and Alex know and they aren't talking but we suspect it was either elk that startled her or the reported mountain lion in the area. We didn't ride that day, we packed up and headed home, that was more adventure than we wanted. So grateful to have found them!!!

Another time, Barb and I were at her cabin in the Gila Mountains. We had the horses loose grazing that sweet mountain grass. Barb had a strand of wire around her property and assured me that her horses had never gotten out. I was hesitant about letting Dream out to graze but finally gave in. About 30 minutes later, I mentioned that I hadn't heard the horses. We went looking and they were nowhere to be found!! We walked the property line and found where they had pushed under the fence; at least we were able to see their tracks and which way they were going. We headed down the road following their track. About a mile and several turns later we came across a kind neighbor with a lead rope on Alex leading her from the window of his truck with Dream following behind, again they had been headed in the direction of home! Those brats!!! Well, they got put into their corral with dry hay and Barb and I had a good strong adult beverage!! I blame Alex for this escapade as Dream is a follower and that was Alex's home turf. LOL! Now they have a GPS collar to wear!!





August/September 2021 Barb and I took a trip to Crystal Beach TX. She had it all planned out and we rode along the way at our layovers. Bandera TX was our 2nd stop and we rode into town on our horses! It was so cool to feel like we were in the Old West, tying our horses in front of the stores at the hitching rails. But it was so humid!! Our desert ponies didn't know what was happening. We rode in the river on our trek to and from the town to let them cool off. We arrived at Crystal Beach and the water was calling my name! but first things first, we tended the ponies, getting them set up in their beautifully lush ¼ acre pen! They thought they were



in heaven but we limited that luxury so we wouldn't have any medical emergencies. The next day we rode from our campsite to the Gulf! Oh my! It was breathe taking seeing it between my horse's ears!!! She, on the other hand, thought it was going to kill her! It took a lot of coaxing and patience to finally get her toes wet. I found a little river of water going back into the Gulf and I let her follow that down to the BIG water, it worked. We rode about 6 miles that day along the beach and through the neighborhood. The horses were so appreciative of the bath they got (Dream doesn't like baths) before we put them back in the pen, nothing like getting that itchy sweat off. The next day we rode back to the beach, we galloped, we swam (Dream kicked at every wave that hit her back feet LOL) but she went into the water deep enough to get her back wet, then we sunbathed and were quiet...ahhhhh.... Another bath when we got back to the campsite then Barb and I went on foot adventuring, we quickly found a golf cart to rent as we looked like drowned rats from the humidity and walking. Our last day there was right before Labor Day, we rode again to the beach but this time it wasn't quiet. There were tents, people fishing, big dune buggy looking vehicles, remote-controlled cars, kids, kites, dogs, people everywhere! Well, none of that bothered our wonderful ponies!!! We rode around and



galloped some more and were even stopped by people asking to take our picture, we were even on the live feed of the beach, thankfully before Dream decided to pollute the water in front of a child that was totally horrified by it, sorry there was no way to remove that from the "trail". We finally got smart and asked someone to take our picture for us, one of my favorite pictures to date!!



We have ridden many mountains, roads, valleys and everything in-between. She has taken me to the Gulf Coast and faced the big water (she's a desert horse LOL) and conquered it, giving me a lifetime dream of galloping on the beach!!! We have camped too many times to count; she has taken me to the hot springs where I got to soak while she grazed sweet mountain grass. We have faced bears, snakes, deer, elk, rabbits, coyote, dogs, motorcycles, mountain bikers, backpackers and the occasional rotting carcass. She will move cows and I believe she would move the mountain if I asked her!



Colonial Dream has become my perfect partner!
She heals me! I feel I have lived up to my promise
to Dream!

~Kendra Chavez; Mountainair, New Mexico~



The Spirit of Eohippus

Deep within the Earth, a cave
Where ancient man scratched images
Of wonders he had seen.
His family watched in awe
As leggy creatures came alive
On walls in light of fire's gleam.
What was this strange and wondrous being
That took form before them, mesmerizing
Images captured in mid-stride?
They too would search until
The creature re-appeared. A thought –
Would it be possible to ride?
Down through the years as humans
Plowed fields, herded cattle, sailed fences
With polished mounts in hand
Have we ever stopped to contemplate,
Where it started, how it all began?

~Libby Stutz Bishop~

2001; San Antonio, Texas

Timeline for the Spanish Horse in the Americas, Part III

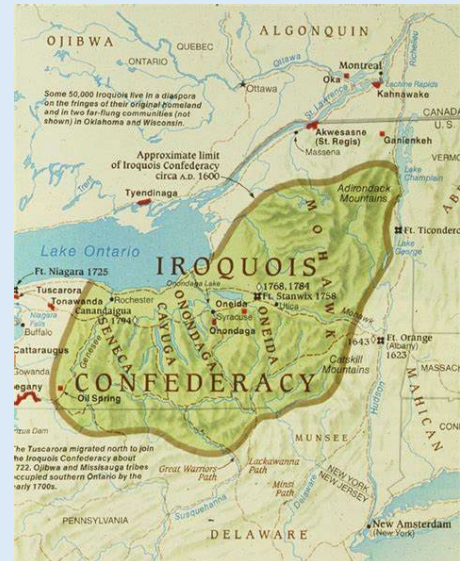
This will be an ongoing educational piece provided by Beverley Davis, Irving, Texas. Mrs. Davis is an equine history researcher and writer. Additional editing/graphics by Gretchen Patterson, Historian.

1658: The British Consulate in Tripoli, North Africa allows exportation of horses to England. With so many Spanish garrisons, access to well-bred Spanish animals under the name 'Barb' was possible.

1660: The Iroquois drive the Shawnee out of their ancestral homelands into lands joining the Cherokee and Chickasaw. This is important because the Shawnee gave the Chickasaw their first horses (1750). The Chickasaw played a part in the creation of Tennessee Walker and American Saddlebred along with other Colonial Spanish.

1670: The French meet up with the Shawnee on the Cumberland River and trade Spanish horses for deer hides and slaves.

1674: The Spanish set up a mission for Chatot Indians west of Apalachicola River in Florida. Horses and cattle were bred to keep the mission self-sustaining. This is part of the Cracker Horse ancestry.



1675: A Spanish priest in Florida warned settlers about the fearsome “Chata” (Choctaw) who raided the missions for horses and cattle.

1680: Pueblo Indian revolt and the Spanish colonists were driven out of Santa Fe (New Mexico). Sometime after this revolt, the Comanche acquired their horses (probably from the Ute tribes).

1686: Robert Cavalier, Sieur de la

Salle, French explorer, acquired five horses from the Caddo Indians in Texas.

1692: Diego de Vargas returns to Santa Fe with more colonists and horses from Mexico City.

1699: Pierre le Moyne established the first French settlement in Biloxi, Mississippi. This settlement would have been one source of horses for the Choctaw.

1700: The Comanche (Nemene—meaning The People) separate from the Eastern Shoshoni and move south out of Wyoming. They remain trading partners with the Shoshoni sending Spanish horses and slaves northward.

1711: Tuscarora Indians around Cape Feare, North Carolina are reported by English explorer, John Lawton as having horses which they feed corn.



Sieur Pierre le Moyne

1716: The Comanche drive the Jicarilla Apache into the mountains of northern New Mexico.

1717: French help the Caddo organize against Chickasaw raids and supply them with horses.

1719: First recorded Comanche raids into New Mexico for Spanish horses.

1720: A Spanish expedition out of Taos, New Mexico was annihilated by Indians (possibly Pawnee) who take their horses as war prizes.

1724: French traders in southern Kansas traded pistols to the Comanche for Spanish horses, mules, and slaves.

1730: Blackfeet Indians acquire horses.



1731: In September, the Comanche raid the horse corral at the Presidio of San Antonio de Bejar.

1740: Comanche established themselves on the Llano Estacado (Staked Plains); French traders among the Wichita on the Red River; the Crow get their first horses.

1743: First mention of the Comanche in Texas.

1746: The Comanche attack the Spanish settlement of Pecos, New Mexico.

1747: The French arrange a peace treaty between the Comanche and the Wichita.

1749: The Ute ask the Spanish for protection from Comanche raiders.



1750: The Ute and Jicarilla Apache become allies against the Comanche; the Wichita arrange a truce between the Comanche and Pawnee; Chickasaw in the Carolinas get the first horses from the Shawnee.

1758: The Comanches, Wichita, and Caddo raiders destroy the Mission of Santa Cruz de Saab in Texas and steal almost one hundred Spanish horses.

1759: The Comanche and Wichita warriors defeat Colonel Diego Parilla's army at the Red River. The

winner kept the loose horses.

1760: The Comanches conduct horse stealing raids on Taos, New Mexico; Teton Sioux (Dakota) get horses from the Arika tribe.

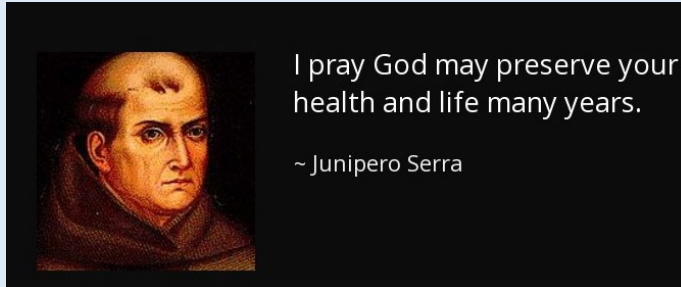
1761: The Comanche strike a mission for Lipan Indians on the Nueces River in East Texas.

1761: Francis Marion (later known as *The Swamp Fox*) began his military career. The Carolina Marsh Tacks were used by Marion and his men.



1764: Chief Pushmataha of the Choctaw is born Nuxubee Creek, Mississippi. Choctaw horses were well-known and highly appreciated in the Southeast where they gave gait to the early plantation horses.

1769: California Ranching—Los Californios began to take shape; Jesuit priest, Junipero Serra, founded a mission in San Diego to convert local Indians. Spanish horses and cattle were introduced from Mexico. The Jesuits build twenty-one more missions in California.



~Art by Midge Meghan Ranahan~
Road Apple Acres; Dolan Springs, Arizona

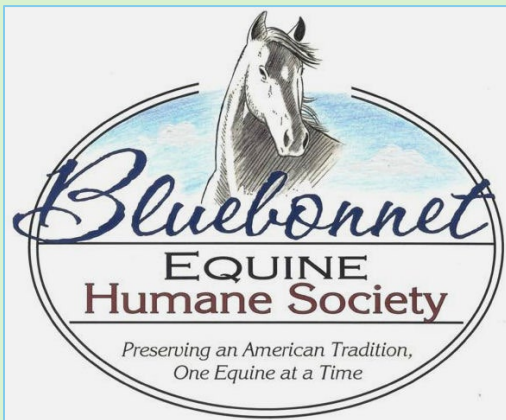
AMERICAN INDIAN HORSE ASSOCIATES



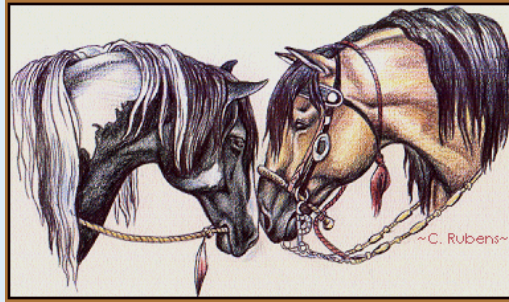
SPIRIT HORSE

Long ago, a man or woman painted their horse with colors and designs that would help them physically or spiritually. A person could paint their horse many different colors. A spirit horse could protect its rider from bad spirits in travel and from enemy warriors in battle. Many warriors had medicine songs for their spirit horse.

My horse is swift in flight
Even like a bird;
My horse be swift in flight;
Bear me now in safety
And you shall be rewarded
With streamers and ribbons red.
~Lakota Warrior's Song~



Horse of the Americas



The REAL Horse of the Old West is still here. From the Banker Islands to the desert Southwest, less than 3,000 are left today including all the Colonial Spanish Horse strains. The Horse of the America Registry records horses from every strain recognized by The Livestock Conservancy (formerly ALBC). HOA registration papers include photographs of the recorded horse, a five-generation pedigree with accomplishments in red type, and a strain analysis of the percentage of each strain in the horse's pedigree. HOA recognizes and records all "O" (Original American Indian Horses.) Contact: President Vickie Ives; 903-407-0298 or Registrar Gretchen Patterson; 903-407-3260.

<https://horseoftheamericas.com>

Help us preserve them--Join HOA!



Buy from HOA and/or AIHR "O" breeders.

The Center for America's First Horse

Founded in 2010, the Center opened near Johnson, Vermont. The stated mission of the Center is to enrich the lives of people through the spirit of the Colonial Spanish Horse. The Center is home to the most diverse group of Colonial Spanish Horses in the eastern United States. The Center depends upon private donations, sponsorship grants, fundraising and revenue from its programs to meet operating expenses. 100% of all revenue goes directly to our programs and expenses.

There are no government programs to save these horses, only individual organizations.

For information on how you can help:

<https://www.centerforamericasfirsthorse.org>



20 Points of the Red Road



1. Rise with the sun to pray. Pray alone; pray often, The Great Spirit will listen, if you only speak.
2. Be tolerant of those who are lost on their path. Ignorance, conceit, anger, jealousy and greed stem from a lost soul. Pray that they will find guidance.
3. Search for yourself, by yourself. Do not allow others to make your path for you. It is your road and yours alone. Others may walk it with you, but no one can walk it for you.
4. Treat the guests in your home with much consideration. Serve them the best food, give them the best bed and treat them with respect and honor.
5. Do not take what is not yours whether from a person, a community, the wilderness or from a culture. It was not earned nor given. It is not yours.
6. Respect all things that are placed upon earth - whether it is people or plant.
7. Honor other people's thoughts, wishes and words. Never interrupt another or mock or rudely mimic them.
8. Never speak of others in a bad way. The negative energy that you put out into the universe will multiply when it returns to you.
9. All persons make mistakes. And all mistakes can be forgiven.
10. Bad thoughts cause illness of the mind, body and spirit. Practice optimism.
11. Nature is not FOR us, it is a PART of us. They are part of your worldly family.

12. Children are the seeds of our future. Plant love in their hearts and water them with wisdom and life's lessons. When they are grown, give them space to grow.

13. Avoid hurting the hearts of others. The poison of your pain will return to you.

14. Be truthful at all times. Honesty is the test of ones will within this universe.

15. Keep yourself balanced. Your mental self, Spiritual self, Emotional self and Physical self all need to be strong, pure and healthy. Work out the body to strengthen the mind. Grow rich in spirit to cure emotional ails.

16. Make conscious decisions as to who you will be and how you will react. Be responsible for your own actions.

17. Respect the privacy and personal space of others. Do not touch the personal property of others, especially sacred and religious objects. This is forbidden.

18. Be true to yourself first. You cannot nurture and help others if you cannot nurture and help yourself first.

19. Respect others religious beliefs. Do not force your belief on others.

20. Share your good fortune with others.

May The Great Spirit Smile down on you and keep you and yours safe

May the trail rise up to meet you

May the wind be always at your back

May the sunshine warm upon your face

May the rain fall soft upon your fields

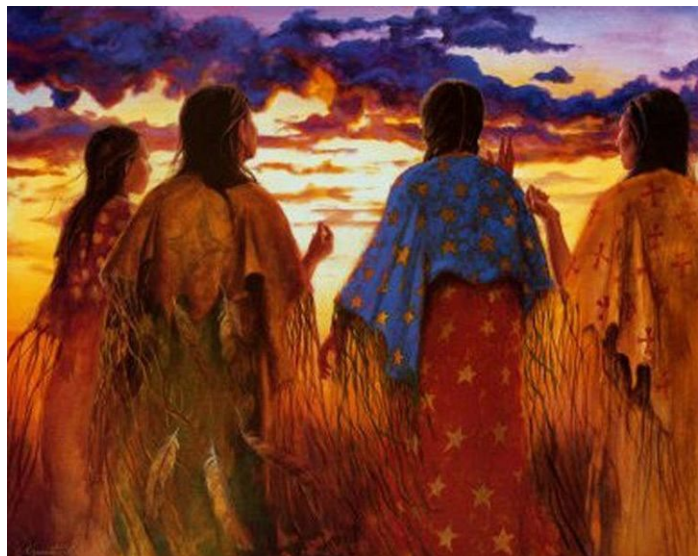
And until we meet again

May The Great Spirit hold your

hand in the palm of his hand

Art by Marianne Millar

<http://eu.art.com/gallery/id--a2708/posters-prints.htm>



My Friend, Tom Norush
Vickie Ives & Karma Farms

The Colonial Spanish Horse has lost another hero, one of the founders and Horse of the America's first president, Thomas Norush. He was my partner in shaping HOA.

As you probably know, screenwriter and author John Fusco purchased the rights and records of the defunct original HOA and asked me to revive and update it with fairness and equality to the several strains and types.



I chose Tom as soon as I understood our task. We were friends by telephone and correspondence already so when we met at an SMR annual meeting in Mississippi, we chatted as we rode down the trail. We were quickly sharing our vision of how to promote our vanishing breed. When John Fusco purchased and picked me for reviving Robert Brislawn and Jeff Edwards' registry, Tom was one of the first I asked to help.

He did his part and more. With help from his wife Della and their kids, esp. son Doug, they had been raising our horses and promoting where they could for years before I met the Norush family. I loved Tom's fine stallion *Yellow Thunder* and was absolutely jealous of his gorgeous mare *Little Star Sparkling*. Tom knew how to pick 'em and how to breed good to good.

Tom knew how to promote them too, even though Spanish Mustang events were even rarer there than they were in Texas. Now and then if a promising event might let them have fun and show off their horses too, they loaded up.

As the new HOA's first president, Tom gave his best to our registry and led us to the current position we hold, number one registry in new registrations and memberships. HOA offers a far-ranging awards program that includes points for everything from miles and hours under saddle to wins in the show ring and on the trail in events from competitive trail riding to endurance racing.

Both English and western riding are recognized. Tom felt it was important to showcase the versatility of CS Horses from training young riders to competing in 50 mile endurance events. I could not have agreed more strongly. The Colonial Spanish Horse can do it all. HOA welcomes and rewards everything our member owners do to promote the versatility of America's First Horse.

At one of our annual meetings, members brought items for a fund-raising auction to benefit the registry. Tom acted as auctioneer. He loved to be the center of attention when it came to fund raising. He talked up the offerings from books to tack and got those bidders' hands in the air.

There was a serious side of this auction too. Every dollar gave us more available funds to buy awards, attracting members to participate in HOA promotions and showing the world the breed's remarkable versatility.

Today's HOA needs to take fund raising for desirable awards seriously. Participation in our awards program now is below the numbers of folks who sent in their points back then. In fact, HOA has not held an annual in-person meeting for several years.

As today's president, I would like to suggest that we plan an actual in-person meeting for the summer of 2025 and honor Tom Norush with the activities we used to do there: camp out, trail ride, auction donated goods and, perhaps more important, hold an in-person meeting and discuss the future of HOA in promoting our horses.

I would like to hear from our members on holding an in-person meeting this summer. Give me a call or text at (903) 407-0298. If you would like to chat on Facebook, that works too if we can set up a time to get together.

Tom, we love and miss you. You helped set us on the path to make HOA the best registry for our horses. Together we recognize you and your supporting family for all your work for our registry.

I hope to help HOA to lead in promoting **America's First Horse** just like you wanted, Tom. Then one day, I hope to find myself riding those heavenly trails now and then with you when I cross over. Thank you, my friend.





Copper Head Ranch



Blue's Heather Breeze

Blue corn roan mare foaled 2017
Dam Misty Blue Moon Rising
Sire Riggy's Something Special
Started under saddle but will need miles
\$2500.00

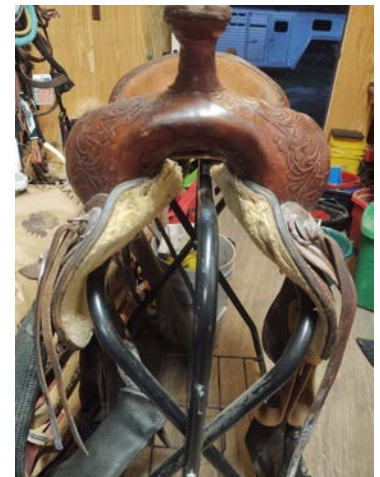


Come Along Willy

Champagne Gelding foaled 2015
Dam My Wonder Woman
Sire Torchwood
Green broke but needs the miles
\$2,250.00



We have collected saddles for several years. These are mostly trees with some leather on them but would have to be rebuilt to use. There are a few saddles ready to ride we are looking to sale. If interested, please contact for more information.



Copper Head Ranch has four yearlings available. Two very nice fillies, one by our own Color Me America (Merica) and the other is out of My Wonder Woman (Diana). Two are stud colts, one by Color Me America and the other by Northern Song (Cajun). Please contact for more information .

Contact Curtis George or Patricia Leopold

<Please be patient as we both work full time>

CopperHeadCSM@yahoo.com Copper Head Ranch on Facebook

The Cattleman's Friend Gretchen Patterson

The utilization and domestication of the horse may be traced as far back as 8,000 B.C., and documented evidence exists that horses were used as a food source as early as 30,000 to 20,000 B.C., long before man sat astride this swift, powerful beast. The Greek philosopher, Plato said that “a true creator is necessity which is the mother of our invention.”¹ The saddle was definitely a necessary implement for riding security and comfort, yet centuries of bareback riding passed before this horseman's tool came into existence. According to historian, Glenn Vernam, no records delineate the origin of the saddle; if any such documents do exist, they are one of “the best-kept secrets of antiquity.”² As the horse culture spread throughout the Mesopotamian, Egyptian, Persian, Greek, and Roman



empires, the saddle evolved, starting with a simple cloth or pad tied with leather strings around the horse's mid-section. The oldest representation of a saddle was carved on a column dedicated to the Byzantine Roman emperor, Theodosius II, 440 A.D. in Constantinople, now modern-day Istanbul³.

As empires rose and fell, horses carried their riders into wars and unexplored lands. In 1492, instead of finding a faster, shorter passage to India by ship, Christopher Columbus discovered today's New World. On his second voyage in 1493, Columbus unloaded the first horses on the shores of the present-day Dominican Republic. Although these first horses did not survive, other voyagers brought more horses and other livestock to the Americas. In 1513, the expanding horse market was a valuable resource for the conquistadors needing horses as they marched northward into Mexico in search of glory, conquest, and gold for the Spanish crown. They were followed by the entrepreneurs and the colonizers who viewed the limitless grazing lands to acquire property, wealth, and a new beginning. These early caballeros and vaqueros brought their war saddles, gear, and riding customs from Spain into Central, North, and South America to manage their livestock and mount expeditions into the vast, unclaimed territories.

By the late 1600s, the basic stock saddle form was modified to include improved cinches, longer stirrup straps, lighter wooden stirrups, and saddlebags. “By the outset of the nineteenth century [1800s], the saddle used by the horsemen of Mexico was founded upon a saddle-tree incorporating...the elements of design by which the western tree is distinguished even today.”

¹Plato, *The Republic* (Athens, 360 BC), Book II.

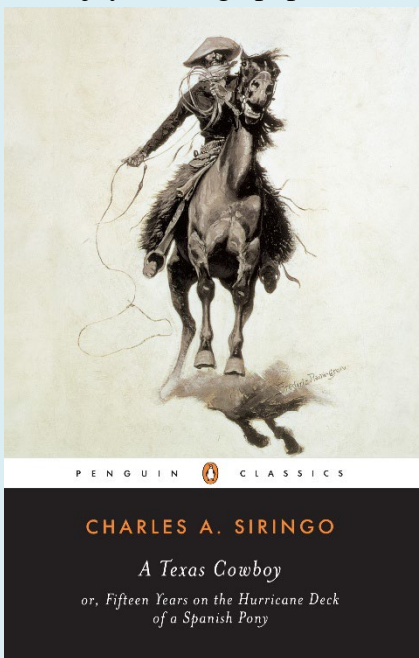
² Glenn Vernam, *Man on Horseback* (New York: Harper & Row, 1964), 54-5.

³ Vernam, *Man on Horseback*, 55.

In the early 1800s, the Vaquero saddle evolved into the Santa Fe with a wooden, rawhide covered tree, saddle horn, single rigging in three-quarter position, and the mochila, a leather cover with holes for the horn and cantle and draped over the tree. By the 1860s, the Santa Fe was altered, becoming the Mother Hubbard saddle “which was an outgrowth of the saddle [where] the mochila was adhered permanently to the saddle-tree with saddle strings.”⁴ After the Civil War, the Mother Hubbard was modified into the Texas Trail saddle that featured full double rigging, square skirts, and the back cinch as cowboys needed a solid, secure seat when chasing and roping wild Longhorn cattle or horses. From 1870-1899, jockeys and fenders, the decorative Cheyenne roll on the cantle, the steel horn, and saddle swells were added to the stock saddle. The fully covered, padded seat and the three inch, lower back cantle appeared in 1900. From the 1900s through the 1950s, the western stock saddle acquired a few new features, such as the Blevins buckle which allows for the quick change of stirrup length, the quilted, padded seat, and different styles of stirrups, depending upon rider preference.



Civil War survivors returning to Texas found that the untended herds of cattle and horses enjoyed a huge population explosion due to plentiful grazing and water across the wide-open Texas plains. “Northerners were clamoring for fresh beef. With many northern and Midwestern cattle herds decimated during the war...the beef supply was low.”⁵ There was no Texas railroad yard in 1866 that could accommodate the cattle industry and meet the huge demand for beef in the Eastern markets. Enterprising ranchers began sending herds of cattle north to either Sedalia, Missouri or Abilene, Kansas, thus inaugurating the trail drives that continued in Texas until 1885, when the Fort Worth Stockyard was established with a rail head expressly developed for Texas cattle. The cattle drives of the late 1800s required cowboys, horses, and gear that could manage all types of rough country and inclement weather while trailing a cattle herd several hundred miles to the mid-west shipping facilities. The cowboy, with his horse, saddle, and bedroll became a popular and romanticized figure as writers like Charles Siringo published inexpensive novels. These books about cowboys entertained an avid American readership with stories from his own life experiences such as “*A Texas Cowboy or Fifteen Years on the Hurricane Deck of a Spanish*



⁴ Russell H. Beatie, *Saddles* (Norman: The University of Oklahoma Press, 1981), 57.

⁵ Eddie Weller, “The Cattle Frontier in Texas” in *The Texas Heritage*, 4th ed., ed. Ben Proctor and Archie P. McDonald (Wheeling, IL: Harlan Davidson, Inc., 2003), 274.

Pony.”⁶ Mr. Siringo was a man of few possessions except for his saddles, but kept no record of the style or saddle maker.

Saddle makers were successful at selling their products throughout the American West. These included the J. C. Higgins Company, Visalia Stock Saddle Company, which is still in business today, and the George H. Schoellkopf Company of Dallas Texas. George Schoellkopf started his saddle business in 1869 using the trademark, “The Famous Jumbo Brand,” and produced quality saddles and horse equipment until 1970 when the company was acquired by the Tandy Leather Corporation. As a young man, George traveled extensively in Texas and Mexico buying wool and buffalo hides. He settled in Dallas, “impressed with the need for a saddlery and harness house in Texas to supply the needs of ranch hands...”⁷ The company’s success revolved around George’s high standard for quality goods and amiable customer service.



By 1875, the maker of Jumbo Brand saddles and leather products enjoyed a global market because clients “learned that they could buy these products with...the assurance that they would get full value for every dollar invested.”⁸ During an interview with Leana Rideout Westergaard, former secretary for the Spanish Mustang Registry, and collector of antique saddles and equine artifacts, she noted that the “Schoellkopf family employed some of the best Mexican craftsman this side of the Rio Grande, and they made saddles to last.”⁹

In 2003, Mrs. Westergaard offered a limited number of her antique saddle collection for sale including an eight string, 1902 *Jumbo Brand* cattleman’s stock saddle. She had originally purchased the saddle in 1972 from a ranch dispersal sale out of Tyler, Texas, but was unable to locate any history of previous ownership. This author purchased the Jumbo saddle at that time to have an authentic saddle for

⁶ Charles A. Siringo, *A Texas Cowboy, 1885* (1950; repr., Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1966), Front cover.

⁷ G. H. Schoellkopf, *General Catalog No. 25* (Dallas: The Johnston & Advertising Printing Co., 1924), 6, CD-ROM, <http://www.cabincreekcads.com> (accessed October 6, 2013).

⁸ G. H. Schoellkopf, *General Catalog No. 25* (Dallas: The Johnston & Advertising Printing Co., 1924), 7, CD-ROM, <http://www.cabincreekcads.com> (accessed October 6, 2013).

⁹ Leana R. Westergaard, interview by author, Marshall, TX, September 28, 2013.

Frontier Period equine re-enactment events. Due to the saddle's former use as an everyday working ranch saddle, and after more than one hundred years of service, some minor repairs have been made of late; however, the saddle has the original full double rigging, square leather skirts, jockeys, fenders, stirrup straps, horn cap, brass conchos, and the *Jumbo Brand* brass maker's mark. Mr. Rick Sims of Leesville, Texas recently used the Jumbo saddle on my Colonial Spanish Mustang, *Captain Walker, AIHR O-4920*. The duo was awarded the Adult Frontier Period Costume Reserve Championship class at the 2013 American Indian Horse and Horse of the Americas national show. This fine example of the quality product and craftsmanship made by the G. H. Schoellkopf Company resides with the author; a photograph is included on the final page of this paper.

From the first Spanish war saddles brought to the New World in 1494 by the conquistadors, to the present, the western stock saddle has evolved to meet the needs of the men and women who explored the continental United States on the back of a horse. The Spanish translation for saddle is *montar de silla* or mounted seat or chair. From the earliest time when man first sat on a horse, saddle makers have worked to perfect this particular piece of equipment that allows a rider to sit in comfort and security. Times have changed and cattle ranches prefer to use motorized transport vehicles today, yet, the western stock saddle remains the cattleman's friend whenever a modern cowboy needs a horse for work, pleasure, trail riding, show, or rodeo competition.

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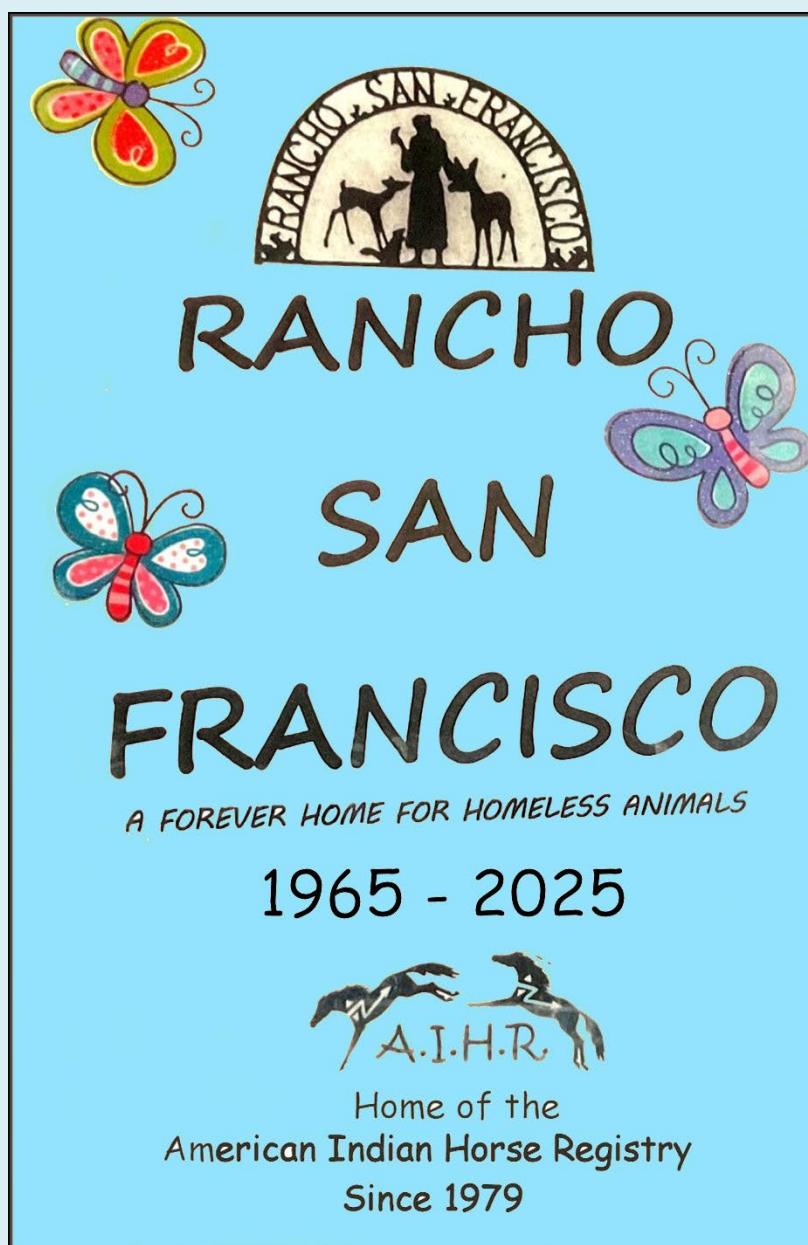
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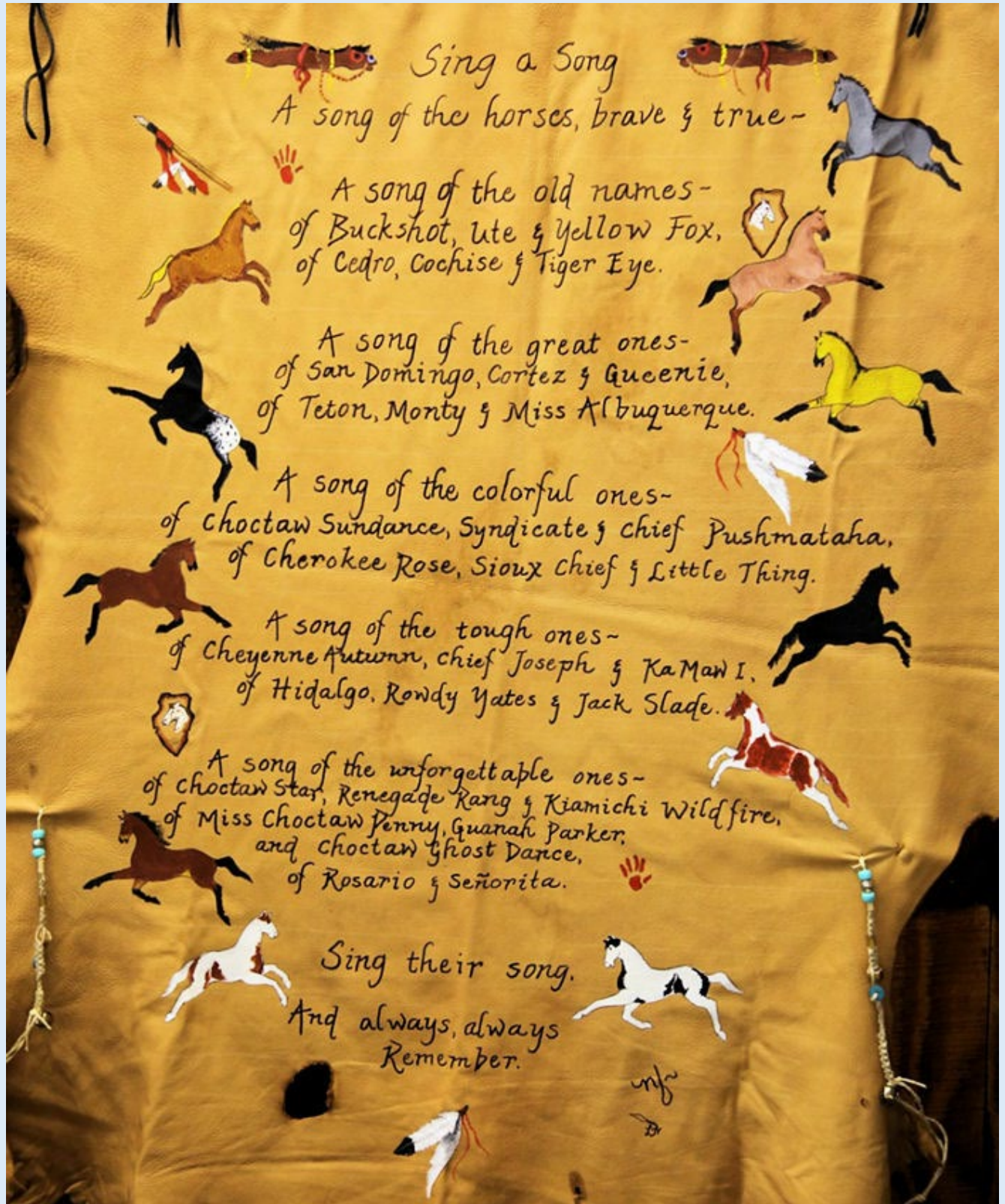
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of Cedro, Cochise & Tiger Eye.

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of Teton, Monty & Miss Albuquerque.

A song of the colorful ones-
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of Cherokee Rose, Sioux Chief & Little Thing.

A song of the tough ones-
of Cheyenne Autumn, Chief Joseph & KaMan I,
of Hidalgo, Rowdy Yates & Jack Slade.

A song of the unforgettable ones-
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of Miss Choctaw Penny, Guana Parker,
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