



SPRING 2003
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THIS ISSUE:

THEIR HISTORY

PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

Special points of interest:

- Follow up to "What's In A Name?"
..... *EVERYTHING*
- Corrections
- Newsflashes
- "Pony Tales"
- "For Sale"
- What IS the Lac La Croix Indian Pony anyway?
- Photo Page—You Compare
- The Work Ahead



TOM OTTERTAIL and
LAC LA CROIX INDIAN PONY—1934
Hauling 2' cubes of ice

The Pony Express

A Fitting Tribute

by Walter McElderry

I was recently contacted by Jill Marshall regarding the proposed name change for the LLCIP. Jill was wondering how I felt about it and suggested that I contact you. I suppose that in a way it is none of my business since I no longer own any ponies. In another sense they are now a part of my own history and I sometimes awaken from dreams of black ponies in the forest. I am with my eldest son and it is bitter cold with deep snow. I feel the heat from the back of **Keokuk** and it is the only part of me that is warm. My feet are going numb inside mukluks, yet it is perfect. I would return to that night in a heartbeat. The forest is silent and moonlit. My son is riding the black mare **Muckadewaazin** (black one, or 'blackie' although commonly called Midnight). The slow walk through the forest is timeless, a kind of shuffling communion with past time when there were no cars or fences or imaginary lines designating Canada and the United States....it was all Turtle Island and is was all In-

dian Country. This is the stuff dreams are made of. I awaken saddened, feeling a moment of loss and wondering where my friend Keokuk is now. I send him a blessing of thankfulness and good wishes. Perhaps he sometimes dreams of me as well. Forgive the wondering thoughts of an old man.

If there is unhappiness over the name of these fine little horses then I am the one to blame. Take it out on me if you wish, although I hope it is too late for any do-gooders to change it to something more acceptable, whatever that might be. I'm sure the ponies don't care. My friend Bob Walker and I discussed the matter when there was first talk about sending some of the ponies over the border to Canada. He asked me what I thought and I told him that we were already calling them Lac La Croix Indian Ponies and had been for some time. Years before, when I first wrote about them for a local paper and later for the Boundary Waters Journal, that's what I called them and it was for a reason. I

wanted to not only designate where the final drama of saving these animals from extinction occurred, but also to honour their heritage and the people who were most directly responsible for saving them.

Lac La Croix is a relatively large border lake and is the home of one village of the Boise Forte Band of Ojibwe. The village was located on the Canadian side of the lake. The other two villages of the Boise Forte are at Nett Lake and at Lake Vermillion, both reservations on the U.S. side of the border. There may be three locations, but they are all one people, inter-related. At the time I lived near Lake Vermillion and counted among my friends some of the people there. To the northeast is Nett Lake where Fred Isham lived and near Pelican Lake where Walter Saatala had his farm. These two men were the central figures in saving the ponies. Fred had relatives at Lac La Croix and became aware that the Canadian Government (whatever your (continued next page.....))

Corrections

Well, it looks like I may need to start a "corrections" section. It seems that we recorded the sires for the two youngsters that gave birth in 2002 (the "un-planned" ones) incorrectly. For those of you keeping track

SENECA of the Fall

2002 issue) is out of Tugwaughi x Little Man.

GI-PI-IZHAA is out of Waawaatesi x Joniia Agawate &

KIJIKABATO is out of Waawaatesi x Fortune's Chance.

It seems you CAN'T run the babies of both sexes together, at least not unproductively so. Apparently these guys

are precocious little beggars in spite of what the books and experts say.

As for the height of the various stallions, if you own a stallion and I haven't measured it, please do so and pass on the height to me. Thanks!