



Wildwood Farm CLIPS & CLOPS Oak Harbor

MARCH 2025

YOUR NEIGH-BORHOOD HULLABALOO

CREATED & EDITED BY HEATHER CARDER

Frank Hayes:

The Jockey Who Won a Race After Dying From a Heart Attack

It is not uncommon for jockeys to feel exhausted by the end of a horse race. It is a physically engaging activity that puts their bodies under large amounts of stress and pressure, which you can tell by the fact that they are often quite out of breath when they are interviewed after the race. We also know that, sadly, horses sometimes die after taking part in a race. Some of them die because of a nasty fall, with broken limbs requiring them to be put to death for the sake of a humane end, rather than allowing them to be in pain. Whilst some jockeys have also died, it's usually not during a race.

That wasn't the case when it came to Frank Hayes. At some point during a race at Belmont Park in New York in 1923, the 35-year-old jockey suffered a massive heart attack. He died instantly, but he didn't fall from his horse. Instead, he remained in the saddle and the horse managed to outrace all of its rivals, winning the steeplechase event by a head. It wasn't until Hayes was approached with congratulations that it was

realized that he had died, but the fact that he was still in his saddle meant that he had won the race, in spite of the fact that he was not actually alive at the time.

Who Was Frank Hayes?

Born in Ireland in 1901, there isn't a huge amount that we actually know about Frank Hayes. What we do know is that at some point he made his way from Ireland to the United States of America, gaining employment as a horse trainer and a stableman. He wasn't really a jockey, but in 1923, he was asked to take on the role of riding in the saddle of a horse named Sweet Kiss. Owned by Miss A. M. Frayling, the horse wasn't particularly well-fancied in the race and was given odds of 20/1. This might have had something to do with Hayes being the rider for the event.

Prior to the beginning of the steeplechase race that Hayes was riding Sweet Kiss in, he had not won a race as a jockey. Whilst this will likely have led to the long odds given by the bookmakers, it didn't stop the owner from asking him to take on the role of jockey. It is possible that his experience as a trainer is what drove the horse on to perform well in the

race, but we obviously don't know the exact moment that he died so that is something that is all but impossible to tell for sure. All we do know is that Frank Hayes was born in Ireland and died in the USA.

What Happened

Belmont Park is a racecourse that had seen its fair share of exciting races prior to June 1923 and saw a good amount afterwards. When Frank Hayes was asked to ride Sweet Kiss in the steeplechase event at the course, he was 140 pounds at the time. He needed to be 130 pounds in order to make the weight, so he put himself through a program to shift the pounds. This is unlikely to have put him in a particularly healthy state ahead of the race, with one of the things being unclear about him was his age at the time, given some suggested he was 35.

If he was born in 1901, as some of the record books appear to suggest, then he would have been 22 years old in 1923. Regardless, losing such a large amount of weight in a relatively short period of time is not something that should be done without the help of professionals. Hayes rode the horse well, getting in front of the favorite for

Continued on page 11.

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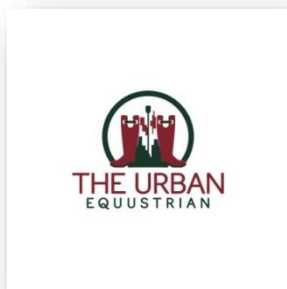
Bakery scents: Cinnamon, blueberry muffin, Strawberry shortcake, Apple Pie, Funnel Cake.

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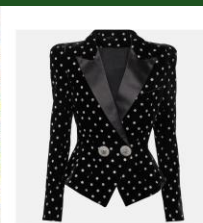
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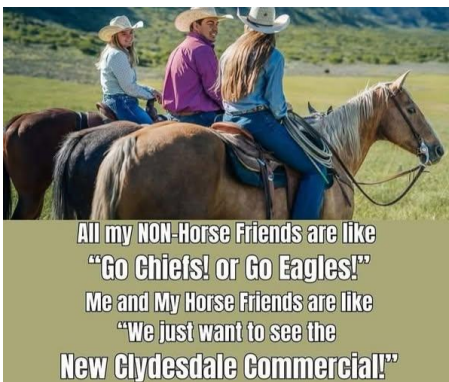
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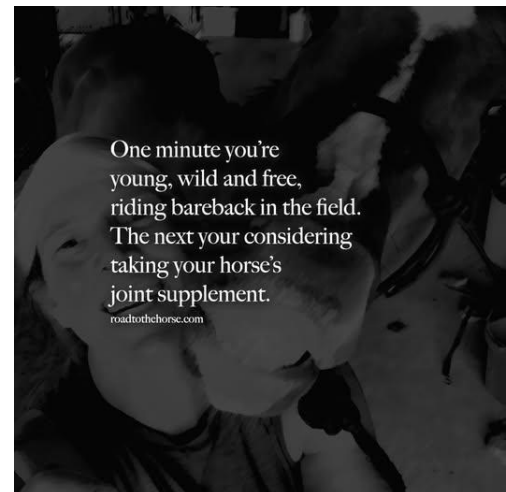


At the annual meeting of the Unicorn-Unibrow Mutual Commiseration Society



Me deciding to invest my financial and mental wellbeing in an animal that regularly dies from constipation

Keyrouse Land & Livestock



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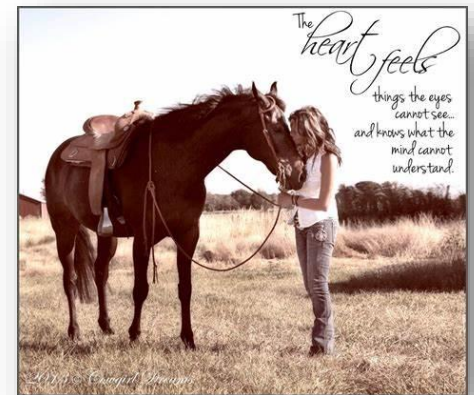
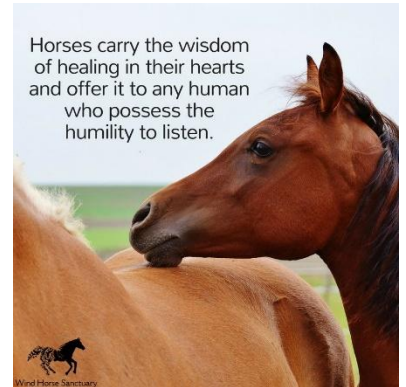
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3 Michigan Horses Test Positive for Strangles

Edited Press Release February 21, 2025

Three horses in Michigan recently tested positive for strangles. The horses live in Genesee and Eaton counties.

In Genesee County, a 20-year-old gelding tested positive on February 19 after developing clinical signs on February 13, including nasal discharge, swollen lymph nodes, and lethargy. The horse is recovering, and two additional cases are suspected.

In Eaton County, two horses are positive, including a 13-year-old pony mare. The pony tested positive on February 19 after developing clinical signs on February 15, including fever and nasal discharge. She is now recovering.

Wyoming Horse Tests Positive for Influenza

Edited Press Release February 18, 2025

One horse at a boarding facility in Albany County, Wyoming, recently tested positive for equine influenza. The horse is under voluntary quarantine.

Equine Influenza Case Confirmed at Florida Boarding Facility

Edited Press Release February 18, 2025

One horse at a boarding facility in Orange County, Florida, recently tested positive for equine influenza. The horse is under voluntary quarantine, and 19 additional cases are suspected.

3 Utah Horses Test Positive for EHV-1

Edited Press Release February 18, 2025

Three horses in Utah recently tested positive for equine herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1). Two horses live in Duchesne County and are under official quarantine. One horse lives in Box Elder County; this horse aborted her foal as a result of the disease and is now under official quarantine.

Florida Mustang Tests Positive for Strangles

Edited Press Release February 14, 2025

A 3-year-old Mustang gelding in Okaloosa County, Florida, recently tested positive for strangles. The horse developed clinical signs on February 7, including submandibular swelling, purulent nasal discharge, and fever. He is under quarantine. This is Florida's eighth confirmed strangles case in 2025.

Second EHM Case Confirmed at California Facility

Edited Press Release February 12, 2025

A 7-year-old gelding at a facility in San Bernardino County, California, has tested positive for equine herpesvirus myeloencephalopathy (EHM) secondary to equine herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1). The gelding is currently alive and under supportive care at his home premises. This is the second confirmed case at this facility; the first case was a 15-year-old Thoroughbred gelding who tested positive earlier this month and was euthanized. In addition, 90 horses are exposed.

Nutrition Corner

Colic Risk and Late Cut Hay

As grasses grow, they become increasingly stemmy, developing a strong stem structure that allows the plant to remain vertical. The components in the plant that provide this strength are known as structural carbohydrates and include such carbohydrates as pectin, fructan, hemicellulose, cellulose, and lignin. Structural carbohydrates exist in cell walls and are difficult for horses to digest. In fact, mammals don't create the enzyme necessary to break down the bonds that hold some of these carbohydrates together. This requires microbial fermentation.

A portion of every herbivore's digestive tract is dedicated to forage fermentation. It contains billions of bacteria that produce the enzymes needed to break apart most structural carbohydrates. However, even the microbes struggle with complex carbohydrates such as lignin, and not all cellulose will be fermented. So, forages that are high in these structural carbohydrates will have reduced overall digestibility.

This leaves somewhat undigested material to negotiate the flexures (bends) of the large colon. Flexures are locations in the horse's digestive tract particularly prone

to becoming impaction colic sites. As the relative proportion of indigestible structural carbohydrate increases, overall digestibility decreases and impaction colic risk rises.

The more mature a plant is when harvested for hay, the greater the relative proportion of these indigestible carbohydrates. A hay cut a couple of months later in the growing season will be far stemmier and contain many more of these indigestible carbohydrates than one cut earlier in the season.

Not all later-cut hays are bad, though. For some horses, a later-cut hay is actually ideal because it typically contains less starch and sugar and has fewer calories, making it a good choice for easy keepers and horses with insulin dysregulation. The trick is to cut the hay late enough to capture these benefits but not so late as to result in increased impaction colic risk.

This is why lab analysis of hay is beneficial. Lab tests can indicate the hay's overall digestibility and the content of some of the structural carbohydrate fractions.

WILDWOOD FARM AND TRIPLE CROWN FEEDS.

Our partnership with Triple Crown began in 2014 through a promotion with the USEF encouraging farm members to compare their current feeding programs with Triple Crown products. We have found the TC products to be superior to other products primarily because of the EquiMix technology and the research support of a leading-edge team including independent representatives of Equine Universities, Medical clinics and top-level riders and trainers

Meet Monty Strikes Gold

For a very brief time in 2005 we owned a rugged little appy gelding named Monty. We thought he would be a good choice for a lesson horse but much of his story had gone untold...until he arrived at Wildwood Farm.

The Enumclaw auction was always a fun way to spend a Sunday shopping for deals on tack and horses, as long as your eyes were open and you understood that the auction is probably not the place to find the polished, trained horses. But our farm had some great horse people working there and we figured as long as they weren't killers and were reasonably sound, we could make them work.

When we saw Monty, he was not much to look at, but he had this wise expression in his eyes and such a calm demeanor that we were worried he had been drugged. The cowboy that was selling him was from a ranch in Idaho where they were thinning their herd, and Monty was getting up in age so they thought a quick sale at the auction would be best – they brought about 20 horses that day.



He seemed to have all the right training, was a gem with the kiddos riding him, was not phased by the arena – so we bid and took him home for \$600.00.

Once at Wildwood Farm Monty settled in well, was the perfect gentleman in the grooming areas, a prince to be tacked up, relaxed in the arena. And he had a very pleasant and forward walk. But this is where the honeymoon ended.

Monty did not do anything more than a walk for some apparent reason. If you asked him to move on, he would plant his feet and become like a stone, and nothing would change his mind. We had some good trainers who were scratching their heads, and Monty was never cured of his one-gait-only stance. We ended up selling him to a back-woods packer and last we heard he was doing great. Go figure!

Can you solve the horse sale brain teaser?

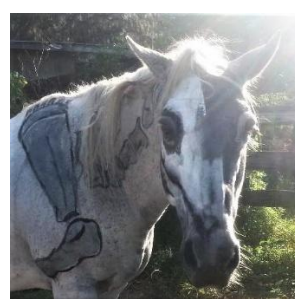
A man buys a horse for \$60, then sells it for \$70. He buys the horse back for \$80, and then sells the horse for \$90.

*How much money did he make or lose?
Did he break even?*



**In perfect harmony, I glide with grace,
A dancer's rhythm sets the pace.
What am I, a creature of art,
Dancing with a rider's heart?**

AIRBRUSHED HORSES!



Duke of Wellington Statue

This stately monument has been wearing a traffic cone hat for decades much to the delight of the locals.

Glasgow, Scotland



Maybe one of the most iconic locations in the architecturally rich city of Glasgow, the Duke of Wellington Statue has been harmlessly adorned with an unauthorized traffic cone chapeau since the 1980's and has become so beloved that locals actively encourage the victimless vandalism.

The statue, located just outside of Glasgow's Gallery of Modern Art and has graced the city's urban center since its establishment in 1844. However, sometime during the 1980's, cheeky passersby began climbing the proud equestrian statue's plinth and placing a traffic cone on the Duke's head. No one is sure who started the tradition, but inebriated tricksters kept replacing the traffic cone each time the city would take it down. The image of the Duke with his bright orange hat became so common that most came to accept it as the standard look of the statue and it became a popular photo spot for visitors.

In 2013, the city of Glasgow began to work on a proposal that would have increased the height of the statue's plinth in an attempt to discourage the practice. However, the Glaswegian public was outraged and formed campaigns to put a stop to the proposal. Outcry against the upgrade was so strong that the city abandoned the plan altogether.

The prankish practice does not seem to symbolize anything greater than the playful spirit of certain Glaswegians, but that seems to have been more than enough to make sure the Duke of Wellington's head will not get cold anytime soon.



The Camarillo White Horse



The Camarillo White Horse is a rare breed of horse that is only 100 years old. This unique breed originates in America, developed by Adolfo Camarillo.

In 1921, Camarillo acquired a white Spanish Mustang by the name of Sultan. Camarillo showed Sultan with much success, winning several stock championships throughout California. Camarillo decided to breed Sultan to Morgan mares, which led to the development of the Camarillo White Horse.

After Camarillo's death, his daughter continued his work in the development of this special breed. The Camarillo White horse became a favorite to use in parades and festivals, as well as jumping, dressage, and western. They have a compact, yet refined body, strong legs, and a well-arched neck.

Camarillo White Horses carry a specific gene mutation that prevents their coats from expressing any color. They are the only breed to carry this distinct gene mutation. Unlike gray horses that are born dark and lighten over age, Camarillo White Horses are born white.

Facts About The Camarillo White Horse

- There are only around 30 Camarillo White Horses.
- To be registered, at least one parent must be a Camarillo White Horse, but the other one can be from an approved breed, including certain Andalusian and Standardbred bloodlines.
- There is a Camarillo, California, where the Camarillo White Horse is the official horse.
- Camarillo White Horses have been in the Tournament of Roses Parade and the Santa Barbara Fiesta Parade.
- Famous people have ridden Camarillo White Horses including Ronald Reagan and movie star Leo Carrillo.

Cont'd from page 1

the race, Gimme. The 20/1 shot was to provide something of a shock result, though it was the owner of the horse and other connections that got the biggest shock when the race was run and they approached the jockey, slumped in the saddle.

The track doctor, John A. Voorhees, immediately approached the body of Hayes and declared him to be dead. Upon inspection, he decided that he had suffered from a heart attack. It was reported in the Brooklyn Daily Eagle that the 'grim reaper paid a sensational visit to Belmont Park', with the general feeling being that 'the exertion and excitement proved too great'. Hayes was, they said, "Well-liked...a favorite in the saddling room and stable and took a great pride in his calling." As for the horse, it never rode again, being given the unofficial nickname of 'Sweet Kiss of Death'.

When Did He Die?

It is now 100 years since Frank Hayes died, but when the heart attack actually struck him remains a mystery. During his career, Sweet Kiss was believed to have won \$1,775 in earnings, suggesting that it was a horse with some talent. The Head Librarian at Keeneland Library, Roda Ferraro, spoke to CNN about the matter and admitted that the documentation that they had on Hayes was 'limited'. It was pointed out that there is a remarkable photograph of Hayes on Sweet Kiss, taken mid-jump, which is surprising given the photographers of the day were not steeplechase specialists.

The Guinness World Records claimed without question that Hayes had died during the race itself. It said, "Despite his sudden death, Hayes somehow remained in the saddle long enough for the 20-1 long shot to jump the final fence and cross the finish line in first place." Whilst we know that horses continue to jump fences even though they've lost their jockey, it does seem unlikely that he would have been able to remain in place without the ability to hold onto the reins. With this in mind, it seems likely that he died either jumping the final fence or soon after making the jump.

In the week following his death, Hayes was buried wearing the riding silks that he had on in the race. They were the colors that he was wearing when he achieved his first ever win in the saddle, which also happened to be his last race of any kind. If you're going to go out, then doing so in a way that sees you not only notch up the first win of your career but also entering the record books at the same time is a pretty impressive achievement. Over 100 years later Hayes remains the only jockey to have a win to his name despite being dead at the time.

The Rules Don't Specify That Riders Have to Be Alive

It might seem strange, but the rules of racing don't actually dictate that a jockey must be alive in order to be crowned the winner. It is, in fairness, not something that anyone would have thought needed to be spelt out and the records in the years since Hayes' win bear that out. As a result, the fact that he died during the running of the event at Belmont Park does not, in and of itself, mean that he was excluded from being awarded the win. The only thing that might have scuppered it is the fact that jockeys are normally weighed in after races, but that didn't happen.

Instead, the Jockey Club immediately declared the result to be valid without the weighing-in procedure being carried out. In the defense of race organizers, it would be an almost impossible thing to decide upon. Even though Hayes was dead, it still feels crude to have taken the win away from him. It would also be difficult to justify why the horse in second place should be declared the winner, considering the fact that another horse finished in front of it with a jockey in the saddle. While it's unprecedented, declaring him as the winner of the race was the only correct thing to do.



WILDWOOD FARM Clips & Clops Newsletter

History of the Steeplechase

The steeplechase originated in Ireland in the 18th century as an analogue to cross-country thoroughbred horse races which went from church steeple to church steeple, hence "steeplechase". The first steeplechase is said to have been the result of a wager in 1752 between Cornelius O'Callaghan and Edmund Blake, racing four miles cross-country from St John's Church in Buttevant to St Mary's Church in Doneraile, in Cork, Ireland. An account of the race was believed to have been in the library of the O'Briens of Dromoland Castle. Most of the earlier steeplechases were contested cross-country rather than on a track, and resembled English cross country as it exists today. The first recorded steeplechase over a prepared track with fences was run at Bedford in 1810, although a race had been run at Newmarket in 1794 over a mile with five-foot bars every quarter mile. And the first recorded steeplechase of any kind in England took place in Leicestershire in 1792, when three horses raced the eight miles from Barkby Holt to Billesdon Coplow and back.



Modern usage of the term "steeplechase" differs between countries. In Ireland and Great Britain, it refers only to races run over large, fixed obstacles, in contrast to "hurdle" races where the obstacles are much smaller. The collective term "jump racing" or "National Hunt racing" is used when referring to steeplechases and hurdle races collectively (although, properly speaking, National Hunt racing also includes some flat races). Elsewhere in the world, "steeplechase" is used to refer to any race that involves jumping obstacles.

The most famous steeplechase in the world is the Grand National run annually at Aintree Racecourse, in Liverpool, since its inception in 1836 (the official race was held three years later), which in 2014 offered a prize fund of £1 million.

In the United States, there are two forms of steeplechasing (or jumps racing): hurdle and timber. Hurdle races occur almost always over the National fences, standardized plastic and steel fences that are 52 inches tall, with traditional natural fences of packed pine and live hedges in use on a few courses. The hurdle horse is trained to jump in as much of a regular stride as possible. This allows the horse to maintain its speed upon landing. Since it is not always possible to meet a fence in stride, the horses are also schooled in how to jump out of stride. Hurdle races are commonly run at distances of 2–3 miles.

Timber racing is conducted over solid and immovable wooden rail fences that, in the most extreme case, may reach five feet (1.5 m) high. The distances are longer, ranging from three to four miles, and the jumping effort required of the horse is much different. Because of the size of the fences and their solid and unyielding construction, a timber horse is trained to jump with an arc, unlike a hurdle racer. An important factor in success at timber racing is for the horse to land in stride, so that it can carry its speed forward on the flat part of the race course. This is harder than in hurdle races because the nature of the obstacle being jumped. Timber races currently are not held at any major US tracks (since the fences are not portable) but can be found at almost all steeplechase meets.