



Wildwood Farm CLIPS & CLOPS Oak Harbor

JULY 2024

YOUR NEIGH-BORHOOD HULLABALOO

CREATED & EDITED BY HEATHER CARDER

Wesley Dennis

The Prolific Equine Illustrator

The first book I remember getting for Christmas when I was a child was "Album of Horses" by Marguerite Henry and illustrated by Wesley Dennis. That book captured my horse-lovin' heart at a young age, and I memorized every breed, every pictured, every story until I could recite it by heart. I also loved to draw horses, and when my mother signed me up for painting lessons when I was 7, the first horse I painted was Wesley Dennis's white Arabian from this book – I still have that painting somewhere, I'm sure.

To say Wesley Dennis made an impact on me at a young age is an understatement, and I know I am not alone. So many horse crazy kids grew up with his books – Misty, Seastar, Justin Morgan, the White Stallions of Lipizza; these books now transport us to a time of innocence, a time when the simple sight of a horse made us catch our breath, a

time before the knowing began and we started to grow up. In tribute I've compiled a brief story of this incredible artist who touched so many lives, made such an impression on our young hearts and minds. This is the story of the equine illustrator, Wesley Dennis.

John Wesley Dennis was born on May 16, 1903, in Falmouth, Massachusetts. His father, John W. Dennis, met his mother, Miss Ida Morgan, in a tearoom where she was a waitress. Wesley had an older brother named Morgan.

Wesley wrote that the first horse he can remember was the family horse he used to hitch to the cart to go to the train station and pick up his father, who only came home to Cape Cod on the weekends. The horse was called Tony. After Tony died, Wesley acquired a "bobtailed, high-stepping saddle horse" from a woman for whom his mother made dresses. Since his father would only let him keep "Bob" if could be useful in some way, Wesley got him to wear a harness to help cultivate turnips. He would also ride Bob bareback to and

from school. One Saturday afternoon he saw a newsreel in town, and it changed his whole life. Men in white breeches and helmets were whacking a ball as they rode galloping horses. It looked like fun -- but the way he said 'fun' to his mother over the supper table made it a big word shot through with speed, excitement, competition. Young Wesley was smitten with the game of polo.

Although his mother had hopes he would become postmaster, he dropped out of high school at age 17 after failing the entrance exam for the Naval Academy in Annapolis. He moved to Boston where his older brother Morgan was working as an artist for the *Boston Herald*. He initially lived with Morgan and got his first job at the *Boston American* by using his brother's sketches! While in Boston, he also attended the New School of Design. Over those ten years, he did fashion advertising sketches for the newspapers for department stores, such as Filene's and Jordan Marsh
Continued on page 11

WHAT'S TRENDING NOW

SilTriangle 5 Pcs 7 Colors LED Horse Breastplate Collar And Horse Leg Band Set USB Rechargeable Light Up Adjustable Safety Gear LED Horse Harness

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Easy to turn on/off adjustable Breastplate Collar offers ideal fit with adjustable strap and hooks under belly to the girth. long lasting charging time of 4 hours provides 4 hours of illumination. The light up Horse Leg Bands add more brilliance and are adjustable from 9-12 inches ideal for most horse sizes.

The horse LED light gear is ideal for equestrian shows, night walks, and parades; Make your horse the center of attention, illuminate your horse for better visibility increasing the safety of riders and horses, and allow drivers to notice them more easily to avoid accidents; It makes an ideal gift for kids, friends, or night horse riding enthusiasts!

Available on Amazon.com

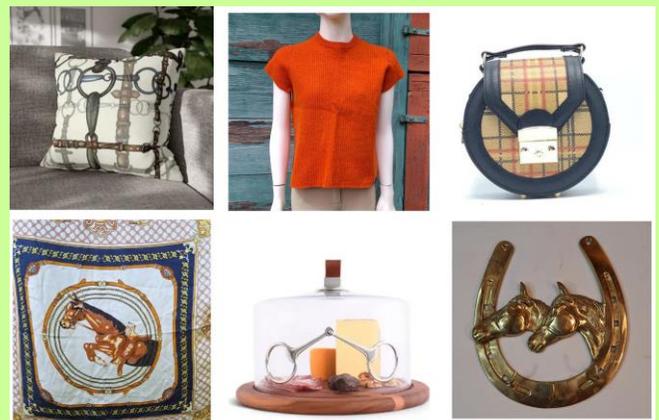


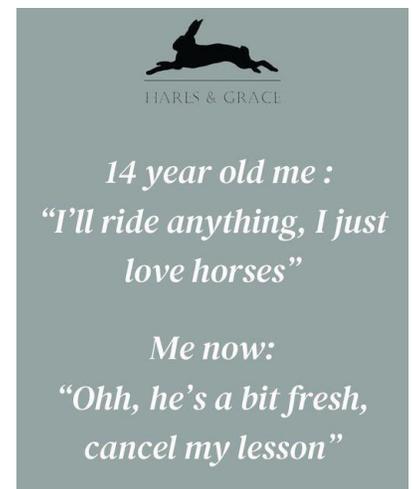
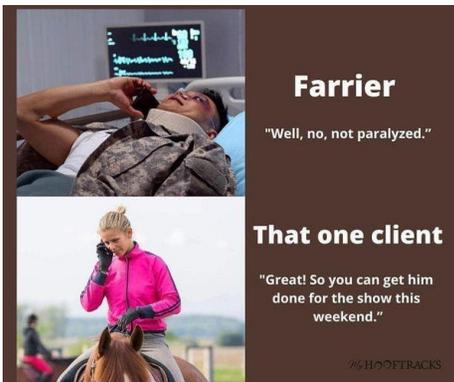
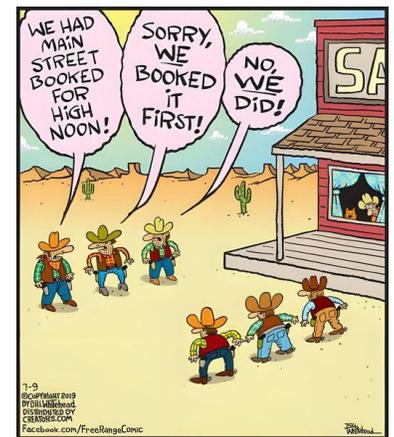
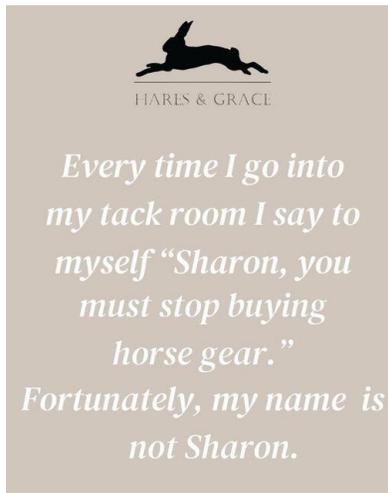
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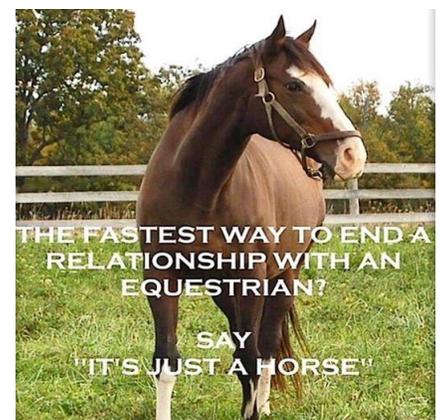
New Items for June





My wife just got to the barn, told the horse how cute he is and how much she loves him. She held his face in her hands, stared into his eyes and gave him forehead kisses. She then left the barn.

I'm standing right next to the horse.

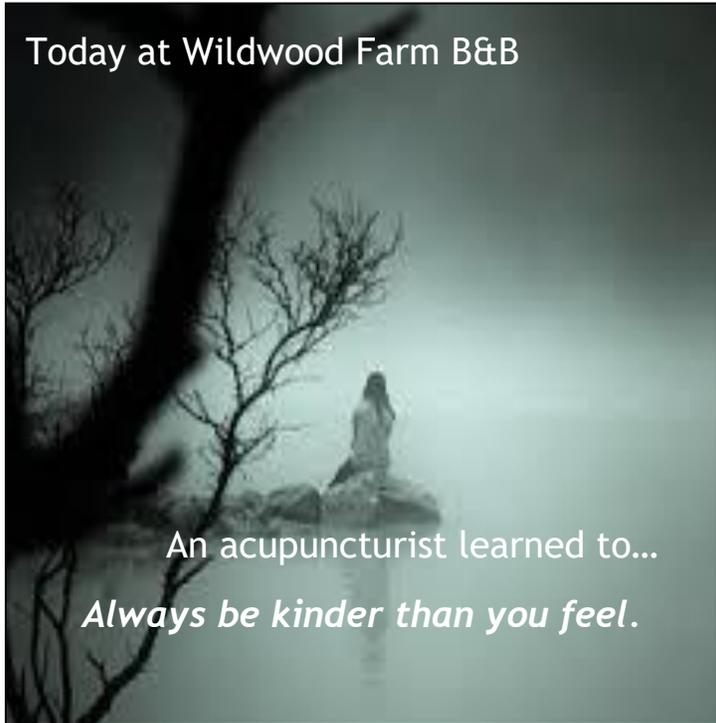


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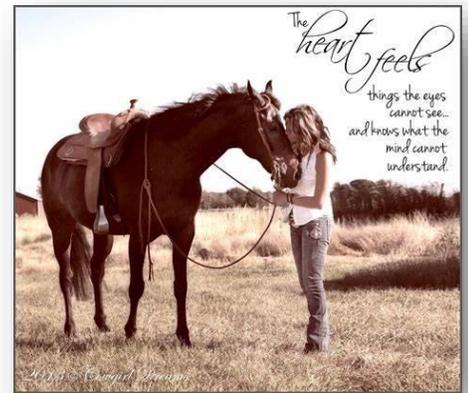
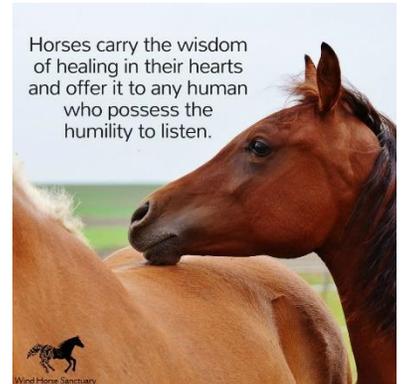
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4 wild horses die of injuries, 11 total deaths in roundup north of Las Vegas.

Story by Greg Haas •



LAS VEGAS— Four wild horses died from injuries received during a roundup about 150 miles north of Las Vegas that concluded on June 29, according to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Two of the horses had broken necks and two had broken legs.

Horses were lured to corrals using hay and water over a three-month bait and trap roundup that began in early April and ended over the weekend. A total of 382 horses were captured, BLM records show. In addition to the four acute deaths, seven horses were put to death because of conditions that BLM officials said would have prevented the animals from surviving in the wild.

The roundup on the Caliente Complex — a 911,892-acre range of BLM-managed, private and other lands — had a goal of removing 350 horses to transport to three facilities in Utah for adoption. The range stretches from Panaca south to the Mormon Mountains at the Clark County line and from Delamar Valley east to the Utah state line.

Wild horse, burro advocates concerned with 'black hole' facility BLM will send animals
Records show details on the four wild horses that died of injuries:

April 18: 8-year-old, Palomino mare unexpectedly died, fractured neck.

May 19: 5-year-old, Black mare humanely euthanized due to fractured leg.

May 21: 8-year-old, Roan mare humanely euthanized due to fractured neck.

May 27: 15-year-old, Black stallion humanely euthanized due to fractured leg.

No helicopters were used in the roundup.

Roundups using helicopters have been heavily criticized after videos surfaced showing horses going down as they tried to elude capture. But no observers were allowed at the Caliente roundup. "Due to the nature of the bait and water trap method, wild horses are reluctant to approach the trap site when there is too much activity; therefore, only essential gather operations personnel will be allowed at the trap site during gather operations," according to a statement on the BLM's website

BLM said the Caliente Complex is managed for "zero wild horses due to insufficient forage and water, but livestock grazing is allowed by permit."

On Tuesday, BLM announced a roundup scheduled to begin on Monday, July 8, near Lovelock on and around the Blue Wing Complex using helicopters. The BLM plans to gather and remove approximately 1,373 excess wild horses and 356 excess wild burros.

Nutrition Corner

Your Horse Needs to Maintain Their Hydration!

There could be many reasons why your horse typically doesn't drink much particularly when he's in a stall. First, it's possible that he doesn't drink much water when he's outside, either. But because he likely must drink from a large trough or an automatic waterer, it might not be easy to tell how much he consumes when he's turned out.

He also might not have much desire to drink because he's used to eating fresh pasture grass with a high water content and, therefore, typically does not need to consume as much water. However, when stall-bound and fed dry hay, he should be replacing the water he was consuming as moisture in the grass by drinking water. If he doesn't, his colic risk is increased, so it is important that he stays hydrated.

If you are not currently adding salt source to your horse's daily feed ration and are unsure as to how much water he is drinking when out on pasture, you should consider adding more sodium to his diet to stimulate thirst. You can achieve this by

the electrolyte that you added to the water. Sodium is very common in electrolytes and helps trigger a desire to drink. However, not all electrolytes contain very much sodium, so you should check the concentration and make sure that the electrolyte you are using lists salt or chloride as the first ingredient.

A cheaper option is to just give your horse an ounce of table salt each day; this is equivalent to about 2 tablespoons of salt. An easy rule of thumb is a tablespoon of salt per 500 pounds of body weight. Remember that a 1,100-pound horse consuming 1.5% of body weight of hay per day should be drinking approximately 5 to 7.5 gallons of water per day when not working; when working that requirement goes up to 9.5 to 24 gallons, depending on the work.

Finally, make sure your horse has access to a plain salt block at all times so that he can consume more salt as he feels the need.

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 Sunny Breeze

In early April we received a call from a determined Teresa Richards who had adopted a little mini from a rescue organization in Fort Worth, Texas. Though she and her husband live on Mercer Island in Seattle, they bought a little hobby farm in Bow and the dream was to populate it with a couple of minis and some other small farm animals once they decided to retire, which was still a few years away. However, Teresa could not help herself when she saw this little girl who the rescue had named Itty Bitty, and she knew she had to rescue her from what appeared to be a pretty rough life.

When Teresa first contacted us, she was told by the rescue that this little girl was only a baby – a yearling. She was a little sick and had some various issues with her eyes (from the flies she was told) and perhaps a mishap with another horse she was sheltered with. But as the weeks went on and the rescue was getting more and more difficult to contact, both Teresa and I were a bit worried that there might have been some scamming going on. The pictures of Itty Bitty that were sent were also used to campaign for more donations, so doubt was creeping in.

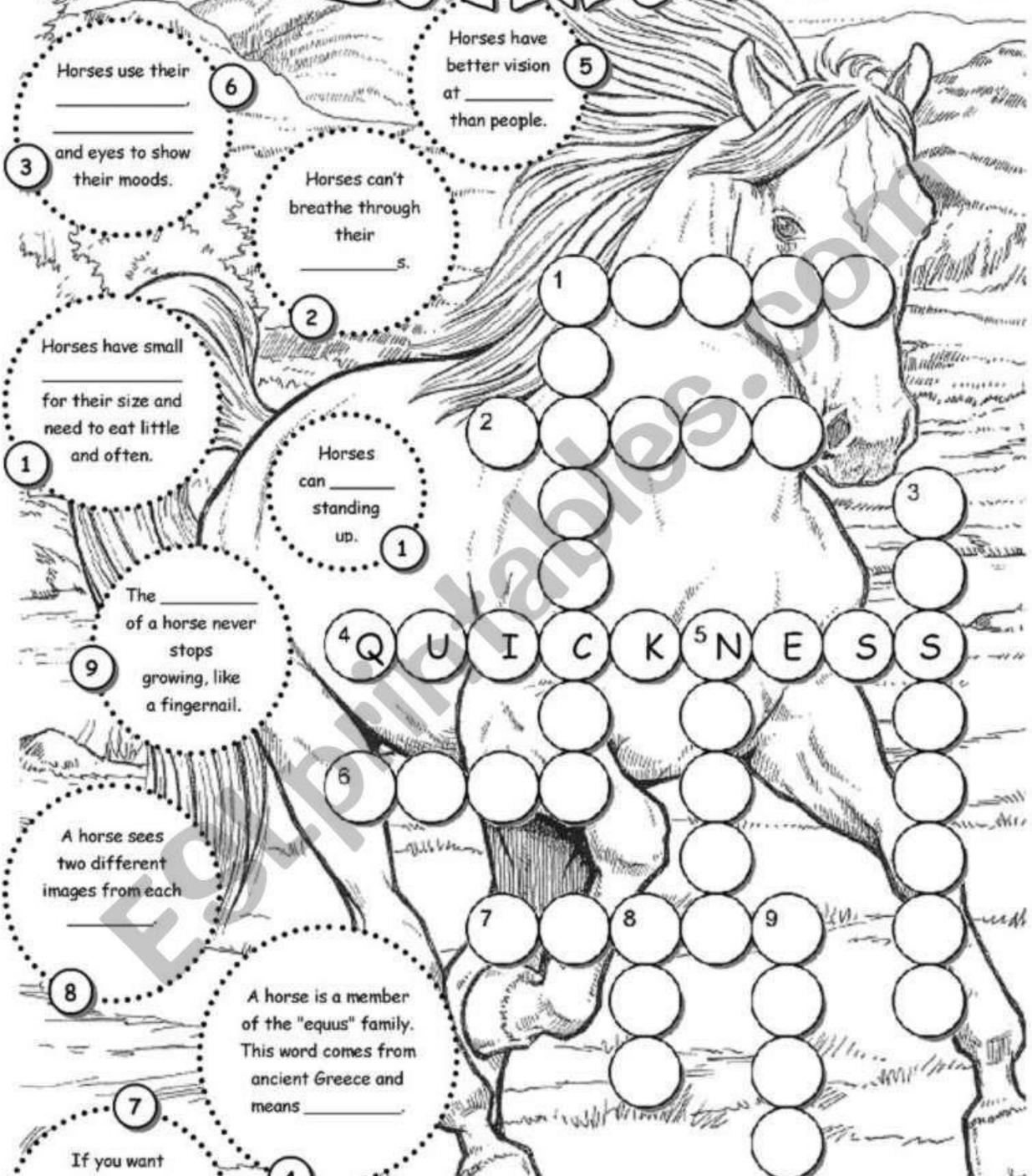


Finally in May Teresa was able to get a veterinarian out there and the process to get her shipped to Washington was finally started – the little filly was real and was being rescued just in time.

Itty Bitty made the long trip from Fort Worth to Bow and arrived on May 31st, and although the carrier took excellent care of her, she was in pretty sad shape when she arrived. She was skinny with patchy hair, swollen eyes and very long feet. She had to stay in our quarantine barn for 2 weeks, but it was a great opportunity for her to start to feel safe again and set out on the road to recovery. An initial vet exam offered another surprise – Itty Bitty (now named Sunny Breeze) was actually about 3 ½ years old!

Today Sunny is getting stronger and gaining the weight she so needed, and good consistent nutrition is making her coat shine and her eyes sparkle. She is a little queen, and she knows it. We are so happy Sunny Breez is a part of our herd!

INTERESTING FACTS



Horses use their _____
_____ and eyes to show their moods.

Horses have better vision at _____ than people.

Horses have small _____ for their size and need to eat little and often.

Horses can't breathe through their _____.

The _____ of a horse never stops growing, like a fingernail.

Horses can _____ standing up.

A horse sees two different images from each _____.

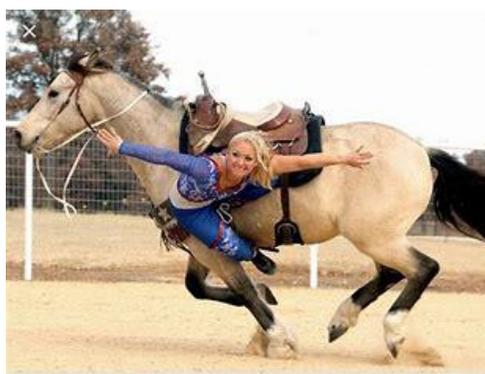
A horse is a member of the "equus" family. This word comes from ancient Greece and means _____.

If you want to know how old a horse is, all you need to do is to count its _____.

4 Q U I C K 5 N E S S

ABOUT HORSES

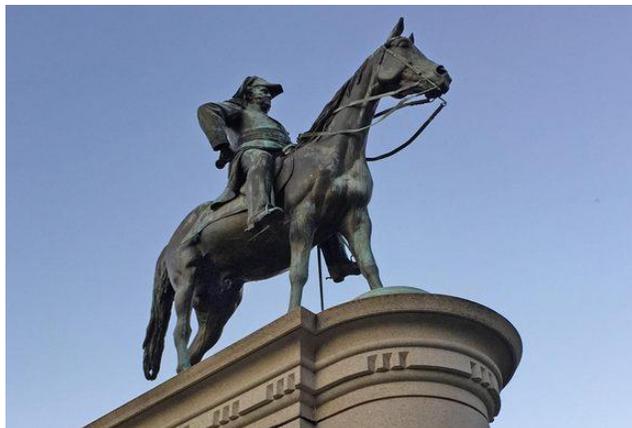
FABULOUS TRICK HORSES!



The Winfield Scott Memorial

Washington, D.C.

The sculptor was instructed to add “stallion attributes” to the general's bronze mare.



THE MEMORIAL TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL Winfield Scott enjoys distinction as the first and only example of equine sex change statuary in Washington. The horse started off as a female and is now endowed with a stately bronze phallus.

General Scott was a hero of the War of 1812 and the highest-ranking military officer at the start of the Civil War. Acclaimed sculptor Henry Jackson Ellicott faithfully captured the battlefield image of Scott seated atop his favorite mare, but just before it was set to be cast a family member came to the artist with a modest suggestion.

The family member thought that surely, a masculine mount would better befit the acclaimed strategist and architect of the war-winning Anaconda Plan. Would the artist be so kind as to add some “stallion attributes” to the general’s horse? The artist grumbled his displeasure but complied, slapping a penis onto the steed before sending it off to casting shops in Providence.

The finished sculpture was unveiled to great criticism in 1874, and the burrito-sized phallus has been staring down at pedestrians ever since. Authors and historians consider it to be one of the city’s worst equestrian statues because of its poor proportions.

The Yonaguni Horse



If you travel to the Yaeyama Islands of Japan and stop by the Island of Yonaguni, one of the westernmost points, you may be in for the treat of a lifetime beyond the scenic views. Yonaguni island is known for being home to the Yonaguni horse or Yonaguni Uma. If you stay for long enough, you will see these strong, small horses roaming the shores of the island or walking through the turquoise waters with children on their backs.

However, these unique Yonaguni ponies are classified as “precious cultural assets” amongst the Japanese population as, since industrialization, their numbers have dropped dramatically. In fact, in 2020, there were just 130 Yonaguni ponies accounted for on the island and in Japan, overall. As they are 1 of just 8 horse breeds native to Japan and are thus, incredibly important creatures for the country in terms of their rich history and contribution to the deep culture.

As far as how they ended up on Yaeyama Island, one legend believes the local breed to have been brought from the Korean Peninsula of Cheju in ancient times. While the other claims that they hailed from the southern islands over 2000 years ago. Their origin remains a mystery. Eventually, however, they became commonplace in Japanese households and played an integral role in carrying items and therefore, assisting with farm labor.

Though, as machine use proliferated with industrialization in the twentieth century, the Yonaguni horse was bred less and less frequently as the need for them fell. During this time, many horses that were once bred to be workhorses on farms began to be bred as war horses instead. But because of the Yonaguni breed’s small size, they were left out of this trade. The Yonaguni numbers dropped even further until they were almost lost entirely. Now, they are protected by conservationists and left to roam the island. Thus, their population remains small, but it is no longer decreasing.

The breed is known for its gentle and pleasant nature. They are content lying on the beach or carrying travelers on their backs. They do not startle easily and have a calm disposition. They are strong and were thus used to carry food and supplies in ancient times. Though they no longer serve such purposes, they remain muscular and sturdy horses.

Yonaguni horses have a height at the withers of just 11- 12 hands which classifies them as ponies; the height separating a pony from and a horse is about 14 hands. The breed’s average pony usually weighs around 450 lbs. You will find Yonagunis in various colors and usually, they are solid as opposed to a mix of many. Most commonly, these ponies are bay, tan, brown, cremello, or roan.

Cont'd from page 1

Company. Although it provided a steady income, he later described those years as “the most boring years of my life, and when it comes time to die, I hope God won’t count them.” Newspaper ads for Filene’s at one point advertised “Personalized Christmas cards designed for you by Mr. J. Wesley Dennis.” Fifty cards cost \$10.

His brother Morgan eventually made a career etching and painting dogs. Wesley was more interested in horses. He eventually joined the Massachusetts National Guard Cavalry so he could have access to horses without the expense. He was very interested in playing polo and found that he could purchase a couple of polo ponies and keep them at the Commonwealth Armory at the expense of the government - as long as they could be used in an emergency. He requested (and was granted) the job of grooming the horses at Camp Devins. “It is one of the best ways to learn the shape of a horse,” he said. Wesley also made extra money by doing charcoal sketches of the officers, charging them according to rank.

Somewhere around this time, Wesley met and married Mrs. Olive Garland. She was a widow living in Buzzards Bay. The Garlands had a ranch in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The bleached skeletons of horses provided him with good anatomy lessons. They ended up divorcing, but Wesley remained a friend of the family and he was renting a studio in Buzzards Bay from his stepson at the time of his death.

Wesley eventually wrote to the animal and landscape artist Lowes Dalbiac Luard, who lived in Paris, asking him to be his teacher. Mr. Luard replied that he did not take students but would help in any way he could. With that hopeful response, Wesley left for France. Mr. Luard stressed to Wesley the importance of memory; he would set out a cup and saucer, only for a minute, then take it away, and ask that it be drawn from memory. The ability to clearly remember distinct images served Wesley well in his illustrations. Mr. Luard also took him to butcher shops to study the musculature and anatomy of horses (the French were avid horsemeat lovers at this time). Wesley returned from France in 1932.

After returning he spent a lot of time at racetracks sketching horses; and if he was lucky, selling the sketches to the owners of winning horses. He also did some work for newspapers such as The Boston Globe. One of his early breaks was a commission from Esquire magazine to paint a series of famous horses from various breeds. He also sent a portfolio of horse portraits to Bing Crosby after hearing he liked horses. He hoped Mr. Crosby would buy one, and to Wesley’s surprise, he bought all of them.

In the late 1930s, while playing polo at Coonamessett on Cape Cod, he met Miss Dorothy Schiller Boggs and they soon after married. While on their honeymoon in Santa Fe, New Mexico, he met May Massey, juvenile editor for Viking Press. He asked her if she knew of any work illustrating children’s books. Ms. Massey did not, but she suggested he write and illustrate his own book, leading to the creation of Flip, a beginning reader about a colt who wants to jump a stream like his mother; this was published in 1941. This was followed by Flip and the Cows in 1942 and Flip and the Morning in 1951.

Around the time of this first Flip book famous children’s author Marguerite Henry was searching for an illustrator for her book, Justin Morgan Had a Horse. She didn’t like any of the samples of art the publisher supplied, so she went to the library and looked at children’s books. There she found Wesley Dennis’ book, Flip, and she knew he was the one. When Justin Morgan Had a Horse was published in 1945, Wesley became famous, and remained famous (and hard working) for the rest of his life. His illustrations were funny and true to the animal at the same time.

That same year in 1945, Wesley visited friends in Warrenton, Virginia, who convinced him to move there. He bought a 120-acre farm where he kept horses, ponies, dogs, ducks and a pet crow named Charlie.

WILDWOOD FARM Clips & Clops Newsletter

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Two years later, in 1947, the next book he illustrated for Marguerite, *Misty of Chincoteague*, was published. And in 1948, *King of the Wind* was published – one of the most beloved children’s book of all time. In 1946, Wesley illustrated *Black Beauty*, a very popular horse story and John Steinbeck, who won a Pulitzer Prize, asked Wesley to illustrate his book, *The Red Pony*, in 1948.

In a 1956 interview, Marguerite said, “This artist saw beyond hide and hair and bone. You could see that he loved animals, that he was trying to capture their spirit, personality and expression.” Marguerite worked with Wesley for twenty years.

Wesley illustrated 150 books and was enthusiastic and energetic about everything he did. Over ten million copies of his books have been printed in ten languages and are still on bookseller and library shelves today. He painted portraits of horses, dogs and people, and illustrated many things in his lifetime, like magazines and cartoons that are considered collector’s items today.

His art captured the motion and facial expression of animals so accurately that it is instantly recognizable, a true artistic icon for generations. In 1966 at age 63 Wesley died from a heart attack. He was a resident of Warrenton at his summer residence of Falmouth and had been ill for six months prior.

Here is just a sample of the books Wesley Dennis Illustrated:

Flip, written by Dennis (1941)
Born To Trot (1950)
Brighty of the Grand Canyon (1953)
Black Gold (1957)

Flip and the Cows, Dennis (1942)
Flip and the Morning, Dennis (1951)
Cinnabar, the One O’Clock Fox (1956)
Stormy, Misty’s Foal (1963)

Sea Star, Orphan of Chincoteague (1949)
Album of Horses (1951)
Old Bones: The Wonder Horse (1956)
White Stallion of Lipizza (1964)

