



Our Mission: Preserve and share our family's agricultural heritage while providing a safe place for individuals and families to learn, compete and enjoy outdoor recreation.

January 2011

Happenings

FROM MAUREEN

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After my crazy world traveling of November, I settled into my "normal routine" back at home. We had 6-8" of snow right before Thanksgiving (and a wonderful dinner in the almost-built new home of my youngest son) and then December produced some really wet weather. Forecasters had warned us of **cold and wet winter**, and so far they haven't been far off. Our Game Show numbers in December suffered the effects of the day's downpour and threatening floods, so we cut the fee down to our regular arena fee and let everybody run the various games for practice. I know I enjoyed the "stew in a bread bowl" from Grandpa's Grub with the wet and cold weather. January has so far produced cold weather with spits of snow and the ground staying frozen. Just in time for our monthly Terri Lessons it was again threatening white stuff.....a couple folks canceled due to black ice in their area but all others showed up and enjoyed great lessons with Terri. The snow was coming down heavy within minutes of Terri pulling out of the driveway Sunday evening. Prediction is for more white stuff tonight.....I admit to enjoying it at times. You may want to check before heading this way when in doubt about an event and the day's weather.

Christmas Eve with my 4 sons and two daughters-in-law. We agreed to no presents, but somehow Santa snuck 7 packages under the tree. We had about an hour of non-stop laughter as orange Nerf bullets from seven guns filled the air of my living room/kitchen! Nobody was safe and no mercy was shown, not even to "the ol' gray-haired mom". I found bullets in the tree and various nooks and crannies for a several days. I spent Christmas Day, as traditional, with my (Mahoney) family.

I know word has gotten out, so I need to put the rampant rumors to rest and clarify as best I can. Early 2010, after getting the "all clear" following his cancer treatments, Ken decided to actively pursue his interest that lay in someone else, no longer me and/or the ranch. I did finally tell a few people in the early fall and was over whelmed by the offers of places to stay, the gift of my wonderful Holland Fairy Tale Come True trip, and those who "check up on me" regularly to make sure I am OK. THANK YOU to each of you—who know who you are and how you help—for stepping forward to help me through this transition of my life. Apparently I am embarking on a new adventure. I owe so much to neighbor Mitch Casey (and his wife Bunny). Mitch built all the new jumps for the 2010 Horse Trial and helped me prep/set-up/run/teardown all the 2010 events. He mowed/raked/baled all the hay, hauled Beauty and Bill to and from OSU for me, did my chores and kept an eye on the place when I was traveling, has done maintenance work for me, helped me get in my winter wood supply (my only source of heat in the house), and helped me with some long-neglected work on the house and barns on that side of the road. Mitch has been my primary support. He says he will continue to be here for me and will help me in every way he can to see Happ's continue successfully.

So, the big question in many of your minds now is "What does the future hold for Happ's?" At this time my life is "a little uncertain" to say the least as I wait on action from Ken and his lawyer. I had hoped to have some sense of direction before now, but am still waiting for clarification. I can tell you that, to the best of my knowledge, Happ's will continue through the 2011 season as each of you has seen it operate in the past. I am still "at the helm" and Mitch has made the commitment that he will be here to help me. I put off the Friends of Happ's Advisory Board annual meeting hoping to have a better sense of direction, but we will be meeting in February and this year more than ever the members of the Board will be stepping up to help spearhead projects and get things done. I am hoping that with the removal of some of the roadblocks that have been put in my path in the past I will be able to make progress on the grounds and the operation of various events.



FROM KEN & MAUREEN (continued)

One of the changes in my life is **my new business** which will operate under the name of **Mauriann**. I am now, officially, a **dealer for Ideal Harness**. Details are being worked out, and I will be getting things set up in the next month or so as I get brochures, etc. I then hope to be able to assist Gerard in his endeavor to bring top quality harness (and other items) to the drivers of North America.

I think I "dumped" enough on everybody! I am doing my best to stay focused, working and moving forward—it just has been difficult to know where forward is, but I am moving one step at a time. I have Christmas videos I watch every year (yes, memorized word-for-word, but traditions I hold near and dear), perhaps many of you will remember the Winter Warlock singing "Put one foot in front of the other, and soon you will be walking out the door....."

Please remember to SMILE—life is too short to stress over that which we cannot control. The only way to accomplish something is to dig in and git 'er done!!!!

As always, watch the calendar-I have already added new things for this year-and there are more on the way-

Maureen

ST. JUDE BENEFIT HORSE SHOW MARCH 19-20



One of the exciting new things happening at Happ's this year is a fund raiser for St. Jude Children Research Hospital.

March 19-20 will be a Benefit Horse Show sponsored by the Lincoln Creek Pony Club.



This is a new adventure for the club and for St. Jude as most events held under their My Saddle Up For St. Jude program are trail horse events. Saturday will be a Performance Show followed by a Game Show and Sunday will be a Jumper Show. We have a link on our calendar and for complete information and/or to donate through the show to St. Jude you can go to www.mysaddleupforstjude.org/lcpc I hope to see many of you here to support this worthy fund raiser..the kids have set a high goal.

TIME TO RENEW YOUR FRIEND'S OF HAPP'S MEMBERSHIP



2011 is off and running so I wanted to give folks a "heads up" that Friends of Happ's memberships will be expiring in a couple months. March 17 (LOVE being Irish) is the beginning of a new membership year so for those of you who continue to believe in Happ's and what I am trying to provide, your dues will be coming due soon....can now be paid anytime you are ready to. I appreciate your support and will use your donation to continue to build and improve Happ's to the best of my ability. My accountant tells me that Happ's, as a corporation, cannot accept gifts/donations, but that I can as an individual. So, if it does not make a difference to your bookkeeping, instead of Happ's claiming it as income, and paying taxes, I can accept it personally as a gift and have 100% of it to use for Happ's.

Remember we started a "Family Plan" this past year for families with more than one person wanting to be a Friend of Happ's.

I tried to make sure everybody got their FofH membership pin and t-shirt after I got them in stock, but if somehow I missed you, PLEASE let me know and I will take care of that for you.

Thank you—I am looking forward to improving things in 2011

THOUGHTS TO PONDER

Why do you have to "put your two cents in" but it's only a "penny for your thoughts"? Where's that extra penny going to?

How come we choose from just two people for President and fifty for Miss America???

Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog's face, he gets mad at you, but when you take him for a car ride; he sticks his head out the window?

WHY PARTICIPATE?

Why, some folks ask, would anyone want to participate in the CAA's Driver Proficiency Program? All you get to show for your money is a certificate and a pin. Big deal.

Actually, it is a big deal. Most horses don't come with an owner's manual, nor do most carriages and harnesses. Neither do most people, for that matter. Put all those pieces together in a "turnout," without proficiency in best practices, and safety and welfare might just fall out the back of the wagon one day.

Enter the Carriage Association of America's Driver Proficiency Program. In England, where the program originated, successful completion of at least Level 1 is required before drivers may drive in public. While I doubt it will be required like a motor vehicle license in the U.S., the program is no less valuable. Its purpose is this:

The Driver Proficiency Program has been developed to help carriage drivers assess their ability to safely and correctly drive horse and carriage. It is designed as a comprehensive, standardized program of certification for carriage driving as a discipline. The program strives to encourage and acknowledge safe practices in horsemanship and carriage driving.

The intent of this program is to help carriage drivers increase their awareness and knowledge of driving and ensure they're driving safely and correctly. I don't think there's one among us who doesn't think that's a good idea. There are those among us who desperately need this knowledge, but don't know where to get it properly.

You can gather together the knowledge you need in a number of ways. You may already be proficient, and all you have to do is show it on the day of your evaluation. You may be like me, and want to study resource materials, talk with driving instructors, and practice to prepare for the eval. You could also get the training first-hand from one of the CAA-certified instructors. You may discover you need to unlearn some things in order to be as safe as can be. "Because it works this way at home" may not be the right answer.

This program is not graded. Nobody fails. If there's some part you're not quite complete on, you study that part again and try the eval later. I myself suffer from ghastly test-o-phobia, and even I found the evaluation process to be... <wait for it...> FUN! The session with your evaluator is friendly, conversational, and enriching. The efforts you put into preparing for your evaluation are rewards in themselves. This program is more about the journey than the destination, and whatever energies you put into it will come back to you doubled. It's a great affirmation of your knowledge and skills in driving and horse keeping.

There are levels of the Proficiency Program for everyone from fairly new drivers who want to get it right all the way up to professionals who are looking for a credentialing program that is recognized throughout North America.

Are there people who should not engage in this program? Sure. People who already know it all and have no possibility of improving in any way. People who think it's a bunch of bunk and don't really care about their horses anyway. People who think you need something tangible, large, and shiny to show for an outlay of cash. For the rest of us who are open to improving our driving and care of our horses, the program brings us intrinsic value. Plus we are quite pleased with that certificate and pin. I strongly believe that anyone who drives a horse or pony to a cart or carriage should complete at least Level 1.



Happ's is at the forefront of carriage driving by hosting this program here at the ranch. This year, we'll again be fortunate to have two of the very finest clinicians in the program, Marsoe Larose and Simon Rosenman, to orient, instruct, and evaluate.

For further information on the Carriage Association of America's Driver Proficiency Program, go to <http://www.caaonline.com/>.

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Happ's, Inc.

It's All Happening in Ethel, WA

Happenings

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NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING



Harkcom's Massage Therapy

Don Harkcom, LMP

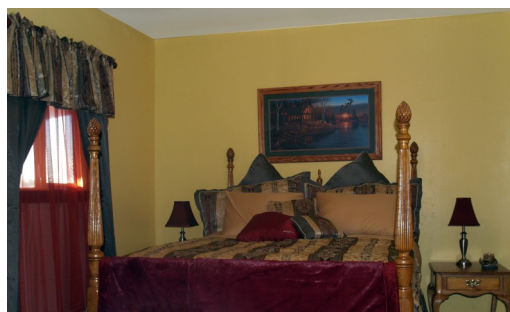
Swedish Massage Therapist

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Cozy Classe Cottage Reserve your dates at \$125 for 1 – 4 people; \$25 for each additional person up to 6.

This cabin is a 2 bedroom home with washer and dryer, two queen and 2 twin beds. Shower and kitchen with all you need including continental breakfast “makin’s”.

1.7 miles from Happ's barn.....ask for Happ's discount too!!! 360-957-3882 or 360-978-4754

FOR SALE: Cute as a button and a gentleman too! “Buttons” is a professionally trained seasoned Combined Driving mini, with a sweet heart and a brave soul. At 11 years old and about 34 inches, he is willing to try anything you ask of him, with a calm, ready-to-get-the-job-done attitude.

His unique Chocolate/Silver coloring is truly one of a kind. He's got good feet and teeth, is up-to-date on vaccinations, and hauls, clips, and bathes without any problems. Everything you ever needed in one miniature package!

Asking \$2000. Please contact Roma Smith at 360 753-3266.

