

Alberta Donkey and Mule Club News, August, 2008

JERRY TINDELL CLINIC'S. August 8 –10 AND August 11-13. Please note the added second clinic! There was not time to get notice out to everyone that might be interested that we were able to add on a second clinic. By the time you read this I'm sure it will be too late to participate, BUT you can still come and audit any or all of the six days! Bring a chair, pack your lunch or order lunch through me ASAP.. Cost to Audit is \$30 a day and the directions to Equine Wise Services, Tofield .AB. can be found on our website [www.albertadonkeyandmule.com](http://www.albertadonkeyandmule.com). If you have questions or want to order lunch, please call me at 403 783-5210 evenings.

There is a great interview/ video of Jerry taken at the Mane Event in Red Deer on [www.horsemansu.com](http://www.horsemansu.com) April Reeves, creator of the site, also fell in love with Roy's mule Clip Clop [along with a few other fans!] and thus Clippy "steals" some of the video clip.

Hope to see many mule, donkey and horse lovers at the clinic! We are so lucky to have Jerry for six whole days! Remember we have mules, horses and donkeys participating during the 6 days. There will be lots to watch.



Ginger, Left hand mule with Merv's mule Jesse in team harness participating in the Driving Clinic this Spring.

Just a few days after the last Jerry Tindell clinic, August 16 –17, TEES LONGEARS DAYS will be happening in Tees, AB. about 25 km. east of Lacombe. If you missed the August 1<sup>st</sup> entry deadline, you can still post-enter at the show, \$7.00 per class or \$30 for the weekend. For show programs, go to the club website or call Colleen Campbell at 780 672-6105. A mostly new show committee has revamped the program with the hope of attracting even more of you “closet” donkey and mule lovers to come and participate or at least attend.! We are a fun loving, helpful lot, so please think about loading up your long-eared part of the family and driving to Tees for a weekend of warm and friendly fun! Free admission, camping and good sportsmanship...what more could you ask for! Don't forget the Saturday evening BBQ [tickets in advance] Fun Auction, Sing-a-long and Campfire.

September 3 –7. Spruce Meadows Masters, Calgary, AB. and Telus Battle of the Breeds. To volunteer in the ADMC Booth, call Jadene at 780 722-2363.

September 13 –14, Rust Family Campout. Ponoka. Call 403 783-5197. Everyone welcome.

Throughout the years, many of us have had the pleasure of knowing many special mules and donkeys. The following is a tribute to one of those special equines and also to the lady that has toiled for years to make sure that we always had a TEES LONGEARS DAYS to come to.

#### GINGER THE WONDER MULE!



Ethel Hollihan on Ginger the wonder mule.

Ginger is a 14.2 hd, quarter-horse type molly mule born in Hudson Bay, Saskatchewan, Canada in 1991. The late Bob Pearle brought her to Alberta where she was started to ride and drive. In 1994 Bob took her to the annual Tees Longears Days Show where Merv and Ethel Hollihan of Ponoka, AB. wrote a check for her and brought her home. Ethel needed a mule!

That's the basic background of Ginger but does nothing to describe the character of this "human baby-sitter". What makes Ginger a "wonder-mule" is the fact that she adapts herself to the level of rider that she carries. Ginger, is of course especially attached to Ethel, her main handler and rider. Ethel has had 2 hip replacements and being a senior in her seventies, isn't into any hard or fast riding. Ginger seems to sense that and won't go fast for Ethel, even if Ethel tries to make her speed up. If Ethel starts to bounce, Ginger slows the pace! The same thing happens if a child rides Ginger - she walks carefully and stops if things don't feel right, such as a child starting to lose balance. However put another rider on Ginger and she's very capable of winning speed events, as Merv, Ethel's husband has done with her at the Mule and Donkey shows including Tees Longears Days.

Not that everything has always gone perfect for Ginger and Ethel. One day while riding down the road with Merv and his mule, wild birds flew up from the roadside and Ginger jumped sideways, with Ethel ending up on the road. Instead of running off as a lot of equines might do, Ginger stood by Ethel and brought her nose down to her as if she were checking to see if Ethel was ok and as much as said to her "What are you doing down there?"

The most fascinating thing about Ginger is her ability to pick up on Ethel's capabilities and accommodate herself to Ethel's needs. It is always amazing to me to watch Ginger step over to a mounting block, the back end of a tailgate or the fender of a trailer and let Ethel mount. Yes, I know many equines are taught to do the same but Ethel said Ginger taught herself to do this! Once Ginger figured out that this was the only way for Ethel to get on, she took it upon herself to always find a good place to step over to where Ethel could safely mount. One day when Ethel was showing visitors how Ginger "picks her up, " Ethel couldn't find anything to step onto except a car trailer. When she called Ginger over to pick her up, instead of positioning herself beside the trailer, Ginger stepped up onto the trailer! It was then that Ethel realized that the trailer was not hooked up and so Ginger "teeter tottered" on the trailer but did not panic and calmly stepped down!

Needless to say, Ginger has endeared herself to the Hollihans and many of their grandchildren. They have been offered a small fortune for her, several times over but always the answer has been no. Ginger is a part of the family that no money can buy!

Here's to a great mule, Ginger!  
See many of you at the Clinics and at Tees,  
Marlene Quiring



Ginger and Ethel's granddaughter Brittany Rose in the "Gummy Worm" Race at Tees Longears Days, 2007