

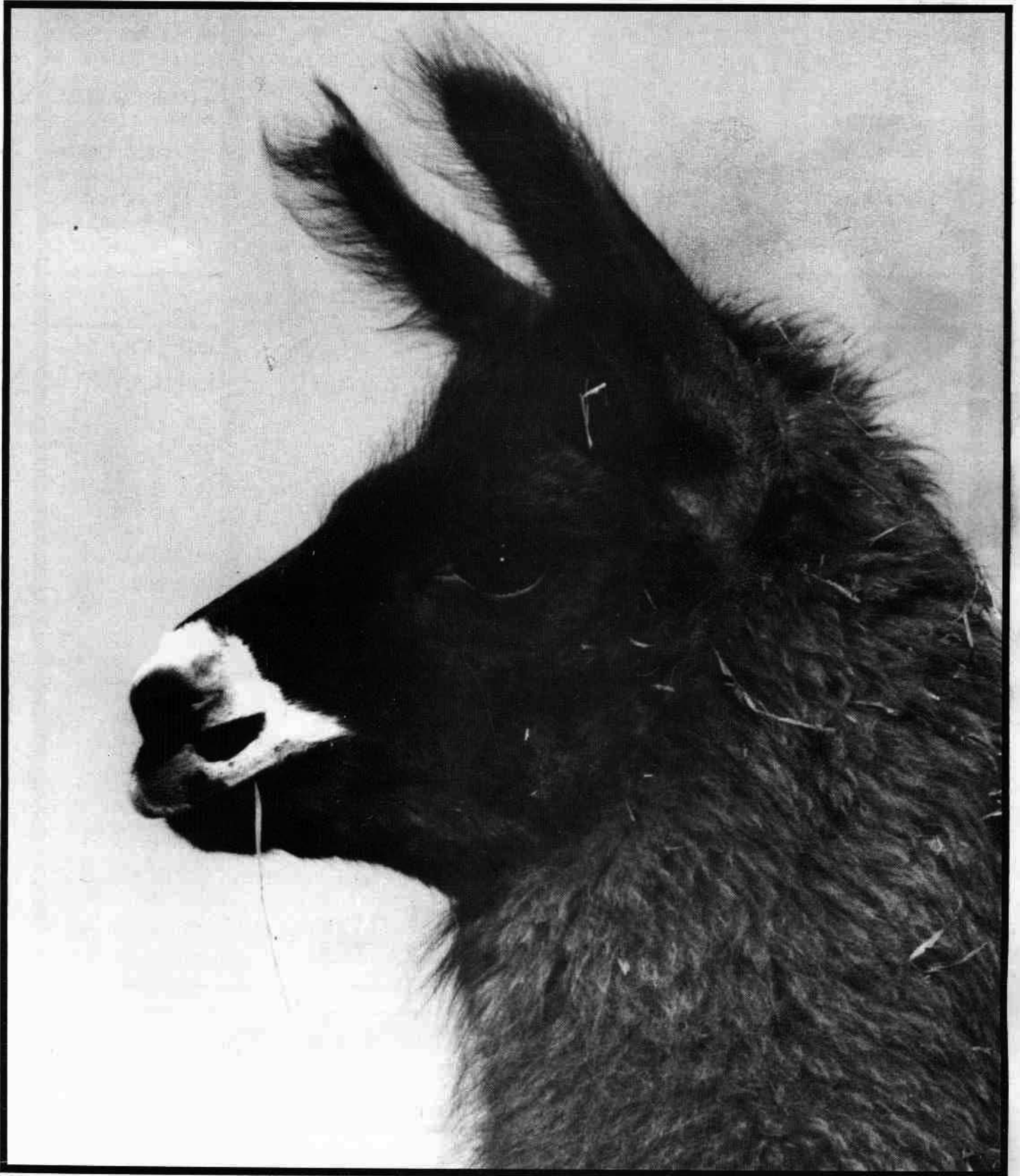
1995

RMLA



January

Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association



NEEBISH

11/22/92



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DEADLINES FOR THE NEWSLETTER!

January Issue December 1st	July Issue June 1st
March Issue February 1st	September Issue August 1st
May Issue April 1st	November Issue October 1st

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership year runs from January 1 through December 31

Adult Individual Membership: \$30.00 (One vote, newsletter, directory entry)

Farm or Ranch Membership: \$50.00 (Couple or two individuals associated with one business; two votes, newsletter, directory entry)

Junior Membership: \$10.00 (18 or under; no vote, receives newsletter and 75% reduction in conference/show fees; must have adult member sponsor.)

For further information please contact Judy Sealy

RMLA also provides an extensive lending library of books and videos to members.

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The information contained in this Newsletter is not intended to be a substitute for qualified professional advice. Our readers are encouraged to consult with their own veterinarian, accountant, or attorney with any questions concerning their animals or business operations. RMLA is not responsible for any losses resulting from a reader's failure to heed this caution.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 28-29: Golden Spike Classic; Ogden, UT

The Golden Spike Classic will have two auctions this year! The Golden Spike Classic Mountain West Packer Edition will begin at 12 noon on April 28, and the Golden Spike Classic Breeder's Choice Edition will start at 12 noon on April 29. Both sales will be held at the Golden Spike Arena in Ogden, Utah. Lower consignment fees than most sales, with many fine breeders being represented. Sponsored in part by the Utah Llama Association. For information, call Mike Montgomery (auctioneer and sale coordinator) at 801-782-9627.

April 8: Jerry Dunn Driving Clinic; Golden, CO

Learn to drive with Jerry. See her ad on page 33 for more information.

April 28-29: John Mallon Clinic; Sisters, OR

Call Kay Patterson, 503-649-1215, for more information.

May 6-7, 13-14, 20-21: Free Learn-to-Shear Clinics; Boulder, CO

Hand shearing and shear sharpening demonstrations. Bring your own llamas and learn to shear it in one easy lesson. For details, call John and Sharon Beacham, 303-666-9437.

May 26-28: The 4th Annual Intermountain Llama Classic; Logan, UT

This will be our 2nd year as an ALSA show. Howard Kerstetter will be the judge. The "Wind River Rendevous" has a new home. Come enjoy a fun-filled weekend. Camping is available at the show with lots of grass, trees, streams, and hot showers! Sponsored by the Utah Llama Association. Contact Daryl Wood, 801-846-2424 or Linda Kyriopoulos, 801-245-3529.

May 27-29: John Mallon Clinic; Boulder, CO

John Mallon will be bringing three of his incredible one-day clinics to Colorado for the first time at Sharon and John Beacham's Pheasant Hill Farm. When you attend, expect a busy day. In the course of 8 hours, John will teach you the essentials of llama behavior, and the philosophy and principles of teaching and learning, then put his teachings to the test with whatever llama is brought to him to demonstrate with. Then it's your turn; very "hands-on," you will spend most of the day with your llama, under John's supervision and coaching, learning safe, relaxed (halterless!) leg handling, quiet, cooperative haltering, fast, gentle lead training, "stand", "back" and more. Limited to 15 people each day, there is lots of individual work, and questions are encouraged throughout the day. With a very successful inaugural year of 19 clinics and 100% satisfaction in '94, he has 44 dates already booked for '95. John asks that you bring your worst-behaving llama, and offers a 100%, no-questions asked, full money back guarantee. So what have you got to lose?

June 3-4: John Mallon Clinic; Caledonia, MI

Call Dorane Strouse, 616-698-0800, for more information.

June 10-11: Wool Market ALSA Llama & Alpaca Show; Estes Park, CO

A wonderful 2 days of friendship and showing our beautiful animals. Come and enjoy the premier llama and alpaca show. The llama show has more ALSA classes for adults and youth than any other show in the country. If you have any questions about the show, just call Jo Riley, 303-823-5409 or Lougene Baird, 303-688-5445. If you have any ALSA related questions, call Jo Riley, ALSA, 303-823-0659. Hank Kauffman, from Ohio, will be the Head Llama Judge and Virginia Christensen, from Nevada, will be the Alpaca Judge and second Llama Judge. Look for the Premium Book in February and send in your registrations quickly.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HAPPY NEW YEAR

I hope all of you and your lamas had a great holiday season. RMLA has had a pretty busy Fall. A few weeks ago, I received a letter from RMLA Librarian Chris Switzer. In the letter, Chris stated that she no longer had the time to devote to the RMLA Library. She said that, as of January 1, she would no longer be able to carry on in that capacity.

As most of you know, the RMLA Library is one of the largest sources of Lama information in the country, and it requires a very special person, with the expertise and the time necessary to successfully operate it. We, as your Board, had very little time to act on this situation. We all looked like the little boy in the movie "Home Alone," when he discovered that his parents had gone away on vacation and left him home, alone. We needed to find that special person who could fill Chris' position, and do it in the time frame to meet Chris' needs. We could not petition for a Librarian in the newsletter because it had already gone to press. So, as a last resort, we included the petition in our special mailing to encourage early membership renewal.

Within a few days of this mailing, I received a call from Lougene Baird with the information that three people had sent in resumes for the position of Librarian. She faxed these to all the board members for review. After looking at all of their qualifications, we were unanimous in our selection of Sharon Herbold, of Colorado Springs, to become our new Librarian. Each person who sent in their resume had outstanding enthusiasm

and great qualifications, but we chose Sharon because she has worked as a librarian for many years and her schedule will allow her to spend one day a week working with the RMLA Library. We would like to thank all of the fine people who were so prompt at applying for this position.

A very special thank you needs to go to Chris Switzer for all of the work she has done over the years to build this great reference source. She has done a fantastic job of running the Library so smoothly and professionally.

During this transitional period, please bear with us if there is any delay in your library needs.

I am very pleased to inform you that the Memorial Day Weekend Intermountain Classic Llama Show, in Logan, Utah, is now the new home for the Rendezvous. After talking to the organizers, Steve and Linda Kyriopulos and Daryl Wood, and after Daryl's call to Anne Johnson, it was decided that this event should not die. This should be a great event and I hope to see a large turnout this year. The RMLA Board is planning to have our annual business meeting in Logan during this show, so plan on attending.

As you read this, Llama Assembly '95 will be history. This year Cheryl McCutcheon, Jo Riley and I will be representing RMLA. We will have a full report in the next newsletter.

I will be attending the National Western Stock Show this year. I think it will be a much better show than in the past. Hope to see you there.

Happy Trails,

Reid



NEW SPECIAL EDITION IN MARCH

We are going to have another Special Edition in March. There will be a couple of differences from last year. This will replace the regular March issue. It was confusing to lots of people with two March issues last year. The authors will be from all over the United States and Scotland. The topics will differ from last year. If you have advertising scheduled for the March issue, it will run in the May issue. The advertising rates will be different for the Special Edition because of the larger circulation. *For rates, sizes, and some topics and authors, please see page 15.* If you have questions, call Jo or Bob Riley, 303-823-5409.

Continued on page 15

A MEMORIAL TO JACK ROBERTSON

From Some of his Friends by Mark Fisher

The llama community lost Jack Robertson on December 23 at the age of 69. Jack and Betty were married over 40 years. Betty was the instigator who got Jack involved with llamas.

A number of people knew Jack Robertson for a lot longer than the four years that I knew him, but it doesn't take long to know when you've met a truly special individual.

During the short time I knew Jack, he became that special kind of person that I'll never forget. I don't believe I ever met Jack with anything other than a big smile on his face. Jack always found a way to make everyone feel important, whether during a board meeting, or by discussing a "hot topic" with my children.

Jack was a man with a tremendous heart. He was the only person that I've ever met who seemingly didn't have the word "no" in his vocabulary. As a matter of fact, the only time that he would say "no", was when one was attempting to return a good deed to him.

He was always the first one to volunteer to assist those in need. On those occasions when things just weren't going right on the ranch, he'd pay a visit, and offer some expertise which would usually solve the problem.

Jack was a very proud and active member of the RMLA. He was also a charter member of our local marketing group, Llamas of Central Colorado. Jack served as its treasurer since its inception in 1991.

Jack didn't share many of his past accomplishments due to his humble nature, so I'll do it for him. He served our country in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. Not many people knew that he worked for Dow Chemical, and was one of Martin Marietta's top engineers. His supervision and quality control with the production of rockets was instrumental during the United States' "Race into Space."

I thought it unfair to list my thoughts about Jack without soliciting comments from some of his many friends:

"Jack was more willing than anyone, to help out at the drop of a hat."

Judy Sample

"Jack was a friendly, sensitive man who possessed a delightful sense of humor."

LuAnne Williams

"One of the kindest, most gentle men I've ever known. I only wish that I could have known him longer."

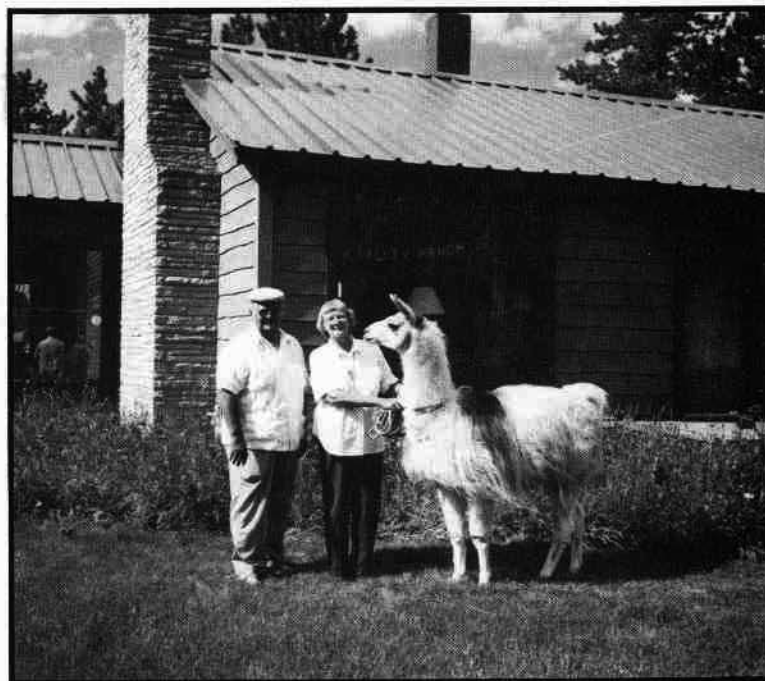
Bruce Ellig

"Jack always had a vision for llamas. He always supported others. He loved his llamas"

Jerry Dunn

"To say that Jack Robertson was a truly good man may be simplistic, but I think it is apt. He had rare warmth and the humor and intelligence to characterize him as good, and he was a man whose shoulders were broad enough to carry responsibility easily and well. I will miss his unbounded enthusiasm and unconditional support. He was the kind of friend with whom you could be real without fear of judgment. I am deeply saddened to let him go."

Sally German-Rucker



Jack and Betty's 1994 Christmas Card

ESTES PARK LLAMA SHOW & THE NEW ALSA HANDBOOK

by Jo Riley

Lougene Baird and I are busy preparing for "The Great Llama Show." Many changes are planned this year because of all the changes in the ALSA Handbook. These changes not only affect Estes Park but all other ALSA shows you will be attending this year. The requirements for both Halter and Performance classes are different. Some of the changes this year involve the following:

- Wool Classifications
- Youth Age Divisions
- Novice and Advance Class requirements
- Championship Point requirements
- New award classification: Recognition of Merit
- 3 Show Levels
- Get of Sire Requirements
- Produce of Dam Requirements
- Costume classes for Youth only! *Sorry Sally!*
- Age Divisions of the Non-Breeder Halter Classes
- Obstacle Requirements for all Performance Classes

Estes Park is a Level III Show. With this Level, comes a requirement of certain classes. This is easy because we already offer them.

The new Handbook has great descriptions of all required and optional obstacles to help you be a more successful exhibitor. Although ALSA membership is not required to show in an ALSA sanctioned show, you are definitely putting yourself at a disadvantage by not reading the Handbook. An exhibitor was disqualified from placing last year because he left a pack on during the obstacle course. This is against the rules of ALSA. If he had read the Handbook, he would have known to remove the pack.

The Board of ALSA, plus Jodi Sleeper who was Chairman of the Revision Committee, worked very hard updating the Handbook to make ALSA a more viable organization.

ALSA wanted to include more exhibitors in the award system so they added the Recognition of Merit to complement the ALSA Champion and Supreme Champion Awards.

The Estes Park Premium Book will be mailed in February. We are trying to schedule the classes

so that the days will be shorter. There may be conflicts but hopefully, everyone will be able to show in all the classes they wish.

Obstacle and Pleasure driving will be back this year. This is due to a surge in interest according to Jerry Dunn and Bobra Goldsmith. We will need a minimum of 4 in each class to justify the effort of setting up the courses and the expense of trophies. If you are interested in learning to drive, call Jerry Dunn as she is having a clinic in April. See the ad on page_____.

Another significant change is the number of points awarded. The previous maximum was 5 points but now you can win 7 points for 1st place if there are enough entries shown in the class.

As in the past, we need lots of help in putting on the show. This year will even require more help because we will be running two rings during both days. This will require 2 ring stewards, 6 gate people etc.

If you are coming to Estes Park and not showing, we would appreciate your helping out. Not only will the day go faster, you will be loved and appreciated by many, and recognized in the Newsletter for helping put on the best and friendliest llama show in the country! There is a real need for a team to take control of changing the obstacles for the different courses. We will have a minimum of 10 changes during the show. This won't take all day but they will have to be ready to immediately change the obstacles between classes. Some of the obstacles will be remade because of changes in the ALSA rules.

Howard Kerstetter has volunteered to help design the obstacles for this show. I consider him a real expert in this area. He will not be at Estes Park this year. The COLA show has employed him as their Judge for the same weekend. I will do the courses to be displayed ahead of time as I have in the past. The more the merrier, so please call either Jo Riley, 303-823-5409 or Lougene Baird, 303-688-5445 if you can help.

We will have trophies for all classes this year.

Please remember . . . Estes Park cannot be put on by itself. If you can volunteer, just call.



My Favorite Hike with a Llama

Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of favorite hikes suitable for llamas.

WILLOW FALLS TRAIL

by Lougene Baird • Plum Valley Llamas
Sedalia, Colorado • 303-688-5445

- Distance:** Willow Lake, 3.5 miles
Upper Lake, 5 miles
- Starting Point:** Willow Lake Trail Head
- Starting Elevation:** 8,880 feet
- High Point:** Willow Lake 11,564 feet
Upper Lake 12,325 feet
- Time required:** One day each way
- Season:** Mid-June to September
- Difficulty:** Moderate for hiker & llamas
- Special Features:** Trailer parking at trail head
No major obstacles to
Willow Lake
Lots of wildflowers
(Take a wildflower guide)
Fishing
Few people
- Topographic Maps:** Crestone 7.5
Crestone Peak 7.5

From Alamosa, Colorado, drive north on Highway 17 for 37 miles to the town of Moffat, then east 10 miles to the town of Crestone.

You will need to refer to USGS Crestone and Crestone Peak Quad maps. From the center of Crestone, Colorado, follow the signs east two miles to locate the Rio Grande Forest Access to Willow Creek Trail Head. The access road is curvy and sandy and does not gain much in altitude. There are occasional rocks and boulders to negotiate. Once at the trail head, there is adequate space for parking vehicle and trailer.

The trail, which is not open to motorized vehicles, starts at 8,880 feet and is wide and sandy for the first half mile before becoming a more narrow foot path at the start of altitude gain. From here, the trail takes the hiker through forest and across easy waters. At about 1.5 miles the path is above and overlooks a very large grassy

meadow. From this point it is uphill, around curves, over bridges and up a series of steep but safe switchbacks. Once at the top of the switchbacks you are able to look back over the valley below, the Baca Land Grant, and across the San Luis Valley to the La Garita Mountains about 50 miles to the west. If your llama likes a good view, plan to take a break here! At this point, you have traversed over the fault blocks that are the basis for the building of the Sangre de Cristo Range. The hike flattens out at this point and altitude is gained more slowly. Again, the trail leads over water and through a beautiful forest becoming more sparse in the higher altitude. The wildflowers in this area are abundant.

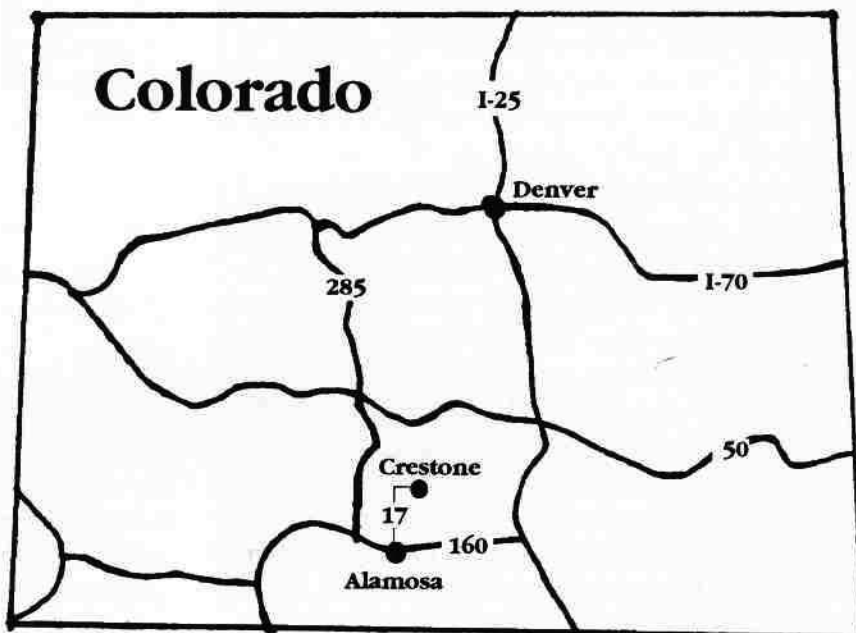
The best camp spot is approximately 3.5 miles from the trail head, 500 feet west of Willow Lake, at an altitude of 11,400 feet. The trail becomes difficult for animals to pass between this camp area and the lake. There is no need to go farther for there is plenty of good water and grass for grazing. There are several locations to picket llamas and plenty of camp spots. The camp area is sunny and suitable for children.

There is lots to do in this area. Your first view of Willow Lake will be one you will not soon forget. At the east end is one of Colorado's most beautiful waterfalls. The lake is surrounded by cliffs and scree fields so steep that it would be difficult to find a spot flat enough to camp. A good walk around the lake will take several hours to complete. Along the lake path wildflowers grow hip high. The trail to the top of the falls is slow but safe, traversing through scree fields, some overgrown with vegetation. Once there, you are situated at the high final approach to two 14'ers, Challenger Peak (14,080 feet) and Kit Carson (14,165 feet). With an early start, one

Continued on page 9

is able to bag both of these 14'ers and get to the top by noon. If you are day hiking in the area, take an easy hike to explore the Upper Willow Creek Lake Basin. It is well above timberline line and certainly well worth the effort. The basin is loaded with interesting varieties of alpine plants. Take a good tundra vegetation guide if this is an interest. A nice herd of Colorado Mountain goats lives above the waterfalls and is quite entertaining to watch.

Editor's Note: I have enclosed a trail survey form in the Newsletter for anyone who has hiked a trail with llamas. We would like to run one in every issue for our members to use when hiking. Not only is this a service to hikers, but it is so nice to read about different parts of our region. Please complete and mail to the editor.



Lougene Baird and Tabernash at Willow Lake

Photo by Reid Langerman

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

by Ron Baird

At the November 6, 1994 RMLA Board of Directors meeting, I was named Chair of the Research Committee and Daryl Wood was chosen as the Board Liaison contact. This article is to express some thoughts about what we believe needs to be accomplished in the area of lama research in the changing environment of the industry.

The time has come for RMLA to take the lead in formulating a different approach to the subject of research, a research path that more directly benefits RMLA members. Perhaps it is time to broaden the scope or definition of our research to include research on marketing animals. Such research could benefit every llama and alpaca owner who is a member of RMLA - maybe more than some of the esoteric veterinarian studies being conducted or proposed by universities and colleges.

RMLA pledged \$2,500 during 1994 to the Impact Study concerning llamas in the national forests. The study is being co-funded in conjunction with other lama organizations and the U.S. Forest Service. There may be additional obligations for this study that we will have to consider funding in the future. With the current trends toward severe restriction on access to public lands, this study may be important to all lama owners and the future use of their animals. A recent trial balloon floated from Washington gives this study even more potential importance. Washington is proposing turning over more than 100,000,000 acres of lands controlled by the Bureau of Land Management to Western states for management. It would seem if the lama industry, though the current study, can demonstrate no or low impact, it will not be faced with fighting a dozen individual studies to prove the same thing if the proposal becomes fact.

We are in receipt of a grant proposal from Dr. Walter Bravo on which no action has been taken as yet. It is for research on reproductive physiology in the male llama and alpaca. Another study that RMLA is being asked to contribute toward is the "Efficacy of Sustained Release

Ivermectin in the Prevention of Meningeal Worm Infection" at Iowa State University. This study needs funding as well as the contribution of expendable llamas. Dr. Jenny Hutchinson at CSU is preparing for a third year of studying immunodeficiency in neonates. She is seeking \$19,993. Several TB studies are underway, with Iowa State's farthest along.

Oregon State University, under the auspices of the Morris Foundation, is studying coanal atresia. This project is concentrating on finding a DNA marker in males that may be carriers or transmitters of this usually fatal defect. Certainly llama owners who are trying to diversify their blood lines through the use of outside breedings would feel easier about doing so if this marker could be established. With the extremely small gene pool that the North American industry has, a defect such as coanal atresia becoming widespread could be a serious blow to all owners.

As can be seen from this very short synopsis of the proposals I have been able to review thus far, there are many potential demands upon RMLA's research funds. This may be due to a number of factors, not the least of which is fewer cash contributions for lama research from llama owners who have experienced a slump in their products' market value in recent years.

Before we expend future funds on medical research, there need to be some guidelines. You may remember several years ago the difficulty we had in prying out results of the llama guard animal study from Iowa State. It is time that RMLA states the terms and conditions under which RMLA-funded research must be accomplished. A time limit, interim progress reports, and satisfactory results must be contractually stated with the researcher's RMLA funds. This means a contract - our money for their results. Progress reports are necessary to insure due diligence and speed on the researchers' part. It also conveys the implicit message of no results, no further funding.

One method by which we can help insure this is to use the Morris Animal Foundation to screen, recommend, and supervise projects in which

Continued on page 12

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FAX: 800-648-2383

RESEARCH COMMITTEE (CON'T)

RMLA invests. We heard some very favorable comments concerning their supervision of veterinary research projects. I recently met with representatives of MAF and was very impressed with their screening, due diligence, and performance requirements on studies that Morris funds. Llama research managed by Morris is funded from a variety of sources, individuals, other llama organizations, and the like. All proposals are reviewed - both before being funded and quarterly thereafter - by an eight person professional panel. The conal atresia study is one being currently funded by MAF. If we decide to use Morris Animal Foundation to screen and manage scientific projects that RMLA invests in, we can pick those we feel have the greatest benefit for our members; we do not necessarily contribute to all llama projects MAF is funding.

The idea of research that would directly benefit our members would provide an invaluable service to them as well as illustrate the value of RMLA membership to non-members. Other regional organizations are intensifying their marketing efforts. Is it appropriate that we research methods for our members to sell their animal output? The fact is, llama owners in parts of the midwest are selling sheep guard animals at a rapid pace. They are selling animals for 4-H projects likewise at a rapid pace. One midwest breeder has told me that when she sells a llama for a 4-H project, it is not unusual in the next year or so for the people to be back buying females to start their own herd. We could benefit from some of their knowledge and expertise - simple research that may pay big dividends to our members.

The Research Committee will be considering how to approach this market research concept over the next few weeks. We believe some good ideas can be evaluated in a short period of time and shared, through the Newsletter, with members in the near future. Meanwhile, if you have some knowledge of, or thought about, particular marketing techniques that ought to be investigated, please communicate them to us. Don't be shy! For example, a patent was recently issued for fertilizer using llama droppings. Several

ladies in Texas, for a number of years, have had a successful, award-winning business producing a similar product. We might all laugh (I have a golf driving range owner who is laughing less and less as he "tests" the product), but people selling their products are laughing last.

Ron Baird
Plum Valley Llamas
2210 Pine Wood Road
Sedalia, CO 80135
303-688-5445 FAX: 303-688-6814

CARING FOR LLAMAS UPDATE

by Dee Goodman

In April of this past year, a major change took place involving *Caring for Llamas*. Mike Pettigrew, after 5 years of service, decided he needed a well-deserved break from mailing and printing, and other work with the book. Mike put in many volunteer hours doing this job and Mike deserves a big thank you.

Karla and I are now handling *Caring for Llamas* plus handling the "Youth Llama Project Manual" and the Colorado Llama Law signs. Cost of each item (including shipping and handling) is as follows:

Caring for Llamas \$20.95
Youth Llama Project Manual.... \$3.00
Colorado Llama Law Sign \$12.00

To order one of the above, call or write:

Dee and Karla Goodman
Post Office Box 542
Akron, CO 80720
Phone: 303-345-6632
FAX: 303-345-2927

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"I have nothing but praise...very educational to me"

"Wonderful! I was very pleased" Diane Bruner D.V.M.

"...I like the fact there was no special equipment needed..."

"The hands-on demos are great!...Enjoyed simple but innovative ideas"

"Really makes sense. You can see the difference in minutes - not hours or days - minutes!"

"This seminar was very informative, and it was nice to be able to work and walk with our llamas when prior to the clinic they were almost totally uncontrollable"

"...extremely beneficial"

"Excellent! Your method works!" Michael Hoover D.V.M.

"Enjoyed the relaxed manner...your concept is very sensible and worth learning"

"...made a lot of sense compared to past seminars"

"Great! Very interesting and informative"

"This seminar was worth every single penny, plus the extra 'pennies' we will make for having well-behaved llamas!"

"Excellent. Subject matter and presentation were both very good. I enjoyed the down-to-earth approach" Don Pellott D.V.M.

"The hands-on demos are great..."

"Superb... an excellent teacher. The lecture portion was very good - you obviously know your topic...outstanding!"

" Susan Hobbs D.V.M.

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A SERENDIPETOUS VISIT TO PERU: PART VI

by Bobra Goldsmith

Thursday morning, December 2nd. Our hotel dining room resounds with the cheerful greetings of the various members of the tour group as they assemble at the long table, joining those already mixing their powdered coffee or brewing their tea bags. Rolando comes around to each new arrival and takes orders. Breakfast is definitely my favorite meal here, partly because I am indulging in real scrambled eggs, so much better than the eviscerated cholesterol-free "eggs" I dutifully eat at home. It seems I can work nearly all day on one good whole egg. Nice fresh rolls with jam and some kind of mixed fruit juices, largely papaya, I suspect, complete the meal.

Carlos Velaochaga, the group's guide, reviews the plans for the next couple of days: Today, Dr. Julio Sumar's lecture on judging alpacas, attendance at the alpaca show, dinner in town. Friday, observe more alpaca classes, including the Suris, big banquet luncheon at the Expo with VIPs and members of the International Alpaca Association, return to hotel. My schedule would be slightly different, of course, because of training, but Mauricio had assured me I could attend this morning's lecture.

After breakfast a screen and projector were set up in the dining room and Julio Sumar arrived with Dr. Enrique Franco, a professor also connected with the La Raya Camelid research station. Again there were warm greetings all around, as many of us had met Julio at some llama event at home. Several had even been present at the impromptu alpaca-judging session Julio had done at the ILA meeting in Salt Lake City. Certain ideas stuck firmly in my mind then. Now we were to hear those ideas elaborated and then have the opportunity to watch him judge alpacas at the Expo.

My own perspective on alpacas has grown considerably since that meeting in Salt Lake. We are now boarding a few alpacas, and in addition, as an ALSA judge I had ventured to take one alpaca-judging clinic. That clinic put me in considerable awe of the additional challenges alpaca-judging presents. Besides attention to con-

formation, one needs to develop and maintain a good eye and "hand" for assessing the multiple characteristics of the fiber--its fineness and crimp, density, luster, and uniformity along the body from the shoulder, to the flank, and to the rump. In addition, as ALSA rules were at the time, one had to juggle the emphasis so that 50% was placed on soundness and conformation, 40% on the fleece, and 10% on type.

Now we were to hear about alpaca judging from the Peruvian point of view. Alpaca fiber and products made of it are an important export product in Peru. As Julio projected slides of both Huacaya and Suri types of alpacas he gave us a number of interesting facts. Huacayas comprise about 90% of the population, Suris only 5%. I suppose the other 5% must be chilis, a mix of the two. Suris seem more susceptible to diseases. Huacayas grow 8 to 9 centimeters (about 3 1/2 inches) of fiber a year, while suris can grow up to 16 centimeters (almost 8 1/2 inches). Both are shorn every year. The suri grows finer and denser fiber, because of more follicles per square inch on the skin. They prefer to shear in October, which is spring. It is not too hot nor too cold, and the females are in late pregnancy, too, when the placenta is more firmly attached than in early pregnancy.

The goals in alpaca breeding, Julio said, are to produce a large amount of fine quality wool. They want the animals to be of regular size, strong, and with sound teeth and good bone, as the animals have to walk far every day for their grazing. Given these goals, when Julio is judging alpacas in the show, the emphasis is 60 to 70% on the fiber and 30 to 40% on conformation. And in judging the fiber on the alpaca, fineness is the most important quality (40% emphasis on that) then density (20%), and lastly, uniformity (10%). A clean face below the eyes and around the muzzle is preferred so that the alpaca can see its way clearly.

This last remark makes perfectly good sense, I thought, and most of the huacaya alpacas I had already seen in the pens at the Expo had that

SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER: MARCH 1995

We have just begun to obtain the authors and preliminary titles of the articles. As of January 1, this is the confirmed list:

Anthony Stachowski	Mantua, OH	All about alpacas
John Mallon	Ramona, CA	Training of llamas
Hank Kauffman	Johnstown, OH	Marketing of llamas
Linda Berry Walker	Stockton, NJ	The alpaca fiber
Peter Knowles-Brown	Scotland	British Camelid Fiber Industry
Howard Kerstetter	Bozeman, MT	Why I became an ALSA Judge
Jodi Sleeper	Ocate, NM	Where is ALSA headed
Stacy & Sara Rollins	Hamler, OH	Why we enjoy showing our llamas

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A NEW DIRECTION FOR LLAMAS

While reading the latest issue of LAMAS Newsletter (Llama Association of the Mid-Atlantic States), I came across the following item. The next day our RMLA President, Reid Langerman, called me to ask if I had seen the article. It caught both of our eyes and we would like to share it with you.

In the same spirit as this article, we would welcome you to submit your unique ideas and/or experiences you have had with your llamas. Please

send a short story, typed and double spaced, with a photo if available, to your editor.

The RMLA member whose article is published will receive a very valuable gift from the Newsletter staff or one of its treasured advertisers.

Thanks,

Lougene Baird

by Dale Graham and Tom Reichert

LAMAS needs an improved direction. Tom and I have been beating this around quite a bit, and it just occurred to me what this association needs. We need to turn our main focus to having fun with llamas and alpacas.

Why would this be a good move?

It would be, by definition, more fun.


It would promote llamas to the public far more effectively than any amount of desire to encourage the public to buy llamas. People aren't stupid - if we SAY our llamas and alpacas are fun and useful, but we just stand around outside our animal's pens while we say this, they figure there's something suspicious here. If we are doing something with our llamas, and having fun doing it, we don't need to justify "why llamas." The question has already been answered.

What is "fun"? Well, that is up to you. It can be anything that you truly enjoy (or think you would enjoy) with your llamas. ANYTHING. Taking pictures to display to show how handsome they are, gaining inner peace and serenity just looking at them, packing, parades, working with the fiber - you tell us what fun with llamas and alpacas means to you. I would appreciate

your dropping me a line (18676 Ryland Chapel Road, Rixeyville, VA 22737), calling me (703-937-4475), or faxing me (703-937-3158) to let me know some things that you enjoy doing with llamas (or think you would enjoy), so that we can try to incorporate them into future meetings.

The fun method would be consistent with the desires of some of our members to have more fun things to do with llamas at our meetings. Even when we have a meeting with a health/breeder concern, we should always plan something in addition that is fun to do with llamas. There should not be any meetings in the future without fun coming into the picture.

This focus would allow LAMAS to meet the needs of everyone in the association - breeders, owners of non-breeding stock, and those who are members just because they are interested in llamas and alpacas.

We feel that the llama owners in our area would be a lot happier if they sat back and concentrated on enjoying their speechless brothers. That is probably the strongest and healthiest route to continued growth of llama ownership, and by far and away, the most enjoyable. 

Estes Park Llama Show is looking for a few great people to help put on the greatest of all llama shows. Please volunteer now.

See the article on page 7.

THE LEADVILLE TRAIL 100 ADVENTURE

by Dee Goodman

As we were packing up the llamas in a driving rain, I was thinking (scarry, isn't it?) "what are we doing here"? Then I thought back to how it all got started. 5-1/2 years ago, Karla and I were looking for someone to run with our llamas at Fairplay. One day I stopped at a friend's place. He was watching a foot race on TV. Not just any race but the Leadville Trail 100. Soon I found out what happens at the Trail 100. Simply put, it's a 100 mile cross-country run at very high altitude in which the runners must finish in 30 hours or less. As we were watching, I told Dale, "either those runners are crazy or damn good." Then he told me about Jim Powell, a runner in the 100. So, I called Jim to see if he could run with a llama and also to see if he knew of another runner. He suggested Ken Cloubler, the Trail 100 Chairman. Soon I had Ken on the phone asking him to run at Fairplay. (Found out he had run with the llamas before.) We were set with runners. Ken did great that year, finishing first in his division. After the race, I told Ken I owed him one. And boy did I get one. In about 2 weeks we got a call from Ken asking for help! It seems he needed someone or something to haul gear and food up to Hope Pass. The helicopter they were going to use was no longer available. Could the llamas do it? You bet! We thought, "great, a pack trip with all the food supplied for 3 days." We didn't count on having 200 runners through our camp, twice. We didn't count on pumping 120 gallons of water by hand, and we didn't count on the weather at 12,100'. So why were we back for the 5th year? Simple, it was fun in some strange way! And the strange way are the people. First, the "Hopeless Crew." You have to be a little strange just to go up, which makes this crew great! Second, the runners must be a little strange to run in this race. But they're great, too!

When they come into camp, they may be hurting (may?), they may be mad about their time, or they may be sad that they know they won't finish. But they always say, "Thank you for being here." They fall in love with the llamas and are always happy to see us when they come over the pass. And soon, you know some of these people would not make it back without us being there. That's why we do it year after year.

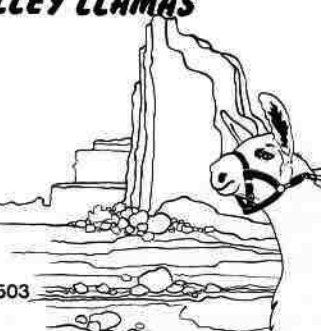
The rain stopped and we were on the trail with 19 loaded llamas and 19 people. The loads included tents (some 2-8 man tents weighed over 50 lbs. each), 25 sleeping bags, 3 stoves, O₂ tanks, medical supplies, water pump, 2 car batteries, radio equipment, and other strange items. Everything went great with the best crew ever. At the camp, we pumped 180 gallons of water this year. (We're getting better. We used a car battery to pump the water.) We cooked 2 cases of soup and used 3 bottles of oxygen, and helped over 550 runners.

But all work and no fun wouldn't be this group. We know our priorities. First thing to camp, the beer, last thing, the medical equipment. When the TV helicopters flew by, they got the "Hopeless moon." But happy group that we are, we talked them into flying us up pizza! What a team!

Anyway you look at it, it still takes a lot of work and this year a majority of the crew working were "llama folks." A big thank you to all who helped! One last note, the race was again on (CBS) and ESPN. Newspapers and magazines that covered the race mentioned the Hopeless Crew and their llamas. Will we do this again next year? You bet!

P.S. The winning times! Men's: 17 hours, 30 minutes; Women's: 18 hours. (The men's winner ran in sandals made from old car tires!)

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A SERENDIPETOUS VISIT TO PERU: (CON'T)

clean face. But the poor suris, I noticed, had such heavy, long bangs hanging over their eyes that, like ill-cared for English sheep dogs, they could scarcely see at all. Some of them would poke their noses in the air, trying to peak out from under their drooping top-knots.

Following Julio's lecture, Marco whisked me off to Mauricio's for training, while the others prepared for their first trip to the Expo. I found Felipe promptly today, and with very little talking, we brushed the llamas and put their harnesses on. Tigre, I thought, seemed just a little out of sorts. He didn't seem quite as willing as we took our walk around the loop on the broad dirt road. He was not actually balky, but I had to remind him to move out briskly. It was almost as if he was a bit bored by the routine already, although this was only the second time we had been on this walk.

When we returned to the house, I felt that Tigre in particular needed something more of a lesson, a small challenge so that he knew he was learning something and would sense the discipline involved. I went into the storage room to see what I could find. There was a second, old, somewhat stiff, small canvas tarp beside the one that covered the equipment. That would do. Felipe, somewhat puzzled, helped me spread the tarp out flat on the back lawn. Tigre looked equally puzzled as I led him towards the tarp. I stood beside him as he studied it for several moments with typical llama curiosity. He was not spooky about it, but as I stepped onto the tarp myself, he raised his head and looked at me with what I can only say was surprise, as if to say, "Good heavens! What are you doing? Surely you're not going to ask me to walk on that thing." Talking to him, and signaling him to come forward with the lead rope, I showed him that was precisely what I had in mind. Tentatively he placed one front foot on the tarp and then another. I held him there, praised him warmly, stroking him on the neck and reassuring him. I'm not sure whether Tigre or Felipe was the more astonished at this little procedure. When Tigre was relaxed with his two front feet on the tarp, I asked him to come further onto it. He did, but

then decided it was safer to leap across the tarp to the familiar surface of the grass. I reassured him again. He had survived the first crossing. I led him back around to our starting point. With little hesitation he put his front feet on the tarp again. I repeated the reassurances and then asked him to come further on till all four feet were on the tarp. Again praise and reassurances kept him in place until we went forward, only hurrying a little as he crossed the tarp, without leaping this time. Much praise was in order. Then I indicated that Felipe should do the same with Blanco while Tigre watched and had a short break.

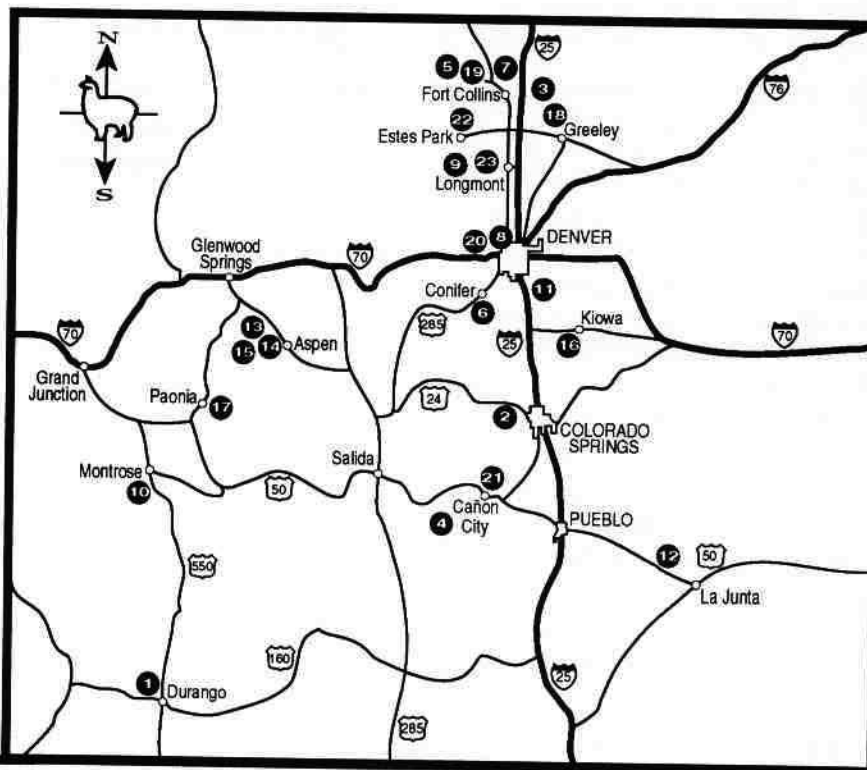
When Blanco had achieved the same two first crossings of the tarp. I took Tigre again and walked him directly across the tarp. He hardly hesitated upon approach and only hurried slightly as we came to the far side, still aware of the strange sound his feet made on the stiff, oiled tarp. Again, much praise. On the fourth crossing I stopped in the middle of the tarp. Tigre stood with me quietly while I praised him, although he was still mindful of standing on this strange object. This time he completed the crossing without hurrying. "Voyez!" I said to Felipe in my odd mix of French and Spanish, "Tipico, tipico. Quatro repeticiones," holding up my four fingers. "Quatro repeticiones y el hace."

There was no way I could explain to Felipe that what Tigre was learning from this very simple challenge was (1) the discipline that he must do what he is asked to do and (2) that he can trust his handler in strange situations and (3) the reassurances indicate that no harm will come to him. On Sunday at the big Closing Ceremony, I was to be very glad that we had done this little exercise. Blanco also achieved his crossings of the tarp, although he was more timid by nature than Tigre, and Felipe still felt a bit strange, talking to and stroking a llama in the way I was trying to teach him to do. Before we put the tarp away, I asked Tigre to cross once more, this time from a different side. He did it with confidence, like an old pro in an obstacle course at home. We gave the llamas the best of all rewards—turned them loose to do what they liked.

Continued on page 20

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A SERENDIPETOUS VISIT TO PERU: (CON'T)

As Mauricio had arranged, Marco appeared with his bus to take me out to the Expo where the alpaca judging was already underway. He parked near the front entrance this time instead of trying to talk his way in through the exhibitor's gate. His explanations to the ticket taker that I should not have to pay seemed to be of no avail, so it was simpler for me to pay the 3 sols for a ticket and be on my way. By now I knew well how to find the lama corrals and the grassy arena beyond where I had seen the Brown Swiss cows being judged the first day. Today an awning had been erected on the west side in front of the seven or eight rows of bleachers built into the hillside and shaded by nice big trees. There I found the members of the tour group clustered near the awning which sheltered the judges' stand, loud speaker, and tables covered with prize ribbons.

Julio, as 1st alpaca judge, assisted by Enrique Franco as 2nd judge, were examining one by one the fleeces of each animal in a class of Huacayas. Julio was dressed in a navy blue coverall, and every alpaca handler was attired in a brilliant white coverall and a white baseball cap bearing the symbol of the International Alpaca Association. Julio, who is quite tall, leaned over each alpaca in turn, first dividing the fleece in the shoulder area, then in the side near the flank, and finally down on the rump. Occasionally, with the handler and Dr. Franco helping to restrain, they would both inspect an animal's teeth. None of the alpacas' coats were brushed out. They know full well down there that leaving the fleece closed keeps the fiber cleaner.

One by one Julio pulled out his choices for the five placings. And as he explained his rankings on the microphone, one of us visiting Americans was designated to hand out the ribbons. Once that was accomplished, we were all allowed to approach the winners, and Julio showed us, by spreading open sections of the fleeces, which ones he found to have the best fiber in that class. At this point the reason for his being dressed in the navy blue-colored coverall became evident. Occasionally, having spread open a circle in the fleece, he would pull out a pinch of fibers--say eight to ten-- and spread them across his navy

clad knee. The contrast between the white hairs and the dark background revealed clearly whether there were any coarser hairs in the sample. We were all allowed to feel the fleeces and take pictures to our heart's content.

The atmosphere was pleasant and relaxed. Our official hosts, The International Alpaca Association supplied soft drinks to the judges and the American visitors alike. But as it was early afternoon, and I had not had lunch yet, I made my way to the large building behind us at the top of the knoll where there were concession stands. The white Huacaya classes would be going on all afternoon, so there would be plenty more time to observe that. Some of the group's members were already wandering to other areas of the Expo to see what else was going on.

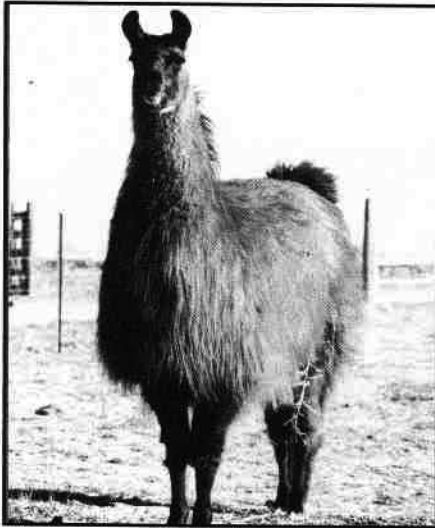
In a large sandy arena, just below the grassy arena where the alpaca classes were, a Peruvian Paso horse class was in progress. I wandered over to see the procedures there. I had to conclude that the stamina of the six or seven horses was being tested, as the riders continued to circle the large arena at a goodly pace, without a break or change of direction. The horses' tack and the riders' costumes looked exactly like what I had seen in Rifle, Colorado, the year that the Palmisano's arranged to have an ALSA llama show and a Peruvian Paso horse show held simultaneously. As a former horse enthusiast, I found that very interesting, as I had never seen Peruvian Pasos in action before.

I returned to watch the alpaca classes. Just as in many classes at home each class was made to walk in circle while Julio observed their movement and conformation. It was amusing to note that most of the alpacas were wearing one of the halters made of braided llama wool, which Mauricio had made up. Many had halters that were way too big for them, but it didn't really matter, since almost none of them were being led by the halter. Instead they were controlled by a simple rope around the base of the neck, which seemed to be the typical way of leading these animals, whenever they are led rather than herded. As I had observed during my three previous visits to the

Continued on page 24

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To All LLAMA ASSOCIATIONS

by Jo Riley

As I receive copies of your Newsletters, I had a great thought. I would like to have a column from each of you telling the whole RMLA membership what is happening in your area. I am thinking of the Nebraska Llama Association, Missouri Llama Association, Utah Association, etc. I am sure there are many more of them out there, with or without a Newsletter, that have activities or stories involving llamas.

There is so much to learn from other Associations but we need your help. If you have any questions, just call me, 303-823-5409.

Just send me a little or a lot of copy and pictures. I will give you your own column in this Newsletter. If you are a member of RMLA

and the person who might be responsible for this is not, please contact them and beg if you have to. I am the last one to ask anyone to write an article. I only do it under stress but if people didn't write articles, there would be no Newsletter. Just think about that!

Let's all pitch in and make this Newsletter even better than it is now. I know that is hard to imagine but it is possible. (OK, I have been editing and correcting the new ALSA Handbook all day and I am punchy!) Please help to publicize your area and let everyone know how busy we all are. The Utah Llama Association has an article in this Newsletter! Great!



12TH ANNUAL FAIRPLAY LLAMA RACE 1994

Another great race that was enjoyed by all!



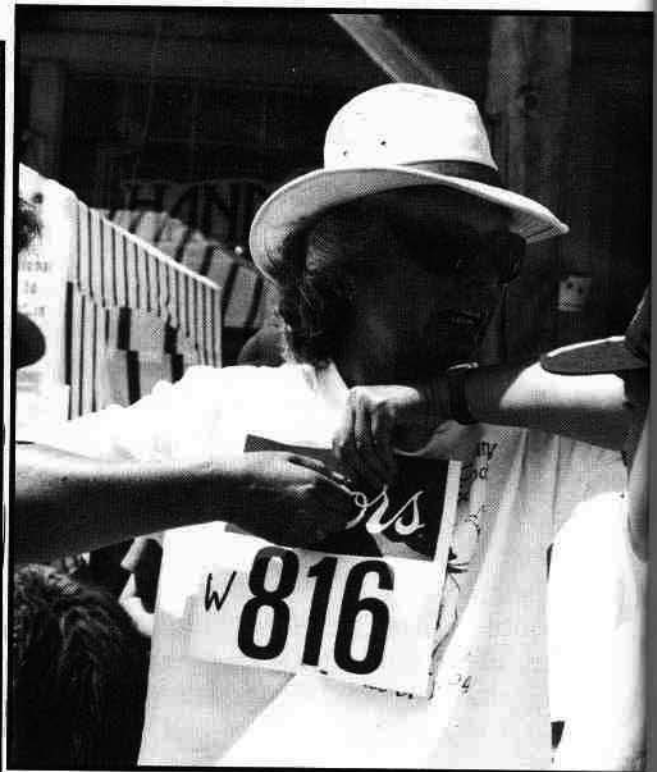
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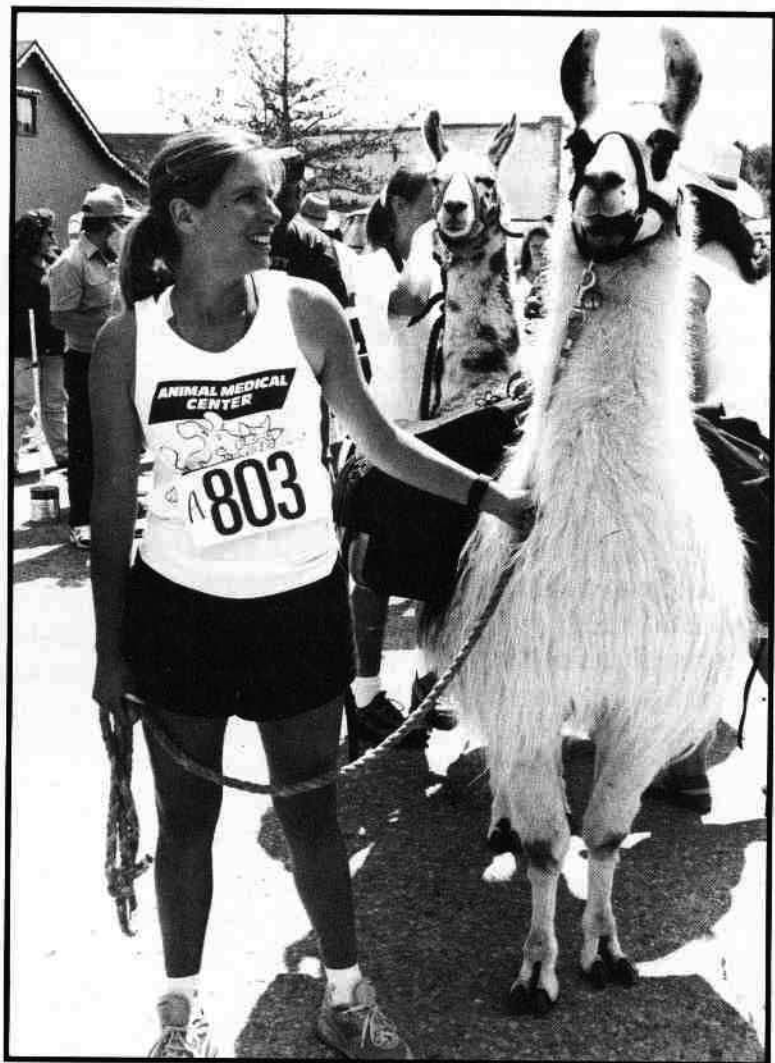
Terry Price



Jerry Dunn giving last minute
to her "Followers"



ing about llamas to the public



Gail Marshall and a "Loaner Llama"



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LaRue and Jeff Johnson

A SERENDIPITOUS VISIT TO PERU: (CON'T)

Expo and the alpaca pens, some of the handlers were trying, before the show, to teach their alpaca charges to lead. Now in the classes, it was obvious that some had been taught well enough and others not at all. Those not trained were simply "manhandled," being hustled along by the neck rope and the wool on their rumps. In extreme cases of balkiness they were simply picked up by the wool in the middle of the back, like a suit case. This usually produced pitiful, high, bleats of protest from the reluctant animal. Luckily the part of circling the animals in each class did not last long, and they were soon lined up and stood fairly quietly. One thing I noticed seemed quite practical. Each animal's number was hung around its neck by a light cotton string. The judge could easily see this from the front, and there was no need for him to circle the handler or ask that the handlers all to turn round so that he could see the entries' numbers, once he had made the final line-up and wanted to record his choices.

At 3:00 Mauricio and Felipe came to fetch me. We drove quickly to the bicycle factory to check on the cart they were building. The CEO took us down to the design building. There was our cart looking almost done. The cargo area behind the seat had been cut off, the axle was attached underneath the body of the cart, and the wheels were put on the axle. The shafts were ready but not attached yet. At the back they had been carefully bent into angles so that they could be fastened to the front of the splash board and to the bottom of the footboard, supporting the front of the cart. It looked like a sensible design. Two workmen held the shafts firmly in position and I was urged to get in. This would be a good way to check the balance. I climbed in carefully and sat down. The balance seemed perfect, the seat was a good height and comfortable. "Say," I remarked to the CEO, "this is very nice. Maybe I'll have to import these for our catalog." "Fine," he retorted, "But you'll have to purchase a thousand." Ai! so much for that notion, I laughed to myself. I reminded them that we still needed small hooks at the back of the shafts to attach the traces and the d-loops for the hold-back straps.

They said the cart would be ready Friday afternoon, but the time was not specified. We returned to the Expo where Mauricio was busier than ever, it seemed. More pens had to be built, as more and more llamas were arriving for their show on Saturday.

At the end of the afternoon, with the day's classes over, Marco drove us all back to our quiet hotel where we freshened up for a dinner in a restaurant in town. Then he drove us into the city. With Carlos shepherding us, we were finally seated at a table on a balcony in a small restaurant, which had something of an Italian atmosphere. Deciphering the menu with Carlos' s help, and everyone's deciding what they wanted to eat took some time. A pasta dish and a fresh green salad appealed to me, but "no!"--mustn't eat fresh greens--a reminder from Chris. I settled for half an avocado, scrumptious.

Friday Dec. 3rd. Mauricio had said he would pick up the cart sometime Friday afternoon, but it didn't look as if training would be convenient that day, because of the big banquet luncheon on the fairgrounds hosted by the International Alpaca Association, of which Mauricio was a vice-president. There were all kinds of government VIPs--the Minister of Agriculture and the like--coming. Mauricio had his hands full. Anyway, I thought the two llamas could do with a break, so I went to the Expo with the rest of the group after breakfast. Marco parked the minibus in the exhibitor's parking lot, just a short distance from the lama pens.

As Carol Ballew and I set out, with our cameras, rucksacks with our bottles of filtered water, and everything else needed for the day, I glanced up the hill to the west behind the restaurant building, and there, grazing free, were 15 to 20 llamas. We altered our direction and went up the knoll. There was a smaller parking lot near the building with a single, white-painted pole fence around it. Below that on the grassy area of the knoll were these llamas, of various sizes and ages, apparently just loose, happily grazing. There were some mothers with good-sized babies, and a couple of very large llamas. As we approached

Continued on page 30

MARKETING

by Linda Kyriopoulos

Along with New Year's resolutions, many of you may have concluded that you need to be more effective in your llama marketing. Many of us have reaped the benefits of the marketing efforts of others, and some of us may have contributed a great deal to this effort ourselves. The future of the llama market rests on "end use", that is, most buyers will be interested in a couple of llamas they can do something with, not just produce more llamas or more income. They may be interested in packing, spinning, sheep guards, or just having something different to keep down the grass in the pasture. There are folks out there who want llamas for these reasons, but just don't know it yet. This is where marketing comes into play. Marketing doesn't necessarily mean you are trying to sell llamas, but that you are making the public aware of llamas and their versatility. You may not realize your efforts for years. Some of these future llama owners aren't even born yet!

As the RMLA marketing committee, we would like to help you any way we can. We hope that others within the RMLA can help as well. If we all work together, we all have a future in llamas. Let us know fresh ideas you have had success with. We all benefit by sharing our experience. Please contact any of the following in the marketing committee:

Linda Kyriopoulos, chairperson

2680 West 5700 South
Mt. Sterling, UT 84339
801-245-3529

Jim Osmun

9966 Logan
Thornton, CO 80229-2114
303-457-2787

Barbara Peterson

RR 10, Box 3002
Rapid City, SD 57701
605-787-4149

UTAH LLAMA FOLKS

by Linda Kyriopoulos

In an effort to unify members from all states, the RMLA would like information published from various areas, and I have been asked to be the "Utah Correspondent." Wow, I feel like a freelance writer for the Associated Press! Anyway, things are happening in Utah! The Utah Llama Association has about 40 ranches in its membership. Aside from all the smaller get-togethers we have during the year, we are sponsoring two major events. The Golden Spike Classic auction is April 28 and 29, featuring two sales this year; the Mountain West Packer Edition and the Breeder's Choice Edition. These sales will be held at the Golden Spike Arena in Ogden, Utah. We have had a lot of response in consignments and hope there will even be more response from buyers!

Memorial Weekend (May 26, 27, 28) is the 4th Annual Intermountain Llama Classic (and **Rendezvous**, this year!). The RMLA will be a Co-sponsor. This event is held at the shady Logan-Cache Fairgrounds in beautiful Logan, Utah. We always have a blast and this year shouldn't be any different. We are looking forward to having Howard Kerstetter as our judge; he's a lot of fun! If you are interested in any of our activities in Utah, give me a call at 801-245-3529.



There will be an open RMLA Board meeting on Friday, May 26th in the afternoon in Logan, Utah, before the Intermountain Llama Classic starts. The exact location and time is not known at this time. Plan on attending the ALSA Llama Show and the Board meeting. If you would like more information, contact a Board member.

**This is your organization . . .
so become involved.**

EQUINE HERPESVIRUS INFECTIONS IN LLAMAS

Editor's Note: This article was run in the Orgler Newsletter in Wisconsin.

by Dr. Paul Meagher

Equine herpesvirus causes disease in horses that may be manifested in three ways. It causes a respiratory disease that is seen most frequently in foals or yearlings. It causes abortions in pregnant mares and it causes neurologic disease in mature horses. In horses, the neurologic disease is not commonly seen but of course it is important when it does occur.

Equine herpesvirus is distributed throughout the world and occasionally has been isolated from other species including cattle, zebras, and antelope. In 1984, equine herpesvirus was diagnosed as the cause of an outbreak of neurologic disease in alpacas and llamas in New York state. It caused disease in 20% of the exposed animals and death in 2%. Dr. Mattson, a virologist at Oregon State University whose work includes the study of herpesvirus in llamas believes that the herpes infection is not too contagious and that infected animals are not likely shedding the virus, unless they have excessive ocular discharge.

The clinical signs of equine herpesvirus infection in llamas may include a wide range of neurologic dysfunction. The most common sign seen was blindness. Some of the blind animals also had nystagmus, head tilt and/or paralysis, but most of them appeared to be normal except for the blindness. Some had fevers, and abnormal blood counts, but most had normal temperatures

and normal blood counts. All the affected animals had a normal appetite and they ranged in age from 6 weeks to 3 years.

Recently, equine herpesvirus has been isolated from the abortus of llamas and it seems likely that equine herpesvirus can cause abortion in llamas. However, to the best of my knowledge that has not been confirmed experimentally.

Diagnosis is made either by isolating the virus or by analysis of antibodies against the disease in the llama's blood, or by microscope examination of tissues.

Treatment with a variety of antibiotics, vitamins, antiinflammatory and other drugs failed to restore vision in any of the affected animals.

Vaccination against infection with the killed equine herpes vaccine is frequently recommended and a vaccination protocol should be discussed with your veterinarian. It appears that the best protection will be a cell mediated immune reaction and that to stimulate this response we should vaccinate the animals at highest risk quite frequently, perhaps at 60 day intervals. Dr. Mattson suggests that 'at risk' pregnant animals should be vaccinated at breeding and at the 5, 7, and 9 months of gestation.

Continued on page 27

Dr. Tim Thompson, DVM has been named a "Veterinarian Consultant" for the RMLA Newsletter. Dr. Thompson has a varied large animal practice which includes hundreds of llama. His practice includes the parts of Colorado including Platteville (his home), Longmont, Boulder, Lyons, Sedalia, Akron and the southern part of Wyoming. All medical articles will be reviewed by Dr. Thompson for accuracy. If necessary, he will write a comment about the article. The following is his response to this article on Equine Herpesvirus:



EQUINE HERPESVIRUS RESPONSE BY DR. THOMPSON

The article is quite accurate in describing the problem that we have with equine herpesvirus in llamas, however, it leaves the reader with a sense that all his or her llamas should be on a vaccination program to stop this dreaded problem. Clinically, we just do not see disease associated with equine herpesvirus infection in llamas. The incident in New York, to my understanding, occurred in a quarantine facility in which infected equidae (zebras, I believe) were housed next to llamas. The llamas supposedly gained the infection from the equidae and subsequently developed the neurological and ophthalmic manifestations. To my knowledge, this experimental infection of llamas with equine herpesvirus has not been repeated. Nonetheless, it indicates to us that llamas may be at risk to one extent or the other to infection with this virus.

Serology of llamas showing indications of neurological disease in our practice have not demonstrated any evidence that equine herpesvirus was responsible for their condition. Additionally, serology of normal llamas occasionally turns up an animal with titers (antibodies) to equine herpesvirus but we have been unable to associate it with disease.

This has left us in a very precarious position with regards to vaccination recommendations. Since we have been unable to associate clinical disease with equine herpesvirus infection in local llamas (despite a moderate significance of the respiratory form of the disease in horses in the area) we have been reluctant to recommend blanket vaccination of all llamas with an equine herpesvirus vaccine. However, prudence tells us that if a llama is at risk for significant exposure, i.e., housed with horses that may be shedding the virus, then that animal should be vaccinated with a killed virus vaccine. This recommendation is empirical in nature. We really don't know if a killed equine herpesvirus vaccine is effective in eliciting an effective immune response in llamas, but we have little choice as research in this area about llamas is sparse.

The net of all this is that we should continue to be vigilant in our monitoring for equine herpesvirus disease in llamas. However, an alarmist position in at least in the front range area is not warranted.



NEWS OF LU WILLIAMS

Lu has completed five of her six chemotherapy sessions and has done pretty well, so far. She says that the fifth session seemed to bother her more than the previous ones, but she sounds plucky, as usual. There's some-

thing to be said for real grit and a good, healthy sense of humor in these circumstances.

Lu's llamas available for sale and viewing at Bobra Goldsmith's Rocky Mountain Llamas are:

- **Peach Supreme:** (a Silver Phantom daughter) 5 years old, has a very woolly, golden, male baby by Robertson's Blackhawk, born in November at Bobra's.
- **Liliana:** 11 years old, has a daughter by Comanche, **Geryl**, born in July.
- **Knic-Knac:** 7 years old, daughter of **Liliana** by Knickers; dam of **Gandy's Knickles**, 3 years old; a male by Gancy Dancer, **Jettson**, 2 years; and **Spatz**, 1 year.
- **Hi Jinx:** 2 years old, by Comanche, granddaughter of Jester . . . and shows it.
- **Knicole:** (a Yukon daughter from Knic-Knac) 4 years old, black blanket over white, mother of **Windknicker**, a yearling male marked liked his dam.
- **Calla Lily:** a daughter of **Liliana** by Comanche, 3 years old. She'll be at the Stock Show.
- **Cochee:** yearling sister of **Cala Lily**, solid brown like her sister.
- **Sangay:** 10 years old, an appy paint by Handsome, mother of silver appys by Comanche, such as, **Speckles**, 1 year old.

All the llamas in **BOLD** are for sale.

FAIRPLAY RACE

by Dee Goodman

July 30, 1994, the day had finally arrived. I had been really looking forward to this day. Why was it so special? Was it my birthday? No. Was it Karla's birthday? No, that had been 4 days earlier (and I had just about forgotten). How about our anniversary? I hope not, as I had forgotten it for the last 4 years! It was time for the Fairplay Pack Llama Race. As I lay in the tent this particular morning, I ran through my mind everything that needed to be done this day and hoped it would all go well. I knew we had great people working the race this year. But what scared me were the "new" things we had added to this year's event. Did we cover all the details?

First, we had a new Fairplay Burro Days Committee. In the past 4 years, we had worked with the same people in Fairplay. They supplied the obstacles, P.A., watches, and any extras needed during the day. This year, there was a completely different group. So far, everything was going alright.

Second, a new division had been added to the race. "WALKERS" In previous years, Sharon Beacham had run (?), mainly after her llama, in the amateur class. After finishing the race last year, she suggested a "walking class" - no packs, running, prizes, etc., just a fun race (but it's all fun, Sharon!). We thought this would be a great idea and hoped it would work.

Third, there was a change in the registration process. One thing about Fairplay, that is different from most other llama events, is that you can register the morning of the race. The main problem with registration is getting people registered quickly and easily. Other problems? Getting racers and llamas together, especially those racers without llamas. Would this all work? I was hoping so.

Of course we had our usual yearly worries. Would the weather co-operate? Did we have enough T-shirts? Did we forget something (like ribbons)? There was only one way to find out: crawl out of the tent and "Let's do it"! One last thought, as Karla and I were exiting the tent was, would we, could we, ever beat the number of participants, set currently at 46 teams? Looking out across the meadow that morning, it appeared

as if there weren't as many llamas as in the past. But the weather looked great!

At 7:30 a.m., we were in town and setting things up for the day. Our volunteers began showing up and we quickly put them to work . . . slave drivers aren't we! At 9:00 a.m., the first teams began registering, and soon more and more teams began arriving. Then there were more and more people needing llamas to race with. Then it happened! The call came out, "we're out of registration forms"! We had printed around 60 forms before leaving for Fairplay, so I knew then that we had broken the record! In fact, we ended up with 68 teams. Many of the human participants had never handled llamas before today, let alone race with one!

Starting 45 minutes late, (sorry about that) we finally got the pros and amateurs off and running. BOOM! The cannon in the Mountain Man campground started the racers off for the 12th annual Fairplay Pack Llama Race!

Now picture this as you are sitting in your warm chair and comforter. You are a runner racing an unpacked llama down a street with somewhere near 3,000 people yelling at you, trying to find your handler to get your llama packed and head out of town among total confusion. The first obstacle you encounter out of town is the river...the deep river ... the cold deep river. As you start to cross it, you think, "Didn't my mother tell me not to play in the water?" Too late. When you do hit the water, it feels like instant potty break time, but the water is too damn cold for you to oblige, but not for your llama. There you are, standing in this very cold water, waiting for the llama to finish his business (in less than 10 minutes, if you're lucky).

Sooner or later you are running up the hill, across the downed timber and heading into the Mountain Man campground. If your llama hasn't set you back too far during his most recent constitutional, you might be quite lucky and get through the campground without being invited to the evening dinner. That is, the last one through is that evening's main course! Soon you are heading back down into the river area, yes again, and again, and again ... wishing the whole time that

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FIBER COMMITTEE

by Sharon Beacham

The RMLA Wool Committee has been properly re-named the FIBER Committee. Those who indicated an interest in fiber, when they joined or renewed their membership, have been contacted by mail. All RMLA members are invited to participate in the activities planned for this year.

One of our first priorities will be to complete a fiber display for the RMLA booth. Your suggestions and contributions are welcome. There's a few ounces of bulky llama yarn, taken from the old NWSS fiber competition display boards, that could be knit or crocheted into a small hat to become part of the display. A good winter evening project - any volunteers?

Are there fiber skills that you would like to learn--carding, combing, dying, felting, locker-hooking, spinning, knitting, or weaving? We're taking an inventory so we can connect those who know how with those who would like to learn. Teaching experience isn't necessary; did you know that the translation of the Navajo word for "teach" is "show"?

We'd also like to compile a list of persons willing to demonstrate the steps involved in transforming raw fiber into a garment. These people could be asked to give a demonstration when the RMLA booth is set up at an event in their area. It's a good opportunity to market your animals and any products you have.

A series of learn-to-shear workshops is planned for the month of May, to help members prepare for llama and alpaca fleece competitions and a Shorn Llama Class at the Estes Park Wool Market, in June. Watch this column for details.

If there's sufficient interest, there's the possibility of a fiber grading workshop during the Wool Market.

A longer range project is the formation of a fiber co-op, much like the Willamette Valley Wool Co-op started in Oregon in 1988.

Please contact the Fiber Committee chairperson, Sharon Beacham, if you'd like to become involved in any of these activities. 303-666-9437.

FAIRPLAY RACE (CON'T)

you were already back in town. "Why did I do this?", you ask yourself. Meanwhile, back in town, the walkers are getting started and then you hope like heck that THEY don't catch up with you! Soon you realize that you are running back into the river, over the dam, crossing a bridge and then looking uphill to see the tunnel. The tunnel isn't so bad, but why is it at the top of the hill? In the distant background you can hear people yelling for you to "go, go, go, go." And you are thinking, "why aren't they running instead of me?" Then you are through the tunnel, going downhill, and heading to the picnic grounds (and by now you are probably thinking this isn't the best picnic that you've had!) Next you head for the Willow Jungle. You might have heard of a previous runner who got lost in the thickets. Naw, that's not possible...is it? Just when you are thinking that you are lost, out into the bright red scenery you see...KILLER HILL. You then hear something behind you and hope like heck that it isn't one of the walkers! After crawling up killer hill, you're just about done (in more ways than one). 4 blocks from the finish line, the person you heard coming up behind you is suddenly beside you! You think quickly, "WALKER? same age division?, same race??" all the while running faster and faster. There's the finish line! You made it! Was it worth it? YOU BET!

As all the runners and walkers came into town, we started setting up Llama Lunacy. This year, as in the past 2 years, we had an obstacle course just for kids. Again, most of the kids involved had never handled a llama, let alone touch one. Many of these kids were the ones to go home with ribbons and all the kids went home with smiles. The day is soon over. Karla and I talk about this year's events and start thinking about next year. Will we ever start on time? Will Clancy not come in first place? Will we ever find the lost runner in the "jungle"? And can we ever beat the "old" record of 68 teams? To find the answer to these questions, be at Fairplay, Colorado on July 29, 1995, for the 13th Annual Fairplay Pack Llama Race and Llama Lunacy, The Granddaddy of them all!



A SERENDIPETOUS VISIT TO PERU: (CON'T)

the railing around the parking lot, we noticed that two adult llamas were tied to posts with an armload of hay in front of them, and other piles of hay had been set out here and there. Carol was video-taping, and I was taking pictures when I suddenly noticed that one of the grazing llamas had a loop of hay-wire around its neck and one front leg. Just as we started looking around to see what to do about it, two Indian llama handlers approached and said something like, "You are interested in llamas?" "Si! Habemos llamas a casa," I answered quickly, conjuring out of heaven knows where, a non-existent form of the irregular verb "to have". My thoughts were more on the plight of the llama with the wire around its neck than on irregular verb forms. I couldn't think of any verb, regular or irregular--look or see--so I pointed. "Esta llama," I stammered. The two llameros perceived the trouble immediately. They ducked under the pole railing, approached the entangled llama calmly and gently removed the wire. The llama did not struggle at all. They walked back towards us folding the wire and smiling, "Gracias," they said.

Carol and I continued studying the herd as they grazed or picked at the remainders of their hay, remarking on their conformation and characteristics. None of them seemed inclined to wander off, although they could easily have done so. There was one really large, strongly marked appy. "Macho?" I asked, pointing again. "Si, si, macho," they replied. We were puzzled that a male was loose with the females while these other two were tied up. Later we learned that he was a gelding, whereas the two who were tied were stud males. They were sturdy and quite good-looking, medium woolled. Although they were only tied by a rope around the base of the neck, they made no effort to move beyond the limit of their ropes.

A very neatly dressed gentleman, slight of build, with something of a western hat, came and spoke to the two handlers, who went off toward the llama pens. Then he turned to us in a friendly manner and began a somewhat halting conversation in an English that was far better than my Spanish. His name was Nico Paz. These were his

llamas. He inquired about ours. I pulled out my few snapshots and showed him one dark yearling female, in particular. He grinned and pointed out one of his yearlings. He noticed the similarity immediately, too. His was a male however. It turned out that he had two sons in college in Iowa, studying business and agriculture. We had a nice chat with him and saw him several more times during the Expo, as quite a few of his animals won prizes.

Upon returning to the area of the lama pens, we found several members of our group clustered around something at the base of a tree. The center of their attention was a newborn llama baby lying on a gunny sack and its Indian caretaker who was trying to get it to suck milk from a human baby bottle. The baby seemed rather weak, but the man held it gently, got the nipple in its mouth, and as we have done, too, encouraged it by touching its tail the way mother llamas do. After it had taken some milk, he moved it into the sun as the morning air was still cool. Actually, two female llamas had given birth early in the morning--in one of the most crowded pens. The other baby was on its feet and with its mother, who was outside the pen. Both were female babies. Later we learned that the weak baby was from a first time mother and she would not let it nurse, probably because of the confusing and crowded conditions. We all tended to want to keep tabs on the baby as the morning went on. The caretaker moved it back into the shade as the day warmed up and fed it regularly from the bottle. Later it could hold its head up and even sit up.

Today the alpaca judging took place in the lower, sandy arena, where the horses had been the day before. Yesterday's classes had all been white Huacayas, now it was first the colored Huacayas before the big banquet and then the Suris in the afternoon. In the upper, grassy arena the Peruvian Paso horses were being judged in halter. The alpaca judging proceeded the way it had yesterday, with the Americanos being called upon to hand out the ribbons and have their pictures taken with the winners. And just as at home, champion classes were conducted. At

Continued on page 33

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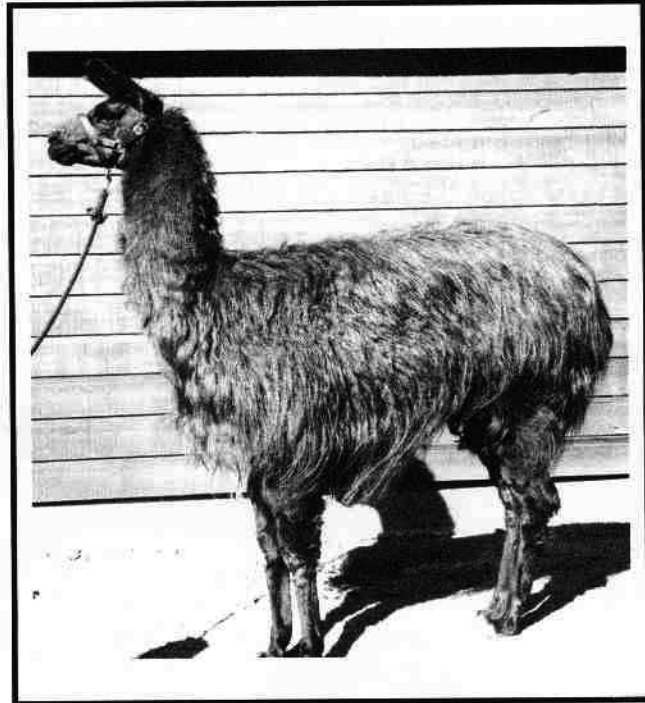
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A SERENDIPETOUS VISIT TO PERU: (CON'T)

lunch time we were all ushered up to the restaurant building on top of the knoll. Long tables were set up with all the dignitaries from the International Alpaca Association and the government representatives seated at the head table. Our group was scattered among the rest of the guests. The first item on the menu was a very hearty chicken soup with potatoes. A good hefty meal, Carol and I thought. But it turned out that that was only the beginning, and in the end we felt a bit overcome by the main dish, which we didn't know was coming and which was enormous. We couldn't understand much of the speeches that were given, but we managed to exchange a bit of conversation with someone from the alpaca wool business who was next to us.

After lunch we returned to observe the judging of the Suri alpacas. Again Julio would show us the first place winners, and help us to feel and compare the wool. It was definitely different from the Huacaya fiber, long and very silky. At some

point in the late afternoon, Mauricio took me to his truck. There was our cart, all neatly painted shiny black with "Goliath" (Goliath, the name of the bike company) painted boldly in red letters on the front of the splashboard. When, I wondered, would I get to introduce Tigre to pulling the cart. Here it is Friday afternoon, the llama show was Saturday morning, and we were to demonstrate the cart pulling Sunday afternoon at the closing ceremony.

Editor's Note: The final segment of this wonderful article will appear in the May issue because the March issue is the Special Issue.

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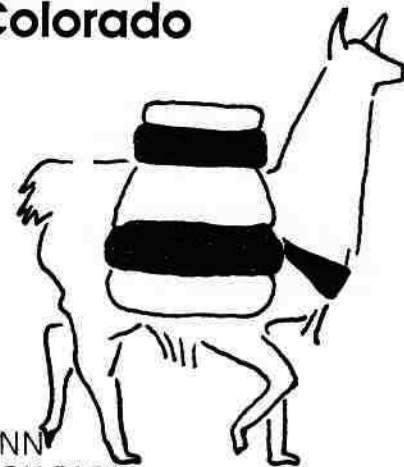
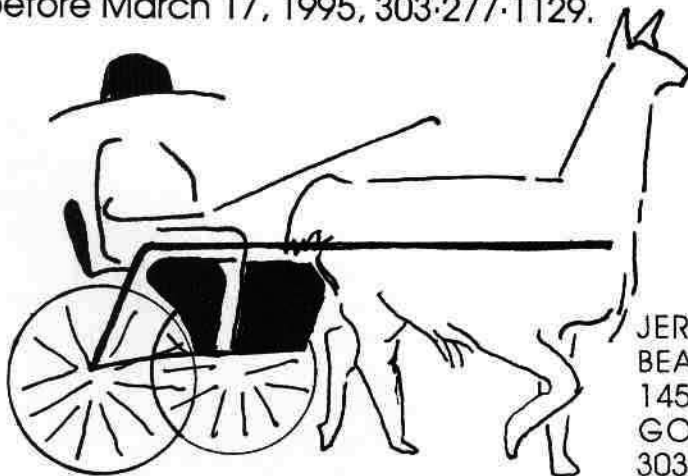
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HUMMMMMMMMMMMMM . . . CATS AND LLAMAS

by Marty McGee

"No tame animal has lost less of its native dignity or maintained more of its ancient reserve. The domestic cat might rebel tomorrow."

William Conway *Archbishop of Armagh*

"Llamas never reduce themselves. They chart their own course. They never follow you around and lick your feet."

Jack Moore, *Llama Breeder*

When it comes to management, llamas are a little bit goat, a little bit sheep, and a little bit horse. But when it comes to behavior and their relationships with people, llamas are a lot like cats. I realize that there is a risk of stereotyping both llamas and cats in the process of this exercise, however it is done with the utmost respect for both animals. I have been a cat owner for 13 years and a llama owner for 9. In those years, six cats and 30 llamas have shared hearth and home. Not perhaps a large enough sample to be truly scientific but enough for educated speculation. Comments from people who live with both cats and llamas have reinforced my own perceptions.

In the course of preparing to write this article, I read through many books about cats. The same words are used over and over to describe cats: graceful, mysterious, aloof, magical, aristocratic. The same words frequently appear in descriptions of llamas. Many famous writers have been quoted regarding their feelings about cats. In many cases the word llama could be easily substituted. Colette, a French writer, said, "There are no ordinary cats." Agnes Repplier, an American essayist, said, "It is impossible for a lover of cats to banish these alert, gentle, and discriminating little friends, who give us just enough of their regard and complaisance to make us hunger for more."

As if they sense a brotherhood, the llamas themselves seem to have an affinity for cats. When my dogs go out to the barn, the llamas are mildly interested. When the cats make an appearance, the llamas stop what they are doing (even if it is eating) and minutely investigate the cat.

At first glance you may not see the full range of similarities, but look more closely. There are certain physiological and physical resemblances. Llamas and cats are both induced ovulators and breed with the female in the sternal position. At a walk, llamas and cats move similarly, beginning from the left hind followed by the left front, then the right hind

and finally the right front. Both animals are narrow in the chest and deep through the rib. Much of their body language and behavior is similar. Irritated cats and llamas both flatten their ears against their heads, switch their tails and ... spit. Both animals are quiet, clean, don't smell, and go to the bathroom in the same place. Intact males of both species scream at each other at the top of their lungs. Llamas and cats very often arrange themselves in the same tea cozy position. Donald Meyers, a journalist from *Newsday Magazine*, described the teacozy similarity this way, "Out in the pasture llamas lie down to rest the way inscrutable cats do, with their legs tucked under them and their heads held high and dignified. When the long-necked llamas are lying like that, it looks like a field of periscopes."

Llamas that are sufficiently intimate with their people will, like a cat, rub their heads on you. And like cats, llamas prefer to initiate contact with human beings. Both species are generally leery of strangers and do not appreciate having their personal space invaded without some formal introduction. A cat's curiosity is legendary, witness the expression, "Curiosity killed the cat". Most any llama owner would agree that llamas rank right up at the top of the curiosity scale and it often leads to dangerous situations.

What about brains? The intelligence of cats is often the subject of debate given their legendary lack of enthusiasm for traditional training. Paul Corey in his book, *Are Cats People?*, described the problem this way, "Most humans, being self-oriented, feel that any mammal who doesn't try to act like a human is *ipso facto* stupid. In this intelligence comparison game, cats get very low marks. Of all domestic mammals, felines show the greatest resistance to behaving like a human." Llamas and cats are often obliging training subjects only if there is either food or a leadline/leash involved. Dr. Frank Miller, the author of a daily syndicated veterinary

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column, offered this interesting observation when asked, "Are cats as smart as monkeys"? He replied "It would be foolish to attempt to make a monkey out of a cat. However, one of the areas in which cats demonstrate learning, attributed formerly only to primates, is that of learning by observation, a process not easy for animals. Yet aside from primates, felines are the first and only species proven in the laboratory to perform tasks faster when they've been allowed to watch others in the learning process." Llama owners very often report that their llamas show a marked ability to learn faster when allowed to watch other llamas.

Historically, cats and llamas also share some commonality. Both animals were embraced by ancient cultures. The cat was worshipped as a god in ancient Egypt for over 2000 years. Some authorities claim that the cat was tamed by 3500 B.C. and deified by c. 3000 B.C. At around 950 B.C., the Egyptian Goddess Bastet emerged as the primary goddess. She was depicted as having a human body with a cat's head and often with a cat's limbs and tail. According to the *Cat Catalog* (billed as the Ultimate Cat Book), "As representatives of Bastet, Egyptian cats had an awesome responsibility. Bastet was not only goddess of sexuality and fertility, but she was also the embodiment of the time-honored ideal of virgin motherhood. How the Egyptians combined these two concepts is hard to imagine, but they worked it out."

In the Incan culture (1200 A.D.) llamas were used as pack animals, but they also had religious significance. The llama was often the focus of spiritual and fertility rites and was held in great esteem. A llama fetus was buried under the house to bring good luck and a pure white llama was often sacrificed to insure a good harvest. Cats clearly had the better deal. Egyptian worship of the cat reached such intensity that the penalty for taking a cat's life was death. Their food was cut into little pieces lest they choke and they were often encouraged to eat off of their master's plate. Eventually, cats as gods outnumbered their human counterparts.

According to Bureau of Census figures originating with the American Veterinary Medical Association, cats are the number one companion animal in the United States. There are 54.5 million feline owning households, A trip to the library and a tour of the 636.8 section will convince you that a dog

may be man's best friend but cats are more fun to write about. In my library there are far more cat books than books devoted to any other single species. The introduction to *The Literary Cat, Quips Quotes and Observations* was, in my opinion an amazingly accurate description of the attraction we human beings feel for both creatures.

"No wonder the ancient Egyptians worshipped cats as gods-is there an animal with more dignity, more aloof serenity, and innate grandeur? What other domestic creature behaves like an honored guest and is treated as an equal?"

"Cats fix us with their gaze and put us in our place. They beguile us with their startling affection and charm us with the beauty of their fluid bodies. They amaze us with their composure and delight us with their agility.

"Try to capture a cat with a generalization and you will be proven wrong, for cats are mercurial-as swift in mood as they are in movement, playful one moment, elusive the next. Communicative today, reclusive tomorrow, their motivations remain unknowable, yet their presence becomes essential to our lives.

"Cats do as they please, and for that we admire and even revere them. They treat us as companions, demanding and receiving our respect as their due. The fact that they choose to spend their lives with us is a gift we accept gratefully."

With the range of companion animals available, why are certain people attracted to dogs, cats, llamas, exotic animals, or even snakes? There are in fact 5 million Americans who are very bonded to their slithery buddies. Over 70 years ago, G. Stanley Hall put forth the theory that a person's age determined the preference for a certain type of pet. According to Hall, children under 5 preferred cats because they were smaller and less demanding. Once a child reached the middle years of 8-12, their preference would switch to the more active and mobile dog. Once in adolescence the preference would again change back to cats because of the more independent feline personality. While this theory was inventive, it proved to be very inaccurate. According to the book, *The Loving Bond*, a compilation of articles edited by Phil Arkow about the Human Animal Bond, current research indicates that childhood experiences, which influence

NOTES FROM RMLA NEWSLETTERS IN THE PAST:

by Erma Hast

January 1988 - National Western Stock Show in Denver. RMLA members participated with their llamas.

Floyd Zopfi and his 8-llama hitch appeared at the National Western Stock Show.

RMLA and ILA hosted a joint booth for the promotion of llamas.

April - Election policy was updated to include President-elect position.

May - Peter Nichols, heading the Colorado Llama Packers Association, made a media tour with his llama "Hans" in New York and in Washington, D.C. He appeared with Rep. Pat Schroeder of Colorado at the Nation's capitol.

Packing note: A group was packing with their llamas in the Superstition Wilderness Area outside of Phoenix. The llamas suffered extremely sore feet from sliding on slick rocks and small gravel. One member walked out and drove to a veterinarian for antibiotics and pain killers. Three others fashioned llama booties from a large piece of leather. Caution: (1) Llamas' feet should be conditioned before trips into rough, rocky country; (2) Carry an adequate First Aid Kit that contains a set of leather boots that completely enclose the foot, antibiotics and pain reliever.

June - Second Annual Rocky Mountain Pack Llama Festival at Colorado Mountain College near Glenwood Springs, Colorado.

July - The Colorado Trail held its Grand Opening Celebration (Trailabration) in Durango, Colorado. The Redwoods, Prices and Whites attended.

Also taking place in July was the Sixth Annual Fairplay Pack Llama Race and Roundup in Fairplay, Colorado. The altitude of the race site is 10,000 feet. Pulse and respiration checks were made on the llamas at the start of the race and at the completion by CSU veterinary graduate students. No high stress factors seemed to be found, but some difference was found between conditioned and non-conditioned llamas.

August - The Fourth Annual Wind River Rendezvous in Lander, Wyoming.

ALSA has reorganized and has new Board of Directors. Jodi Sleeper was elected President. RMLA members Bobra Goldsmith and Lynn Hyder are also on the Board.

Issue was raised that some breeders are using males that have had operations for angular leg deformities. Caution was urged when purchasing breeding animals.

September - RMLA participated in CSU's Ag Day on campus in Fort Collins, Colorado.

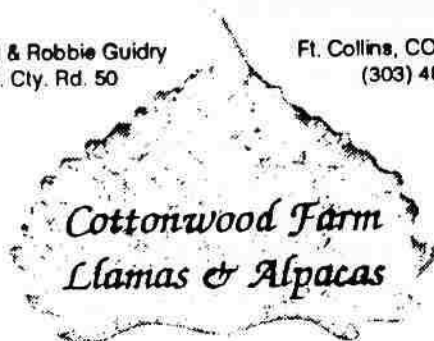
Also in September, the Seventh Annual RMLA Conference was held in Montrose, Colorado. Officers elected: Dan Schreiner, President; Peter Nichols, President-elect; Mary Mauz, Vice-President; Erma Hast, Secretary; Dale Pettigrew, Treasurer.

Cheryl Arndt completed her Master's Thesis, "Llama Use on Public Lands." Last year RMLA gave Cheryl a small research grant to help with her project.



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learned responses to various animals and domestic situations, hold the key to why certain people prefer certain animals.

Current research also indicates that individuals who are drawn to a specific type of animal usually have "either similar or complementary personality characteristics with it." Aline Kidd is a professor of psychology at Mills College. Her husband, Rev. Robert Kidd, is a chaplain and serves on the Animal and Human Research Subcommittees at the V. A. Medical Center in Martinez, California. They are collaborating on research involving the human personality and human/companion animal bonding. According to their research there are significant differences between persons who strongly prefer one type of pet and those who prefer another. According to the Kidd's, male dog and male horse owners are stereotypically assertive, dominant, and "masculine." They are low in the need to care for others and show a preference for

the larger, more aggressive breeds of dogs and horses. Horsewomen in the show world tend to be similar to male horse owners. Women who have horses strictly as pets tend to display more traditional feminine behaviors.

Turtle owners, as one might expect, are generally hard working, reliable, considerate, believe the world to be lawful and are steadily goal oriented. They also tend to be upwardly mobile because they are usually discontented with their present status in life. Bird owners on the other hand are contented, courteous, expressive, nurturant and unpretentious. Bird owners of both sexes are generally social.

Most of us would agree the same thing is true of llamas. Introduction from *The Literary Cat* is reprinted with permission of Running Press, 125 S. 22nd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Copyright 1990 by Running Press.

LIBRARY NOTES

by Chris Switzer

At the RMLA conference last fall, I learned that LaRue Johnson, DVM, has a new book, so that's been ordered. Also from the conference via Dan Schreiner, "Guard Llamas for Sheep and Goats - An Alternative for Effective Predator Management." This is the text for a new educational bulletin for ILA.

A second copy of the video, "In Search of the Ideal Llama" by Maggie and Richard Kreiger has come in. Lots of requests for this one, so now the checkouts will go quicker.

At the Central States Llama Conference in Iowa, mid October, I found a new children's book which is delightful, *The Llama Alphabet Coloring Book*, written and illustrated by Kate Bars. Another coloring book from the Llama and Alpaca Assoc. of North Dakota is entitled, "A Day in the Life of Senor Woolly." It's written by Lynn Jacobs, illustrated by Janice Lasater and coordinated by Darlene Hochsprung. Delightful text.

Barbara Hance donated a wonderful National Geographic magazine article from February, 1966, "Flamboyant Is the Word for Bolivia."

Special thanks for past monetary donations from Rose and Wade Wells and Teri Phipps.

A correction for the July newsletter - the video by Betty and Paul Barkman is "Llama Trekkers."

A variety of articles are now included in the library:

- "Bottle Baby Behavior" by Karen H. Baum, Llama Banner, Aug-Sept, 1993.
- "Care of the Premature Llama" and "Newborn Llama Care" by Jamie and Doug Sharp, LANA Binder notebook.
- Diagrams of the llama - bones, muscles, and organs (left and right sides).

- "Hand Shears: Setting and Sharpening" by Alan Jones, Black Sheep Newsletter, Oct 1985. (wool)
- "High Altitude Adventure" by Guy Peto, Llamas magazine, Oct 1985.
- "Llama Fleece Processing Tips" by Nan Blake, LANA Binder notebook.
- "Llamaghini" from Summit Magazine, CU-Boulder, Fall 1990.
- "Llama Wool" by Jamie Boswell-Sharp, LANA Binder notebook.
- "Lost World of the Incas" by Loren Mc Intyre, Modern Maturity, June-July, 1987.
- "Llamas" by Barbara Garson, GEO magazine, May 1984.
- "Morris Animal Foundation Report - Congenital Defects in Llamas, Nov., 1992.
- "Morris Animal Foundation Report - Suspected Retroviral Infection as a Cause of Immunodeficiency in Juvenile Llamas," Jan 1993.
- "Shearing" (llamas) by Art Kressly, LANA Binder Notebook
- "Toxic Plants" - 4 short articles from a variety of sources, several authors.
- "What Should I Look for When Buying an Alpaca?" by Leah Dewald, Llama Life, autumn 1993.

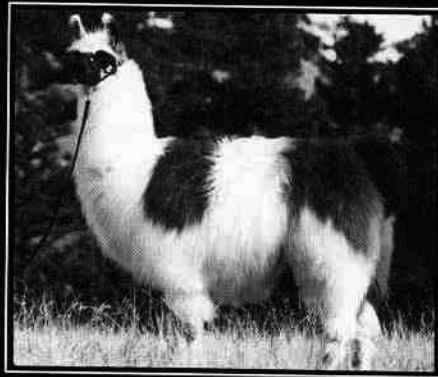
This is my last column as librarian. It has brought me great joy to start the library, develop it, and work with RMLA members for educational needs during the last 6 years. As of January, 1995 the new librarian is Sharon Herbold, 15350 Highway 83, Colorado Springs, CO. 80921, 719-495-3092.



The Estes Park Llama Show is looking for sponsors for the fabulous Class trophies. All the Sponsors are listed in the Show Booklet that is handed out at the Show. If you would like to present your trophy, just say so! Some Sponsors qualify for ads in the Booklet. If you would like to sponsor a class, just call Elizabeth Simpson, 303.444.7780.

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SHIYA, ESPERANZA, TESS, CASSANDRA & BUCANERO, our 1994 babies, are for sale. Two were weaned in December & three will be weaned in May. Must be seen to be appreciated. Please write or call for prices & appointment or video. Backcountry Llamas, P.O. Box 1287, Paonia, CO 81428, 303-527-3844.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A NEW HOME: Bred females with babies at side. Female with female baby, and bred for late summer baby to large black and white male, \$4,000.00. Males young and old of breeding quality, too. One year old female, medium wool, great conformation and color. Rivers Divide Llamas, Peyton, CO, 719-749-2228.

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FEMALE LLAMAS FOR SALE: Flurry: 1-1/2 years old, grey-brown daughter of Marshall Sam McCloud & granddaughter of Chico the Canadian Legend. \$3,000 with free breeding to our brown long-wooled stud or our large tri-colored stud. CARMEL: 8 month old female. \$2,500 with free breeding included. John & Shelley Ellis, Box 742, Encampment, WY 82325, 307-327-5957.

SQUAW CREEK LLAMAS has all ages & length of wool llamas for sale during the year. Our "inventory" is always changing; so a letter or call would inform you what is available. Current prices from \$500 for males to \$2,500 for open or bred females. 72 Squaw Creek Crt., Lander, WY 82520, 307-332-5003.

FOR SALE: A SMOKEY-BROWN MALE LLAMA. Prospect for stud and/or packing. Born 6-6-93. Also 3 males born 1994 available after weaning. 1 charcoal color, 1 sandy brown, 1 brown. Ivan & Shirley Herold, P.O. Box 83, Baggs, WY 82321, 307-383-2330.

EXPERIENCED PACKERS: 3 geldings, 1 tall, strong stud. Ages 7-9. Prices \$1350-1750. Good guys. Rendezvous Llamas, 307-739-1639.

LOOKING FOR QUALITY LLAMAS? Wind River Llamas has available for sale two 1994 female weanlings (see them at the Stock Show in Denver), bred females, and two experienced pack llamas with gear. We continue to offer stud services of our long-wooled, big boned Senor Rojo son, Rojo's Premiado, 307-332-7261.

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GOLD RUSH LLAMA & ALPACA SALES—llamas & alpacas EXCLUSIVELY. Integrity - Professionalism - Commitment. Spring Sale: April 21-22, 1995, Utah State Fairpark, Salt Lake City, UT. Fall Sale: October 6-7, 1995, The Trails, Olympia/Tumwater, WA. Serving the llama/alpaca community since 1992. For up-to-date sale information, call toll-free: 800-484-9756 (code 8759).

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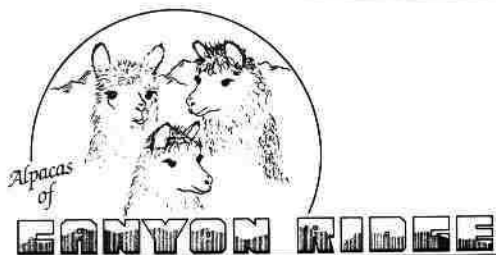
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