

# International horse expert lives in Manhattan

By Ron Wilson

Director

*Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development at Kansas State University*

Pick up a copy of America's Horse magazine. As you leaf through the pages, you may come to an article about an internationally renowned horse expert. Read on - you'll find that this expert on equines comes from rural Kansas. It's today's Kansas Profile.

Meet Harry Whitney, an internationally acclaimed horse clinician. Harry has deep roots in rural Kansas. His great-grandfather homesteaded the family home place. It is located on Gumbo Hill Road, just north of Manhattan. His grandmother Erma was a long-time columnist, writing as the "Girl of the Gumbo."

Harry's mother grew up there, and his father grew up nearby at Keats. They married and had a career in the military before moving back home to the farm.

Harry's full name is Harry Everett Whitney III. That sounds like a name that belongs in some east coast school, but Harry got a rural-sounding nickname to compensate for it: Spud. Harry said, "My dad was in the military and was stationed in Maine when I was born. So I was born in Aroostock County where all they raise is potatoes. My grandfather wrote my folks and asked how that new little spud was doing. I've been Spud ever since."

Spud Whitney grew up around horses. Harry said, "I was on a horse before I could talk." He went through Riley County schools and

graduated from K-State in animal science.

As a self-taught trick roper, Spud Whitney gained fame during his college days. Then he worked on the rodeo circuit from South Dakota to Alabama, doing trick roping, Roman riding, clowning, pickup man and announcing. He also worked on ranches, spending lots of time horseback.

In 1983, a Manhattan-area horse man named Bernard Wells asked Spud if he would start (meaning train) a young horse for him. Spud took it on and did so well that other people wanted their horses trained, and the business snowballed. Spud got married and moved to Ottawa, Kansas where he trained horses full-time.

Other people wanted to learn

about the principles Spud was using to train horses. In 1991, Harry and friends put on a clinic to demonstrate these training principles. It went so well that he put on another clinic two weeks later.

The business continued to grow. Harry's wife passed away in 1995, and he went full-time doing equine clinics around the country. Because of the weather, he started doing his winter clinics in Arizona and eventually moved there. He returns to Kansas during the holidays and often does a clinic around year-end in Spring Hill, Kansas.

Harry's specialty is a week-long clinic where owners come to Harry with their horses to solve problems or improve their horsemanship. Harry said, "It's more about training the people than training the horses.

People want to anthropomorphize. They want to impose their own point of view on why a horse behaves as he does. Instead, they need to see things from the horse's point of view."

When people understand the horse's natural self-preservation instinct, for example, then they can begin to understand what causes the action which seems to them like misbehavior and work to correct it. This fundamental understanding has led to Harry becoming an internationally-acclaimed horse clinician.

Harry handles it all with humor and humility. He said with a smile, "I just wanted to get through school. I didn't care if I ever got a job - and fortunately, I never did."

Harry's horse clinics have taken

him from Maine to San Diego and from Canada to Florida - even Hawaii. In January 2010, he will present his clinic in Australia - for the third time. Wow. Not bad for someone who grew up on a farm north of Manhattan and east of the rural community of Riley, population 848 people. Now, that's rural.

For more information, go to [www.harrywhitney.com](http://www.harrywhitney.com).

It's time to put away your copy of America's Horse magazine, one of several publications that have featured the work of this rural equine clinician. We commend Harry "Spud" Whitney for making a difference by helping riders understand their horse's point of view, thus improving the situation for both the horse and the human.

## Health care fraud staggering

Health care fraud numbers are staggering. The U.S. spends more than \$2 trillion on healthcare annually. At least three percent of the spending - \$68 billion - is lost to fraud each year, according to a 2008 study by the National Health Care Anti-Fraud Association.



**sandy praeger**  
• insurance comm.

Other groups have stimulated the losses may reach \$200 billion annually.

To help combat that, the Kansas Insurance Department's Anti-Fraud Division, as well as anti-fraud agencies and organizations throughout the U.S., may soon have new informational tools for fighting scams.

The Anti-Fraud Task Force of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners is in the process of creating a suspected fraud document that can be used as a standard report for all state fraud bureaus, insurance companies, law enforcement agencies and anti-fraud organizations. The task force is a natural focal point for sharing anti-fraud information, because it can bring together reports from state fraud bureaus across the country.

Ted Clark, our state's anti-fraud director, and I are heavily involved in the activities of the task force. I chair the task force, and Ted is a sought-after resource person for anti-fraud organizations.

The reporting form is something the federal government will soon request from the national association as part of the new health insurance reform laws, and the task force will be "ahead of the curve" when it is called upon to produce the document.

The new form appears to be the beginning of an increased emphasis in partnering public anti-fraud organizations with private ones. Although there will be some significant challenges in sharing information, doing so will be the best way to speed up nationwide enforcement activities.

Ted points out one possible example of the form's use. According to one study, one in five medical providers who are involved in defrauding health insurance companies are also involved in defrauding property and casualty companies. The fraud occurs in areas such as workers' compensation, commercial slips and falls and staged auto crashes.

Having this reporting system, Ted says, could match up fraud activities through all lines of insurance (in this case study, health and property/casualty) and could provide a much

quicker way to "catch on to the bad guys."

I think that increased collaboration has become more important as the economic problems of the past three years played into the hands of potential insurance swindlers. For example, a group operating under the umbrella name of the American Trade Association would unlicensed limited coverage medical plans throughout the U.S. in 2010. Often, policy holders were left holding the bag for large medical bills.

The Kansas department was one of the first insurance departments to issue cease and desist orders for this company's activity in February 2010. Many states followed suit during the next few months, and legal action was taken against those who perpetrated the activity. Having a more standardized method of shared information reporting, however, could have quickened the enforcement actions.

Because of limited staff and resources, our department's anti-fraud division works closely with state, federal and local law enforcement agencies including the Kansas Attorney General's office, in identifying and prosecuting health care insurance abusers. Our investigators have long had a good working relationship with our anti-fraud allies, and this new nationwide push to curb fraud should help improve the overall effort.

But, even more importantly, these new anti-fraud reporting opportunities should help the staff as we continue to protect Kansas insurance consumers and their money.

## Worship warms the heart



### Calvary Gospel Church

**Pastor:** Randy Payne  
Fourth & College • 890-3605  
**Sunday:** Kid's Church: 10 am  
Morning Service: 10 am  
Prayer and Praise: 5:00 p.m.  
**Wednesday:** Royal Rangers Missionettes 6:30 p.m.  
Adult mid-week service: 7:00 p.m.  
Youth @ the Rock House: 6:30 p.m.  
Adult mid-week service: 7:00 p.m.  
[www.calvarygospel.net](http://www.calvarygospel.net)

### Our Lady of Perpetual Help

**Pastor:** Father Norbert Dlabal  
307 W. 13th • 890-7205  
**Sacrament of Reconciliation:**  
5-5:45 p.m. Saturday or by appointment  
**Mass Schedule:**  
**Saturday:** 6 pm, **Sunday:** 10:30 am  
**Spanish Mass:**  
**Sunday:** 12:30 pm

### Word of Life

10th & Clark • 899-5250  
**Pastor:** Jason and Beverly Trupp  
10 a.m. - Worship Celebration  
and Kids' Church  
**Life Groups** - call for times and locations  
[www.wordoflifefoursquare.org](http://www.wordoflifefoursquare.org)  
A Foursquare Gospel Church

### Pleasant Home Church

Serving the rural community  
for over 100 years  
Rt. 1, Box 180 • 694-2807 • 3190 Road 70  
**Pastor:** Perry Baird  
890-3375  
**Sunday:** Worship Service: 9 a.m.  
Sunday School: 10 a.m.

### Bible Baptist Church

**Pastor:** Clifford Middlebrooks  
Fifth & Broadway  
890-7368  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9 a.m.  
Morning Service: 10 a.m.  
Evening Service: 6:30 p.m.  
**Wednesday:** Evening Bible Study: 7 p.m.

### Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO  
(719) 346-7984  
**Sacrament Meeting:** 10 a.m.  
**Sunday School:** 11:15 a.m.  
**Priesthood/Relief Society:** 12 a.m.

### Iglesia Del Dios Vivo

La Luz Del Mundo  
Spanish Speaking Church  
**Minister:** Esteban Ortiz B.  
1601 Texas • 899-5275  
**Daily Prayer:** Sunday thru  
Saturday: 5a.m. & 6 p.m.  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 10 a.m.

### United Methodist Church Brewster

**Pastor:** Dorine Chambers  
Worship Service: 10:45 a.m. CST  
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. CST  
**Winona:**  
**Minister:** Sheryl Johnson  
Worship Service: 9 a.m. CST  
Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

### First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

**Pastor:** Rev. Carol Edling Jolly  
Eighth & Arcade • 890-5233  
**Sunday:** Church School - All ages 9:15 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Youth Group: 1st and 3rd Sundays 5-7 p.m.  
**Wednesday:** Prayer Class - Noon  
Pastor Carol's Class 5:45 p.m.  
[www.goodlandfccdoc.org](http://www.goodlandfccdoc.org)

### Kanorado United Methodist Church

**Pastor:** Leonard Cox  
399-2468  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9 a.m.  
Worship Service: 10:15 a.m.

### Church of the Nazarene

**Pastor:** Bob Willis  
Third & Caldwell  
899-2080 or 899-3797  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.  
Worship Service: 10:50 a.m.  
Evening Service: 6 p.m.  
**Wednesday:** Evening Service: 7 p.m.

### Goodland United Methodist Church

1116 Sherman 899-3631  
**Pastors:** Dustin and Shelly Petz  
**Saturday:** Worship: 5:30 p.m.  
**Sunday:** Adult Classes: 9:15 a.m.  
Worship: 10:30 a.m.  
**Wednesday:** Wednesday Nite Live  
5:45 - 6:45 p.m. Simple Supper \*Free will Offering  
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Classes for all ages

### Goodland Bible Church

109 Willow Road • 899-6400  
**Pastor:** Chad DeJong  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship: 10:45 a.m.  
Evening Worship: 6 p.m.  
**Wednesday:** AWANA (Winter) and prayer: 7 p.m.

### First Baptist Church

**Pastor:** Travis Blake  
1121 Main  
890-3450  
**Sunday:**  
Coffee fellowship: 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship: 10 a.m.  
Sunday School: 11:15 a.m.  
**Thursday:** Bible study 9:30 a.m.  
Wheatridge Center

### St. Paul's Episcopal Church

13th & Center  
Church 890-2115 or Rectory 890-6969  
**Priest:** Father Hal Lycett  
**Holy Eucharist:** 10:00 a.m. Sunday  
10:00 a.m. Thursday  
**Daily Morning Prayer**  
For emergencies 890-6969

### Harvest Evangelical Free Church

521 E. Hwy. 24 • 890-6423  
**Pastor:** Brian Fugleberg  
**Sunday:** Worship: 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.  
**Wednesday:**  
Senior High 6:30 p.m. at church  
Junior High 6:30 p.m. at 708 Washington  
[www.goodlandefree.com](http://www.goodlandefree.com)

### Seventh Day Adventist Church

1160 Cattletrail  
**Pastor:** Jerry Nowack  
**Saturday:** Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service: 11 a.m.

### Emmanuel Lutheran Church

13th & Sherman • 890-6161  
**Sunday:** Christian education/fellowship:  
10:15 a.m.  
Worship Service: 9 a.m.

### Church of Christ

401 Caldwell  
890-6185  
**Sunday:** Bible Study: 9:45 a.m.  
Worship Service: 10:45 a.m.  
**Wednesday:** Bible Study: 7 p.m.

The following sponsors urge YOU to attend your chosen House of Worship this Sabbath:

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For more information, contact The Good Samaritan Society-Sherman County!



208 W. 2nd, Goodland (785) 890-7517

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