

*This page:* As the breed continued to grow into the 1970s, show schedules expanded to include more classes for amateur exhibitors, who were steadily increasing in number and skill. Judy Tillet (pictured at right) was one of the most skilled and elegant riders of the era. Deedy Decker (far right) was well known for both her skill as an equestrienne and her elaborate riding habits. The ownership ranks also expanded during this time with a great variety of individuals being attracted to the excitement inherent in the Tennessee Walking Horse ownership experience. John "Tennessee" Miller, a pioneer of the Alaskan pipeline, was both an enthusiastic owner and benevolent benefactor of the breed.

*Opposite page:* The professional trainer's influence remained key to the success of the breed. Two of the most popular, skilled, and influential trainers of the era were Vic Thompson (top) and Billy Gray.



### SHOW RIDING SUITS

IMPORTED FROM ENGLAND

Men's and Ladies' Saddle Derbies

English-Made Zipper Jodhpur Boots

Patent Leather Riding Shoes

Elastic Side Jodhpur Boots

Blue Ribbon Leather Co. Inc.

Send for your free copy of our New Catalog.

SHOW TIME 1972



### REST IN PEACE

MEMBERS OF THE TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE COMMUNITY ARE EXTREMELY DEVOTED TO THEIR BELOVED EQUINE COMPANIONS, EVEN AFTER THEY PASS FROM THE EARTHLY REALM. GRAVES ARE OFTEN MARKED WITH ELABORATE HEADSTONES, AND GRAVESITES ARE FREQUENTLY VISITED BY BREED DEVOTEES. THE HEART OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE AND SURROUNDING REGIONS ARE DOTTED WITH THE BURIAL SITES OF BELOVED HORSES — FROM FOUNDING SIRE TOM HAL TO THE FIRST WORLD GRAND CHAMPION, STROLLING JIM, TO TWO-TIME WORLD GRAND CHAMPIONS MIDNIGHT SUN AND MERRY GO BOY TO CROWD FAVORITE AND 1992 WORLD GRAND CHAMPION DARK SPIRIT'S REBEL — IT IS A COMMON PRACTICE TO HONOR CHERISHED HORSES BOTH IN LIFE AND IN DEATH.

