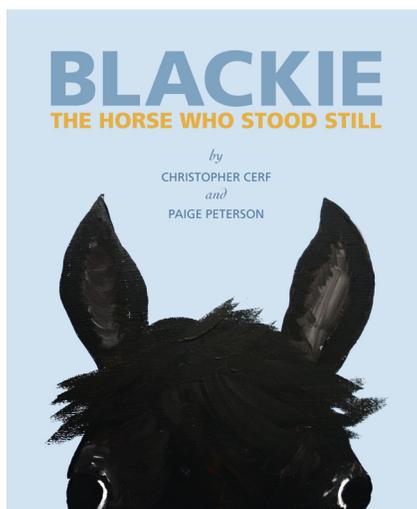


BLACKIE, THE BELOVED SWAY-BACKED HORSE FROM TIBURON AND CALIFORNIA'S MOST FAMOUS CITIZEN, IS IMMORTALIZED IN A NEW EDITION OF THE CLASSIC ILLUSTRATED CHILDREN'S BOOK



BLACKIE: THE HORSE WHO STOOD STILL

Christopher Cerf and Paige Peterson
Welcome Books

On sale May 6, 2014

64 pages with 45 full-color illustrations

\$16.95

6½" x 8"

ISBN 978-1-59962-130-2

About the Author:

CHRISTOPHER CERF is an author, composer-lyricist, and television producer. Cerf played a pivotal role in the creation and production of "Sesame Street," most notably as a regular contributor of music and lyrics. He has won eight Emmy Awards and two Grammy Awards.

About the Illustrator:

PAIGE PETERSON is a noted and widely exhibited artist who has been selected for membership in the prestigious Guild Hall Academy of the Arts in East Hampton, New York. As a child in Belvedere, California, she often fed Blackie apples, carrots, and sugar cubes in his pasture. She has recently illustrated Jesse Kornbluth's edition of "A Christmas Carol." A Senior Vice President of the Huntsman Cancer Institute, Paige lives and works in New York City and Belvedere, California.

Christopher Cerf and Paige Peterson are available for interview.

www.blackiethehorse.com

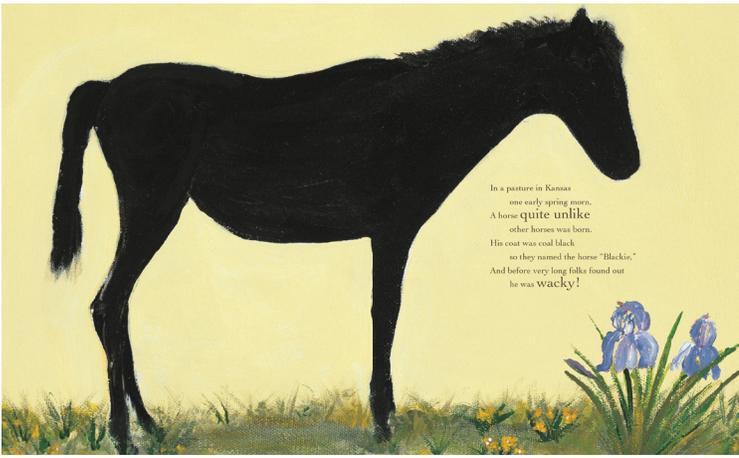
"The word quickly spread 'bout the new horse in town
And from all 'round the county young kids headed down
To the pasture where Blackie could always be found
Standing still, like a rock, on the same patch of ground."

—Excerpt from *Blackie: The Horse Who Stood Still*

In the beautiful Marin County, California town of Tiburon, there once lived a horse named Blackie who spent his life standing absolutely still. Several generations of local children would visit Blackie's pasture bringing him apples, carrots, and sugar cubes. But mostly they came to watch a horse that barely moved a muscle. After a life as a champion rodeo horse (standing still while his cowboy roped a steer), and a bona fide tourist attraction at Yosemite National Park (not moving a muscle while tourists photographed the ranger who rode him), Blackie's sway-backed form also became a symbol of an environmental crusade to limit the encroaching development of one of the Bay Area's most beautiful towns.

The life and times of this stubbornly motionless equine hero is delightfully told in *Blackie: The Horse Who Stood Still* (Welcome Books; \$16.95; 5/6/14), a touching biography-in-verse by Christopher Cerf and magically illustrated with 45 full-color illustrations by Paige Peterson.

In 1965 while Blackie stood serenely in his pasture, the road to Tiburon was expanded to four lanes and rerouted partially through a section of the pasture. The entire citizenry was in an uproar over this threat to the rural splendor of the town and their favorite horse. The "Committee to Save the Sway-Backed Horse Pasture" was formed. Blackie's pasture was saved, and the horse was on hand for the ribbon-cutting ceremony dedicating the new boulevard. When he died a year later in 1966 (after 28 years in that small town), Blackie's eulogy appeared in all the San Francisco Bay Area newspapers, and he was buried with much solemnity in his beloved pasture, attended by many of the town's children. Three years later, the lure of Blackie's story still had considerable power; *Good Housekeeping* magazine ran a story about



In a pasture in Kansas
 one early spring morn,
 A horse quite unlike
 other horses was born.
 His coat was coal black
 so they named the horse "Blackie."
 And before very long folks found out
 he was wacky!



...Till they reached California—a state way out west!

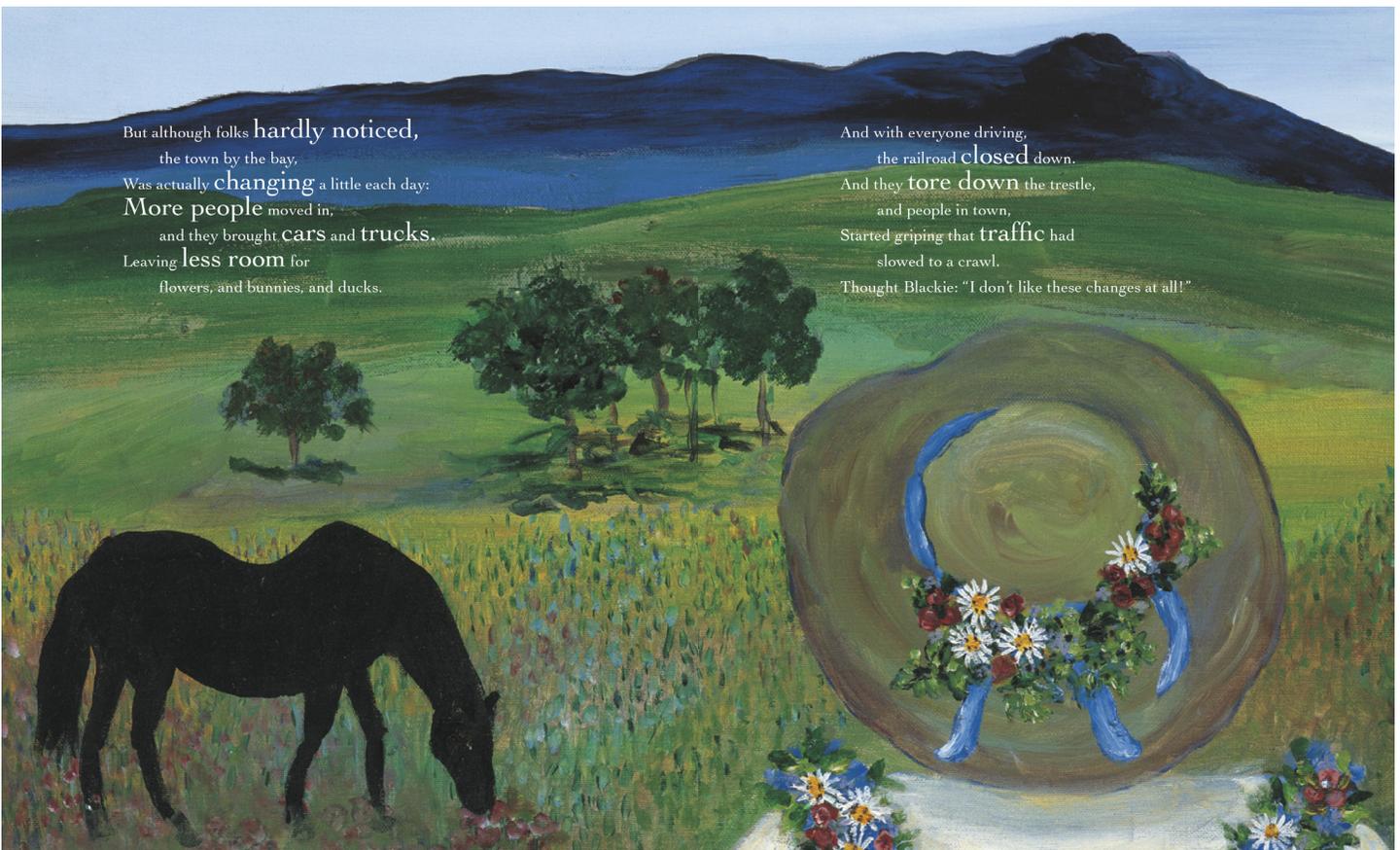
The rodeo man had a house in Salinas.
 When they got there he said,
 "Blackie, he's just between us,
 The rodeo here is the best that I know.
 So let's go right over and put on a show!"

his life, reporting on the quarters and dimes collected by schoolchildren from as far away as Massachusetts to pay for his memorial. Today a statue of Blackie with his famous sway-backed form stands in the exact same place where he stood motionless for all those years. Residents are likely to give directions to visitors: "Take the first turn to the left after you pass the sway-backed horse." There is a Blackie Street. Tiburon also features a Blackie Brigade, a children's group dedicated to environmental causes.

Blackie, originally published in 2006, is destined to be as beloved as Munro Leaf's *Ferdinand the Bull* and Dr. Seuss's *The Lorax*, and it is sure to appeal to adults and children alike.

UPCOMING EVENT:

On May 17, 2014, Book Passage in Corte Madera will play host to a special event honoring Blackie with a reading of *Blackie: The Horse Who Stood Still* by illustrator Paige Peterson and author Christopher Cerf.



But although folks hardly noticed,
 the town by the bay,
 Was actually changing a little each day:
 More people moved in,
 and they brought cars and trucks.
 Leaving less room for
 flowers, and bunnies, and ducks.

And with everyone driving,
 the railroad closed down.
 And they tore down the trestle,
 and people in town,
 Started griping that traffic had
 slowed to a crawl.
 Thought Blackie: "I don't like these changes at all!"