



Figure 4

I elected to use this post-trim dissection rather than an x-ray for illustration purposes. P3 is in a good healing position ($P3^\circ = H^\circ$), with H° falling centrally in the angle ranges of the wild horse hoof model. The coronary corium, however, is projecting growth (B°) far too low ($< 35^\circ$) to be natural, reflecting the lack of healthy attachments in the laminar corium produced by the ailing Supercorium. The toe wall proper (stratum medium) is, not unlike all shod hooves, “thin”, and is “riding” atop the detached insensitive lamina of the inner hoof wall, which itself has grown

to grotesque proportions, mirroring the massive stretched white line visible below the toe wall in Figure 3. The toe wall, due to the failed attachment mechanism, appears to be pressing into the Supercorium and P3, and probably severely so during the final support phase of the hoof mechanism [See Bulletin #108]. P3, probably because of pressure exerted upon it by the toe wall, seems to be deformed. The horse must have been in great pain. H° marks our approximate destination following future trimmings and much needed changes in horse keeping practices. It will not be a quick journey.

(Figure 5, below/facing page). This “clean up” is not hard to do, but experience is prudent. The bottom of this hoof is in terrible shape, reflecting the deleterious effects of neglect, shoeing, and unnatural trimming; yet, as can be seen in the images on the facing page, it yields nicely to precision trimming.

It is important to trim, yet not “over trim” the sole. The orientation of the solar papilla below their germi-

nal cell matrix [See Bulletin #110], like the papilla of the coronary corium, respond to wear, and natural trimming similarly “aims” or stimulates them to produce new concaved anteroposterior growth in non-parallel alignment with H° . Thus, avoidance of sole trimming is as neglectful as sole “clear cutting” is inhumane.

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Figure 5 (facing page)

(a) What mess! (b) I begin by skimming off all loose crud and lightly smoothing rough surfaces that conflict with the natural concavity of the sole. Notice that I’m also trimming the frog, which needs more work, but I’ll get back to it later. This is the “rough out” process described in HOG (page 114), the first step in reducing the capsule to a more natural shape. (c) I won’t hesitate to use my nippers either to pare down overgrown bars as shown here. (d) I use the crook of the hoof knife to gouge loose horn and crud out of the white line at the quarters and elsewhere. (e) I use the lower hoof knife blade to lightly scrape the walls of the bars of crud and loose horn. (f) I use the crook of the knife to scrape out the seats-of-corn of loose horn and crud.

Already, a fine looking hoof is beginning to emerge. Natural hoof care is all about producing beautiful, clean, and healthy hooves.