



Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Inc. NEWSLETTER

CLAIMING CROWN SPECIAL EDITION

AUGUST - 2001

TEAM PHILADELPHIA PARK CREATES ANOTHER SPLASH IN LAND OF LAKES

by Larry McMullen

Team Philadelphia Park faced a formidable foe when it traveled to Canterbury Park in Shakopee,

Minnesota, for the 2001 edition of the Claiming Crown.

It was staring at its own remarkable record from last year when local horsemen and horsewomen entered seven horses in the seven Claiming Crown races, winning three, finishing second twice, third once and fifth once.

That might be as close to perfection as

anyone will ever get in the event that has been called a Breeder's Cup for claimers and attracts runners from all over the country. (Sixty eight horses were entered in this year's six races that made up the Claiming Crown, easily outdistancing the number of entries from last year).

But none of that meant Team Philadelphia Park couldn't try to beat last year's amazing accomplishment.

With eleven horses entered at Canterbury Aug. 4, the Philly connections registered a pair of victories, two thirds, a fourth and a fifth in Claiming Crown 2001.

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THE SON ALSO RISES -- Jockey Danny Velazquez stands tall astride Nasty Bill Ray, conditioned by his father, Alfredo Velazquez, in the paddock prior to the running of the \$100,000 Rapid Transit Stakes at Canterbury Park.

FRIENDS OF SLOTS GEAR UP FOR NEW EFFORT IN STATE

by Larry McMullen

Party affiliation isn't likely to matter when the latest push for slot machines at Pennsylvania's racetracks rolls into high gear this Fall.

State Rep. Tom Petrone, a Pittsburgh Democrat, said he will introduce legislation when the House and Senate reconvene that would authorize referenda on the issue in the four counties, Bucks, Washington, Dauphin and Luzerne in which Philadelphia Park, The Meadows, Penn National and Pocono Downs are located.

His bill would be a companion to one already introduced by Bucks County Republican State Senator Robert M. Tomlinson that would simply, and directly, authorize slot

machines at the racetracks without the necessity of holding referenda.

"We've been down that road before," said Sen. Tomlinson, "and it's not clear if a referendum would be binding. My original bill included a provision for referenda."

The Bucks County legislator, who has been a solid proponent of slots at the State's racetracks since the drive began in 1996, first introduced the bill in 1998. That legislation was passed by the Senate but got hung up in the House on procedural matters.

In spite of the doubts over referenda, Tomlinson said he's aware that Gov. Tom Ridge, although he claims he is not opposed to slots, wants to make sure a majority of the people

are in favor of that form of gaming at the tracks, which would seem to indicate some form of referendum is necessary.

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**STATE SENATOR
ROBERT M. TOMLINSON**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Go back five years when our organization worked with all the entities of racing for the exemption of sales tax in the horse racing industry, saving us thousands and thousands of dollars. Big, big bucks.

Gov. Ridge on July 11, 1996 signed Senate Bill 1251, Equine Sales Tax Exemption.

The \$50,000 Pistol Packer Handicap for Pennsylvania bred fillies and mares on June 16 at a distance of seven furlongs was captured by Arty's Virginiagirl, six-year old mare, with Victor Molina up. Congratulations to trainer Floyd Snyder and owner Edward Lane.

A general membership meeting June 23, conducted by Michael Ballezzi, concerned trash pickup and fines for not complying with rules. The message was received. The areas involved are much improved.

Trainer Phil Aristone was interviewed by Kerry Walsh on the "Let's Go Racing" program of July 14. Phil and his family have always been a credit to thoroughbred racing. I agree with his philosophy. We all want the Big Horse.

Philadelphia is like our home and horsemen like the Aristones make racing at Philadelphia Park a success.

I also thank Phil for mentioning the contributions of PTHA Executive Director Mike Ballezzi in making Philadelphia Park what it is today.

Phil, our organization welcomes these fine words.

Congratulations to our home-based trainer John Servis and owner Rick Porter for winning the \$250,000 Grade III Delaware Oaks. Their filly Zonk zonked a field of 10 opponents in the 1 1/16 miles test, returning \$61, \$19.80 and \$8.60.

Four stake races were contested Saturday, July 28. Robert Orfanelli's B Flat

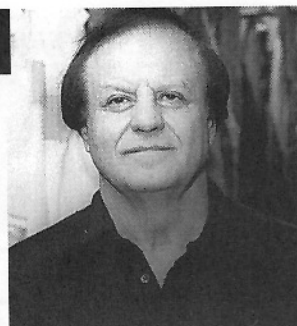
Major, a six year old trained by Tim Hooper, won the \$50,000 Iroquois Handicap for three year olds and up at 1 1/16 miles.

Malie's Princess, owned and trained by Donna Lockard, captured the \$50,000 Mill Race Stakes for fillies and mares three years old and up at five furlongs on the turf.

Augustin Stable's Grangeville, a six year old trained by Jonathan Sheppard, held on to take the Captain My Captain for Pennsylvania bred, three years old and upward over five furlongs on the turf and the \$200,000 Grade III Philadelphia Park Breeders Cup Handicap at six furlongs was dominated by John Rotella's Say Florida Sandy, trained by Juan Serey.

Congratulations to all.

The opening of the new turf club, Philadelphia Park Northeast Turf Club at Cottman and Bustleton Avenues in the Roosevelt Mall was a great success. On behalf of the Board of Directors and all Philadelphia Park horsemen, we



LARRY RIVIELLO
President

congratulate management and wish them well.

This is the sixth turf club to open, which is the limit state law allows. The revenue from the turf clubs, of course, generates income for our purses.

I hope the next ribbon-cutting ceremony will be for the slots at Philadelphia Park. Agree?

Point of interest: Louisiana Downs will be permitted to have 1,800 slot machines from which revenues are expected to cause purses to skyrocket.

Congratulations to all of our horsemen who made up this year's Team Philadelphia Park that staged another successful invasion of the Claiming Crown at Canterbury Park in Shakopee, Minnesota.

We had a total of eleven horses entered in Claiming Crown 2001 and scored a pair of victories, two thirds, a fourth and a fifth.

Trainer Scott Lake again led the way. He captured the \$50,000 Crown Express Stakes with Leo Gaspari's The Maccabee, ridden by Jose L. Flores, and the \$75,000 Glass Slipper Stakes with Anthony Centurione's French Teacher, Mark T. Johnston up. Both victories were scored in wire to wire fashion, The Maccabee stopping the clock in 1:09.68 for six furlongs and French Teacher completing 6 1/2 furlongs in 1:16.68.

Richard Vega finished third with Richard Schrader and Barbra Armstrong's Gotthard, Rodrigo Madrigal Jr. up, in the \$50,000 Iron Horse Stakes at 1 1/16 miles, a race in which Lake finished fourth with Richard A. Englander's Slew Can Go.

D. J. Stable's Lost Judgement, trained by John Servis and ridden by Jose L. Flores, was third in the the Glass Slipper. Jeffrey Haller's Barrister, trained by David Geist and ridden by Emilio Flores, caught a bad break when he stumbled at the start of the \$150,000 Jewel Stakes at 1 1/8 miles and finished fifth.



STATE SENATOR CHRISTINE TARTAGLIONE and State Senator Michael Stack (far L.), surrounded by officials from Philadelphia Park and with PTHA President Larry Riviello looking on, prepare to cut ribbon for opening of the Northeast Turf club.

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REQUIEM FOR A DAD

Joseph Urquhart, horse owner, racing fan, law enforcement officer and, probably most important of all, a man whose daughter counts herself lucky to have had him as a dad, passed away July 8 at age 74 after a short illness.

"I was always daddy's little girl," said Paula Urquhart, who has worked as a groom and a hot walker on the backstretch at Philadelphia Park, "but I wasn't a material kind of daddy's little girl. He took me to the races when I was little. He took me fishing with him. We watched football games together. My mother used to say I shouldn't watch Monday night football on TV because I had to go to school the next day and my dad would promise her he'd put me to bed if I fell asleep."

When Urquhart's wife, Stephanie, died 11 years ago, he fell into a depression that caused his daughter much concern.

"My parents always taught me that when you're depressed, start doing things that make you happy," she said.

She talked her father into visits with her to the racetracks where they both had found enjoyment when she was young. At her urging, he finally bought Twice Snookered, a filly who restored some fun in his life. He later owned good horses like Sure Thunder, who established a track record at Atlantic City, Pinhead and Runaway Dude.

Urquhart was a member of the Army Air Corps during World War II. After the war, he was a security guard at the old Lit Brothers Department Store before serving stints as a probation officer and supervisor, an officer with the Pennsylvania Water Patrol and as a police liaison with federal marshals.

Besides his daughter, he is survived by a son, Joseph R., three grandchildren and a sister.

TRN HITS FINISH LINE

The Racing Network, which each week televised 2,500 thoroughbred, standardbred, quarter horse and greyhound races to up to 20,000 subscribers, closed down its operations last month when it failed to meet expectations for growth.

The multi-channel network was launched in 1999 by a partnership of Greenwood Racing, owners of Philadelphia Park, Ladbroke Racing and the Ontario Jockey Club.

It was estimated that up to five times the subscriber base that existed at shutdown would have been needed to continue in business.

FRIENDS OF SLOTS GEAR UP FOR NEW EFFORT IN STATE

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"Any differences between Petrone's bill and mine can be resolved when the time comes," said Tomlinson, who adds that the most important consideration is the \$2 billion Pennsylvania loses every year to the slots in the casinos of Atlantic City and racetracks in Delaware and West Virginia that already have slot machines.

He pointed out that around \$1 billion is lost to Atlantic City alone.

He continued, "I think legislation favoring slots will pass both the Senate and the House and I believe the Governor is more willing than ever to look favorably on such legislation."

He went on to say that powerful casino owners such as Donald Trump would be willing to spend heavily

wherever needed to prevent losing any of that \$1 billion.

"You see all of those buses leaving from around here for Atlantic City every day with people who would spend the money at Philadelphia Park if we had slots there," said Tomlinson. "Every day, the parking lots at racetracks in Delaware and West Virginia are crowded with cars that have Pennsylvania license plates. That's why arguments that say slot machines at the racetracks in Pennsylvania will adversely affect the poor are false arguments. The \$2 billion that goes out of state is money that is already being spent. We just want our share to stay here."

Tomlinson said money derived by the State from slots under his bill would be used to help fund a prescription plan for senior citizens as well as education and would also provide new revenues to counties and local municipalities.

He said legislation has a better chance now for passage than ever before, including the bill that floundered in 1999 that also had provisions for riverboat gambling and legalized video poker machines in taverns.

The focus in the latest proposed legislation is only on slots. Politicians who oppose, no matter what they claim, will clearly be voting against the survival of horse racing in Pennsylvania.

"Delaware Park would no longer be in business if it weren't for slots," Tomlinson noted.

With survival of an industry at stake, the PTHA will be taking names of friends and foes for later use at election time as the struggle for slots at the State's racetracks continues.



PHILLY PARK RACE BOOSTS PRESTIGE

The Grade III Philadelphia Park Handicap took on added luster two years ago when Artax won the \$1 million Breeders Cup Sprint after he could do no better than finish third earlier in the season in the local dash.

This year, John Rotella's Say Florida Sandy, winner of this year's edition of the \$200,000 Philadelphia Park race on July 28, could polish the image of the Grade III race even more by capturing the rich Breeders Cup Sprint Oct. 24 at Belmont Park.

Trainer Juan Serey said his 7-year-old charge is aiming for the big prize after he blazed six furlongs locally in 1:08.51 to add \$120,000 to his career bankroll, which now stands at \$1,647,926.

Last year, as Say Florida Sandy approached \$1 million in earnings, his owner told Serey maybe they should think of retiring the horse to stud when



SAY FLORIDA SANDY

he reached that mark.

"I told him let's go for \$2 million," said Serey, who will turn out to be a prophet if his charge scores in late October in what is the Super Bowl of horse racing.

Say Florida Sandy, after his recent success in a compact Philadelphia Park field of four under jockey Aaron Gryder, has now won an impressive 27 of 74 races lifetime. Since he competes mainly in New York, he will have the added advantage in the Breeders Cup Sprint of racing on home grounds.

Including the Breeders Cup Handicap, Philadelphia Park offered four races July 28 with total purse money of \$350,000.

Robert Orfanelli's B Flat Major, trained by Tim Hooper and ridden by Rodrigo Madrigal Jr., came again in the stretch to win the \$50,000 Iroquois Handicap at 1

1/16 miles in a time of 1:45.24.

Malie's Princess, owned and trained by Donna Lockard, scored a major upset when she captured the Mill Race Stakes at 5 furlongs on the turf in 57.92 and returned \$64.80. Madrigal was again the winning rider.

Augustin Stable's Grangeville, trained by Jonathan Sheppard, registered a popular but hard-fought victory in the \$50,000 Captain My Captain when he paid \$3 under jockey Tony Black in a time of 57.43 over the turf.

TEAM PHILADELPHIA PARK CREATES ANOTHER SPLASH

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Scott Lake followed up the three wins his charges scored in the 2000 renewal of the Claiming Crown with two more trips to the winner's circle this year, leading to some thought that Minnesota might have to be known from now on as the Land of 10,001 Lakes.

Both of his winners went wire to wire, setting blazing fractions in the process. Leo Gaspari Racing Stable's The Maccabee, under Jose Flores, cut splits of 21.61, and 44.30 before drawing out in the stretch to capture the \$50,000 Crown Express Stakes by nine lengths in the time of 1:09.68.

In the very next race on the Canterbury program, Lake saddled the five-year old mare French Teacher, owned by Anthony Centurione and ridden by Mark Johnston, then watched her practically duplicate her stablemate's performance by posting fractions of 21.94 and 44.28 enroute to a clocking of 1:16.68 for the 6 1/2 furlongs of the \$75,000 Glass Slipper Stakes.

Richard Vega posted a third-place finish in the \$50,000 Iron Horse Stakes at 1 1/16 miles with Robert Schrader and Barbra Armstrong's Gotthard, with Rodrigo Madrigal Jr. up. John Servis added another third with D. J. Stable's Lost Judgement, ridden by Jose Flores, in the \$75,000 Glass Slipper Stakes at 6 1/2 furlongs.

Lake had a fourth-place finish with Richard Englander's Slew Can Go in the Iron Horse.

Jeffrey Haller's Barrister, trained by David Geist and ridden by Emilio Flores, was an unlucky fifth in the \$150,000 Jewel Stakes at 1 1/8 miles after stumbling at the start of the race.

Circumstances also contributed to the defeat of Sharon Neill-Doyle's Barrister, trained by Edward K. Auwater and ridden by Derek Bell, after he became embroiled in a brutal three-horse speed duel early in the running of the \$125,000 Emerald Stakes at 1 1/16 miles on the turf and tired in the stretch to finish seventh.

The final member of Team Philadelphia Park, trainer Alfredo

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER...

How many people would become true believers if only God would appear before them with great fanfare, or speak to them in the middle of the night, or perform a spectacular event just for them? Unfortunately, God most often takes a different path, just leaving his fingerprints in the nooks and crannies of our lives.

We live in a world that teaches seeing is believing. But the Bible says, "We live by faith, not sight." In short, believing is seeing.

All over the racetrack, God leaves His fingerprints for those who are willing to spot them. When you believe, you see. One morning God spoke a kind word to me through Doc Malloy (Barn 34). It was a few days after Easter. I was glad that Doc had attended the Easter service at the track, so I thanked him for coming. Then he told me the full story.

He and his son had big plans for that Sunday and Doc told his son that he would be going to worship services before leaving the track. When his son asked why, in view of all their plans, Doc said, "Son, today is the Chaplain's Super Bowl."

For sure, Easter left God's footprints all over history, not just fingerprints! Easter promises that death has been defeated. Doc's story had the smudges of God all over it.

But God leaves His prints in other ways at the track. On the message board at Barn C one morning were these words: "The way to know the will of God is to say, 'I will' to God."

Great advice.

The other night, a man told me he had a good thing happen. Before he could continue, I congratulated him for his horse winning a race, but that wasn't what he had been going to tell me.

He said, "I just came up from Delaware and when I parked and got out of the truck, the whole front end of the truck fell apart."

He knew he had been spared disaster on the open road. God leaves fingerprints of protection.

Another day, a man walked into my office and peeled off several bills with the following instructions: "Here, have something special for refreshments after your service tonight." God leaves fingerprints of provision.

After Jesus' resurrection, the disciples told Thomas that Jesus was alive. Thomas replied, "Unless I see the scars of the nails in his hands and put my fingers on those scars and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

When Thomas saw the resurrected Jesus, he cried out, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus' words in reply were powerful. "Do you believe because you see me? How happy are those who believe without seeing me?"

Believing in God gives us glimpses of his fingerprints at the track.

The PTHA and Philadelphia Park provided a great day of festivities for the July Fourth picnic. Larry Riviello and Mike Ballezzi are to be thanked for their efforts. The Chaplain's office provided games and crafts, thanks to the PTHA for providing the materials. Molly Shalcross, our newly hired Director of Special Events, had an



**CHAPLAIN
JACK CORDELL**

excellent teams of helpers, including jockeys Janice Blake and Antonio Pena and Jaclyn Wasiluk, the teenaged daughter of trainer Peter Wasiluk and his wife, Sharyn. They enabled all of us to have a wonderful day.

On Tuesday nights since May 22, some have noticed several people gathering in the Reading/Card Room in the Rec Hall. The group of eager beavers have been learning Spanish from Peggy Tzortzakis (Owner/trainer, Barn 5), who taught Spanish in public schools for years. Don't be surprised if you hear Sandy from the Steward's office asking, "Como estas?" Or you might hear one of the vets, Dr. Roger Clymans, saying, Buenos dias." Peggy is doing a great job and shows amazing patience toward her pupils.

The annual Pig Roast, sponsored by the PTHA and Philadelphia Park, will be held Friday, Aug. 31 behind the Recreation Hall.

We're again calling on the veterinarians and tack shops to provide gifts to raise money for the Chaplain's Fund.

As usual, the highlights of the event will be great food, syncopated rhythms and fun and games for children of all ages.

Guests are asked to bring only their appetites.

TEAM PHILADELPHIA PARK CREATES ANOTHER SPLASH

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Velazquez, was accompanied on the trip to Minnesota by his son, 17-year-old Danny, who rode Helen G. Casson and Edward Lanzara's Nasty Billy Ray in the \$100,000 Rapid Transit Stakes. Young Danny and Nasty Billy Ray had garnered attention and admiration locally for a brave performance in winning the Pennsylvania Claiming Crown Preview Rapid Transit at odds of 18-1 on June 2. Unfortunately, the pair couldn't match that effort at Canterbury, breaking poorly and winding up out of the money.

Lake had a total of six entries in the Claiming Crown. Lady Di Huntley, a filly he trains for Richard Englander, failed to fire in the Glass Slipper and finished out of the money as did Joe Besecker's Bellwether in the Iron Horse and Robert L. Cole Jr.'s Sonofaqueen in the Rapid Transit. He was the only trainer in the Claiming Crown this year to win more than one race.

Betting handle for the day at Canterbury improved dramatically over last year, when Middle Atlantic racetrack operators decided not to accept the simulcast in a dispute over shares from wagering revenues. The

action effectively cut off betting on the Claiming Crown for Philadelphia Park.

This year, with simulcasting in place at the Middle Atlantic race-tracks, off-track wagering on he Canterbury races, including Philadelphia Park and its six turf clubs, totaled \$2,547,616. Counting \$612,252 bet at Canterbury, handle was over \$3 million.

Full fields are one sign of the impact the Claiming Crown is having on the horse racing industry. Another, and maybe more important indicator, is increasing handle.

If fans don't care, nobody will.

CLAIMING CROWN

4th race:

\$50,000 Iron Horse Stakes

Three Year Old and Upward, 1 1/16 miles

5	Secret Squall	Luis S. Quinonez	22.80	9.80	6.60
9	Home a Winner	Derek A. Bell		33.60	17.80
3	Gotthard	Rodrigo Madrigal, Jr			9.20
Winning Time: 1:45.75			Winning Owner: Christopher West and John Mentz		
			Winning Trainer: Pat Cuccurullo		

5th race:

\$50,000 Express Stakes

Three Year Old and Upward, 6 furlongs

4	The Maccabee	Jose M. Flores	2.60	2.20	2.10
8	Lord of Time	Derek A. Bell		3.80	2.40
6	Hot Affair	Luis S. Quinonez			2.60
Winning Time: 1:09.68			Winning Owner: Leo Gaspari Racing Stable, Inc.		
			Winning Trainer: Scott A. Lake		

6th race:

\$75,000 Glass Slipper Stakes

Three Year Old and Upward, F & M, 6 1/2 Furlongs

7	French Teacher	Mark T. Johnston	9.80	6.60	5.00
11	Beauty's Due	David Wilder Essman		43.00	19.40
1	Lost Judgement	Jose M. Flores			6.20
Winning Time: 1:16.68			Winning Owner: Anthony Centurione		
			Winning Trainer: Scott A. Lake		

7th race:

\$100,000 Rapid Transit Stakes

Three Year Old and Upward, 6 1/2 Furlongs

7	Sassy Hound	Mark T. Johnston	6.80	4.40	4.40
2	Crowns Runner	Robert Dean Williams		10.20	7.00
3	Exert	Edward Daniel Cervan			26.00
Winning Time: 1:16.8			Winning Owner: Toby Roth		
			Winning Trainer: Benjamin M. Feliciano, Jr.		

8th race:

\$125,000 Emerald Stakes

Three Year Old and Upward, 1 1/16 Miles, Turf

3	Al's Dearly Bred	Seth B. Martinez	13.40	6.20	4.40
10	Metatonia	Mark T. Johnston		8.80	5.60
11	Concielo	Carlos H. Silva			9.40
Winning Time: 1:42.22			Winning Owner: John Castro		
			Winning Trainer: Hugh H. Robertson		

9th race:

\$150,000 Jewel Stakes

Three Year Old and Upward, 1 1/8 Miles

4	Sing Because	Jose Valdivia, Jr.	4.40	3.40	2.80
9	Halo Kris	Paul M. Nolan		19.20	8.40
6	Banner Salute	Derek A. Bell			4.00
Winning Time: 1:50.74			Winning Owner: Richard A. Englander		
			Winning Trainer: Nick Canani		

SCENES FROM TEAM PHILADELPHIA PARK'S TRIUMPHANT RETURN TO THE CLAIMING CROWN



A LEGENDARY LOSER

by Larry McMullen



How many losses does it take before a horseman gives up on a maiden?

If you're Ted Caine, the number is at least 100.

His 16-year-old gelding, Quixall Crossett, reached that staggering number of defeats on July 22 at Southwell race course in England when he pulled himself up first time past the stands in a race that was carded at 3 miles, 110 yards over hurdles.

"He heard applause from the stands, his ears went up and he thought he'd done enough," said Caine.

Actually, the applause is a commonplace occurrence wherever Quixall Crossett appears. But it's never for what he's done. He's never done anything.

It's simply for showing up.

A publication called Racing Post in

1998 foreshadowed what was then in the process of happening when it wrote that the 16-year old gelding, already drowning in an ocean of defeats, "was a seriously slow maiden in danger of becoming a folk hero."

He's not in any danger anymore. He's there. A cult figure with his own fan club and web site on the internet

(www.quixall-crossett.co.uk), Quixall's connections are paid a \$750 appearance fee whenever he races.

Caine called a press conference before Quixall's 100th loss at which he planned to make his record holder (Quixall passed Amrullah's all-time mark of 74 losses in a row three years ago) available for photos and filming.

In a way, the legendary loser has become Caine's star. Quixall was bred at his High Crossett Farm. The conditioner uses the gelding's allure to publicize, in addition to Quixall's latest exploits, the doings at his farm, including success stories and news of foals dropped by his broodmares.

All of this is the product of a career in which Quixall Crossett's best finishes were second twice and third five times with total earnings of \$12,250,

almost all in steeplechases. He was practically favored in his 100th race, going off at odds of only 33-1 in a field of four.

Don't laugh. He was 500-1 once in a field of five at Haydock race course. Another time, he was 600-1.

Caine says he's the soundest horse in his stable. He must be. One year, he raced 31 times, which is the same as saying, of course, that he lost 31 times.

That's sound.

That's also slow.

If he's improving at all with age, it's probably in his ability to figure things out.

In one of many poems posted on his web site, a writer noted:

"It's not the winning,
it's taking part.

Yes, dear old Quixall, you've captured our hearts."

So dear old Quixall takes part, accepts his fans' applause, drops out long before the finish, as he has in three of his last four races, all over 3 miles in distance, and goes back to the barn to get something to eat.

Trainer Caine might be approaching a similar ability to figure things out.

"If he doesn't show more interest in his next race," he said, "we will think about retiring him."

SOUND OFF

(This column will appear periodically and explore opinions of horsemen and horsewomen on questions of interest and importance to the racing industry).

The tale of Quixall Crossett outlined in the story above, even with its sometimes comic overtones, posed a question in the open-

ing paragraph that local owners and trainers took very seriously. The question is: How many losses does it take before a horseman gives up on a maiden?

...

Guadalupe Preciado, whose handling of horses early in their careers enabled him to finish fourth in the country last year in winning percentage for 2 year olds, said if one of his charges finishes out of the money three or four times, he's



ready to give up.

"A bad horse costs just as much money to keep as a good horse. I
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SOUND-OFF

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have to make money for my family. This is my job. This is what I do. I can't make money with a bad horse. I'll sell him as a riding horse or as a show horse or as a jumper.

"I had one horse who lost 13 times before he broke his maiden. But he was making money while he was losing. That's the longest I ever had a horse as a maiden. He won his 14th time out."



Pat Bosley, who has 15 horses stabled at Philadelphia Park, all of which she either owns outright or in partnership with other owners, worried over the state of the sport when a horse such as Quixall Crossett could attract a fan club and have his own web site on the internet.

"Do we want to glorify losers?" she said. "I don't want that kind of popularity. I have a three-year-old filly, Sammi's Glory, who's run three times and hasn't been in the money.

She's even beaten a couple of horses. Would she ever win a race? Absolutely. But it's in the nature of these animals to be competitive. Do we want to torture Sammi's Glory by keep running her? She's never going to make me money. I'm selling her as a riding horse. She'll never race again. I wouldn't want to embarrass her."

• • •



Phil Aristone, whose family has been involved in most aspects of horse racing and took a horse, Bombay Duck, to the Kentucky Derby back in the '70s, points out that if a horse fails nine times to finish in the money at the bottom level at Philadelphia Park, he is barred from racing locally.

"If a horse of mine is paying his feed bill," he said, "I'll give him five times finishing out of the money before I give up on him. I remember a horse who raced at Garden State, Gussie Mae, who I think lost 80 something times. That's bad enough. But 100? I can't imagine"

Actually, Gussie Mae lost 85

times before finally breaking her maiden on the 86th attempt in 1995 at Atlantic City. She matched a record of futility set by Really A Tenor, who also finally broke through on race 86, in 1990 at River Downs. Zippy Chippy, who once lost a match race against a minor league baseball player, established a new standard for ineptitude in the U.S. earlier this year at Penn National by losing for the 89th time.

• • •



Faryn Waters, who races a small stable of horses, said if she has one as slow as Quixall Crossett, it doesn't take 100 races before she notices.

"I had one who lost by 20 lengths his first time out. The second time out, he was last even farther than that. That's when I sold him as a riding horse. Sometimes, when a horse looks like he's not going to make it racing, I'll say, 'I wish I could find a nice Amish couple to take him.'"

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Sharon Neill-Doyle's R. Encounter, trained by Edward K. Auwarter and ridden by Derek Bell, got involved in an early three-horse speed duel and tired to wind up seventh in the \$125,000 Emerald Stakes at 1 1/16 miles on the turf.

Lake was sixth with Joe Besecker's Bellwether in the Iron Horse, ninth with Englander's Lady Di Huntley in the Glass Slipper and thirteenth with Robert L. Cole Jr.'s Sonofaqueen in the \$100,000 Rapid Transit Stakes at 6 1/2

furlongs. Helen G. Casson and Edward Lanzara's Nasty Billy Ray, trained by Alfredo Velazquez and ridden by his son, Danny, was out of the money in the Rapid Transit Stakes.

No matter where they finished, we owe thanks to all the horsemen and horsewomen who participated in this year's Claiming Crown and helped carry the banner of Team Philadelphia Park.

One final note. The overall handle for the Claiming Crown races was greatly enhanced this year over last, when Middle Atlantic racetracks disputed the way betting revenues were to

be shared and decided not to take the simulcast from Canterbury Park, which meant Philadelphia Park patrons couldn't participate in the wagering.

This year, the off-track handle was \$2,547,616, including Philadelphia Park and its six turf clubs. Combined with wagering at Canterbury, which amounted to \$612,252, the total bet was more than \$3 million, a standout showing.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

A dream is very comforting. So dream.

CELEBRATING AMERICA

What better way to mark the birth of a nation than with a cookout, producing aromas that are to die for, children's games for the very young and softball and basketball for adults hoping to recapture for an afternoon the joys of childhood? The PTHA's annual affair on the backstretch this year followed a traditional script that is almost as old as our country.



TROPHY WINNERS JUNE - AUGUST

HORSE
 BINNACLES REWARD
 TRIP CHARGE
 LIMERIK
 THATSALLITCOULDBE
 MISS ATTICUS
 PERFECTLY WEST
 PO DUNK
 RIO CUERVO
 ALISO CREEK
 LADY DAISY
 LOVE ME NASTY
 FORTYCENTER
 FLAIRS FLAIR
 ROCKET SOUND
 FLORAL RING
 LORD ANSON

OWNER
 REDNIL RACING
 THE BLIND SQUIRREL
 ELIZABETH ANN MILLER & FRANCIS RAMMING
 LCN STABLE
 GILBERT G. CAMPBELL
 DAYBREAK FARM
 MARGO STRATIS AND ALEPH STABLES
 TONY VARVARES & URIAH ST. LEWIS
 SUSAN LEBARRON
 JANIS GERACE
 TEAM JAG
 PETER THOMPSON
 COLUMBUS CORP.
 ENDEAVOR BLOODSTOCK
 JUST DO IT STABLES
 REDNIL RACING

TRAINER
 LOUIS LINDER JR.
 TANYA BOULMETIS
 ELIZABETH ANN MILLER
 SCOTT LAKE
 EDWARD T. ALLARD
 GARY CAPLE
 FARREL MANN
 URIAH ST. LEWIS
 KEITH LEBARRON
 JANIS GERACE
 JOSE GALLEGOS
 EDWARD T. ALLARD
 TERRY GRIFFITH
 TERESA CONNELLY
 LADEANA BASTIDA
 LOUIS LINDER JR.

THE LITTLE BOY AND THE PRESIDENT

Three-year-old John John thought the most impressive thing about Bill Clinton was that he somehow knew his father, assistant starter at New York racetracks John Nieminski.

"He's da da's friend," John John told his mother, Faryn Waters, Philadelphia Park horsewoman, when she asked if he knew who that was who'd been holding him in his arms.

All of this took place at the Belmont Stakes this year, which Faryn Waters attended with her son and mother, Ellen, and fellow local horsewoman Carol Oxman.

John John's dad, of course, was able to get his son and the others very close to the podium in the winners' circle, where former President Clinton and his wife, New York Sen. Hillary Clinton, were to present the winning trophy for the Belmont Stakes, the final leg of the Triple Crown.

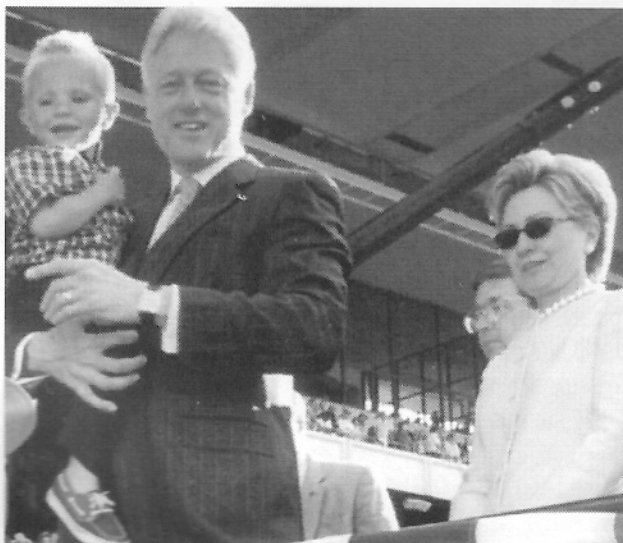
Members of the starting gate crew had gathered in the circle to perform the duty of draping flowers on the winner's neck and Nieminski called out to Clinton, "Mr. President, I work on the starting gate here. Would you hold my baby?"

Clinton smiled. "He's a beautiful boy," he said. "Of course I'll hold him."

Which led to the Waters' family heirloom photo that accompanies this article.

Faryn, by the way, calls her son John John -- his full name is John Joseph Nieminski IV -- in honor of John Kennedy Jr. -- who also was known as John John when he was a little boy.

Named after a legend. Held in the arms of a President. It sounds like the beginning of a charmed life.



JOHN JOHN'S FRIEND



JACLYN WASILUK -- Bringing joy

THE RIGHT STUFF

Jaclyn Wasiluk, teenaged daughter of trainer Peter Wasiluk and wife Sharyn, needed only one experience with bringing joy to a lot of young kids to know she wanted to do it again.

"We were at Tampa Bay Downs and they asked me to help with the Easter egg hunt," she said. "I liked it so much, I volunteered here."

Thirty to forty youngsters kept Jaclyn and other volunteers, including jockey Janice Blake, busy with games and arts and crafts for most of the afternoon at the PTHA July 4 picnic this year on the backstretch at Philadelphia Park.

Teenagers from this generation don't get much credit for the kind of patience called for in dealing with babies ranging in age from three to eight years old, especially for long hours on a hot summer's afternoon. Our young people really don't get much credit for anything.

If the Wasiluk daughter lost her concentration all day long in assisting little kids with things like paper and glue that could turn messy and with racing games that seemed to have spilling water as the main purpose, it was only to smile at the fun of it all.

Judging by Jaclyn, 15 years old going on 16, we could be selling these kids short.



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Horsemen's Association, Inc.*

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**Pennsylvania Thoroughbred
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NOTICE**General Nominating Meeting**

September 26, 2001

11:00 am - Rec Hall

*Nominations for President,**Five Owner Directors and Five Trainer or Trainer/Owner Directors***No person shall be eligible for nomination or to serve as a Director unless:**

(A) He has been a member in good standing of the Association as defined in Article III for at least fifty percent (50%) of the racing season during the one year immediately preceding the date of the nomination.

(B) He is a member as defined in paragraph (A), on the date of the nomination, and will remain eligible as such, at all times thereafter.

(C) He has started one or more horses a minimum of five (5) times in the jurisdiction of the Association while a member in good standing in the Association in the one year immediately preceding the date of the nomination.

No person shall be eligible for nomination or to serve as President unless:

(A) He has been a member in good standing of the Association as defined in Article III for at least fifty percent (50%) of the racing season of the Association during each of the three (3) years immediately preceding the date of the nomination.

(B) He has been licensed as an owner, owner/trainer or trainer for at least fifty percent (50%) of the racing season of the Association during each of the three (3) years immediately preceding the date of the nomination.

(C) He has owned or trained horses in the jurisdiction of the Association for at least fifty percent (50%) of the racing season during each of the three (3) years immediately preceding the date of the nomination.

(D) He has started one or more horses a minimum of five (5) times in the jurisdiction of the Association while a member of the Association in each of the three (3) years immediately preceding the date of the nomination.

All candidates must meet the above qualifications on the date of the nominations.

***Pennsylvania Thoroughbred
Horsemen's Association, Inc.***

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