



Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Inc. NEWSLETTER

SUMMER EDITION • SUMMER EDITION • SUMMER EDITION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . .

A home run hit 500 feet or a home run hit 300 feet is still a home run. Owner-trainer Lloyd Romero and owner Johnny Gaspard's 3-year-old filly Hallowed Dreams won 16 straight starts in Louisiana, all impressively.

Six furlongs in 1:09, five furlongs, 57.2, five and a half furlongs, 1:04.2 — stake races, allowances, all in good company.

Sixteen straight is a record, no matter what.

Won six for six at Evangeline, six for six at Louisiana Downs, three for three at Fairgrounds, one for one at Delta Downs. She captured the Southern Belle Classic by seven and a half lengths.

Congratulations to Romero and Gaspard and best of luck as their filly goes for win 17 in the \$35,000 added Victoria Handicap Sept. 17 at Louisiana Downs.

* * *

Speaking of records, on Monday, July 17, our local owner-trainer Mary Goodman's two-year-old colt, Saint Verre, equalled the track record at Philadelphia Park at five-and-a-half furlongs in 1:02.3

As I stated many times in the past, this is the only business where the product can be worth a million dollars overnight.

* * *

Saint Verre's wasn't the only clocking of note at Philadelphia Park

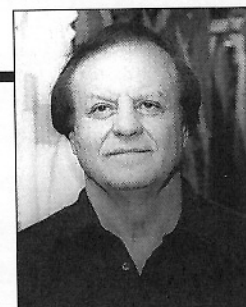
in July, however.

Ron Perozzi's Iron Punch blazed six furlongs in 1:07.4 to smash the old mark of 1:08 in winning the \$200,000

Grade III Philadelphia Breeders' Cup Handicap on Saturday, July 29. Congratulations to Perozzi and Preciado for a job well done.

A tip of the hat also to Penn National HBPA President Joe Santanna on the Philadelphia Park record broken July 25 by his 7-year-

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LARRY RIVELLO
President

TEAM PHILLY PARK CAME, RAN, CONQUERED

Team Philadelphia Park dominated center stage and captured the attention and imagination of the

horse racing world by scoring three victories, two seconds, a third and a fifth with the seven horses it entered in the Claiming Crown 2000

at Canterbury Park in Shakopee, Minn., Aug. 6.

Scott Lake trained three of the winners, Home Team Stable's B Flat Major in the event's biggest race, the \$125,000 Jewel Stakes, Spit Polish in the \$50,000 Express Stakes and A Lot Of Mary in the \$60,000 Glass Slipper Stakes in the seven-race Claiming Crown that has quickly become a mainstay on the thoroughbred racing calendar.

Richard Englander owns Spit Polish and A Lot of Mary.

Thomas R. Miller's lone entrant

in the Claiming Crown, Edward Rudley's Felite Patet, flew through the stretch under jockey Rolanda Simpson in the \$100,000 Emerald Stakes at 11/16 miles on the turf to gain second over Englander's G. R. Rabbit, also trained by Lake.

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SCOTT LAKE

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HORSEMEN CHEERED BY GOOD NEWS

All you had to do was hear the frequent applause to know that Executive Director Mike Ballezzi was delivering large doses of good news to a PTHA membership meeting last month.

Speaking from a podium in a conference room at a Holiday Inn near Philadelphia Park, Ballezzi had to pause often so the horsemen in attendance could register their approval of a series of announcements on recent major gains.

Foremost was the \$10 million the State of Pennsylvania has agreed to pump back into the racing industry each year from parimutuel taxes, with approximately \$4.3 million, or 43 percent of the total package, going to Philadelphia Park.

Ballezzi explained distribution of the \$10 million to the state's four race tracks, including Penn National, the Meadows and Pocono Downs, was based on total handle at each venue.

The Executive Director said Philadelphia Park's share will result in an immediate purse increase of \$1,000 for each race with more to come as the money is distributed.

The State also agreed to take over funding of breeder's awards, which will result in a

savings to Philadelphia Park horsemen of more than \$1 million a year.

Ballezzi made certain to credit horsemen at all four tracks for their part in achieving the financial windfall that was the result of determined negotiations with members of the State Legislature over a two-year period. He also pointed to the contributions of President Larry Riviello, the entire PTHA Board of Directors and the horsemen's lobbyists in Harrisburg.

The Executive Director pointed out that Philadelphia Park's \$4.3 million will be divided equally by horsemen and track management. He stressed, however, that the horsemen will also enjoy the fruits of management's share since guidelines worked out by the Legislature require the race track operators to use the money exclusively in ways that will enhance the sport, such as marketing, capital improvements, facility maintenance and general promotional activities.

In that regard, Ballezzi outlined plans for the refurbishing by management of the second floor at Philadelphia Park that he promised will outdo the first

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*Pennsylvania Thoroughbred
Horsemen's Association, Inc.*

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SWEET TIME FOR LOCAL HORSEMEN

Some powerful stables shipped into Philadelphia Park on the last Saturday of July looking for what their connections might have thought was easy money in the \$200,000 Philadelphia Breeders' Cup Handicap at six furlongs.

What the invaders left with was another hard-earned lesson in how jealously local horsemen guard hometown purses and prestige.

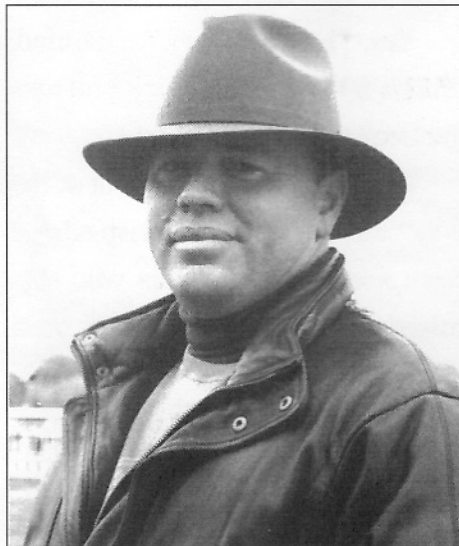
Ron Perozzi's Iron Punch, trained by Guadalupe Preciado, not only successfully defended the Philadelphia Park hold on the race — owner-trainer Janice Gerace's Loaded Gun scored a stunning upset over Eclipse Award winning sprinter Artax in last year's edition — he established a new track record for the distance when he stopped the timer in a remarkable 1:07.4.

The old mark was 1:08, set in 1999 by Jove Stone.

In registering a three-length victory, Iron Punch relegated John Rotella's Say Florida Sandy, trained by Juan Serey, to a second-place finish. Say Florida Sandy, with 20 victories in 56 starts and \$942,821 in purses going into the Philadelphia Breeders' Cup

Handicap, was looking to go over the million dollar mark in earnings.

Capturing the show spot in the race was the Dale Capuano-trained Just Call Me Carl, whose second-place finish in his last start in the Grade 1 DeFrancis Memorial at Laurel — in which Richter Scale, coincidentally, set a track record 1:07.4 for the six furlongs — caused him to be sent off as the favorite in the Philadelphia Park race.



Guadalupe Preciado

Next in line behind Iron Punch was Silver Season, another heavy hitter who was shipped in by trainer Muhammed Moubarak from Calder Race Course in Miami seeking Philadelphia gold to add to his

career earnings of more than \$400,000.

Iron Punch, by the way, who was coming of a layoff of more than three months, paid \$30.80 to win despite having a career record of 10 wins in 22 starts.

Maybe everybody, powerful invaders as well as local bettors, learned a lesson.

* * *

On the same card with the Philadelphia Breeders' Cup Handicap, local trainer Carol Oxman scored the first stakes victory of her career with Lord Sanford in winning the \$50,000 Peppy Addy Stakes for owners Phyllis and Eichi K. Koiwai, Oxman's aunt and uncle.

Lord Sanford is a homebred and the first stakes winner for sire Lord At Law, who stands at Woodvale Farm for Charles and Maria Luisa Cuprill. He covered the seven furlongs of the Peppy Addy in 1:23 and returned \$11 to win.

Oxman had trained Lord Sanford's mother, a hard-knocking mare named Wendy's Revenge, who turned out to also have a part in making the last Saturday in July a sweet time for the local racing colony.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

(The following article is my first for the Newsletter since becoming Chaplain here at Philadelphia Park. On June 13, I began my duties and the observation from retired Chaplain Nick Salios rings true. Each day has something new and exciting in it. No two days are the same. Some of you can hear Nick saying that, I'm sure.

I am so grateful to all of you at the track for being so gracious toward this first-time-at-any-track Chaplain. I've served in the military, on a college campus and in churches for over 30 years and this is different, that's for sure. But the world of horses and those who labor with them is drawing me to them, causing, me to love this new ministry more with each new day. Those of you who have been around horses have told me it gets into your blood.

With sincere fondness in his voice, a longtime racetracker said, "Chaplain, there's nothing else in the world like it."

He's right.)

SIMPLE WORDS, SOUND ADVICE

It was my second morning ever as Chaplain at a race track — any track, anywhere. As I sauntered toward Barn 15 to say, "Good morning," to Heavy and Eddy, whom I had just met the day before, someone shouted, "Loose horse!"

Mind you, it took me no time to

conclude that a Chaplain in the path of a galloping horse could end up in Angelville pronto. After all, my goal was to remain on this earth long enough to serve as Chaplain at Philadelphia Park for at least more than one day and the start of the next.

Since I was nearest to my new-found friend Heavy, I inquired, "What do I do?"

He looked straight into my eager eyes and blood-drained face and kindly but calmly uttered those memorable words, "GET OUT OF THE WAY."

Yes, he could have added, "STUPID" but Heavy is a gracious gentleman.

It was so simple. "Get out of the way" was such precise, crisp advice for a greenhorn Chaplain who surmised that there surely must be a special technique or a designated spot provided for those interested in avoiding a runaway horse.

But when you think about it, advice on how to avoid life's pitfalls and to get the most out of life comes in simple, penetrating words.

For example, "Love your neighbor."

"Treat others the way you want them to treat you."

"Tell the truth."

These statements offer sound,



CHAPLAIN
JACK CORDELL

time-proven advice. In fact, Jesus preceded the words, "Love your neighbor" with, "Love God with all your heart."

Jesus knew that one who loves God will love his, or her, neighbor because the person will have settled life's most crucial calling — pursuing and loving God.

"Love God" is as simple as, "Get out of the way" to those who yearn for peace and strength for living.

They are simple words, but sound advice for this life as well as to life to come.

CHAPEL SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAYS

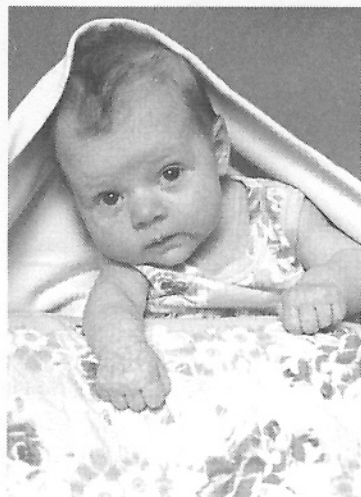
5:30 p.m., Worship Service in the Recreation Hall.

1ST SUNDAY EACH MONTH

11:30 a.m., Communion Service in the Recreation Hall.

BACKSIDE VIEW ♦ ♦ ♦

up close and personal



The angel peeking out from under the blanket is **Halle Hunter McCall**, whom we welcome belatedly to the world. **Halle** was born April 3, weighed in at 7 pounds, 13 ounces and was 19 inches long. She is the daughter of trainer **LeeAnn McCall** and husband **Michael**.

* * *

We have an injury report that hurts everyone who learns about it. Two-and-a-half-year-old

Jordan Rowan, son of trainer **Steve Rowan** and assistant trainer **Teresa Hagemer**, suffered a broken leg in a sliding board accident while at day care. We can only hope that what what people say about small children is true — that they recuperate more quickly than the rest of us. **Jordan** was wearing a cast he was anxious to get rid of so he could return to the playground.



* * *

A speedy recovery to Philadelphia Park Placing and Patrol Judge **Phil Parker**, who underwent successful triple bypass heart surgery.

* * *

Best of luck to **Luis Collazo**, who is giving up his career as a trainer to return to race riding.

* * *

The West beat the East in both the men's and women's softball games to sweep the All Star contests that were part of a July 4 weekend celebration



on the backstretch that included a picnic featuring enough good food to slow any baserunner.

Post game festivities included acknowledgement of the Most Valuable Players. For the men, the MVPs were **Chris Grayo** and **Freddy Delvalle** (flanked by Racing Secretary **Ed Vomaca** on the left and League Commissioner **Ron Taylor** on the right in the top photo).

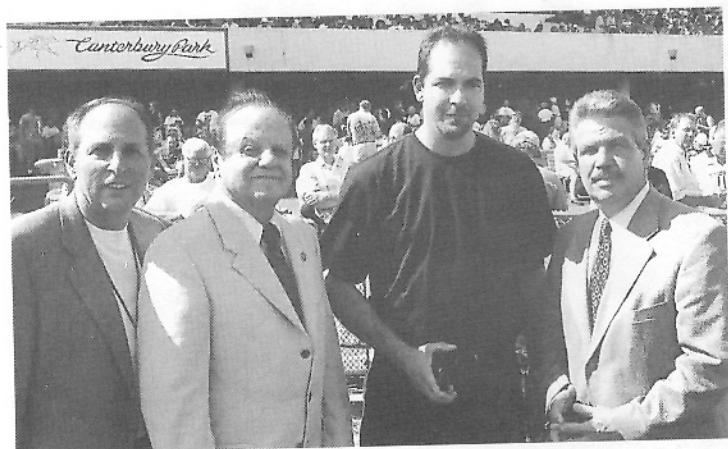
MVPs for the women were **Lisa Auwarter**, second from left in bottom photo, and **Renee Marchese**, who was also captain for the West Squad, second from the far right. Others pictured (left to right) are **Commissioner Taylor**, **Linda Cowan**, Captain of the East, **Beth Marchese** and Director of Racing **Sal Sinatra**.



Ernie Cranfield won the home run hitting contest.

In the weeks following the All Star games, three teams, the Corporation, Cloud Nine and Y2K, were fighting for first place as the regular season neared its end. The playoffs were about to begin as this edition of the newsletter went to press.

PHILLY PARK CAME, RAN, CONQUERED



HOME AWAY FROM HOME — Philadelphia Park invaders practically took up permanent residence in Canterbury Park's winner's circle during Claiming Crown 2000. Enjoying the moment are (l. to r.) PTHA Board Member Steve Appel, President Larry Riviello, trainer Scott Lake, who scored victories in three of the seven races that made up the nationally prominent event, and Executive Director Mike Ballezzi.

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The final member of the seven-horse contingent from Philadelphia Park, Margo Stratis and Aleph Stable's Programable, trained by Farrel Mann, went off at 5-2, got shuffled and finished fifth in the Express Stakes. Programable had scored a stunning upset in the mirror Express Stakes in the running of the Claiming Crown Preview Day at Philadelphia Park in June and returned \$87 to win. He was ridden at Canterbury Park by Rolanda Simpson, as he had been at Philadelphia Park.



JUST REWARD — Trainer Farrel Mann, (dark shirt, center) has his hands full accepting championship trophies from both sides after Margo Stratis and Aleph Stable's Programable scored a significant upset, paying \$87 to win, in the Claiming Crown Preview before traveling to Canterbury and finishing fifth in the \$50,000 Express Stakes.



TICKET TO CANTERBURY — Felite Patet, owned by Edward A. Rudley (2nd from left) and trained by Thomas R. Miller (directly behind jockey Rolanda Simpson) earned his way to the Claiming Crown 2000 in Minnesota, where he finished a bang-up second in the \$100,000 Emerald Stakes, by capturing a Pennsylvania Claiming Crown Preview stakes in June. Presenters in the winner's circle were PTHA Executive Director Mike Ballezzi (far left) and local radio personality Mike Missanelli.

Lake's other entry in the Claiming Crown, McCart Racing's Bion, finished a game second after a wide trip in the \$75,000 Rapid Transit Stakes, giving the trainer three wins, a second and a third on the day.

Jose L. Flores rode all three of Englander's horses that are trained by Lake as well as Bion, thus winning twice to tie him with Mark Guidry for most riding victories in Claiming Crown 2000.

Rodrigo Madrigal Jr. also made the journey with Lake and was rewarded when he guided B Flat Major to a relatively easy victory in the Jewel Stakes, the day's richest race, contested at 11/8 mile on the dirt.



HITTING A HIGH NOTE — Home Team Stable's B Flat Major won the Claiming Crown's richest event, the \$125,000 Emerald Stakes, to complete a magical day for Team Philadelphia Park trainer Scott Lake (center, dressed in black). The 5-year-old gelding was ridden to victory by local rider Rodrigo Madrigal Jr.

All seven of the horses from Philadelphia Park were ridden by their regular riders.

The hosts at Canterbury Park were impressed at the loyalty shown by Philadelphia Park trainers to the riders when many of the invaders from other parts of the country were content to engage local jockeys in Minnesota.

After this year's magical showing, the most impressive thing at the Claiming Crown next year might be the size of Team Philadelphia Park.

* * *

A few days after returning from a trip to Canterbury Park to take in what has been billed as a "Breeder's Cup for claimers," PTHA Executive Director Mike Ballezzi said the entire Claiming Crown series, beginning with the Preview Day at Philadelphia Park in June and culminating at Canterbury Park, was successful beyond anyone's expectations.

"This proves again Philadelphia Park horsemen succeed wherever they go," he said. "I couldn't be prouder of the efforts and accomplishments of our horsemen in supporting the Claiming Crown series."

He expressed regret that thousands of horsemen and fans from the Philadelphia area were unable to wager on the Claiming Crown in Minnesota.

"It's unfortunate that Middle Atlantic racetrack operators decided not to take the simulcast," he said with more than a little edge in his voice "Instead of showing the \$125,000 Jewel Stakes, they showed a \$3,000 claiming race from Dust Bowl Downs.

"It's unacceptable and frustrating. It seems every time this industry takes a step forward with a progressive innovation like the Claiming Crown, it somehow still winds up two steps back."

CLAIMING CROWN RESULTS

3RD Race:

\$50,000 Iron Horse Stakes

Three Year Old and Upward, 1 1/6 Miles

1	Gingerboy	Guidry M	3.20	2.60	2.80
3	Irish Bacon	Allen M		4.20	3.80
9	Your Draw	Birzer G A			6.40

Winning Time: 1:43 2/5

Winning Owner: Lotherbach Stables

Winning Trainer: Daniel J. Wood

4TH Race:

\$50,000 Express Stakes

Three Year Old and Upward, 6 Furlongs

7	Spit Polish	Flores J L	15.00	7.60	4.60
2	Modesto	Schacht R		6.80	4.20
4	Citizen's Arrest	Guidry M			3.60

Winning Time: 1:10 3/5

Winning Owner: Richard Englander

Winning Trainer: Scott Lake

5TH Race:

\$60,000 Glass Slipper Stakes

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

8	A Lot of Mary	Flores J L	15.00	7.00	6.20
2	Pretty Lilly	Nguyen T		20.60	13.60
9	Cinderella Island	Taylor L			8.60

Winning Time: 1:16 3/5

Winning Owner: Richard Englander

Winning Trainer: Scott Lake

6TH Race:

\$75,000 Rapid Transit Stakes

Three Year Old and Upward, 6 1/2 Furlongs

4	Teddy Boy	Guidry M	7.00	3.60	3.00
9	Bion	Flores J L		3.20	2.80
8	Taylor's Day	Campbell J			3.00

Winning Time: 1:16 4/5

Winning Owner: David Heller

Winning Trainer: B.M. Goodin

7TH Race:

\$100,000 Tiara Stakes

Three Year Old and Upward, F&M, 1 1/16 Miles, Turf

6	Look to the Day	Nolan P M	66.60	30.40	10.80
4	Vengeful Val	Quinonez L S		6.60	4.20
1	Pine Baroness	Dunkelberger T R			7.40

Winning Time: 1:42.14

Winning Owner: Charles B. Kelling

Winning Trainer: Charles B. Kelling

8TH Race:

\$100,000 Emerald Stakes

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

4	P. D. Lucky	Perez, R B	15.00	7.00	6.20
2	Felipe Patet	Simpson R		20.60	13.60
8	G. R. Rabbit	Flores J L			8.60

Winning Time: 1:41.66

Winning Owner: Donna Pettegrew

Winning Trainer: Manuel A. Estevez

9TH Race:

\$125,000 Jewel Stakes

Three Year Old and Upward, 1 1/8 Miles

3	B Flat Major	Madrigal, Jr., R	13.40	5.60	3.40
1	Shot of Gold	Bell D		4.80	3.40
6	Snohomish Loot	Perez R B			4.80

Winning Time: 1:49.72

Winning Owner: Home Team Stables

Winning Trainer: Scott Lake

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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old gelding Devereux when he covered 5 furlongs on the turf in 56.3. Devereux is trained by Timothy H. Shea.

A bow is due, too, to trainer Carol Oxman for winning her first stakes race when Lord Sanford captured the Peppy Addy Stakes on the same day Iron Punch scored in the Grade III race. Lord Sanford was timed in 1:23 for the seven furlongs in becoming the first stakes winner also for owners Phyllis and Eichi K. Kowai, Oxman's aunt and uncle.

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Isadore Schwartz in his column Iz Sez (on pg. 11) often has mentioned the starting gate needs to be improved.

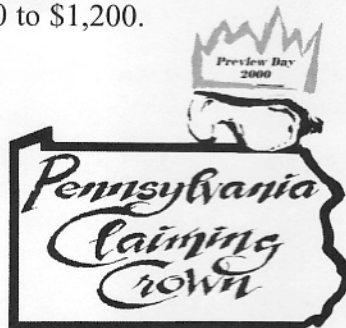
Keeneland now has a safer starting gate. The gate uses a process known as Best Pad, developed by Phillip and Cathy Shrimpton. Best Pad utilizes vulcanized rubber and urethane foam that is applied directly to the metal and attaches itself. It is easily repairable.

The jockeys are very happy with the improvement. The substance protects both the rider and the horse from injury. In my opinion, all starting gates should have this protection.

* * *

An ad hoc-general membership

meeting was held Wednesday, July 12 at the Holiday Inn on Street Road. Michael Ballezzi, our Executive Director, gave a report that covered increases in purses, the Pennsylvania Claiming Crown Preview Day and renovations to the second floor at Philadelphia Park that include a Horsemen's Club with 36 luxury boxes available for yearly leases ranging in price from \$800 to \$1,200.



* * *

Dr. Lawrence Soma and Dr. Cornelius Ubob from the New Bolton Center were guest speakers at a meeting in the Rec Hall Aug. 16 which was open to all questions from the floor.

* * *

The National HPBA summer convention was held Aug. 4-6 at Minneapolis, Minnesota, in conjunction with the Claiming Crown series. The meetings were very productive and the claiming series a great success. Philadelphia Park horsemen participated in a number

of races in the Claiming Crown (story and results elsewhere in the edition of the newsletter)

Philadelphia Park trainers Scott Lake, Farrel Mann and Thomas Miller all shipped horses to Canterbury Park to run in the big event. Congratulations to them and their owners.

Point of interest: The HPBA has distributed more than \$31 million to its members through its benevolence program from 1992 to 1998, with most of the money going toward medical expenses. Money was also allocated for chaplaincy, drug and alcohol programs and funeral expenses.

A total of 53,847 people were aided by the HPBA's benevolence program. This is a great organization for the thoroughbred industry.

* * *

Congratulations are in order to Pat Day, elected President of the Jockeys' Guild and Tony Black, Treasurer of the Guild.

Best wishes to Sam Fieramosca, who retired as Executive Director of the NJ THA.

The refurbished South Philadelphia Turf Club was unveiled July 27. It was a job beautifully done.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

A person without a dream is like a ship without water.

IN MEMORY OF RHODES CAMPBELL

Condolences are extended to the family of Rhodes Campbell, who tragically died recently at age 29.

Rhodes was the son of Charles R. "Biff" Campbell, a long-time blacksmith at Philadelphia Park, and his wife Jackie.

R.I.P. JOSE DOMINQUEZ

Our sympathy to exercise rider, Anthony "Tony" Dominquez-Fria, whose father, Pedro Jose Dominquez, passed away at age 89 on July 8. Anthony returned to Panama to attend his father's funeral.

WORKING AT THE RACE TRACK

(First in a series of articles dealing with the jobs at Philadelphia Park and the people who do the jobs).

KEEPING HIS HAND IN by Larry McMullen

Sticking your hand into the mouth of a high-strung race horse looks fairly dangerous, like you might be able to count only to seven or eight on your fingers afterwards.

Not so, says Tom Weinhardt, who ought to know. On racing days at Philadelphia Park, he might do it up to 100 times a day so he can read the individual tattoos that identify every thoroughbred racing in the United States.

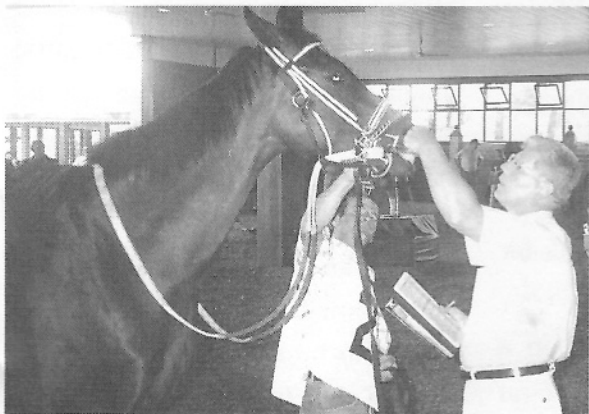
"Just put your hand on their nose and lift the upper lip," said Weinhardt.

It must take more than that.

"I talk to them in a soft tone," said Weinhardt. "I play with their ears. I rub them on the head a little bit."

It works so well, Weinhardt doesn't mind at all that he does two jobs at the race track that require hand-in-horse's-mouth action. He not only is the horse identifier, he also is the tattooer who puts the numbers on the horses' lips.

It isn't always the case that the identifier is the tattooer, but that's the way it evolved for Weinhardt, who has spent 30 years at the race track in a variety of jobs.



WEINHARDT IDENTIFYING

"I started walking horses for (trainer) Bobby Camac when I was a soph at Rutgers," he said.

He later became a valet in the jocks' room at Garden State Park, filling in for the identifier on his days off. Eventually, he became assistant clerk of scales and finally, clerk of scales.

Now he's full time at Philadelphia Park in two jobs that don't seem to have a whole lot to do with the sociology major he carried to earn a degree at Rutgers.

Weinhardt shrugged his shoulders. It's nothing to worry about when you're doing the kind of work you love. He was already a graduate before he realized how much the race track meant to him.

What he does every day is extremely important, too, since it goes to the very integrity of the sport. If the identity of each horse who races wasn't certain, the potential for very fast ringers to be substituted for very slow runners would be obvious.

Weinhardt is one of the guardians at the gate, checking the markings on the foal certificate of each horse before he applies the tattoo that will positively identify the animal for the rest of his life — a photo of the tattoo along with the animal's name and registration number is sent to the Thoroughbred Racing Protective Bureau to be kept on file — and then reading the tattoos on each entrant before every race.

The job starts early in the morning on the backstretch where Weinhardt visits the barns of horses to be tattooed. The markings are



WEINHARDT TATTOOING

applied with metal dies with needles attached that absorb the ink into which they are dipped.

The ink, Weinhardt informs, is the type that can be bought at any art supply store.

The needles on the die penetrate the horse's lip — held in place by a metal device called a twitch — making the tattoo permanent. Weinhardt rubs the ink in with his fingers, removes the excess and then rubs the area with gauze soaked in alcohol. If the procedure causes pain for the horses, they don't show it. Weinhardt says males actually seem to enjoy the procedure.

"Sometimes, I can feel them leaning into the dies," he said. "I think it's because the males are so competitive. I think it's the testosterone."

He said some horses will shake their heads in protest at being tattooed, a very few have to be tranquilized and others will let him get on with his work only after he grabs one of their ears to make sure he has their attention.

Weinhardt must know what he's doing.

He has the same number of fingers he started with.

HORSEMEN CHEERED BY GOOD NEWS

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floor renovations that, when completed, sparked good-natured comparisons to the splendor of the Taj Mahal.

Probably more important than winning raves for the beautification of the track, Ballezzi noted the facelift on the first floor has generated increases in handle.

Speaking of boosts in betting, Ballezzi said the handle on the day the Belmont Stakes was run this year, despite a relatively weak field for the finale of the Triple

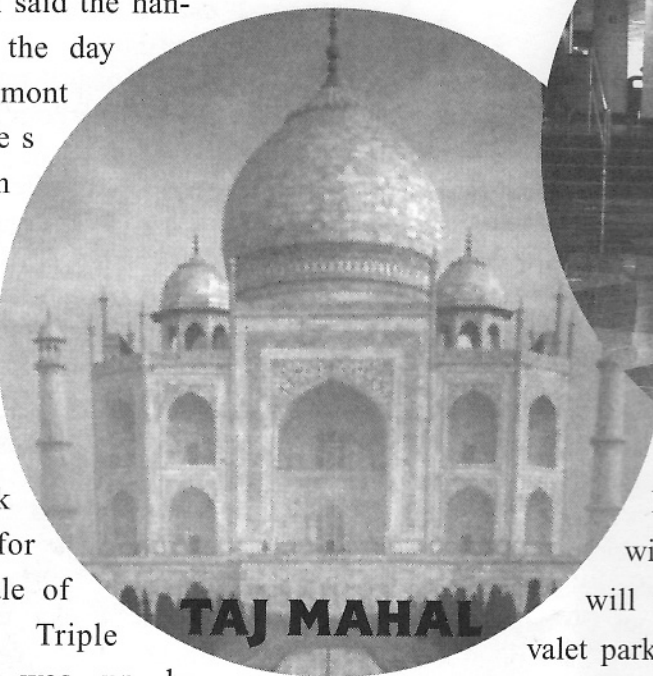
Crown, was up by \$100,000, almost entirely because of the races that made up the first annual Claiming Crown Preview Day at Philadelphia Park. Due to the success of Claiming Crown Preview Day, we all look forward to Claiming Crown 2001.

Ballezzi said a major feature of the second-floor renovations will be a Horsemen's Club with 36 boxes set aside for owners and

trainers. Each box will have a 19-inch television set and a Tiny Tim betting machine. There will be multiple food specials prepared by a new, major restaurant and served to the boxes by hostesses.

There will also be a horseshoe bar and an area where entertainment will be staged.

The second floor will also have a completely new air conditioning system.



TAJ MAHAL



FIRST FLOOR -
Elegance and style.

Horsemen with box seats will receive free valet parking and free multiple track simulcast programs.

Prices for the boxes, leased for a year, range from \$800 to \$1,200, according to the number of seats in the box. Money derived will be used to pay for services and for upkeep of the boxes.

The boxes were sold out in a matter of days after they first became available.

Ballezzi said the boxes will be open for use by the time the Pennsylvania Derby is run on Labor Day.

* * *

In another matter, Ballezzi updated the horsemen on proposed improvements to the racing surface. The Executive Director said the horsemen called on Joe King,

who gained a reputation as an expert as a track superintendent

in New York, first

sending him

samples of the dirt

from various

levels at

every pole and

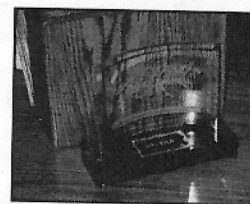
then inviting him to Philadelphia Park, where he walked the track with local Track Superintendent Roy Smith, President Riviello, Executive Director Ballezzi, Board of Directors member Steve Rowan and Director of Racing Sal Sinatra, again digging holes and taking samples at each pole.

King offered the general conclusion that there was too much clay in the surface and offered specific remedies that have already begun to be undertaken. Ballezzi said King will continue to be available as a consultant.



PTHA

PTHA TROPHY WINNERS JUNE - JULY



HORSE	OWNER	TRAINER
DENA'S DARLING	PLUMSTEAD STABLES	ROBERT SEEGER
SECONDARY EXPLOSION	ROCKY HILL STABLE, INC.	WILLIAM MCCARTHY, JR.
VIVE LE PETIT	PUTS AND CALLS	CAROL LYNN LEVINE
DEVIL'S TEMPTATION	CHARLES J. PALOMBINI	EDWARD T. ALLARD
COMIC PROSPECT	CARLOS M. VERDEJO JR.	RAFAEL MEDINA
LA TURK	RICHARD ENGLANDER	SCOTT LAKE
TWICE NICE	ARTHUR I. APPLETON	ROBERT W. CAMAC
BALLROOM BARLEY	ALEPH STABLE	FARREL MANN
QTPI	MAR-VIC STABLE	ANTHONY CARANGO
RARELENDIA	S. ZAVOLAS & C. BOUROUDIS	EMMANUEL TZORTZAKIS
MAKE MISCHIEF	ELIZABETH HENDRICKS	ELIZABETH HENDRICKS
MAGICAL GAL	J. HELLMAN & R. VEGA	RICHARD VEGA
ALDEN'S WHATANAME	JANIS GERACE	JANIS GERACE
CRUISING BY	ANDREW B. CARTER	ANDREW B. CARTER
BEA TUFF	WILLIAM J. HARTWELL	ROBERT W. CAMAC
MISS LONGEVITY	A.J. HAWTHORNE & B. RUSH	BARBARA E. RUSH
RAILBIRDER	JAMES R. McGLINN	J. CARLOS GUERRERO
ANYTHING FOR YOU	DANIELLE BISHOP STABLE	KATHLEEN A. DEMASI

Iz Sez...

For many years and months, this column has discussed what is wrong with racing as we conduct it. You all know my feelings about the starting gate and the problems the gate has everywhere.

Suddenly, I have an ally — an engineer in Kentucky persuaded Keeneland officials to let him try rubber padding on the insides of

the gate. That was last year and it was so successful that when he asked about the present meet, the answer was instant approval. I cannot say that this is the final solution to the gate problem, but it is a step in the right direction.

I recommend an interesting article in last month's Horsemen's Journal by an assistant starter at some midwestern tracks. His love for his job, and the horses in his care, is self evident. He tells us about all his injuries at the gate — broken arms, legs and various other injuries to man and beast.

What does all of this tell us?



ISADORE SCHWARTZ

That we've made some beginnings to improving the problems at the starting gate, but the overall problem still exists.

Only a new way of starting our races would solve it all.

FLOWER POWER

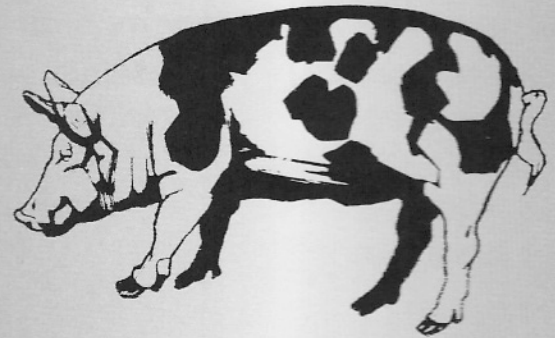
Donna Campomizzi at Pony Barn A proved she had the greenest thumb and the keenest sense of how to put it to the best use in winning the July installment of the Garden Contest and the \$500 first prize. Second place, with a \$325 award, went to **Guadalupe Preciado** at Barn 21 and third place, worth \$225, was captured by **Chris Danser** at Barn 14.

Other winners included **Floyd Snyder** and **John Servis**, Barn 11, \$225; **Suzanne Jenkins**, **Carolyn Starritt** and **Mary Goodman**, Barn 10, \$150; **Diane Day** and **Janis Gerace**, Barn 30, \$125, **Leslie Saunders**, Barn 26/27 side, \$100; **Kate DeMasi**, Barn 20, \$75; **Faryn Waters**, Barn 23, \$50, **Pam Shavelson**, Barn 22/23 side, \$35, **Alan Bedard** and **Joseph Smylie**, Barn 15, \$25, and **Richard Vega**, Barn 27, \$15.

David Dotolo won the June contest and the \$500 first prize for his work on Barn 22/21 and side. **Donna Campomizzi** served noticed she was a force to be reckoned with when she was judged second best and awarded \$325. Third-place finishers were **Suzanne Jenkins**, **Carolyn Starritt** and **Mary Goodman**, Barn, 10, \$250.

Other winners were **Richard Vega**, Barn 27, \$225; **Chris Danser**, Barn 14, \$150; **Guadalupe Preciado**, Barn 21, \$125; **Kate DeMasi**, Barn 20, \$100; **Alan Bedard** and **Joseph Smylie**, Barn 15, \$75; **Diane Day** and **Janice Gerace**, Barn 30, \$50; **Uriah St. Lewis**, Barn 1, \$35; **Karen Schudlick**, Barn 29, \$25, and **Lisa Allen**, Barn 33, \$15.

OINK, OINK



The Annual Pig Roast
will be held Sept. 1
on the fields behind
The Recreation Hall,
starting at 11:30 A.M.

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Inc.

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