



Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Inc.

NEWSLETTER

JULY-AUGUST, 1998

VOL. 7 - NUMBER 4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

What a difference a nose makes. My stable, La Bet, Inc., has been racing since 1965. Just like many other horsemen, I've lost many races by a nose, in stake races as well as claimers. But to lose a Triple Crown with a \$5 million bonus, as well as the honor, in that manner -- well, no comment. But how can one ever forget?

Alydar, a hard-luck horse who finished second in all the Triple Crown races in 1978, was unlucky right to the end -- his life terminated by foul play

It is reported that the popular stallion was killed as part of an insurance scam.

Our Farm -- Ray and Betsy Gambone -- received the honor of leading award recipient at the annual awards dinner of the Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association at the Hershey Hotel in Hershey, Pa.

Mark McDermott did an excellent job commemorating 50 years of the PHBA, 1948-1998.

The 1997 Pennsylvania Horse of the Year Awards were held June 17 at Celebrations Restaurant, Bensalem.

Leading trainer: Guadalupe Preciado, 426 starts, 82-80-70.

Leading owner: Plumstead Stable, Robert Seeger, 428 starts, 63-73-63.

Leading jockey: Anibal Prado, 998 mounts, 163-121-122, earnings. \$318,388.

Leading apprentice jockey: Roberto Rosado, 694 mounts, 113-82-67, earnings, \$138,888.

Philadelphia Park Horse of the Year went to Red Hot Iron, owned by Charles B. Lyman Jr. and Joseph W. Holman, trained by Guadalupe Preciado.

The affair was great -- good food, good music, a fun night.

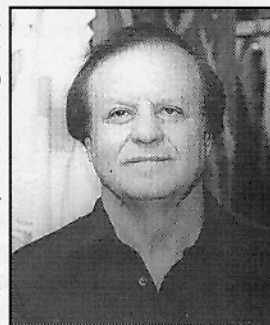
If you missed it, make plans to join us next year.

As usual, the master of ceremonies was Keith Jones, the man with the golden voice. He did a terrific job. Thanks, Keith.

Congratulations to Michael McCarthy on his 2,000th victory aboard Efrain Garcia's Mystery Wood in the 6th race at Delaware Park, June 24.

Congratulations to our home-based trainer, Anthony Correnti, with his big

win in the Peppy Addy Stakes, \$35,000 added, going 7 furlongs with the impressive 3 year old, Power By Far, owner, Barbara Geraghty, jockey Roberto Alvarado.



Larry Riviello, President

The first Match Race was contested at Philadelphia Park July 4, the Norristown Handicap, \$50,000 guaranteed, for 3 year olds and up, distance 1 1/8 miles. The winner, Testafly, trainer Dale L. Mills, owners, Jackson Brown and James E. Ware, et al.

On June 2, there was a public hearing before the Pennsylvania Racing Commission on the Bensalem Racing Association, Inc., application for a non-primary wagering location in Allentown Township, Allentown, Pa.

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FOR THE LOVE OF DOCTOR FISH

By Larry McMullen

In a way, this is a love story, if you believe there can be that kind of emotion between an owner and a thoroughbred.

Believe it.

Linda Simon says people outside the sport of racing might not understand, but insiders know.

"He's very smart," she said of her 10-year-old gelding, Doctor Fish, "very friendly, very personable."

When she was asked how she knows he possesses those traits, she said it was because they communicate all the time.

"He's talking to me right now, for instance," she said.

She was standing outside Pony Barn C on the backstretch at Philadelphia Park around noon time recently. Doctor Fish had poked his head outside

his stall and was weaving, his neck seemingly on a swivel.

"You just have to understand the language," she said. "He's telling me it's lunch time and why am I standing around talking when I should be feeding him?"

Linda Simon and Doctor Fish have had a working relationship that dates back to the early '90s, when he was in Mark Reid's stable. She was his groom.

Grooms will say they rub a horse, but it's a lot more than that.

"It's almost like you live with them 24 hours a day," she said. "You're the one who has the most contact with the horse."

"He won four races for me," says Linda Simon, which is exactly how a groom talks about their charges, as though they were the owners.

Doctor Fish kept classy company in

those days. In his career, he won stakes such as the Snow Chief at Pimlico, the Militia and the Minuteman at Philadelphia Park, the Carry Back and Trenton Handicap at Garden State, the Passaic County at the Meadowlands and the Alysheba at Monmouth Park.

Altogether, Doctor Fish started 123 times, with 20 wins, 26 seconds and 22 thirds and accumulated \$422,102 in purses.

Linda Simon said one of the reasons she quit Mark Reid was that he shipped Doctor Fish out to a string of his horses at another racetrack.

Now, she trains four horses on her own, of which she owns three, but she never forgot Doctor Fish.

This past March, she stood outside Barn 7 and listened to the call of a \$4,000 claiming race. She didn't have a

continued on pg. 2

from the desk of
**THE
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**

Since we recently considered the accomplishments of owners, trainers and breeders at the 1997 Horse of the Year Awards, Executive Director Mike Ballezzi thought it was an appropriate time to look back with pride and satisfaction on a number of significant gains by the PA-THA in other areas.

Foremost of the gains last year was the negotiation of a new five-year live racing agreement which provided financial and racing security for all the members.

A major element of the agreement was the restructuring of purses to be

paid as a percentage of revenues. This had the immediate effect of increasing daily purses from \$105,000 per day to \$120,000 per day. Utilizing the percentage method, horsemen will receive 30 percent of revenues the first year, 30.5 percent the second year and 31 percent thereafter.

Considering all the economic factors of the racing industry, PA-THA horsemen could easily attain purses of \$140,000 or better per day.

Another major benefit of the live racing agreement was the guarantee of \$200,000 in improvements to be completed per year for a total of \$1,000,000 over the term of the contract, to be spent with the recommendation by horsemen for the specific needs of \$200,000 for the Plexiglas barn windows, expanded walking ring and paddock upgrades.

In addition, the PA-THA is pleased to announce that for 1998, there will be the renewal of the MATCH Series, with increased bonus money to participating owners and trainers as well as an expanded stakes program totalling nearly \$1,800,000.

Overall, 1997 will be remembered as a pivotal year in the development of the PA-THA as a strong professional organization of dedicated horsemen and horsewomen who stood united and achieved the security necessary to protect our families and preserve our position in the racing industry.

Your executive director, President Larry Riviello and the PA-THA Board of Directors are proud of your accomplishments and look forward to 1998 as, "The best is yet to come."

DOCTOR FISH

continued from pg. 1

bet on the race. She didn't have a horse in the race, unless you want to say she has owned Doctor Fish, at least in spirit, since the moment she set eyes on him.

"I was listening to the call" said, "and I didn't hear his name mentioned in the stretch. I knew something bad had happened."

She went to the barn where Doctor Fish -- long since gone from Mark Reid's barn and with his glory days far behind him -- was stabled and waited for him to be returned by horse ambulance. He had broken down in the running of the race and X-rays showed he fractured the pastern in his left front. It was obvious immediately that his days as a racehorse were over. Linda Simon volunteered to be his owner.

There was a thought the injury would be operable and he could be a riding horse.

It turned out to be much worse than was originally believed.

He had also torn the xyz ligament at the bottom part of the suspensory that supports the entire leg.

He could never be even a riding horse. All surgery could do for him was allow him to live.

To Linda Simon, it was a fair deal.

"We owed this horse," she said.

Norman Zboray, another owner at Philadelphia Park, shipped Doctor Fish free of charge to the New Bolton Center

of the University of Pennsylvania in his van.

He waited 16 hours with Linda Simon while Dr. Paul Rothaug completed the surgery, which consisted of inserting a metal plate from the canon bone to the pastern, held in place by four screws and with four wires wrapped around the sesamoid bone to stabilize everything.

The surgery cost \$3,900. Add another \$500 for a couple of return visits to the Center.

Linda Simon, whose stable doesn't include any stake winners these days, paid the entire bill out of her own pocketbook.

Just so Doctor Fish would live.

She says in the morning now, he watches other horses head out to the track to train and gets nervous and starts to stall walk or sticks his head out and shakes it.

"He feels good," she says. "He doesn't have any pain. It's like he's asking me, 'How come I'm not training?'"

She says in the afternoons, he looks out from his stall toward the racetrack, where he can clearly see a part of the backstretch.

"I have a feeling he's watching and laughing at the young horses for the mistakes they make in a race," she said.

But she knows he can't live out his life at the racetrack. So she searched around and discovered The Thor-

oughbred Retirement Foundation, which operates entirely on donations and has farms in New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Florida.

She doesn't know yet exactly where Doctor Fish will be sent.

All she knows is that he'll be free in a field somewhere and that he'll be properly cared for and the last part of his life will be as good as it ought to be for a horse who always gave his best even when it wasn't good enough to win anymore and who always had time to be friendly and to share his thoughts and feelings with her.

In the end, she's sending him away, maybe never to see him again.

All for the love of Doctor Fish.

Address for the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation:

Suite 351, 1050 Highway 35
Shrewsbury, N.J. 07702



FISH STORY -- Linda Simon with the 10-year-old gelding she saved from a tragic ending.

THE PLAYER

By Larry McMullen

Long before he was an award-winning writer on thoroughbred racing and long before he became a nationally-recognized handicapper, Dick Jerardi was a player in the Sport of Kings.

A player, of course, is someone who would go to almost any lengths to bet on a race in which superior skill at reading past performance lines and sometimes even flashes of divine inspiration have enabled him to scope out a mortal cinch.

Such was the case for Jerardi in the spring of 1978, when he not only wasn't writing or handicapping horse races for the masses, he was driving a cab for a relatively select few, which allowed him plenty of time year around to spend at his home tracks on the Maryland circuit, Pimlico, Laurel, Bowie and Timonium, and hang around with people like Andy Beyers, who practically invented the art of modern handicapping.

But Jerardi wasn't thinking about home in early May. What occupied his thoughts was the certain knowledge that Affirmed would win the Kentucky Derby. He also knew he had to be in Louisville for the event. If you're a player, you understand.

Of course, since the realization that the race required his presence came to him too late to book a hotel room, he slept Friday night before the race in the Louisville airport.

The next morning, he walked the five or six miles to Churchill Downs.

Pilgrims to mecca have pretty much the same religious fervor and motivation.

But they probably don't have the roll of cash Jerardi saved for his pilgrimage.

He bet \$500 to win on Affirmed, who went off at odds of 9 to 5. You figure it out.

He actually saw the race, too, which anyone who has traveled at the last minute to Louisville for the Kentucky Derby knows isn't possible. You can easily spend the entire Derby day inside Churchill Downs and never see a horse in the flesh because of the huge crowds.

"I found a drunk who had a perfect spot and I traded him a mint julep for his view," said Jerardi.

• • •

Jerardi already had a degree in journalism from the University of Maryland when he was driving a cab and cashing bets on the Derby but he never really got around to using it until a couple of years later when he took a writing job with Sports First, an offshoot of the Baltimore News American.

He also got to write some pieces for the News American. Sports First folded after about a year but Jerardi had already made a name for himself in reporting and writing and the Daily News asked him if he'd like to come to Philly to cover the new Garden State that was about to open after fire had burned the old structure to the ground.

From then on, he covered races like the Kentucky Derby in high style, which means he got to sleep in beds.

It apparently relaxed him enough that he was able to win the Red Smith award on two different occasions for writing about the Derby. He also won an award for writing about the Breeders Cup, so he obviously didn't have to sleep in an airport for that, either.

In the 13 years he's been with the



DICK JERARDI -- In his natural habitat, the racetrack.

Daily News, he's branched out and now writes about all sports, although he concentrates on racing and college athletics.

He's also co-host with Bruce Casella on Let's Go Racing every Saturday at 11 a.m. on Comcast SportsNet, which is jointly sponsored by the PA-THA and Philadelphia Park.

If there was any doubt over whether he's player, it would disappear with one viewing of the racing show, especially the part where he shows tapes of horses who experienced road troubles in their last starts at Philadelphia Park and points out how they're likely to improve in their next races.

Jerardi thinks it's impossible to separate the player in him from the writer and the handicapper.

"I know guys who cover racing who brag about never betting on the horses, like it would be a conflict of interest or something," he said. "I couldn't write about the sport if I wasn't a player."

The same way you'd miss the religious experience if you never traveled the road to mecca as a pilgrim.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

cont. from pg. 1

Michael Ballezzi and I attended the hearing. Michael made a presentation on behalf of the PA-THA in favor of the turf club.

• • •

Paul Spears held a fund raiser for Gov. Ridge June 30 at the Beautiful Hanover Shoe Farm, Hanover, Pa.

It was a classy affair. Michael and I attended.

Dr. William Solomon, president of the Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association, was guest speaker. Dr. Solomon made an elegant presentation.

• • •

The second annual NTRA All Star Jockey Challenge was held at Grand Prairie, Texas, and was viewed by 16,156 fans.

Shane Sellers won three of the four events, amassing 36 points, and collected \$25,000.

Julie Krone finished second with 18 points and took home \$15,000.

Jerry Bailey was third with 12 points and earned \$10,000.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

There is no substitute for doing the right thing.

19 AW BAN

'IRON', SE

GARNER '9'

Red Hot Iron, a 6-year-old Joseph W. Holman Jr. and bred Park's 1997 Horse of the Year at Celebrations Restaurant.

Red Hot Iron, by Iron out of Philadelphia Park last year and She is trained by Guadalupe year after guiding his charges t

Bob Seeger's Plumstead St out of 428 starts and \$708, year.

Barracouta, owned by Put Lynne Le Vine, was top 2-year Madness, trained by Edward T.

Truth and Nobility, owned by Fallon, was leading 3-year-old among 3-year-old colts and gelder Uriah St. Lewis. Sport D'H Sandoval, was best among old

Dietmar Nagel's Rimmed, tr the year.

Anibal Prado, who registered Roberto Rosado, who won 113 leading apprentice.

CONGRA



97 ARDS QUET

RECIADO, GER TOP HONORS

owned by Charles B. Lyman and Pennsylvania, was named Philadelphia annual awards banquet held June 17

Arlet Alliance, won three stakes at 342 in purses.

ciado, who was named trainer of the victories out of 426 starts.

s, which accounted for 63 victories in purses, was named owner of the

l Cais stable and trained by Carol illy and Gilbert G. Campbell's Unreal d, was chosen best 2-year-old colt.

ter Stable and trained by Martin L. and Blue Madura won top honors for Trin-Brook Stable, Inc. and train-owned and trained by Gaston D. cs or geldings.

by Alfredo Velasquez, was claimer of

victories, was jockey of the year and s in garnering an Eclipse Award, was

MLATIONS!



Iz Sez

by Isadore Schwartz

Watching the pitiful demise of Atlantic City Race Course was very painful to me personally because of the great times I spent at the races there, both participating and just enjoying the beauty and spaciousness of that track.

What the casinos have done to New Jersey horsemen does not have to be documented here. Will Garden State survive? I hope it can. But what cannot be taken from me are the

memories I have -- seeing Round Table and Dr. Fager win the U.N. Handicap on that beautiful turf course.

One personal race in which I was involved stands out and will forever remain in my memory. There was a good stakes horse called Sicilian Law, owned and trained by Ralph Riviezzo. My trainer and I had a fairly good allowance horse named Doug D that we dared run against Sicilian Law at Atlantic City in a seven-furlong allowance race.

They raced as a team down the backstretch until Doug D pulled away in the final yards to win the race.

My regard for the quality horse



Iz Schwartz

Sicilian Law was is proved by the fact that I have two beautiful yearling fillies by Sicilian Law at my farm.

I hope Ralph remembers the races as I do. This is a memory that cannot be taken away from us -- an unforgettable experience at an unforgettable racetrack.



THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

We are in the hot, humid days of summer, and, by the time you read this, we will be facing the "dog days" of August. This is the time of year it is easy to lose our cool. Many of us work seven days a week without a day off and some get a day off once in a while. Even God took one day out of seven off and rested after he created all things. Now, what does this all mean? For some it means burnout and short fuses, becoming angry and upset at the smallest incident blown out of proportion. Tempers do flare at this time of year.

King Solomon wrote in the Book of Proverbs (15:1), "A man is about as big as the things that make him angry."

In anger, we say and do stupid things. Again, in Proverbs 19:3 it is written, "Some people ruin themselves by their own stupid actions and then blame the Lord."

Many times anger is misdirected and blame is projected onto others for our own temper. In his wisdom, Solomon says, "If someone has a hot temper, let him take the consequences. If you get him out of trouble once, you will have to do it again."

Aristotle once said, Anyone can become angry, that is easy. But to be

angry with the right person, to the right degree, at the right time, for the right purpose and the right way; that is not easy."

Anger weakens a person. It puts him or her at a disadvantage in every undertaking in life. When Sinbad and his sailors landed on one of their tropical islands, they saw high up in the trees coconuts which could quench their thirst and satisfy their hunger. The coconuts were far above the reach of Sinbad and the sailors, but they could hear in the branches of the trees the chattering of apes. Sinbad and his men began to throw stones and sticks up at the apes. This enraged the apes and they began to seize the coconuts and hurl them down at the men on the ground. That was just what Sinbad and his men wanted. They got the apes angry so they would gather their food for them. That is a good illustration of how, by indulging in anger, we play into the hands of our foes.

Here is what anger can do:

- It causes a person to become irrational.
- It can affect the body.
- It can cause one to lose the joy of living.
- It can cause irreparable damage.
- It can become the parent of murder.
- In the Book of James, he reminds us to, "Be slow to speak."
- We need to think many times



Chaplain Nicholas Salios

before we lash out at anyone, anything, or the horse.

Your temper is one of you most valuable possessions.

Don't lose it.

...

NEXT CHAPEL SERVICE is scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 12, followed by a meal sponsored by THA.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL GROUP MEETINGS continue through the summer on Wednesdays, 12:30-1:30 p.m., in the classroom next to the track kitchen.

LASALLE UNIVERSITY NURSES AND HEALTH CLINIC will resume in September in the classroom next to the track kitchen.

IMMIGRATION INFORMATION is available through the chaplain's office.

BIBLES AND DEVOTIONAL MATERIALS also are available in the chaplain's office.

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ATTENTION

The general nominating meeting for the PA-THA election will be held September 26, 1998, 11:00 a.m. in the Recreation Hall on the backstretch at Philadelphia Park.

BLOOMING CONTEST

The June Best Garden Contest, sponsored by the PA-THA and Philadelphia Park, was won by Richard Vega, Barn 27, who captured a prize of \$500.

Judged second best was Barn 2, Phil Ruggerio, \$325.

Third was Barn 8, Ernie Cranfield, \$250; fourth, Barn 35, Mike Tzortsakis, \$225; fifth, Barn 33, Randy Allen, \$150; sixth, Pony Barn A, Donna Campomizzi, \$125; seventh, Barn 18, Eli Betancourt, \$100 and eighth, Barn 20, Linda Cowan, \$75.

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Finally, an opportunity to market and advertise yourself to prospective owners, racing journalists and to our thoroughbred racing fans.

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All licensees welcome; frontside, backside, anyside at all.

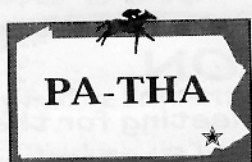
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Backside View doesn't appear in this issue because of space limitations.
It will resume next edition.



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