



PTHA NEWS

We **ARE** Pennsylvania Racing

PENNSYLVANIA THOROUGHBRED HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOLUME 3, 2006

AND THE WINNER IS . . .



Photo by Bill Denver/EQUI-PHOTO

As Barbaro crossed the finish line at Churchill Downs on May 6th - winning the 132 Kentucky Derby by 6 lengths, this also became a win for Pennsylvania racing. Even though Barbaro never made a start in Pennsylvania, his owners, Gretchen and Roy Jackson, live in West Grove, PA. His trainer, Michael Matz, lives in Unionville, PA.

At a time when Pennsylvania racing is moving forward with the installation of slots, the addition of tracks and off-site simulcasting and wagering - having the eyes of the racing world focused on another Mid-Atlantic star is nothing short of fantastic. Now everyone else knows what we have known all along - that Pennsylvania is the **BEST** place for thoroughbred racing. The best place for horses, farms, owners, breeders, trainers, grooms, jockeys, equine clinics and veterinarians, feed lots, and of course, the tracks and fans that make it all come together.

ANOTHER PHILLY WINNER

Jockey Tony Black marks 5,000 wins

Jockey Anthony "Tony" Black, receives a plaque in recognition of 5,000 career wins from Larry Riviello, President, Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemens' Association. Black's 5,000 win came aboard Actcentric in the fifth race at Philadelphia Park on May 1, 2006. Actcentric, trained by Robert Seeger, won by 12 lengths.

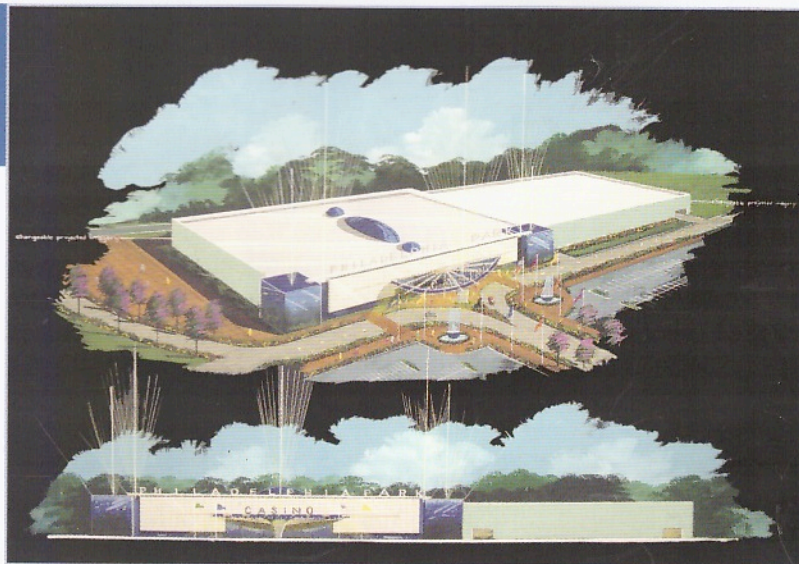
Left to Right: VP Sal DeBunda, President Larry Riviello, Tony Black, Treasurer Dr. Steve Appel



Photo by Equi-Photo

A PA WINNER IN THE MAKING!

An artist rendering of the new stand-alone casino located in a former parking lot next to the paddock. The casino will be as wide as five football fields and will offer a nightclub, three bars and a 15,000 square foot buffet. There will be 3,000 machines initially and will create over 700 jobs. Construction is expected to begin as soon as the gaming license is awarded.



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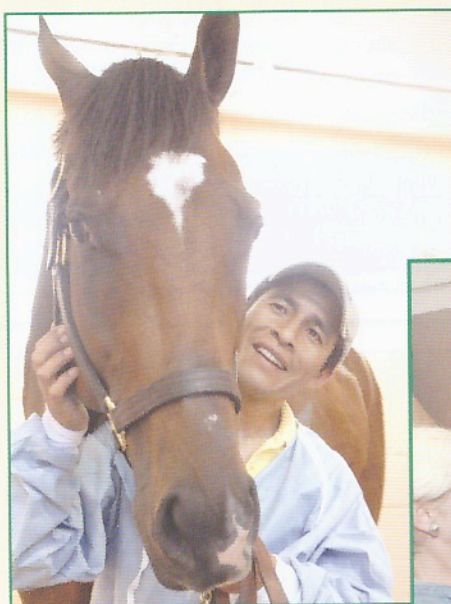
BARBARO

In our hearts and prayers

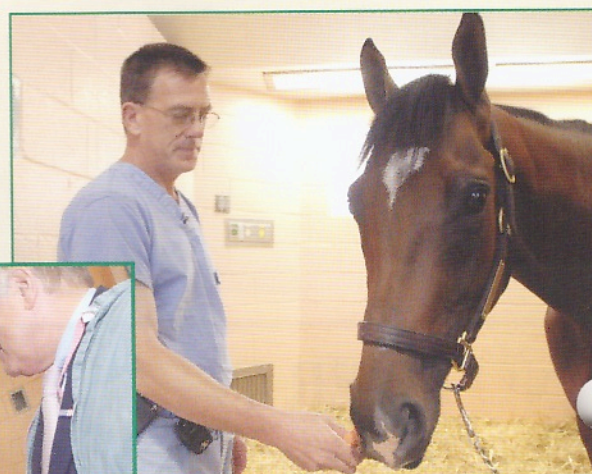
It's amazing how this wonderful athlete has had such an impact on not only the racing world, but even those who don't usually following racing.

We always come together in tragedy - just as people became more caring and bonded after the 9/11 disaster - the same has happened with Barbaro. Everyone with whom I interact - the staff at my doctor's office, clerks at the grocery store, the mailman and UPS deliveryman, friends and neighbors - all have inquired about his daily status, some even telling me news they have read online. I heard two of the HRTV broadcasters comment that they think of him throughout the day, every day. He's not only a horse that won the prestigious Kentucky Derby by 6 lengths, making him undefeated in six starts, he has now survived a six hour surgery where his broken bones were replaced with more metal than one would think possible including 27 screws. He didn't just survive but seems to be thriving under the wonderful care of Dr. Richardson and the staff at the Widener Clinic at University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center.

Barbaro-you and your doctors, owners, trainer and jockey will stay in our hearts and in our prayers. ■



Edgar Prado and Barbaro



Dr. Richardson feeds Barbaro a carrot.



Gretchen and Roy Jackson greet Edgar Prado

PA Governor Edward G. Rendell visits Barbaro, along with Dean Joan Hendricks and Dr. Dean Richardson, after presenting a \$13.5-million check to the facility for its building fund.



Cards from well-wishers on Barbaro's stall.

Sabina Louise Pierce with the University of Pennsylvania has shared her pictures of Barbaro. You can see more of her pictures at sabinalouisepierce.com.



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Larry Riviello, President

On Friday, March 24th I attended the rules committee meeting held in our offices. Present were Mike Ballezzi, Philip Aristone, Kate DeMasi, Scott Lake, Uriah St. Lewis, Don Reeder, Ralph Riviezzo, Billy Everett and Robert Sise.

The meeting lasted two hours and a lot of disagreeing took place on many agenda items, but all came out united. My motto is "Disagreeing is not disloyalty."

The National Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association held their quarterly executive committee meeting on April 12th in Lexington, Kentucky.

Nick Nicholson gave a presentation updating the committee on the Polytrack surface. He said, "There are fewer accidents, business was up, maintenance costs were down and historic biases went away at Turfway."

Keeneland at present has had a Polytrack surface on its training track since September, 2004. They will install a Polytrack surface on the main oval by September, 2006 prior to its fall meeting. The new surface will also entail the reconfiguration of the track's main racing oval to make the shape more symmetrical.

President/Chairman John Roark and Regional Vice President Tom Metzen, Sr. of the NHBPA resigned their respective positions. The executive committee accepted their resignations subject to ratification of NHBPA full board of directors.

John Roark and Tom Metzen plan to pursue a new business venture in the racing industry. Their new venture may be beneficial to the NHBPA.

According to the National HBPA By-Laws, Secretary/Treasurer Joe Santana will assume the office and responsibilities of president/chairman until the next meeting of the board of directors in July, 2006.

Joseph is a man of good judgment, a great leader and will do an admirable job as president of the National HBPA.

April 19th the public meeting of the Pennsylvania Horse Racing Commission was held at the New Bolton Center in Kennett Square. Mike Ballezzi and I attended. Mrs. Melinda Morris Tucker, director of Race Track Gaming for the Gaming Control Board announced at the meeting that slots will be ready in September or late October, 2006.

All horsemen are welcome to attend the commission meetings. Meeting time and place is posted on the PTHA bulletin board outside the offices. Please try to attend.

On April 27th Sal DeBunda and I attended the Honorable John Taylor's fundraiser. Representative Taylor has always been a full supporter of our horsemen. He is the chairman of the House Urban Affairs Committee and is from the 177th District of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

Tuesday, May 2 - Keeping United. A two hour meeting with Mike Ballezzi, Ed Simon, Peter Giangulio, Mark McDermott, Annie Youmans and yours truly was held with the purpose of

keeping in contact with fellow horsemen to determine plans for the distribution of funds from slot revenue.

We will get the job done.

A day to remember - Monday, May 1st. In the 5th, a race for fillies and mares, 4 year olds & up going 1 mile and 1/16 at Philadelphia Park, Accentric crossed the finish line at 2:15 pm, 12 lengths in front of the field with Tony Black in the irons.

Tony won his 5,000th race after winning his 2,000th race aboard LaPaw at, what was then, Keystone Race Track September 11, 1983. Owner Larry Riviello and trainer Eugene Euster were there for the occasion.

Yes, 5,000th win, Tony Black is the 20th jockey to win 5,000 races in North America. Black won his first career mount at Liberty Bell Park on June 15, 1970 aboard Stand By Me a 52-1 shot. The trainer was Charles Coco, owner Al Florio, a former partner of mine.

Tony Black said to me, "I wish Neck Jemas could have witnessed my 5,000th win, Nick was my mentor." Nick was a former National Manager of the Jockey Guild and a very close friend of Tony's. Nick was a popular jockey in the 50's.

The always popular Lyman Sprint Championship was run on May 12th. The \$50,000 Added Pennsylvania Bred Stake for three year olds and upward was contested at seven furlongs.

Congratulations to trainer Ramon Preciado and owner Ellendale Racing for winning with 4 year old gelding Pocomoonshine, time 1:21.73, one tick off the track record.

Barbaro. What can you say? We all experienced the absolute exhilaration of his romp in the Kentucky Derby. Excited to think we may have a Triple Crown winner, happy for the Jacksons of Lael Stable, trainer Michael Matz and rider Edgar Prado.

May 20th, the 131st running of the Preakness Stakes, a day I do not want to remember but won't be able to forget, a real champion will no longer race. Barbaro came out of the starting gate and within seconds had to be pulled up. I must admit I had tears in my eyes. I wasn't able to do a thing about the mishap, but the next day I went to church and prayed for his recovery.

Three consecutive years we've had horses with local ties eligible to win the Triple Crown but were stifled by misfortunes.

A rousing well done to Bernardini's connections. Trainer Tom Albertrani, owner Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum's Darley Stable and jockey Javier Castellano. All were gracious in their acceptance of the win while sad at Barbaro's fate.

May 25th the 27th Annual Iroquois Award Dinner honoring Pennsylvania bred champion horses and leading breeders of 2005 was held. It was a delightful evening with wonderful food and enjoyable companions. Congratulations to all the winners.

Well deserved recognition for 30 years service was bestowed upon Mark McDermott, the PHBA's Executive Secretary.

President Peter Giangulio, Mark McDermott and Dorothy Weber did their usual magnificent job and had a well organized and elegant evening. ■

Thought of the Day
Do things right; you will never go wrong.

PENNSYLVANIA'S CHAMPIONS OF 2005

Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association twenty-seventh annual Iroquois Awards Dinner, Thursday, May 25, 2006

PA-Bred Claiming Horse of the Year
SENIOR CIELO TWO *
Bred by Dun Roamin Farm &
Rosemore Farm
2000, gelding, Partner's Hero -
Senorita Cielo, by Conquistador Cielo

Leading Award Recipient
Pennsylvania Breeding Fund
THOMAS N. REIGLE
Total Award Receipts - \$130,527

Pennsylvania's Stallion of the Year
ROANOKE
1987, Pleasant Colony - Last Bird,
by Sea-Bird
Progeny Earnings of \$1,109,929
Stands at Regal Heir Farm, Grantville

PA-Bred Champion Jumper
Miles Ahead
1997, gelding, Unaccounted For -
Joy Valentine, by Shadeed
Bred by Derry Meeting Farm &
Ashwell Stables

PA-Bred Champion Two-Year-Old Female
HAILIE'S GIRL
Bred by Kimberlite Farm,
(Carmello Zappulla)
2003, filly, Lucky North - Invitetheblues,
by Cure the Blues

PA-Bred Champion Two-Year-Old Male
ESCROW ACCOUNT
Bred by James Hess & Thomas Reigle
2003, colt, Patton - One Up On You,
by Premiership

PA-Bred Champion Three-Year-Old Female
S W ALY'S VALENTINE
Bred Dr. & Mrs. Richard A. Reveley
2002, Malibu Moon - S W Phoebe,
by Allen's Prospect

PA-Bred Champion Three-Year-Old Male
JOEY CARSON
Bred by Ted Blouse
2002, Lord Carson - Arty Turn,
by Turn and Count

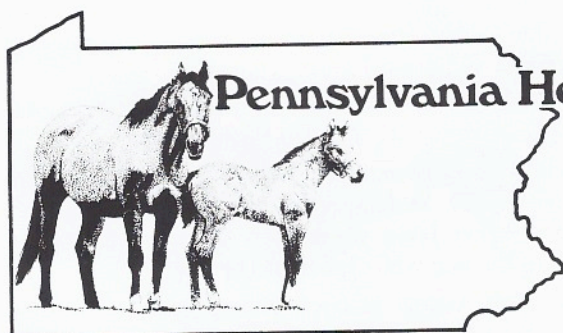
PA-Bred Champion Older Female
VALLEY OF THE GODS
Bred by David O'Neill
2000, Valley Crossing - Rapture,
by Double Zeus

PA-Bred Champion Older Male
PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIR
Bred by Will Run Farm
(Lori & Jeff Swatsworth)
1999, gelding, Not For Love -
Quite Amazing, by Bear Hunt

Broodmare of the Year
ARTY TURN
Owned by Ted Blouse
1981, Turn And Count -
New Art, by Ribot

*Leading Overall Breeder of
Pennsylvania-Breds*
GEORGE STRAWBRIDGE,
Total Earnings - \$745,838

* See In The Spotlight, Vol. 4 featuring an in-depth interview with Mr. Sal DeBunda, PTHA Vice-President



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Life Insurance Can Be Affordable

Brian Sanfratello, CMFC, CLTC, LUTCF.

There are two sides to every story and life insurance is no exception. One popular school of thought is that most people can't afford life insurance. Another prevalent point of view is that most people can't afford not to have life insurance. So what, then, is the clear-cut reality?

The simple truth is that while some forms of life insurance can be cost prohibitive to certain segments of the population, there are other types of coverage that fit very well within the budgetary restraints of many Americans.

Term insurance, for instance, can be an economical way to help protect one's family, home or business from the financial devastation that can accompany a premature death. Term premiums are typically much cheaper than those of permanent, cash-value policies, especially if the insured is relatively young and in good health. The budget-friendly nature of term insurance has made it the most popular form of life insurance available (Bankrate.com, Guide to Insurance 2004).

What exactly is term insurance, and why is it so popular?

Simply put, term insurance is protection for a specific period of time—typically 5, 10, 20 or even 30 years. Over the course of that “term”, the insured pays a specified premium, and if he or she dies during that term, the beneficiaries receive a death benefit, which is the “face amount” of the policy.

For example, a 10-year, \$100,000 term policy would pay that amount to the beneficiaries should the insured pass away within the 10-year duration. If the insured lives beyond the end of the term, the policy pays nothing—unless, of course, it is renewed.

Because most people purchase term coverage when they are young, the premiums are relatively inexpensive. This makes term coverage especially appropriate for young parents and business owners who need significant protection at affordable costs.

Since the likelihood of dying is much lower when you're in your 20s, 30s or 40s, the cost of term insurance during these years is as cost-effective as life insurance protection is going to get. Conversely, as one gets older, the cost of term insurance becomes increasingly more expensive. It's important to note that term policies often come with guaranteed premium periods, meaning the premiums are assured to

remain at a certain price for a specified period of time. Once that premium guarantee period is over, the insured can renew the policy annually, but at a potentially higher premium. However, the initial, lower premium makes term insurance an attractive option for people seeking an affordable solution to a temporary life insurance need.

Who is term insurance right for?

Young parents. New homeowners. Business owners. Individuals with significant loans to repay. People funding a child's college education. All of these individuals are likely candidates for term insurance, because a term policy can help protect them from the financial calamity that could ensue following a sudden, unexpected death.

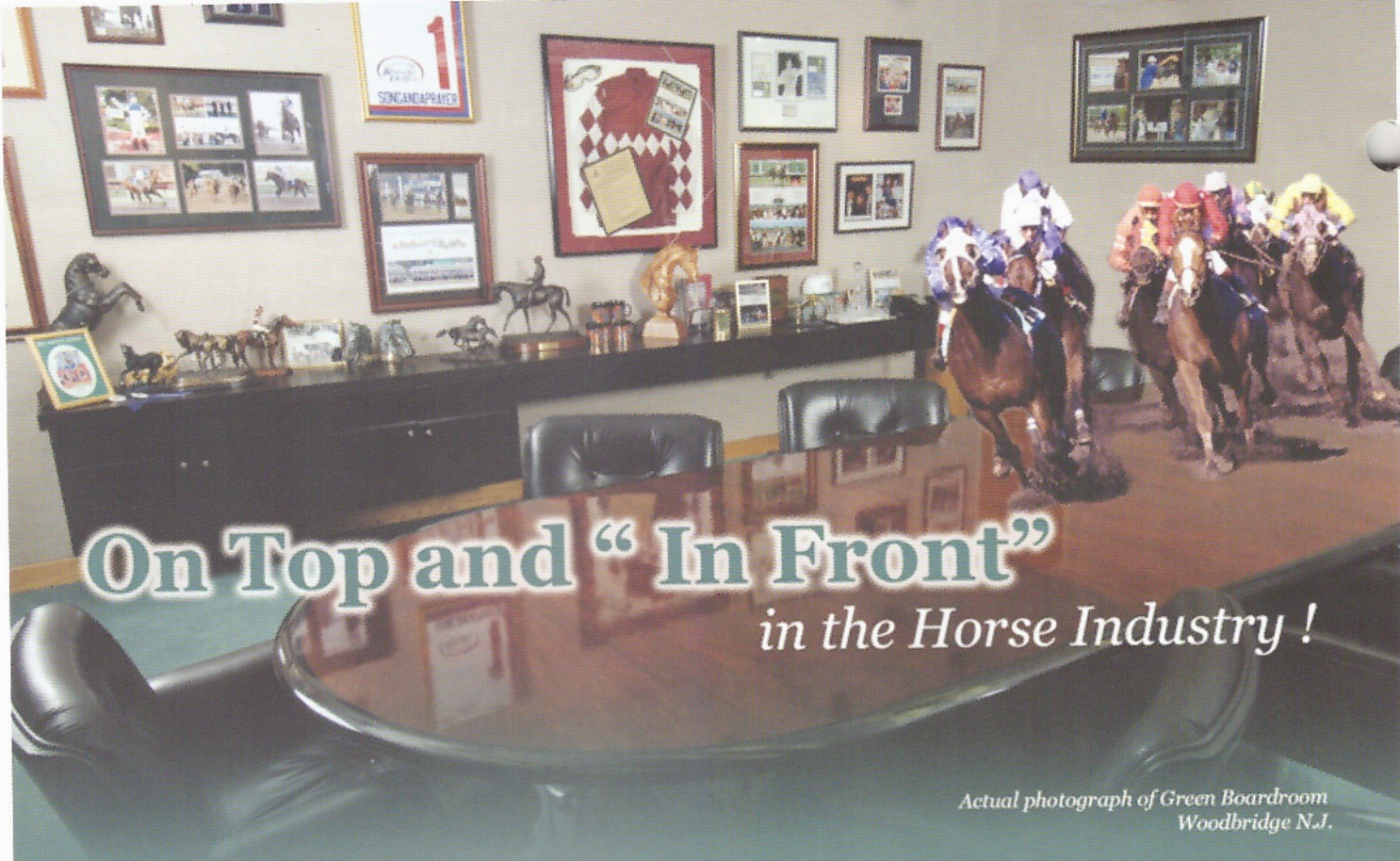
Say, for example, you are sending a child to college and need \$80,000 for tuition (clearly a modest estimate by today's standards). By purchasing an \$80,000 term policy, you are, in effect, helping to guarantee that your youngster will get that higher education, even if you should meet an untimely demise. Or say, for instance, you have a \$250,000 home mortgage to repay. By taking out a \$250,000 term policy that covers the mortgage period, you can rest more assured that your family will be able to continue living in your dream home, even if a nightmare occurs and you die suddenly.

Are there downsides to term?

Despite the appeal of lower premiums, term policies aren't for everyone. With a term policy, you can never “lock in” the entitlement to continue coverage no matter how old you become. The renewal of term policies can be denied by the issuing companies based on the insured's age, health, etc. Plus, term insurance doesn't generate cash-value or offer the tax benefits that permanent policies can. Term policies offer death benefits only—once the term is up, you get no money back.

But the financial allure of term insurance remains strong. Term coverage is simply less expensive for most individuals than its permanent counterpart. So as you can see, term coverage can be an ideal—and economical—solution to a number of life insurance needs.

For more information or to find out if term insurance is right for you, call 215-672-4022.



On Top and "In Front"

in the Horse Industry !

*Actual photograph of Green Boardroom
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TAX TIPS FOR HORSEMEN \$ \$ \$ \$

*Here's some great tax tips to help us be better prepared for our 2006 tax returns. Thanks to
 Leonard C. Green, CPA, MBA and Joseph Pontrella, CPA of The Green Group, one of our advertisers.
 For more information contact them at: (732) 634-5100 or jpontrella@greenco.com*

To be successful in any business, you must have passion and you must enjoy the activity. You also have to be knowledgeable about specific areas in order to obtain a competitive advantage. One such area is reducing your taxes so that you have more money to use in the business. To accomplish this, you should maximize your tax deductions in connection with the activity. Here are some tips which you may not be aware of and which may result in substantial tax savings.

S A horse/farm owner may be eligible to expense up to \$104,000 of the cost of newly acquired horses, equipment and other eligible property.

\$ Examine items on your depreciation schedule of fixed assets. Are any of those assets no longer “in use”? If so, you can write off the asset for 2006.

S If you bought a farm that originally placed a large value on land, you probably are getting no tax benefit from it. If you allocated too much of the purchase price to structures, you are probably short changing yourself as to potential tax deductions. You might want to re-examine the property again and see if you can allocate any amounts to roads, fences, landscaping, etc., which would accelerate your tax deductions.

\$ If you bought a barn or house on the farm, you might have treated it as a unit and depreciated it over 30+ years. A careful analysis may determine that the actual life of the assets may be as low as 10 years.

S Did you sell a horse at a substantial profit? If so, you may be eligible to defer taxes on the sale of horses and other assets through qualifying Like-Kind Exchanges.

§ Insurance proceeds received due to death or injury of a horse may not be subject to taxation.

S Lodging and meals provided for qualifying employees of horse related businesses might be tax-free to the employees and save the employer money as well.

\$ If you have lost money on your horse operations, your accountant may have told you that it is a hobby and you should not and cannot take tax deductions. The IRS has listed nine factors, which are considered in determining whether a profit objective exists. You should check to see whether you have a business plan, a business strategy, etc. that conforms to these tests.

§ Have you ever had an evaluation prepared for your business? You can save substantial future taxes by determining the value and not leaving it up to the IRS.

\$ Are you active in the horse business or in a partnership? Review the amount of time you spent on your horse operation last year. Make sure you arrive at the 100+ minimum hours. You should include time spent at seminars, reading related magazines, attendance at sales, etc. These are often overlooked items, which may make the difference between being considered active versus passive.

§ Under IRS regulations, it may be possible to group a “passive” horse operation, which is losing money with some other passive operation, which is profitable into one single activity thereby utilizing the losses. Another approach is to create separate activities for various aspects of a “passive” horse operations. This means that completely terminating one of the activities will allow all losses, which have not been deducted in the past, to be fully deductible in the year of termination.

S Why pay additional taxes when you can contribute to your pension or profit sharing plan. Have you maximized your retirement plans? There are a number of plans available which allow you to establish the plan and then fund it nine months after your year end and still have the payments count as being paid prior to December 31. Also, think seriously about creating a cafeteria plan of benefits for employees. Under such plans, employees will receive tax-free benefits for items such as healthcare, childcare, etc.

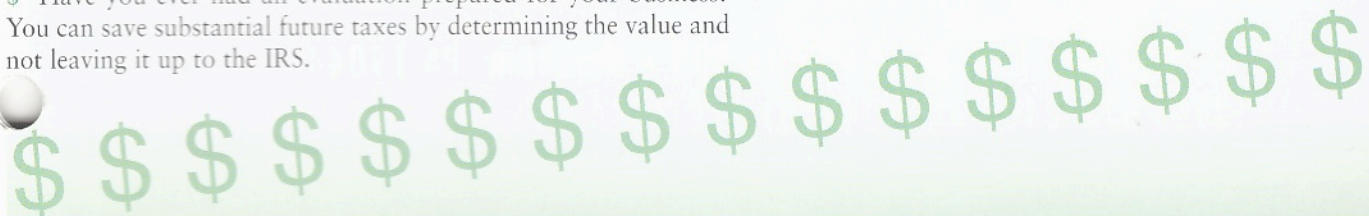
S Chose your accounting method carefully. Cash method of accounting allows horse owners to plan profitable years by deferring income to a later year and prepaying expenses earlier in the year.

\$ What type of entity are you utilizing to run your business? Make certain you are utilizing the correct and most advantageous form of doing business.

S Do you have children and are they working and earning a salary that may not be subject to income tax?

S You may have received a notice that the Internal Revenue Service is examining you. Do not panic, and do not go to the meeting unprepared. Get advice from someone who has never lost a revenue examination.

§ Have you had your tax returns reviewed by a professional? They are like x-rays for doctors. Very worth doing especially if reviewed by an expert in the horse industry. ■



TROPHY LIST

DATE	OWNER	HORSE	TRAINER
3/18/2006	Plumstead Stables	Mr. L	Robert Seeger
3/25/2006	Corri Che Vinci Stables	Mon Over Miami	John Rodriguez
4/1/2006	Elizabeth Gory	She'stentop	Mark Gory
4/8/2006	Par Three Stables	I Know You Can	Jayne Vaders
4/15/2006	Astor Stables	Quickest of All	Ron Dandy
4/22/2006	Christine Mayo	Preferred Risk	Alan Bedard
4/29/2006	Lizzie Whyllie	Socially Superior	Herold Whyllie
5/6/2006	Hope's Racing Stables & Kay Holman	Afleet Deputy	Lupe Preciado
5/13/2006	Emmanuel Tzortzakis	Mr Twix	Emmanuel Tzortzakis
5/20/2006	Frederick Campbell	Tactical Blast	Frederick Campbell

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In the Spotlight

We are highlighting two stories in this issue. First we learn about Roy and Gretchen Jackson, owners of Barbaro and then we learn about the career of jockey, Anthony Black.

The Jacksons

Roy and Gretchen Jackson have shared a love of horses since they first met at a high school dance. It's only been recently that this Pennsylvania couple has come into our lives. They became the first owners in the 132 year history of the Kentucky Derby to have two un-defeated horses in the prestigious first leg of the Triple Crown. Barbaro was the winner and Showing Up came 6th of twenty entries. Not bad for this delightful husband and wife team from Chester County. They had never attended the Derby, never even been to Churchill Downs and on this first Saturday in May, 2006 there they were - hugging their trainer, Michael Matz, jockey Edgar Prado and El Barbaro - the horse that brought them here to the Winners Circle.

Though Barbaro never raced in Pennsylvania, the Jackson's now have two PA bred foals. They brought two mares to PA to foal. Juicy Tidbit foaled a colt by Royal Academy and Unreal Cupcake, a filly by Menifee. We can look forward to seeing these two PA babies on the track in 2008. The Jackson's also have 15 horses in training with Michael Matz and John Servis that we will see racing at Philly and Penn this summer. Barbaro's dam, La Ville Rouge foaled his full brother on March 15th and she was bred back to Dynaformer on May 5th, the day before the Derby. She has now been declared in foal.

The Jackson's are also very proud of their other Derby contender, Showing Up. He is in training with Barclay Tagg at Belmont and is being considered for several turf races at Belmont and Colonial Downs. "Barclay has been working him on the turf and he seems to really be taking well to it," says Jackson. "Stay tuned."

Speaking from the Jackson farm in West Grove, PA, Roy proudly comments, "Gretchen and I have been so happy to see so many people interested in horse racing and Barbaro, it's so great to have new people involved in this wonderful sport."

The Jackson's love having their four children and 10 grandchildren spend time at their farm where many past runners enjoy sharing the farmland.

Barbaro update

We were hoping to have an update from the Jackson's after Barbaro's win in the Preakness. Here's what Mr. Jackson had to say about his recuperation. "He's doing as well as can be expected. We don't know why this happened, but what has come from it, the positive responses from people has been so wonderful and up-lifting. The doctors and all the staff at New Bolton have just been spectacular. It was also very nice to see Edgar with Barbaro - they have truly bonded. His visit lifted everyone's spirits but especially Barbaro's. Gretchen and I want to thank everyone for all the prayers and support - where we are with Barbaro right now is nothing short of miraculous."

Tony Black

Anthony "Tony" Black started his racing career in 1970 at Liberty Bell racetrack. At 18 years old, having finished high school as a requirement of his dad, here he was, finally, in his first race. He won that first race on Stand By Me on June 15 for trainer Charlie Coco. His mount paid a whopping \$106.40 to win. "I've made it this far and have accomplished so much with the help of many people," says the Pennsylvania resident. "I didn't appreciate

it at the time, but when my dad made me finish high school, that gave me my "never quit" philosophy which I live by."

His family includes racing Hall of Famer, Sam Boulmetis, a jockey in MD and NJ from 1948 through 1966. Tony has had mounts at many tracks in North America including two in the Kentucky Derby and one in the Preakness. Other highlights include riding My Juliet to a win in the 1976 Vosburg at Aqueduct and Devil's Honor when he won the 1996 Pennsylvania Derby.

Tony and Kiely Waters welcomed their daughter, Madison Reese, on June 17, 2005. Happy First Birthday, Madison! Tony has two boys as well, Michael, 23 and Tony, Jr., 25.

"My career has been full of ups and downs but the support from my family and friends has kept me going," comments this gentle man. "I love what I do and hope to continue working toward my next career milestone!"

Tony's first milestone, his 2,000 win, came on September 11, 1983 aboard La Pawn for Larry Riviello. How appropriate PTHA President, Riviello presented the plaque recognizing Tony's 5,000 win on May 1, 2006, 23 years later.

Slot Update

In our next issue, Volume 4, which will be published in July, we will have lots of great information - pictures of the whole new campus, and the first floor temporary slot area, new gaming personnel and probable opening dates. ■

REGAL HEIR FARM OWNERS DIE IN HELICOPTER CRASH

Dennis G. Madonna, 48, and J. Bradley Jones, 67, owners of one of Pennsylvania's leading breeding farms, were killed in a helicopter crash on April 20, 2006. The partners purchased the original Reigle Heir from Tom and Ann Reigle in September, 2005, along with their wives Michelle Madonna and Sue Jones. The venture was renamed Regal Heir Farms, Inc. with the addition of several other farms. The two were flying over the farms when the crash occurred.

Regal Heir Farms, Inc. is home to 1998 Kentucky Derby/Preakness winner and three-year old champion Real Quiet as well as successful PA stallions: Banker's Gold, Caller ID, Cat's Career, Mazel Trick, Patton and Siphon (Brz.) The operation is continuing under the direction of Michelle Madonna and their son, Devon.

GIBSON SMITH

Gibson Smith, 79, passed away on February 9, 2006 at his home. He and his wife have been involved in thoroughbred racing for most of the 34 years of their marriage. Their first horse was a turf claimer named Hear Hear, which became the toast they shared after each race. Gibson joined the navy at 16 and was proud to serve his country. He went on to graduate from law school and worked as a lawyer in York, PA for over 50 years including serving as Assistant Attorney General under Governor Leader. He enjoyed life to the fullest - sailing, boxing, flying, defending the law, and helping those less fortunate. His greatest passion was his family - his wife and their children: Gibson IV, Gretel and Wright and of course, the horses. "Hear Hear" Gibson!



60 YEARS!

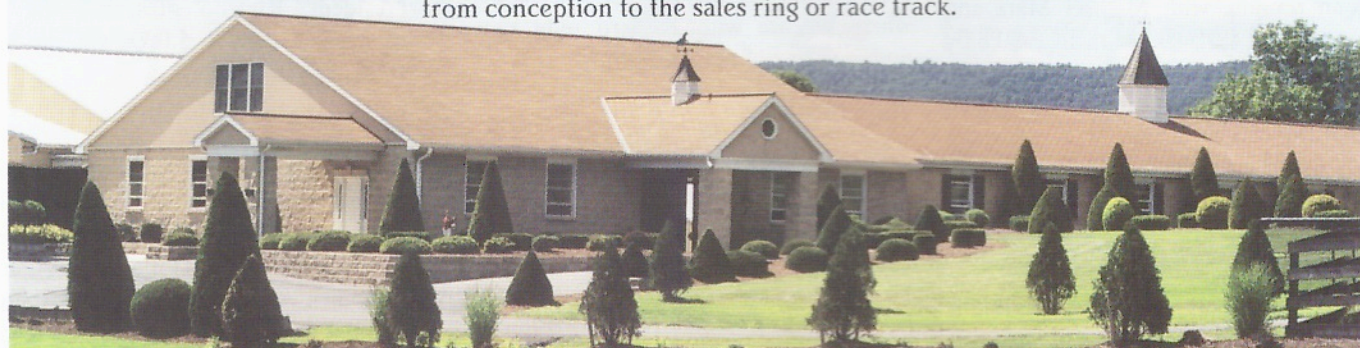
Congratulations to Gene and Mary Koons - married on June 1, 1946, they just celebrated 60 years together. Gene, a longtime trainer at Philly Park and PTHA board member for many years, and his wife, Mary, live in Lafayette Hills, PA. The Koons have five children, ten grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Regal Heir Farms, Inc.

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BANKER'S GOLD

Forty Niner—Banker's Lady, by Nijinsky II
\$3,500 LF; \$3,000 for PA mares

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By Chaplain Jack Cordell



"FAST STARTERS VS. GOOD CLOSERS"

Here goes. I did an UNscientific survey asking, "Which would you prefer, a horse that's fast out of the gate, or a good closer?" Trainers and others spoke quick and firm in their opinions. After several responses, the result was mixed! Surely, one of the two would clearly win, but it didn't happen. Wouldn't "good closer" win hands down? Almost immediately someone informed me that statistics favor "fast out of the gate." Uh-oh, this was not going to be so simple. It's for sure that it's easier for the horse that's at the front of the pack at the start. But so many times the "good closer" comes out of nowhere to blow away the field. For sure, the "fast out of the gate" vs. "good closer" argument will be around long after this horse padre leaves the racetrack.

Someone offered a thought that has hovered around the edges of my mind since he said it. He asserted that two things are necessary for

a horse to win - speed and endurance. That makes sense and connects fast from the gate with good closing. Quick from the gate and fast in the pace are great, but the horse has to have the stamina to close the race and win.

Here's where life and the racetrack collide for an important lesson. We all know lots of people who were fast out of the gate in life. Their future looked brilliant. But early on they fell by the way. Others weather the stresses of life and end well. Speed was necessary for beginning, but endurance was required in the end. The Bible says (Hebrews 11:27) Moses "persevered because he saw him who is invisible." He endured because he "saw" the unseen God, placed his trust in and laid his life on the line for the God he loved. Those who keep their focus on the eternal will endure to the end and find great reward in heaven's winner's circle. ■

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