



Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Inc. NEWSLETTER

PREVIEW EDITION

2001

HORSEMEN DISPLAY HEART, BRAINS IN PREVIEW TO NATIONAL EVENT

The Claiming Crown has been called the Breeders' Cup for claimers and the idea behind it was to showcase the people and animals

who are the backbone of the sport but don't usually attract the acclaim or big purses that go with the Triple Crown or other major events on the racing calendar.

This year's Pennsylvania Claiming Crown Preview Day at Philadelphia Park proved just how valid the concept is.

With purses, including bonuses, totalling \$344,500 for the entire program of races that made up the Preview Day II on June 2, the very first event that would lead to the Claiming Crown at Canterbury Park

later in the summer, the \$25,000 Iron Horse Stakes at 1 1/16 miles, was won by Gotthard, whose part owner is brand new to the sport.

"My daughter claimed him three races back," said Robert Schrader, an insurance adjuster.

His daughter is Barbara Armstrong, who already owned a number of horses trained by Richard Vega. She has been particularly blessed, though, with the animal whose ownership she shares with her dad.

Gotthard has won all three races since she claimed him.

continued on page 3



THUMBS UP FOR PREVIEW DAY -- Jockey Danny Velazquez shows enthusiasm after winning Rapid Transit Stakes with Nasty Billy Ray.

THE VIOLIN PLAYER'S LEGACY OF PASSION

by Larry McMullen

Isadore "Izzy" Schwartz, a retired violinist with the Philadelphia Orchestra and an active horseman until the very end, died recently at the age of 86, leaving behind a legacy of commitment and accomplishment.

Izzy decided when he was around 10 years old that he needed to do something special with his life. A little girl named Sylvia planted the seed. Izzy lived on the 1200 block of 5th St. in South Philadelphia, where his father operated a tailor shop. Sylvia lived on the 1300 block. Her father was a doctor.

Sylvia knew that Izzy liked a girl in the neighborhood named Esther, a fact that didn't please her. So when

Izzy came wandering onto her block one day, she kicked him off.

"Only doctors' and dentists' families live on this block," she said coolly.

Izzy went home crying to his parents.

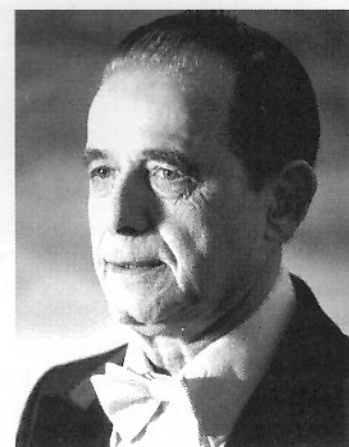
"I don't belong to society," he wailed.

If he wasn't a member of high society at the time, nobody would argue that he didn't make it as an adult.

Schwartz studied at the Curtis Institute of Music and after years of playing what his wife called "gigs," with dance bands in hotels and studio bands at local radio stations, he auditioned and was accepted into the Philadelphia Orchestra, where he

would remain for 40 years.

He always kept the fiery street kid from South Philly as a part of his
continued on page 10



IZ SEZ ... no more

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . .

With summer finally arriving, I expect we will have a great season of racing at Philadelphia Park; improved, first-class plant, nice park area for our patrons, an increase in purses and good turf racing.

On Friday, April 6, I walked and inspected the racing surface with Mike Ballezzi, Sal Sinatra, Roy Smith and Joe King. King is president of the Joseph H. King Company, Ltd., specializing in designing and testing race track surfaces.

King is preparing a report for us on the composition of our racing surface and will also advise us how to improve the drainage, a very important factor.



JOE KING, LARRY RIVIELLO, MIKE BALLEZZI

Your PTHA is on top of things. On Tuesday, April 10, a special meeting was held at the Recreation Hall to inform and update our trainers on the correct dosage and time to administer clenbuterol when racing in New Jersey and Delaware since the rules in those states are different from Pennsylvania's.

Thanks to Mike Ballezzi for inviting Dr. Lawrence Soma, Dr. Cornelius Uboh and Dr. E.K. Birks, all of the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center, to present a seminar on clenbuterol to our horsemen.

On Saturday, May 19, our TV program "Let's Go Racing" honored apprentice Kendrick Carmouche as Jockey of the Week.

That same show featured a segment on Monty Roberts, who is known as a horse whisperer.

I own a mare, Tintalating, who refused

to break out of the gate. I called Roberts and explained the situation, mentioning that Tintalating wasn't a stakes mare, that she was just my home-bred claimer.

Roberts said, "For the love of a horse, I'll see Tintalating."

He came to Mt. Holly Farm, where Tintalating was stabled, and within two-and-a-half hours, he had the mare breaking from the gate.

Roberts does have communication with a horse.

The segment was excellent. Maybe a rerun is in order.

Monarchos' big stretch run captured the Kentucky Derby in a winning time of 1:59.97, second only to the great Secretariat's time in the Derby.

Point Given's victory in the Preakness assured there would be no Triple Crown winner.

It was wonderful to see the Governors of Kentucky and Maryland present the trophies for the Derby and the Preakness.

What a wonderful thing it would be if our Governor would present the trophy to the winner of the \$500,000 Pennsylvania Derby, the richest race in the state.

Why not???

Again I must say I would like to see the colors of the winner of the Pennsylvania Derby displayed at the race-track.

Point of information. Over 71 million dollars was wagered nationwide on the Kentucky Derby. Big, big business.

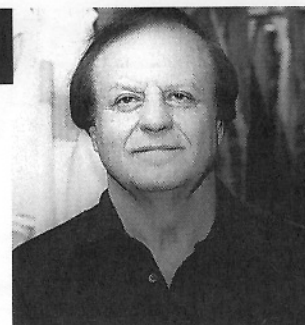
On Wednesday, May 16, Mike Ballezzi and I attended the Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association's annual meeting at the Kennett Country Club, Kennett Square.

Four new members were elected to the Board.

Congratulations to Bob and Dorothy Weber for installing a new, up-to-date computer for registration and processing awards data.

Yours truly will represent the PTHA on the Pennsylvania Breeders Fund Advisory Committee for the period of June 1, 2001, to May 31, 2002.

The Pa. Horse Breeders Association's 22nd annual Iroquois Awards Dinner was



LARRY RIVIELLO
President

held at the beautiful Hershey Hotel May 24. A full house was on hand.

Secretary of Agriculture Hayes was guest speaker. He reminded us all — breeders, horsemen and horsewomen — to be united on all fronts. He emphasized this more than once.

A good philosophy. I agree 100 percent.

Robert Seeger walked away from the Iroquois with three awards and Barbara Geraghty and Ronald Perozzi, two.

Congratulations to President Robert Szezyller, Executive Secretary Mark McDermott and all committee members for a wonderful evening.

Beau's Surprise was no surprise on Memorial Day, May 28, when the 3-year-old colt, owned by Thomas McClay and trained by Todd Beattie, captured the \$50,000 Peppy Addy Stake for Pennsylvania bred 3 year olds. Beau's Surprise has won five straight. Let's go for six.

The Claiming Crown Preview Day was held last year on the hottest day of the year. This year's edition. On Saturday, June 2, was a much nicer day with good attendance, a real fun day, with Gary U.S. Bonds' band playing in the picnic grove and plenty of family activities.

Thanks to Steve Appel, chairman of the event, Mike Ballezzi, Sal Sinatra and track management for making the Claiming Crown Preview series a big success.

Thanks also to Connie Youmans, PTHA secretary, and the office staff for their help in assuring everything went smoothly and to newsletter editor Larry McMullen and photographer John McMullen for covering the event from start to finish.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

*Make new friends but
cherish the old ones.*

PREVIEW TO NATIONAL EVENT

continued from pg. 1

"That had to be a stroke of genius," it was suggested to horse racing novice Schrader.

"No it wasn't," he joked. "I picked him."

Trainer Vega, who basically operates a claiming stable and is highly successful at doing it, typifies the kind of horseman who fills the cards every day at racetracks all over the country but never makes the cover of magazines like *Sports Illustrated* or is featured in interviews on national television.

It doesn't mean he lacks the talent, knowledge or confidence of his more famous compatriots.

The Claiming Crown Preview, initiated by the PTHA to mirror the Claiming Crown at Canterbury Park in Minnesota and to prepare Philadelphia Park horsemen to compete on a high level at an event that is showcased on a national stage, represented an enormous achievement in its first running last year.

How's this for preparation?

Out of seven horses entered by Philadelphia Park horsemen in the seven stake races of the Claiming Crown in Minnesota in 2000, three won, two finished second, one finished third and one was fifth.

So Philadelphia Park representatives took home the majority of the almost \$600,000 in purses, including three races for which the ante was \$100,000 or more, offered at Canterbury last year. The purses are expected to be at least as high this year.

So when Richard Vega, after capturing his first Preview stake race

with Gotthard, was asked if he was going to chase gold and glory with Gotthard at the Claiming Crown in Minnesota later this summer, he answered directly and simply:

"You'd better believe it."

• • •

To offer further proof that highly skilled trainers of claiming horses can compete and win no matter how strong the opposition, it should be noted that Scott Lake, who captured three races at the Claiming Crown at Canterbury last year and was a finalist for an Eclipse Award as the top trainer in the country, failed to win a single event in this year's Claiming Crown Preview's six races despite being favored in five of them.



THE PRESIDENT AND HIS LADY-- PTHA head Larry Riviello and wife Betty enjoy a meal at table adorned with flowers in Preview Day hospitality tent.

Lake isn't eliminated from entering horses in this year's Claiming Crown as long as they meet the entry requirements. He just didn't earn a winner's share of any of the purses or the bonuses, including shipping money to Minnesota, that went along with each triumph in the Preview races.

One of Lake's losses was in the \$25,000 Express Stakes at six furlongs when his favored charge, Home Team Stables' The Maccabee, got caught up in fractions that took

the field past the half-mile mark in a blistering 44 seconds.

"I looked at the timer at the half mile pole," said winning trainer John S. McCaslin, who conditions Chicken Ridge's Majestic Irish, the most solid closer in the field, "and said to myself, 'they're in trouble.'"

They were. Majestic Irish paid \$10 to win and is probably also bound for Minnesota.

An inducement for making the trip is the \$2,500 in shipping money that is awarded to the winner of each of the Preview races. In addition, there were trainer awards for the first three finishers in each race. The winner received \$1,000, second, \$500, and third, \$250.

John Servis, who burst onto the national scene last year with a filly named Jostle who narrowly failed to win an Eclipse Award that many thought she deserved, showed he still has one foot in the claiming world by capturing the \$30,000 Glass Slipper Stakes at 6 1/2 furlongs with D J Stable's Lost Judgement.

A trainer who took advantage of a situation that caused a number of scratches after earlier rains forced the \$50,000 Emerald Stakes to be taken off the grass was Edward K. Auwarter, whose R. Encounter, owned by Sharon Neill-Doyle, wound up as the lone speed in a five-horse field and went wire to wire under jockey Jose Castanon.

"It came up good for us," said the veteran local conditioner, who is going to give lightning another chance to strike.

"I have to take a shot at Minnesota," he said.

• • •

An owner who typifies the kind of horseman the Claiming Crown was designed to spotlight is Jeffrey Haller, who said he works in an office and looks to score bargains

continued on page 9

ANOTHER CHAPTER CLOSES ON THE AMERICAN DREAM

Peter E. Riviello, older brother of PTHA President Larry Riviello, passed away suddenly May 2 of a heart attack. He was 79.

The first born of immigrant parents, he was known his whole life for his work ethic.

"And everything Pete earned as a kid," said brother Larry, "he brought home to help the family."

Pete never changed. His hard work as an adult sent his and wife Eleanor's three sons through Villanova, from which they all graduated with degrees in teaching.

Second oldest son Peter still teaches while number one son Richard and youngest son Larry have moved into the business world.

Dad Pete was in partnership originally with his brother in Larry's Luncheonette in Upper Darby. When Larry became involved in other business ventures, Pete remained with Larry's Luncheonette, which he operated the remainder of his life.

Always, though, the brothers remained close.

"We traveled together," said Larry. "We went to

the races together. We did everything together."

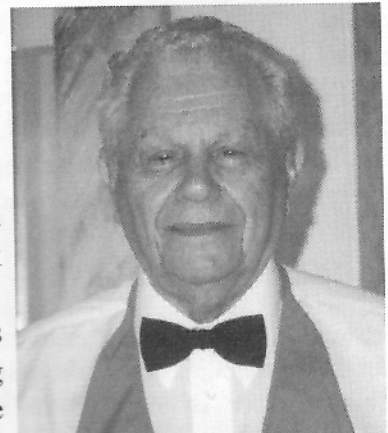
Pete was a graduate of Upper Darby High School, where he was a member of the track and swimming teams.

He spent four years in the Navy during World War II, where he was Chief Petty Officer aboard the USS

Philadelphia, which was mistakenly reported sunk on three different occasions, causing almost unimaginable concern and worry at home.

In the end, Pete was a surviving member of what has been called "The Greatest Generation."

As an native-born son of immigrant parents who grew up to make a success of his life, he was also a shining product of the American Dream.



PETER E. RIVIELLO



PTHA TROPHY WINNERS APRIL - JUNE



HORSE	OWNER	TRAINER
TEE H. KAY	JOY MCCARTY	PAM SHAVELSON
GREAT AUNT ALICE	NORTHCOTE STABLE	DAVID DOTOLO
SUPER SIZE	PLUMSTEAD STABLES	ROBERT J. SEEGER
HANOVER STREET	HENRY BARRY	PAMELA ANGEVINE
SLEW IS SMOKING	LOIS LEHMAN	STEVEN R. MICK
DANCING DEMON	DON'T WORRY BE HAPPY STABLE	JOHN J MARIA
CHRISTIAN SOLDIER	SPRINGTON FARMS	ROBERT D. SIRAVO
DEVIL'S MARK	ALEXANDER LTD	RICHARD ALEXANDER
ANOTHER MISTY MO	PATRICIA MANAHAN	PATRICIA MANAHAN
CANADIAN EXECUT	EUGENE LOFFREDO & KAREN LESH	ROBERT LESHER
PORTSIDE	RICHARD VEGA	RICHARD VEGA
DARKER THAN TRI	PLUMSTEAD STABLES	ROBERT J. SEEGER
DOCTOR ED	RICHARD VEGA	RICHARD VEGA
OK BE QUICK	TIMBER CREEK FARM	WALTER C. REESE
GOOD GRADES	ERNEST CRANFIELD	ERNEST CRANFIELD
VAL PO VELVET	AMO STABLES	DENNIS MILLS
LOVE ME NASTY	TEAM JAG	JOSE GALLEGOS

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER...

A year ago, I didn't know a claiming race from the man in the moon. Although I know scant more about the topic now, PTHA Secretary Connie Youmans informed me that the claiming race is the "meat and potatoes of the industry."

Claiming recently came alive for me. Living at Pony Barn C was a race horse that loved getting her daily ration of peppermint candy. On one of my calls to her stall, I gave Solar Landing some extra sweets because she was set to race the next day.

Bill Carango aid, "She's going to win, Jack."

Sure enough, with jockey Vladimir Diaz on her back, Solar Landing won that race.

Well, the next morning, "Solar" was going to hear my lavish praise. But her stall was empty. What's going on here? Then I thought, "She was claimed." Indeed, she was.

It seems that "Solar" bounces back and forth between owners through claiming. To my delight, she is now back at Pony Barn C, and his Chaplain is again happily feeding his friend.

Claiming a horse is tricky business. The person buying the horse is responsible for paying for it before it breaks from the gate for the race. If the horse wins, the prior owner gets the winnings. However, if the horse expires during the race,

the new owner has bought a dead thoroughbred. A longtime horseman told me he has seen it happen. That's simply how the business works.

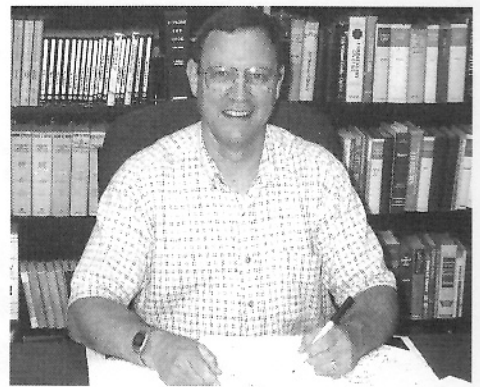
This claiming thing set me to thinking. The Bible makes much of the idea of laying claim to someone through paying a price. In fact, redemption is a musty-sounding theological word that means: "to buy back."

Wow! God can claim ownership of men and women because He has paid for (claimed) them with the price of His son. Once God pays, you're His — even if you drop dead. That's how redemption works. Paul, the great Apostle, puts it this way, "You are not your own, you are bought at a price." (I Cor. 6:20).

God is in the claiming business. Might I suggest, too, that He is even into RE-claiming.

SPANISH CLASSES STARTED

On Tuesday, May 22, a group of eager students came to the card



**CHAPLAIN
JACK CORDELL**

room in the Rec Hall to begin learning to speak Spanish. Trainer/owner Peggy Tzortzakis (Barn 5) former Spanish teacher, is the excellent instructor for the 15-week course. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

The classes are free of charge, thanks to the "Granny Youmans Scholarship Fund," established in the memory of the mother of Connie Youmans. Granny Youmans was very supportive of the Chaplain and had faithfully attended track chapel services through the years. Thanks again to all of you who have contributed to the Scholarship Fund.



GRANNY YOUMANS

CHAPEL SERVICES

Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. in the Rec Hall, and a Communion Service is conducted on the First Sunday of each month at 11:30 a.m.



THE CLAIMING CROWN

THE \$25,000 IRON HORSE

Horse: Gotthard

Owners: Barbara Armstrong and Robert Schrader

Trainer: Richard Vega • Jockey: Victor Molina

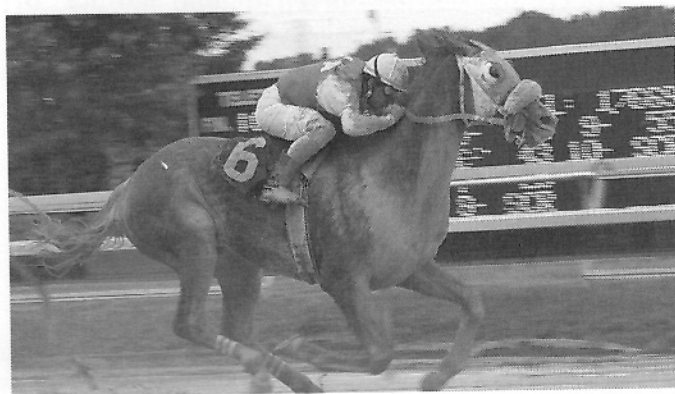


THE \$25,000 EXPRESS

Horse: Majestic Irish

Owner: Chicken Ridge

Trainer: John S. McCaslin • Jockey: Miguel Espindola

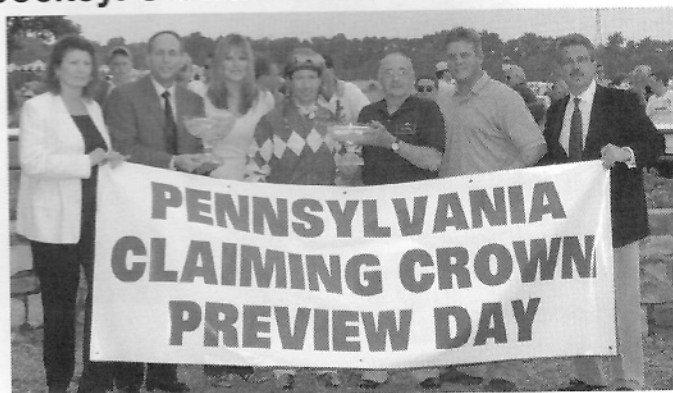


THE \$30,000 GLASS SLIPPER

Horse: Lost Judgement

Owner: D J Stable

Trainer: John C. Servis • Jockey: Stewart Elliot



N PREVIEW WINNERS

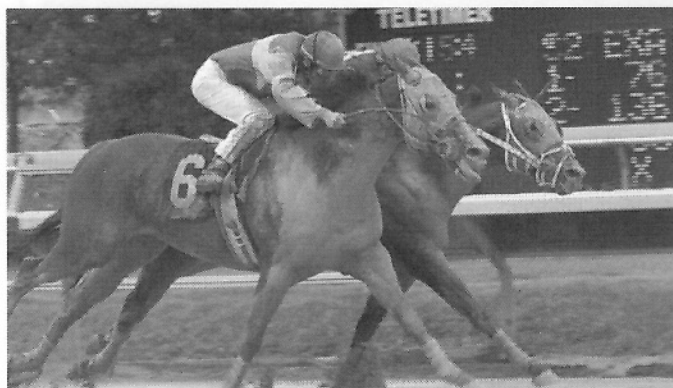


THE \$40,000 RAPID TRANSIT

Horse: Nasty Billy Ray

Owners: Helen G. Casson and Edward Lanzara

Trainer: Alfredo Velazquez • Jockey: Daniel Velazquez



THE \$50,000 EMERALD

Horse: R. Encounter

Owner: Sharon Neill-Doyle

Trainer: Edward K. Auwarter • Jockey: Jose Castanon

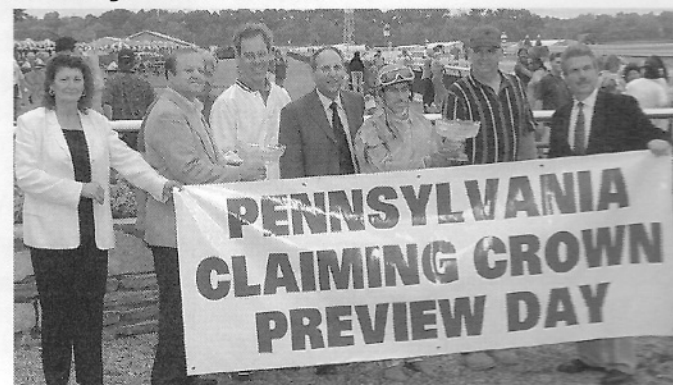


THE \$50,000 JEWEL

Horse: Barrister

Owner: Jeffrey Haller

Trainer: David W. Geist • Jockey: Emilio Flores



BACKSIDE VIEW

Condolences to **Dean Musser** and family on the sudden passing of his wife, **Veronica A. "Bonnie" Musser**. She was 42. **Dean Musser** is a horseshoer at Philadelphia Park. Besides her husband, **Mrs. Musser** is survived by a daughter, **Cherise Musser**, parents **Thomas A. and Marie A. Brady** and father-in-law **Ronald C. Musser Sr.** and mother-in-law **Deborah C. Musser**.

• • •

Jeffrey Lloyd, record-setting race rider and a true gentleman, has decided to retire because of injuries suffered last year in a riding accident. He finishes his career with more than 4,300 victories and has more winning mounts in Pennsylvania, the majority at Philadelphia Park, than any other rider in history.

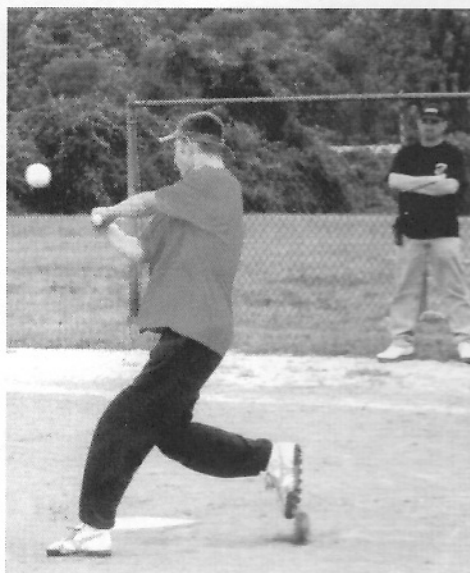
• • •

Guadalupe Preciado's achievements with 2 year olds in 2000 earned a prominent mention in the Blood-Horse Apr. 14. He recorded 12 wins, more than any other trainer in the country with a minimum of 20 2-year-old starters for a winning percentage of 34. That placed **Preciado** fourth in the



GUADALUPE PRECIADO

country in winning percentage for 2 year olds behind **Michael W. Nance**, 37 percent, **Ben Perkins Jr.**, 35 percent and **Alan Goldberg**, also 35 percent.



• • •

The softball season on the backstretch got off to a smashing start with **Scott Lake's** Home Team Stables grabbing first place in the early going followed closely in the standings by PTHA. For anyone interested in playing, it's still not too late to sign up.

The annual All Star softball game will once again be a highlight of the 4th of July celebration and picnic that will take place behind the Recreation Hall on Friday, June 29, catered by **Ron Finley** of the backstretch diner. Athletic skill not a particular requirement, a healthy appetite is.

• • •

Trainer **Bob Seeger** (at rear of horse, in photo below) poses in winners' circle after **Darker Than Tri** won a PTHA trophy for his owner/conditioner by capturing the six-furlong second race, with **Steve Capanas** up, in breaking his maiden May 19. The PTHA trophy, presented following designated races each month, in its few years of existence has become a prized reward for Philadelphia Park horsemen.

• • •

Eli Perloff, a dedicated race-tracker who never realized a dream of owning a thoroughbred until he was well into his 70s, passed away recently after a brief illness. He was 79.

Even impending death couldn't keep him away from his beloved Philadelphia Park. He was at the track the day before he died.

He didn't only come for the races, either. He'd be at Barn 27

continued on pg. 10



PREVIEW DAY SCENES FROM CALL TO POST TO CALL TO FUN AND EXCITEMENT



PREVIEW TO NATIONAL EVENT

continued from pg. 3

whether he claims a horse or makes an outright buy. He purchased Barrister at Gulfstream early this year for around \$20,000.

He's won six races since then with the five-year-old gelding, including the \$50,000 Jewel Stakes on Preview Day at 1 1/16 miles under the guidance of trainer David W. Geist, so he's already won back the price of the horse many times over.

The Claiming Crown offers owners like Haller the chance to win

recognition for smart maneuvers that rival any made by wealthy owners who purchase high-priced yearlings at prestigious sales.

"I couldn't be more pleased by the efforts put out by all of our horsemen," said PTHA Executive Director Mike Ballezzi. "They gave us a great day of exciting races."

Credit also goes to PTHA Board member Steve Appel, chairman for the committee that plans and stages the Claiming Crown Preview Day.

• • •

The biggest return on a \$2 bet in the Preview races was the \$38 paid by Helen G. Casson and Edward Lanzara's Nasty Billy Ray in win-

ning the \$40,000 Rapid Transit Stakes at 6 1/2 furlongs.

The trainer is long-time local conditioner Alfredo Velazquez. The rider was his son, Danny, who hasn't been alive enough years to have spent a long time at anything.

He's 17 years old and he was too honest to claim after the race that he knew all along his horse was going to win.

What he said he did to help his mount is what so many horsemen offer every day even though they understand they labor mainly in the shadow of anonymity.

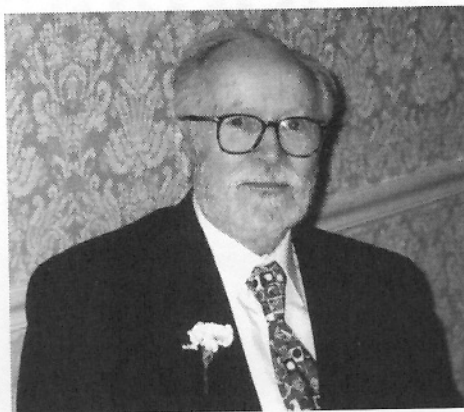
"I rode him with all my heart," said 17-year-old Danny Velazquez.

BACKSIDE VIEW

continued from pg. 8

in the morning checking with his trainer, **Richard Vega**, on a horse he owned or he'd hang for a while in the PTHA office on the backstretch, shooting the breeze or volunteering his services for whatever chores needed to be done.

Perloff was a parimutuel clerk for 26 years until he retired in 1996. The following year, he claimed a horse, Ocean Breif, that won the first two times he raced for him. In the last four years of his life, he never owned more than a single horse at a time, waiting until one was claimed from him before claiming another.



ELI PERLOFF

After Ocean Breif, he owned Joshagan and then Lucky Searcher.

A measure of his success was that after his initial outlay of cash, which he quickly won back, he never had to spend a nickel of his

own money to participate as an owner in the sport he loved.

His horses, like **Eli**, were winners.

He is survived by a daughter, **Barbara Hutnyk**, whom he took to the races when she was young and taught her how to handicap, a grandson, **Eric**, and a sister, **Clare**. **Barbara** followed her father as a parimutuel clerk, staying at the job for 10 years before she started working for trainer **Uriah St. Lewis**, trying to learn the game from the ground up.

In his retirement, **Eli** also attempted to take the same route in order to learn the game as a horseman. He might have been the oldest trainee as a hot walker who ever graced a backstretch.

LEGACY OF PASSION

continued from pg. 1

personality. He got involved with labor issues as a member of the orchestra and when he retired, he became president of the Philadelphia Orchestra Retirees and Friends and immediately changed its purpose from mainly sponsoring social gatherings to improving the lives of retired members, particularly with health benefits.

He became an active participant in horse racing in 1959 after his wife complained about his "hanging around in those bookie joints."

He thought she was giving him good advice when she said, "If you like horses so much, why don't you buy them instead of betting on them."

So he bought a broodmare in 1959. For the rest of his life, he continued to race and breed horses, the best of which he counted as Early Concept, who provided him with so many breeders' bonuses, he practically lost count. The first race he ever won was in 1963 at Finger Lakes with Brucha, a filly who came from his first broodmare.

Probably his favorite racehorse was Don't Act, a filly he bought at a sale in Florida who won close to \$100,000 in her career.

The funny thing is, his wife really hadn't meant it when she told him to buy horses instead of betting on them.

"I just wanted him to stop hanging at those awful bookie joints," she said recently.

And, of course, Izzy brought the same passion to horse racing that he did to everything else in his life, especially when it came to improving the lot of horsemen.

He was elected to five consecutive three-year terms to the PTHA Board of Directors and used his column for this newsletter, "Iz Sez," to promote the causes of members. The column was every bit as feisty and involved as Iz, some might even have said too much so.

But nobody ever accused Izzy of not caring.

The pride of his life was his daughter, Susan Starr, a piano prodigy who was accepted to the Curtis Institute of Music when she was 6 years old and went on to compete in the second Tchaikovsky International Competition in Moscow in 1962, losing the top spot by one vote. The first in the series of the famed international competition had been won by Van Cliburn, who achieved world renown from that single performance.

Susan would eventually play something like 60 times with the Philadelphia Orchestra and continues to perform concerts all over the world. She also heads the Piano Department at Rutgers University.

Izzy loved to tell the story of the time he told a fellow horseman that Never A Cloud, a thoroughbred who won many blue ribbons after being converted from a racehorse to a show horse, was the only champion he ever bred.

"The only real champion you ever bred," said the horseman, "was your daughter Susan."

Besides his wife and daughter, Izzy is survived by grandchildren Lori and Eric Amada and sister Freda Cravetz.

His wife gave final testimony to the persistence and dedication of Izzy when she told how, in the last couple of days of his life, he demanded she bring him a pencil and paper so he could write his column.

She did.

"But he just couldn't move his hand to write," said Sylvia Schwartz.

That's the same Sylvia from the 1300 block of 5th St. in South Philadelphia who married Izzy in 1934 and was his inspiration for almost all of his life.

NEW STEWARD A SOLID CITIZEN OF HORSE RACING COMMUNITY

by Larry McMullen

John Hicks was 14 years old when he got a summer job walking hots for trainer Vinnie Blengs at Rockingham Park. Hick's father David, was a steward at the same track then.

"I got paid \$25 a week," said Hicks. "It was great."

A quarter of a century later, John Hicks is a steward at Philadelphia Park, where he replaced the highly respected Donald C. Levine, who passed away late last year.

"I understand they're big shoes to fill," said Hicks. "I'll do my best."

Hicks has the bloodlines and the experience to meet the challenge.

"I worked in construction for a while," he said, "but in the end, I went into the family business."

He was raised in Salem, New Hampshire. His father has been in horse racing his entire life, starting as a groom and becoming a trainer before finally settling into a career as a racing official.

David Hicks is now a steward for the New York Racing Association, meaning he and John have the kind of communication between them that

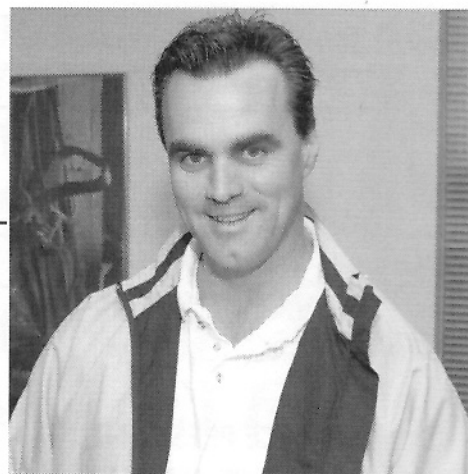
most fathers and sons can't match.

"Just this morning, he called me" said the younger Hicks, "and asked about a trainer who brought a horse to New York from Philadelphia Park."

Another steward at Philadelphia Park, Sam Boulmetis Jr., has the same kind of relationship with his father, a state steward at Monmouth Park.

Hicks said the connections between racetrackers in general might not be as close as fathers and sons, but they all form what amounts to a single nation with its individuals constantly interacting with each other over the years. He pointed out that in 1985 he worked as a steward at Garden State in New Jersey with Boulmetis Jr. and Jonathan Gerweck, both of whom share the stewards' stand with him now at Philadelphia Park.

Hicks' first job as a racing official was as a claims clerk in Florida in 1981. In '83 he was a patrol judge at Oaklawn Park in Illinois. Most recently, he was back in Florida as a state steward in harness racing at Pompano Park. He also filled in as a



JOHN HICKS

steward where needed at the state's thoroughbred tracks and put in time as an assistant racing secretary.

"I came here because it was a great opportunity," he said. "And I'm still working with many of the people I've met and known over the years. People outside of horse racing don't realize how often our paths cross."

Hicks, 39, has a son, Ian, 15, who recently visited him here from his home in Florida.

He started his job at Philadelphia Park on May 5, Kentucky Derby Day.

"The racing is competitive," he said. "The people are great. I plan on staying."

It's no surprise. He's still part of the familiar community of horse racing he's lived in most of his life.

PHOTO FINISH AT GOLF OUTING YIELDS DEAD HEAT FOR 2ND



Joe Evans, Sean Crowell, Dan Ljoka and Bob Swentkowski fired a 61 to capture the closely-contested four-man better ball event at the Annual Spring Golf Outing sponsored by the PTHA and Philadelphia Park and held this year at the Bensalem Country Club.

Three foursomes tied for second at 64. Valentine, DiSalvo, Richardson and Rushton made up one of the groups, Capanas, Merenda, Brusco and Shark another and Conrad, Mosco, Gallegos and McCann the final deadlocked foursome.

Sean Crowell and Chuck Dion blasted away to top the contest for Longest Drive and Steve Capanas, at 9 feet from the hole, and Jesus Castanon, at 12 feet, were closest to the pin.

The Outing featured a snack bar at the halfway house and a buffet dinner following play.

PRESIDENT

LAWRENCE R. RIVIELLO

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

SALVATORE M. DEBUNDA, ESQ.

2ND VICE PRESIDENT

DONALD S. REEDER

DIRECTOR/OWNERS

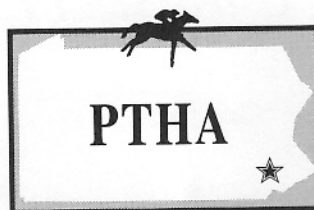
STEVEN A. APPEL, DDS

MICHAEL P. BALLEZZI, ESQ.

SALVATORE M. DEBUNDA, ESQ.

WILLIAM J. HARTWELL

JOSEPH J. SENA, JR., ESQ.

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

MICHAEL P. BALLEZZI, ESQ.

DIRECTOR/TRAINERS

RALPH J. DELANEY, JR.

DONALD S. REEDER

RALPH R. RIVIEZZO

STEVE E. ROWAN

ROBERT J. SEEGER

SECRETARY

CONNIE YOUMANS

ACCOUNTANT

COLUCCI & SLATTERY, C.P.A., P.C.

ATTORNEYS

PELINO & LENTZ, P.C.

EDITOR/WRITING

LARRY MCMULLEN

DESIGN/LAYOUT

COLEEN MCMULLEN

WARNING ON VIRUS

A reminder to horsemen that West Nile Virus has been documented in Pennsylvania, including Bucks County.

A bucket of water, if left stagnant, can produce one thousand mosquitoes in four days.

West Nile Virus occurs primarily in late summer. People and horses can be infected if bitten by a mosquito carrying the virus. The virus is transmitted by birds, especially crows. If you see a sick or dead crow, call toll free 1-877-PA-HEALTH.

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Inc.

P.O. BOX 300
BENSALEM, PA 19020

Address Service Requested

Presorted
FIRST-CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 99
BENSALEM, PA
19020

