



PTHA NEWS

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association Newsletter

We ARE Pennsylvania Racing

Volume 2, 2009

Dulce Realidad Named Philadelphia Park "2008 Horse of the Year"



Eric Delvalle's Stud El Aguila's Dulce Realidad, was named 2008 Horse of the Year and top Three-Year-Old Filly of 2008 at the PTHA's Annual Horsemen's Awards Banquet on March 25. The daughter of Sweetsouthernsaint won four of five starts last year, including back-to-back wins in the Trevoise Stakes and Jostle Stakes.

The filly's trainer, Richard Vega, has been handling horses for Stud El Aguila for about three years and is looking forward to Dulce Realidad, whose name means "Sweet Reality," returning to the races after taking the winter off.

Scott Lake won Leading Trainer of 2008, while his charge, Bank'n On Gold, scored the Outstanding Claim of the Year honors. Claimed for \$25,000 last February 17 by Richard Malouf, the daughter of Banker's Gold won \$226,000 for her new connections while racing exclusively at Philadelphia Park. (Awards continued on page 10)

Racing Commission Chairman has Strong Ties with Philadelphia Park



Dr. Corinne Sweeney, Associate Dean of New Bolton Center and CEO and Director of the George D. Widener Hospital for Large Animals at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine was appointed Chairman of the Pennsylvania Racing Commission

New Pennsylvania Racing Commission Chairman Dr. Corinne Sweeney has 30-year ties to Philadelphia Park Racetrack. Trainers who were stabled at the old Keystone Racetrack may remember Sweeney as the young woman veterinarian who did initial research on 'bleeders,' or EIPH in racehorses back on the late 70's and early 80's.

"I spent a lot of time at the track, and recall that the Philadelphia Park trainers were always so helpful to me," said Sweeney, whose cutting edge research kept her busy in the detention barn analyzing the percentage of horses that bled, then later the effects of Lasix on bleeders.

"Philadelphia Park has always been a special place for me, it really helped my career," said Sweeney.

Last year, Sweeney received a call



HBO cameramen shooting video early one morning at Philadelphia Park for the May 19 edition of "HBO Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel." Turning For Home, will be featured as "showing what the racing industry is doing that is right," said Associate Producer Lauren Gaffney. HBO's crew spent April 4 filming Turning For Home's Open House at South Jersey Thoroughbred Rescue and Adoption's Jennings Farm. (see www.patha.org for more photos of the Open House)

Turning For Home Focus of "HBO Real Sports With Bryant Gumbel" on May 19
(see what else is new with Turning For Home on page 8)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As a trainer, I know how difficult it can be to send your retired horse to a new home and feel secure that he will 1) never be raced again; 2) really end up with people who can care for him, and maybe even offer him a chance at a new career.

After all, as trainers, most of our time is spent with the horses still here at the track, talking to owners, managing our help, and keeping up with the

condition book.

The best way to assure that any retired horse ends up in a safe place, is to send them through our own Turning For Home, or check references and ask questions of those who may promise safe haven and truly have good intentions.

It was recently reported that a trainer from Penn National had sent three horses to auction. In actuality, she had a signed contract in her hands guaranteeing that the purchasers of the horses would never send them to a sale, and that they would become riding horses. The horses ended up at New Holland. Although all three horses were saved due to the watchful eyes a non-profit organization representative who haunts the kill pens, it was too close of a call. It's best to work with reputable programs.

Here are some reasons why:

We get calls: Our program administrator, Barbara Luna, is part of a large network of similar minded people and tracks who all watch out for each others horses. If a Thoroughbred from Philadelphia Park ended up at New Holland, Camelot Sales, Harker's, or any other place where the horse's safety was threatened, Barbara gets a call, and action is immediately taken.

We monitor trailers which come and go from our stable gate: The TRPB and Lance Morrell are behind us on this. If we have proof that a dealer or individual removes a horse from our barn area, and that horse ends up at auction, that trailer and driver will be denied access to our grounds. Trust me--this is working, and there are "horsemen" whose status can change at any time.

We turn in the foal papers to the Jockey Club: Part of the criteria necessary to get a horse placed into Turning For Home is to hand over the papers and sign a "Report of Sold Without Pedigree" form. The registration papers are then handed back to the Jockey Club, which removes each horse from the registry. He's still a Thoroughbred, as judged by his tattoo, but can never be re-registered, and therefore never raced -- ever!

Please be careful where you send your retired horses.

Donald Reeder

PRESIDENT
PTHA

PTHA and trainers meet with law firm to discuss worker visas

On April 21, PTHA Executive Director Michael Ballezzi invited representatives from the law offices of Eric B. Brauer to meet with Philadelphia Park trainers whose employees work in the United States under H-2B visas. Brauer, Larry Rosenblum and Jeremy Schroeder answered questions from the horsemen in attendance.

The H-2B visa allows foreign workers to work at seasonal or temporary jobs. Although ski resorts hire the highest number of H-2B employees, most racetracks, due to the seasonal nature of their meets, use foreign workers as hotwalkers and grooms who enjoy all employee benefits and can travel freely in and out of the country.

In 2005 Congress set a cap of 66,000 immigrants allowed to enter the U.S. under the H-2B visa. The cap has not been lifted, as had been suggested by the Bush administration, and many trainers are finding it difficult to get workers here legally.

Rosenblum is Immigration Services Manager and a retired IRS agent. He suggested there may be ways to accomodate the workers 12-months a year.

The Law Office has agreed to provide a free consultation to any PTHA member on immigration, or any other issues of interest to the horsemen.

The firm specilaizes in immigration law, IRS problems, business disputes and licensiong issues. Brauer is a former horse owner and has experience in negligence and licensing cases, while attorney Jeremy Schroeder has expertise in immigration and collection law.

Any PTHA member interested in a free consultation may call the firm at 215-953-9100

New Look For PTHA Website



PTHA Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association
"We ARE Pennsylvania Racing"

Home
About The PTHA
Board of Directors
Health & Pensions
Upcoming Events
News
Newsletter
HPA Store
Education
Philadelphia Park
Let's Go Racing
Turning For Home
Contacts
Extra Races

Welcome To The PTHA
The Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association (PTHA) represents and protects the nearly 3,000 trainers, owners and backstretch employees of Philadelphia Park Racetrack.

As the eyes, ears and voice of those who train and care for the track's 1,400 Thoroughbred horses, the PTHA Board of Directors led by Executive Director Michael Galassi, Esq. work to provide safe living and working conditions, medical care and pensions, and representation with track management, state organizations and legislators that govern the rules of horseracing.

A major advocate for the protection of its racehorses, the PTHA in May of 2008 opened Turning For Home, Inc., Philadelphia Park's racehorse retirement program. The first program of its kind at a year-round racetrack, Turning For Home has been acknowledged as a model program for other tracks and has successfully rehabilitated and found loving homes for nearly 150 horses in less than a year.

News & Upcoming Events
Pamantum aliquam, quam dui sollicitudin imperdiet sed utibus velit ac lobus... Read More...

Current HPA Sale Items
Hulam hendrent ligula... \$66.00 ea
Cras sceleris... \$12.00 ea
Sed utibus sapien... \$34.00 Dozen
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PENNSYLVANIA HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

Philadelphia Park
paracing
TURNING FOR HOME

Upcoming PTHA events, HPA sale items, extra races, Turning For Home adoptable horses and much more will be easy to access with new website design! Ready to go by mid-May, the site can be accessed at www.patha.org

New for the Summer: Twilight racing and Jumbotron

Racing fans will be offered some exciting new changes at Philadelphia Park in the next three months, starting with twilight racing cards and a state-of-the-art jumbotron for the infield.

Twilight cards are scheduled for two Fridays, May 22 and July 3. Post time is 3:30 with an 8-race card along with plans to be announced for outdoor entertainment in the picnic area.

Later in the season, a 40' x 27' high definition screen will be installed on the left hand side of the toteboard for fans to see racing "larger than life."

According to John Dixon, Philadelphia Park's Vice-President of Technical Services, the jumbotron will be placed so that it will be easy to see from every part of the grandstand and clubhouse, and will not block the view of the horses racing on the backstretch.

"It is three times larger than the board we used for Kentucky Derby Day," said Dixon. "and is the same type we will be using on the front of the casino."

To further enhance the excitement of the new screen, more camera angles will be used in filming the day's races to project onto the jumbotron..

Philadelphia Park Jockeys Use RCI-Approved Whips

On May 2, 2009, Philadelphia Park jockeys replaced their regular riding whips with the new, low impact RCI-approved whip. Since the second week of January this year, all riders in the last race on the card every racing day have carried the new "humane" stick in an effort to make the transition as smooth as possible.

"We have to understand that the public's perception is that our sport of horseracing is not always humane," said Philadelphia Park's former leading rider, Tony Black. Acting as a representative of the track's jockey colony, Black used the whip last October, and explained the difference between the two.

"While both sticks are 30" long and of equal weight, the RCI-approved stick has a seven inch padded "popper," and the shaft of the whip can be no less than 1/4" in diameter" he said. "The popper makes a lot of noise, it doesn't leave welts, and can't cut a horse."

Kendrick Carmouche, recently honored as 2008 leading Philadelphia Park rider, said the main difference is that the humane whip makes more noise.

"I understand that from the outside looking in, riders using a whip too frequently look bad," said Carmouche. "But fans should realize that good riders do not overuse the whip. It is in the reins, your hands and timing that a jock wins a race, not in the use of a certain stick. The stick keeps the horses' attention. Horses that are anywhere between third place and last place at the end of a race are not going to win because you use a whip on them."

Current leading rider, apprentice Fergal Lynch, began his career in England where all riders use the humane whip. Having extensive experience with it, the rider still prefers the shorter popper and the feel of the older style.

All riders agree that the new whips are more expensive to replace: \$70 each compared to \$45 for the older style.

Traditional whip (l); "humane" whip with longer popper (r)



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**John Servis, Trainer of
Smarty Jones**



"I send my horses to Sports Equine, the care is excellent, and it's close to Phila. Park. The Equi-Cizer is such a plus, I can send my horses there to recover from an injury or just freshen up and not lose any time. Leslie is great, her attention to detail is unsurpassed."

**Bob Robbins, Trainer of
Thoroughbred Race Horses**

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FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2009

Honoring Pennsylvania's Leading Thoroughbred Breeders of 2008

**Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course, Hall of Champions Room
Cocktails 5:30 p.m. • Awards Presentation 6:30 p.m. • Dinner 7:15 p.m.**

Call PHBA at 610-444-1050 for more information

Evening's Race Card Will Feature \$350,000 PA-bred, PA-Sired Stakes

Sweeney cont. from page 1

from the Governor's office. I was asked to come in for an interview, as my name had been suggested for the position of Chairman of the Racing Commission. I felt honored to be considered to serve in this role," said Sweeney. "To serve so many people, and serve them honorably is a lot of responsibility, and not to be taken lightly."

Sweeney was quick to commend the Commission and the horsemen for what has been accomplished. "They have taken the lead in a number of medication issues," she said. "Commissioner Abbott led the charge to ban steroids for betterment of the horses," she said. "These are mutual concerns of the veterinary practitioners, the Commission and the trainers, and all three groups are working together."

"It is wonderful to have someone aboard with a background in veterinary medicine," said PA State Horse Racing Commission Acting Executive Secretary Michael Dillon. "Every aspect of our positive system has to be coordinated, and to have a chairman with Dr. Sweeney's administrative experience, as well as first hand knowledge of the needs of the racing industry helps in our efforts to strengthen that system."

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY NOTICE STATE RACING COMMISSION Effective June 1, 2009

The intra-articular administration of corticosteroids to horses shall be discontinued 7 days prior to the horse's race day. And administration of corticosteroids to horses by intra-articular administration shall be entered by the practicing veterinarian on the treatment sheet.



**Richard D. Abbott
Retires after 13 Years
With Racing Commission**

On April 21, the senate approved Ray Hamm as replacement to Rick Abbott as Commissioner of the Pennsylvania Horse Racing Commission. The PTHA would like to extend its thanks to Abbott for his service and efforts to strengthen and improve the racing industry in Pennsylvania. The horsemen truly appreciate his philosophy of "doing right by the horses, first and foremost."

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Turning For Home

News & Notes



APRIL 4 OPEN HOUSE SHOWCASES PHILADELPHIA PARK HORSES

Dr. Dan Keenan explains common racetrack injuries to the TFH Open House crowd on April 4 at Jennings Farm in Medford, NJ. Many thanks to Dr. Keenan, and other guests veterinarian and equine chiropractor **Dr. Cathy Lackey**; upper level event rider **Wendy Lewis**, Thoroughbred racehorse trainers **David and Doug Nunn**; dressage rider **Lisa Lewis Green**; equine dentist **Paul Briscione**; TFH volunteer **Deborah Ulmer**, budding young rider **Paige Hurley**; and **Lauren Gaffney** and her crew from HBO.



Jockey **Eddie King** and his family enjoy the Open House festivities (left)

Outer Drive, graduate of TFH, shows off for HBO (right)



Paige Hurley on **Aventurous Sword** (l); **Paul Briscione** with **Times Wings** (above).



McBRIDE HONORED AT BANQUET

Dr. Steve McBride accepts Turning for Home's Special Recognition Award at the PTHA Horsemen's Banquet March 25. McBride, a private practitioner at Philadelphia Park, is a tremendous asset to the program, evaluating xrays, doing castrations, and providing much of his free time for the good of the horses. He was presented the award by PTHA Executive Director **Michael Ballezzi**, and Philadelphia Park Chief

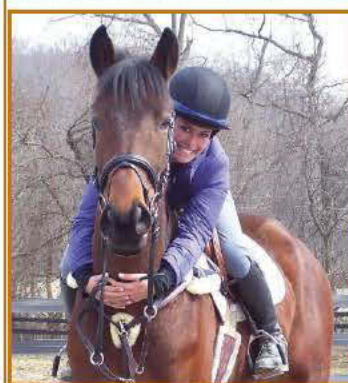


RECENT GRADUATES

Five Card Poker, now known as **Jack**, takes 11-year-old **Gracie King** for a ride around his new home near Murfreesboro, TN. Gracie's mom, **Melissa**, has begun teaching Jack to herd cattle, too!



Las Olas Tori is being trained by 18-year old United States Polocrosse champion, **Sara Cibelli**. Tori schooled in her first practice match in April.



A strapping boy at 17 hands, **He's A Trooper** is destined for a new career as a young event horse. Sure looks like he and his new adopter are best buddies already!



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Horsemen Turn out to Honor Leaders of 2

(Awards Banquet continued from page 1)

"She was some claim we made," said Malouf, who has two other horses in training with Lake. "The purses at Philadelphia Park and the fact that she is a Pa-bred made it even more exciting, and we are really looking forward to seeing what she can do this year as a four-year-old."



Bank'n On Gold has a couple of sharp workouts under her belt, and Lake and Malouf are waiting for a race for the filly.

For the second year in a row, Carlos Guerrero won honors as the leading "B" trainer, while Plumstead Stables was again Leading Owner, as Corey Day has taken over the stable for Robert Seeger. Plumstead Stable also owned Claiming Horse of the Year, Henry Street.



The award banquet festivities were highlighted with a Special Recognition Award in honor of Dr. Steven McBride, who has worked closely with the PTHA's Turning For Home, the track's racehorse retirement program.

"The extra hours and time are worth it," said the surprised McBride, as he accepted his etched crystal vase. "It's always been about the horses."

A silent auction to benefit both the Granny Youmans Scholarship Fund and Turning For Home offered such items as surgeries donated by Mid Atlantic Equine Hospital, custom framed artwork, and a stone jockey. The winning bidder of the 60 pound concrete jockey statue was Francesca Budewick, who has asked artist Rise Cheser, who donated her painting skills, to customize the statue to look like Leading



Apprentice Jockey Abel Mariano.

Accolades to Bruce Casella, producer of Let's Go Racing, who stepped into the hard-to-fill shoes of Keith Jones as emcee, while Jones was recovering from an injury.

2008 at PTHA Awards Banquet March 25

2008 PTHA AWARD WINNERS

LEADING TRAINER: SCOTT A. LAKE

LEADING TRAINER, B DIVISION: J. CARLOS GUERRERO

LEADING OWNER: PLUMSTEAD STABLES

LEADING OWNER, B DIVISION: MERCEDES STABLE

LEADING JOCKEY: KENDRICK CARMOUCHE

LEADING APPRENTICE JOCKEY: ABEL MARIANO

WINNINGEST HORSE: BANK'N ON GOLD

Trainer: Scott A. Lake Owner: Richard Malouf

TWO-YEAR-OLD COLT OR GELDING: ST JOHN'S GOSPEL

Trainer: Andrea Gonzalez Owner: Lerr R. Christian

TWO-YEAR-OLD FILLY: JUST JENDA

Trainer: J. Larry Jones Owner: Cindy Jones

THREE-YEAR-OLD COLT OR GELDING: MONSOOR

Trainer: Alfredo Velazquez Owner: Mandi Racing Stable

THREE-YEAR-OLD FILLY: DULCE REALIDAD

Trainer: Richard Vega Owner: Stud El Aguila

FOUR-YEAR OLD & UP, COLT OR GELDING: WHISTLE PIG

Trainer: Andrew B. Carter Owner: H.A.C.K. Stable

FOUR-YEAR-OLD & UP, FILLY OR MARE: JET AWAY JANE

Trainer: Thomas R. Miller Owner: Golden Oak Farm LLC

CLAIMING HORSE OF THE YEAR: HENRY STREET

Trainer: Robert J. Seeger Owner: Plumstead Stables

OUTSTANDING CLAIM OF THE YEAR: BANK'N ON GOLD

Trainer: Scott A. Lake Owner: Richard Malouf

HORSE OF THE YEAR: DULCE REALIDAD

TURNING FOR HOME

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD: Dr. Steven McBride





DELAWARE TOWNSHIP

Notebook—Sunny Mimosa, by Sunny North

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An Incredible Turn of Foot
An Amazing Athlete,
4 GSWs At 5
He Devastated The Competition
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Hook and Ladder and Left Bank

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Condolences...



Edwin "Ruby" Rubenstein -- March 5, 2009

It was with much sadness that our backstretch community lost Ed Rubenstein earlier this year. A former jockey agent to riders including Karen Rogers, C.C. Lopez, Carl Fiorentino, Doug Thomas, and Carlos Lopez, Sr. "Ruby," as he was called, spent over 30 years at Liberty Bell, Monmouth Park, and in his last years, Philadelphia Park,

Having given up taking riders' books after his wife passed away, Ruby was still a much loved and appreciated presence near the racing and PTHA offices, as he handed out candy and the new overnights every racing day. Happy to help everyone, he loved betting the races and sharing stories.

"He was a good agent, worked really hard and got along with everyone," said former rider Carl Fiorentino, who is an agent himself now. "He loved the game, and all of us loved him. He was a permanent fixture here, and is very much missed."

He is survived by his children, Mary Beth and Alex Rubenstein.



Abram Simoff -- April 26, 2009

Longtime New Jersey horse owner Abram Simoff recently passed away at the age of 82. A self made man, Simoff was born in Orange, NJ and went to college under the GI Bill after serving in World War II in the US Army Air Corps..

Founder of Simoff Engineering Association from which he retired in 2007, he loved Thoroughbred racing and had owned and bred horses since 1963.

"My father was in the business for the fun of it," said his son, Richard, who owns Twin Ponds Farm in Oxford, PA. "He was such a character, and would talk to everyone on the backstretch. His favorite saying was 'The game's a bust-out!', and he'd have everyone laughing."

Simoff's most successful runner was 1972 Louisiana Derby winner Leo's Pisces, trained by Herb Paley.

"Leo's Pisces was third in the Fountain of Youth that year, and everyone thought my father was crazy to take him to Louisiana," said Simoff. "At the dinner before the Derby, Lucien Lauren, who had entered Angle Light, actually called him nuts."

Simoff had the last laugh, however, when Leo's Pisces paid \$110 at 50-1 to win that year's Louisiana Derby.

Simoff is survived by his wife of 59 years, Ivy, and his five children, sons Richard, Andrew, who owns Simoff Horse Transportation, Hal, Michael, daughter Beth Feldman, and eight grandchildren..

Dr. Eichi K. Koiwai -- February 23, 2009

Trainer Carol Oxman's uncle, Dr. Eichi Koiwai passed away earlier this year.

In 1993, he and his wife, Phyllis, established Koiwai Stables and spent 11 years as owners racing at Philadelphia Park. Their Lord Sanford, trained by Oxman, was named PHBA 3-Year-Old Colt of the Year in 2000.

The attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 interrupted Koiwai's medical studies, and he was among 130,000 Japanese Americans who were placed in prison camps. He eventually was accepted into Hanhneemann Medical College in Philadelphia, and during the Korean War, joined the US Air Force as a pathologist. A member of the International Judo Federation Medical Commission, he refereed in four Olympic Games.

PTHA Trophy List

DATE	OWNER	HORSE	TRAINER
2/7/09	Christopher Nupp	Skypa	Ramon Preciado
2/14/09	Rey-Wag Racing	Empress Karolina	Juan C. Vazquez
2/21/09	Knightquest Stables, Inc.	Strathclyde	Lisa Aitchison
2/28/09	West Point Thoroughbreds	Izzy Fitzzy	Guadalupe Preciado
3/7/09	Daniel Velazquez	Taurus	Daniel Velazquez
3/14/09	Richard J. Abrams	Smirk	Keith LeBarron
3/21/09	Michael Gill	Runaway Justice	Lars Becdelamotte
3/28/09	DJ Stable	Bold Desperado	Kendrick Carmouche
4/4/09	Raphael Kissoon	Polka At Night	Raphael Kissoon
4/11/09	Michael Gill	Scesney Says	Timothy Hooper
5/2/09	Pope McLean	Cause To Smile	Ronald Glorioso

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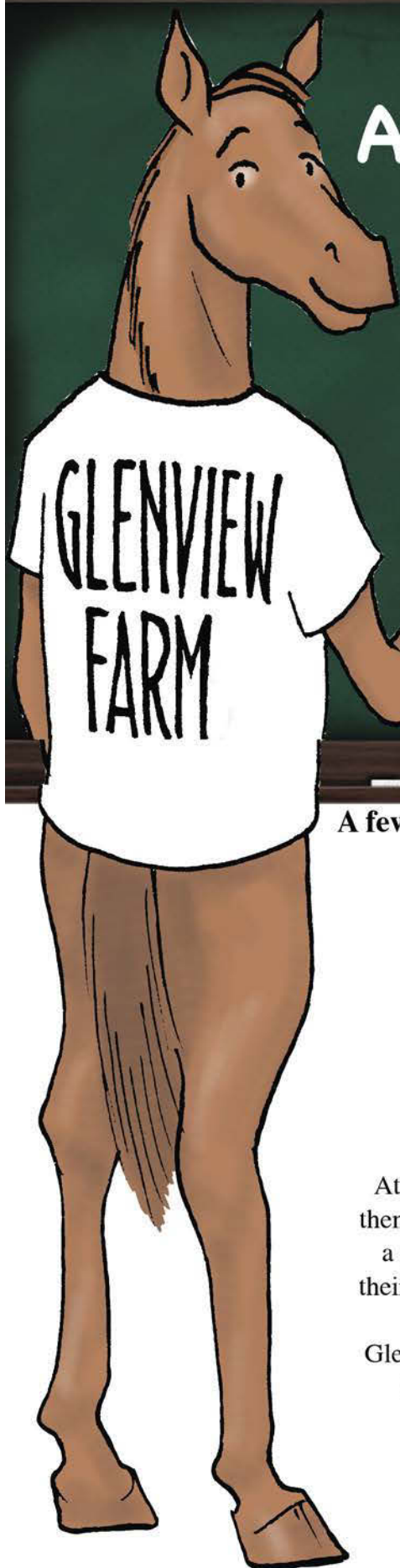
All these horses were still racing at 5 and beyond!

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Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain Jack Cordell

GIVE GOD THE REINS

Hall of Fame Jockey, Pat Day, is the Racing Industry Representative for the Race Track Chaplaincy of America. While attending the annual gathering of the racetrack Chaplains in Dallas last month, he shared with some of us a story from his illustrious career. After riding and winning for several years, he decided that he needed to pay more attention to techniques while on his mount. Some suggested that he needed to go more by the book, so to speak. Well, he did, and he began losing races left and right. He finally decided that he must go by his own intuition, not the "proper technique." During one memorable race Pat's horse was doing great, but suddenly he "ran out of horse" as they say. Rather than force or fight with the animal, he just let it do its thing. To Pat's amazement, the horse took off in the final stretch and won! Pat learned again that his intuitive skills, his God-given ability, enabled him to win. Many times he had to go with his heart, not just his head.

We can learn something from Pat Day's experience. Our head tells us to trust man, but our heart says to trust God. Our head urges us to work it out on our own, but God calls us simply to trust his power to handle the situation. We need to do what is instinctive in a time of great pressure, when we don't have a clue about what to do. We can relax and let God take hold of the reins of our life. Hand the matter over to God and watch what he will do. Indeed, the Apostle Paul (Eph. 3:20) knew that we can trust the God, "... who is able to do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine." In short, put the reins in God's hands.

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