

PTHA NEWS

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association Newsletter

We ARE Pennsylvania Racing

2015 Issue #1

2014 Parx Racing Leaders



Jack J. Armstrong
223-37-37-36
\$1,098,560



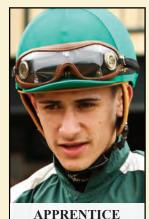
TRAINER

Ramon Preciado

392-118-78-50
\$3,040,884



Frankie Pennington
650-143-110-98
\$4,382,813



JOCKEY Jose Delgadillo 693-110-97-126 \$3,077,073



HORSE Handsup Moneydown 12-9-1-2

12-9-1-2 \$213,500

Thrilling Conclusion to 2014

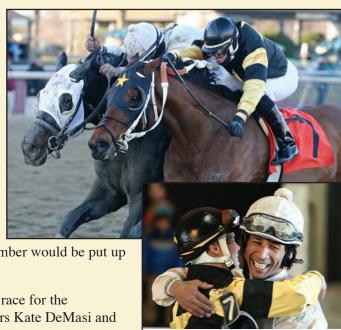
"Did you win?" and "Did you get there?" were all anyone could say as jockeys Kendrick Carmouche and John Bisono rode back in the paddock after a heart-stopping finish in the Auld Lang Syne Stakes on December 30, 2014. "I got it!" both shouted to their respective mounts' trainers.

Minutes passed by as fans and horsemen alike watched the slow motion replay of the stretch run; the lighter bay Adirondack King taking the lead rounding the turn while Sailor's Revenge gobbled up ground on the outside, then each taking turns surging to the front, and finally matching strides as they came to the finish, flashing under the wire in perfect tandem.

The two geldings circled around and around, led by their grooms, surrounded by anxious connections, desperately hoping that their number would be put up in front. Suddenly, the toteboard flashed - *dead heat*!

What a thriller on the final day of racing at Parx in 2014, and a great race for the Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association. Board Members Kate DeMasi and John Servis trained Sailor's Revenge and Adirondack King, respectively. Rounding out the trifecta was another Board Member, trainer Phil Aristone, with Yougotthatgoinforu.

(cont'd on page 9)



Adirondack King (7) and Sailor's Revenge dead heat for the victory in the Auld Lang Syne Stakes; (below) Co-winning jockeys John Bisono (7) and Kendrick Carmouche embrace after hearing the good news.

otos: Bill Denver | EQUI-PHOTO



President's Message

Salvatore M. DeBunda, Esquire

While we have moved forward into the new year, I would like to

congratulate our leading horsemen from 2014. Jack Armstrong re-captured Leading Owner, while Ramon Preciado took his first Leading Trainer title. Frankie Pennington vaulted to the top of the Jockey standings, and Jose Delgadillo was our Leading Apprentice Jockey while also finishing second overall. And we can't forget Handsup Moneydown, who was not only our Winningest Horse here at Parx, but won the most races in the entire country. Again, congratulations to all!

In addition to those leaders, we are

looking forward to our annual Parx Racing Horsemen's Awards Banquet on April 1st. It brings us a chance to honor the people and equine athletes who have excelled at our venue over the past year. Please join us in the Parx grandstand for a wonderful evening of celebration, as well as fantastic food, drinks, music and dancing!

Last year we saw unbelievable fields in the \$1 million Pennsylvania Derby and \$1 million Cotillion. It was the start of a comeback for California Chrome, who was recently voted Horse of the Year - and he wasn't even the winner of the race. His competitors, including Bayern, are set to become top older horses this season. I am disappointed that despite such an outstanding day, the PA Derby was not upgraded to a Grade 1 for 2015.

I know we were all surprised and disappointed to hear the news about the closure of Atlantic City Race Course. It was an incredible part of horse racing history in our area, and we will all miss that familiar trek down the expressway. I can personally recall many times that my Dun Roamin Farm horses raced there.

On a separate note, I am thrilled to welcome our new Director of Racing, Sam Elliott. He brings with him a vast resume in our industry, and I am very much looking forward to working with him.

In the meantime, I wish everyone good fortune and happiness in 2015.

Salvatar M. DeBula



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HADDONFIELD, NJ PHILADELPHIA, PA PRINCETON, NJ FLEMINGTON, NI WILMINGTON, DE GEORGETOWN, DE NEW YORK, NY www.archerlaw.com Guess Who (p17): Danny Lopez (right) & Randy Allen with Dale Beckner

Parx Horsemen Around the Nation

December 26 - MARYLAND JUVENILE FILLY CHAMPIONSHIP

Laurel Park, 7 furlongs

3rd - EVERYTHING LOVELY

O: Pewter Stable &

Armand A. Delaperriere

T: Kathleen A. DeMasi

J: Kendrick Carmouche

December 28 - NEW YORK STALLION SERIES S.

Aqueduct, 6 furlongs

2nd - DISCO PARTNER

O: Patricia A. Generazio

T: James T. Ryerson

J: Junior Alvarado

December 30 - VALLEY FORGE S.

Parx Racing, 7 furlongs

1st - PRAETEREO

O: E & G Stable

T: Michael M. Moore

J: Irad Ortiz. Jr.

3rd - JAVERRE

O: Smith Farm & Stable

T: Cathal A. Lynch

J: J D Acosta

December 30 - AULD LANG SYNE S.

Parx Racing, 1 mile 70 yards

1st (DH) - ADIRONDACK KING

O: MarchFore

Thoroughbreds

T: John C. Servis

J: John Bisono

1st (DH) - SAILOR'S REVENGE

O: Pewter Stable

T: Kathleen A. DeMasi

J: Kendrick Carmouche

3rd - YOUGOTTHATGOINFORU

O: Touchdown Stable & Kamikaze Stable

T: Philip T. Aristone

J: Jacqueline A. Davis

January 10 - TURF DASH S.

Tampa Bay Downs, 5 furlongs (T)

1st - BOLD THUNDER

O: Andrew Sulley

T: Patricia Farro

J: Daniel Centeno

January 29 - MARSHUA S.

Laurel Park, 6 furlongs

3rd - COMFORTER

O: Romar LLC

T: Scott A. Lake J: Roimes Cirinos

Bold Thunder delivered the first stakes win of the year for Parx trainer Patricia Farro in the January 10th Turf Dash Stakes at Tampa Bay Downs. Daniel Centeno was aboard for the first time. Winning owner Andrew Sulley claimed the 5yo gelding for \$25,000 back in 2013. Bold Thunder has since earned over \$200,000 for his connections.





Multiple stakes winner **Winning Image** has been retired, and was sold at the **Keeneland January Sale**. She was consigned by **Four Star Sales**, on behalf of owner **Martin Scafidi**. Historic **Calumet Farm** purchased her for \$100,000 as an addition to their broodmare band. She will be missed in the **Mike Aro** barn here at Parx!

Exacta B.S. & Richard Vega's five-year-old gelding, Rienzi, set a new track record for a mile at Parx Racing on Saturday January 17, 2015. With a time of 1:34.51, he beat Peasant's previous track record of 1:34.77, which was set on January 4, 2014. Stakes winner Rienzi was ridden to victory by jockey Angel Castillo.



E SHOULD AND SHOULD BE SHO

Prep Proud broke his maiden at **Parx Racing** on December 27, 2015 in the **Turning for Home**, for owner **Cash is King LLC** and trainer **Butch Reid**. The now three-year-old chestnut colt and rider **Frankie Pennington** demolished their competition by six emphatic lengths, stopping the clock at 1:06.61.

Photo: Nikki Sherman



"Demand for New York-Bred Horses Increases Dramatically" - Wall Street Journal, 8/12/14

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Sam Elliott is New Director of Racing



When Suffolk Downs closed its doors last November, the track's Vice President of Racing Sam Elliott immediately began searching for the next step in his professional career. He landed right here at Parx, where in January he was appointed the new Director of Racing.

"Sam is a welcome addition to the Parx Racing community. He comes here

with substantial experience in the racing industry, and we are looking forward to working with him," notes PTHA Executive Director Michael Ballezzi.

The Rochester, N.Y., native has been involved in horse racing since he was a child. His parents were just fans and typical \$2 bettors, but loved to take their nine children to Finger Lakes on the weekends. It was there that Elliott fell in love with the sport, and eventually graduated with a degree from the University of Arizona's Race Track Industry Program. His resume began with a stint at Evangeline Downs as an official in 1981, and for the next thirty years, spent most of his time at Rockingham Park and Suffolk Downs.

Elliott is excited for the opportunity that he has been given as Director of Racing. "I think there's unbelievable potential here, especially in this spot. What place can you come to, especially for someone who has kids, and be able to race year round for good money?"

In the short amount of time since his appointment, Elliott has already begun making changes, while at the same time commanding respect from Parx horsemen. He likes to interact with everyone, so his door is always open, with a steady flow of horsemen stopping by.

Explaining some of his main goals as Director of Racing, he says, "What I'm trying to establish here is to have a racing program and stick to it, so people can get used to a little continuity and train to the book. Not that I won't have extras, but extras will typically be races that didn't go in the book the day before. I try not to write them out of the clear blue sky just because I think it's hard to train to."

Elliott would also like to establish a series of lifetime condition and allowance races in order to give inexperienced horses a chance to develop properly, as well as a regular open claiming program. In addition, he is prepared to spend time getting to know the area horsemen, especially since there are more horses shipping in to run at Parx on a daily basis than there were up at Suffolk Downs.

Another early change since his arrival was the elimination of an age limit for maiden horses, a rule that was put in place a long time ago. However, a problem with this rule arose, when the economy failed a few years ago, and many owners and breeders were financially unable to prepare their young horses for the racetrack. This left a multitude of older maiden horses that, under the previous rule, would have been unable to enter the starting gate.

When a local horseman approached Elliott about the problem, he agreed that a change was needed. "Horses get started later for a variety of reasons, so I thought that was some flexibility which made a lot of sense. Actually, the very first maiden race that we ran, a seven-year-old finished second by a head! So, as long as they're competitive, why not? Now, believe me, there will come a time when I'll see one in the entries and I'll say, no, I don't want this one. We certainly don't want a nine-year-old that's never started, but for horses that have some form, I don't see any reason why we can't do that."

Predecessor Sal Sinatra was a huge advocate for making Parx a prime Breeders' Cup prep destination, and Elliott intends to continue that tradition. Once the bigger three-year-old races start, he will begin setting up relationships with the connections, and is looking forward to showing the out-of-towners what Parx Racing is about. It is certainly something that he has experienced firsthand.

"I like this setup all around. The new barns are fabulous; they did a great job. The place is really clean, too. You have preconceptions about some places before you get to them, and this wasn't what I was anticipating. I'm looking forward to the spring and summer when I can enjoy it a little bit more."



At Suffolk Downs, **Elliott** (right) put emphasis on **safety** and **responsible racehorse retirement**, which he believes are closely related. He implemented the first racetrack anti-slaughter policy in the country, and made sure that many retirees found a home with the **Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation** in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

Atlantic City Race Course Shuttered



On January 9th, owner Greenwood ACRA announced that Atlantic City Race Course would cease all operations, with the last day for simulcasting on January 16th.

"We regret to announce that we must close Atlantic City Race Course immediately due to continuous business decline in the industry, the current regional economic climate and the absence of alternative revenue opportunities," said Joe Wilson, President of Greenwood ACRA. "Most importantly, we would like to thank our dedicated employees and the supporters of Atlantic City Race Course who have contributed to its proud legacy in the racing industry over the years."

Atlantic City Race Course was scheduled for six race days in 2015: April 23-26 and April 28-29, with Parx Racing taking its usual week-long hiatus at that time. As of yet, a decision on whether to conduct racing at Parx has not been determined.

One potential option arose a few days after the announcement by Greenwood ACRA: the operator of Monmouth Park, Darby Development, expressed interest in possibly purchasing or leasing the property. That means there is still a chance that racing could continue over the internationally reknowned turf course.



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Trained by Alfredo Velazquez

otos: Nikki Sherman & Adam Coglianes

Exciting Finish to 2014



Pewter Stable partners, Kendrick Carmouche, and Kate DeMasi accept the trophy for Sailor's Revenge.



Kiely Waters, Tyler Servis, John Bisono, Bob Graham, and Angel Graham accept the trophy for Adirondack King.

(cont'd from cover)

Carmouche, aboard Sailor's Revenge, declared, "If I have to share this, there's nobody I'd rather do it with than my best friend!" He promptly dismounted and gave Bisono a gigantic bear hug.

Then, DeMasi strode over and threw her arms around Bisono, congratulating him on the victory. He had ridden both horses in their most recent starts, and had made the difficult decision to accept the mount on Adirondack King over Sailor's Revenge for the Auld Lang Syne Stakes. Ironically, Carmouche rode Adirondack King in two stakes races last summer just before Bisono took over the reins.

The ecstatic connections happily took turns posing for their win photos. First came Adirondack King with Bisono, Servis's son and assistant Tyler Servis, and owners Bob and Angel Graham of MarchFore Thoroughbreds. Then, Sailor's Revenge met his connections in the winner's circle.

The winners finished up the mile and 70 yards in 1:45.16. Adirondack King paid \$8.20 for the win while 14-1 shot Sailor's Revenge rewarded supporters with \$14.20.

The last stakes event of the year was just as close. The seven-furlong Valley Forge Stakes featured nine entrants with over six figures in career earnings, including graded stakes winner Javerre and three-time stakes winner Officer Alex.

Four horses battled for the early lead through the first half-mile, but rounding the far turn, Javerre burst to the front, looking as if he would draw off to an easy victory. Praetereo, who had trailed for most of the race, had other plans, finding a new gear as they hit the top of the stretch. Also closing fast was Penn National invader Whatsthequestion, under Matthew Rispoli.

Javerre continued to dig in under heavy urging from J. D. Acosta, as the two challengers collared him on each side. In the final yards, Whatsthequestion stuck a nose in front, but Praetereo and jockey Irad Ortiz, Jr. kept on coming in the middle of the track, finally surging to a hard-fought neck victory.

The Valley Forge triumph gave trainer Michael Moore his first career stakes win. Moore claimed the now seven-year-old son of Giant's Causeway two starts back for E & G Stables. It was also Praetereo's first stakes victory after eleven attempts dating all the way back to 2011, when he contested the Grade 1 Toyota Blue Grass Stakes at Keeneland Race Course. The win pushed his career earnings up over the \$400,000-mark.







Praetereo wins the **Valley Forge Stakes** (above); ecstatic connections accept the Valley Forge trophy (below); Moore pats Praetereo before the win photo (left)

2014 Horsemen's Awards

When: Wednesday, April 1, 2014

6 to 10 PM

Where: Parx Racing

Bensalem, PA

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 - · 2yo Filly ·
- · 3yo Colt or Gelding ·
 - · 3yo Filly ·
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 - · 4yo & Up Filly or Mare ·
- · Claiming Horse of the Year ·
- · Outstanding Claim of the Year ·
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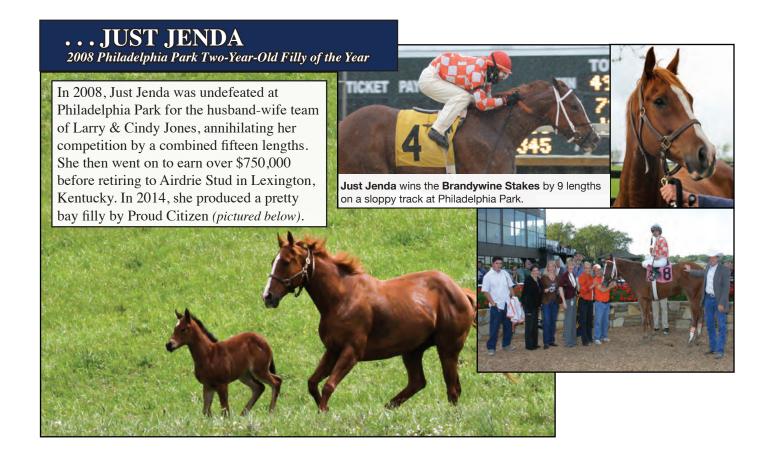
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What Ever Happened to ...?











Proud to Take Care of Our Own

Thoughts from Program Administrator Danielle Montgomery



Just another day at the office as Danielle loaded eleven new retirees and proudly watched the trailer leave Parx Racing at 8:00 PM on January 31!

So Proud!! That is how we should feel about our accomplishments with responsible racehorse retirement here at Parx Racing. We have set the bar high for other racetracks, while continuing to

find great homes for our horses, and proudly bringing to life what Executive Director Michael Ballezzi, with the support of President Sal DeBunda and the PTHA Board of Directors, envisioned when they created the program we have today. All of the horsemen of Parx Racing can proudly say that, thanks to everyone coming together almost seven years ago, nearly 1,500 horses have been saved from uncertainty and given a positive direction towards a new life.



Starting this year off with a bang, 27 horses left Parx through Turning for Home in January alone. Some of these ex-racehorses are destined for the Retired Racehorse Project's Thoroughbred Makeover at the Kentucky Horse Park in October. Currently,

Tomas the Bowler, Moreforyourmoney, Grizzle, Piscitelli, and Forejudge have been entered to show off their talents at this huge Thoroughbred event, and with the frenzy of adopters looking for eligible horses, we expect many more to hit the entry books over the next few months. We will proudly root them on for their new trainers as they compete for \$100,000 in prizes and show the world how amazing our OTTBs can be!

Another horse that we were proud to be able to help transition this month is Honorable Judge. Cash is King Stable and trainer Butch Reid entrusted the talented 2013 Parx Two-Year-Old Champion to Turning for Home after a career-ending tendon injury. We sent him into the very

capable hands of Bonnie Hutton, Director and Founder of our Partner Farm After the Races, where Dr. Mark Donaldson of Unionville Equine offered to perform a procedure that will split the bowed tendon in order to speed



healing without as much scar issue. Tendon-splitting is supposed to increase the odds of a horse coming back to competition, although not to the rigors of racing.

Just last year, the procedure did wonders for Over the Moon Racing's Northern Glow, who is now happy in his new home with Lisa G. of Nottingham, PA. We are continually amazed and appreciative of



all the dedication that Dr. Donaldson, Bonnie, and her staff have provided for almost 200 Turning for Home horses.

Turning for Home is proud to provide a lifeline throughout our horses' lives. With more and more horses adopted out, our partner farms are stepping up more frequently to bring more than a horse per month back to the fold, whether due to economic challenges, incompatability, or illness. We coordinate the recovery and rehoming for every horse entrusted to our care. When a horse comes back and is successfully rehomed again, this is when I am most proud of the "horses come first" culture that our farms and horsemen have established at Turning for Home.

Jokingly, someone called me the horse fairy godmother today, and as silly as that title sounds, I am proud to be part of this organization. While I only get to meet these horses for a short time before they leave, hearing their stories, addressing their immediate needs, and finding them safe places to go endears them to me forever. Right now I am helping a horse find safe retirement after he traveled the world, born in Kentucky before winning a race

Turning for Home, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to find homes for Parx Racing's retired thoroughbreds.





at Moscow Racecourse in Russia, and finally finishing his career here at Parx. As we follow their progress and check in on them from time to time, we feel so proud as they become successful in their new lives as polo ponies, hunters, jumpers, trail horses and lesson horses, companions, show horses, barrel ponies and jousters (yes, we have a gelding that will be jousting - stay tuned!).

The story that nearly brings me to tears is that of a bay gelding named Regimental. Not only could he not read his own radiographs, he defied them. We sent him out to Maui Meadow Farm on a month-to-month trial, giving him time for what could have been a fatal injury. "Reggie" was barely able to put weight on his leg when we first met him, but from day one his attitude and great personality shone through. He took care of himself as Partner Farm Maui Meadow took care of him, and then, defying the odds, he became the very first Turning for Home horse that farm owner Charlie Lyman took out for a trail ride. Now, a few months after being adopted, Reggie's new family raves about him and he often goes

for trail rides without ever taking a bad step.

Turning for Home saves horses every day when they need a chance. We are able to do the right thing for each and every one, because of the support of so many. Each donation, each sponsorship, each contribution goes directly to helping our horses move on to new achievements. We would like to thank the Round 2 Thoroughbred Horse Show for selecting Turning for Home as their charity recipient at their upcoming September 19th, 2015 show at the Bucks County Horse Park. In addition, an especially big thanks also go out to the Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association for

contributing a portion of the proceeds from their 5th Annual **Stallion Auction** to Turning for Home. We are proud to know that our owners and breeders are always helping to take care of their own.



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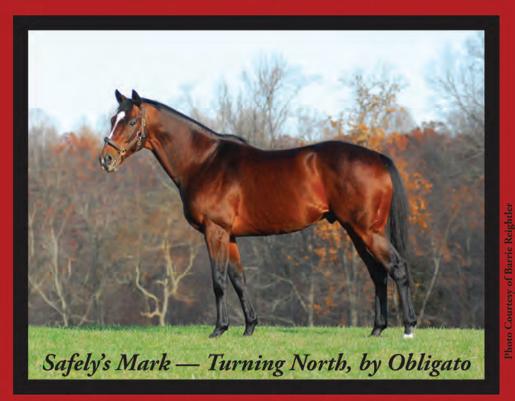
Use promo code "#1racehorse" in the search bar, and a portion of your order will benefit Turning for Home, the racehorse retirement program at Parx Racing



Seeking Donations

Each year TFH presents a basket raffle at the PTHA's annual Horsemen's Awards Banquet. This has become our most successful fundraisers. Please help us by making a tax deductible donation of items or services for the auction. Also be sure to attend the banquet on April 1, and try to win one of the many exciting items that will be available!

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Q: You have a family history in the industry.

bright red, yellow and blue colors.

A: My grandfather was Julio Coletti & he trained horses on the New England circuit. He gave up his business building houses to train horses, and my father worked with him until he was able to come to New Jersey when racing took off there. Then I followed right in his footsteps. So I grew up at the racetrack, every weekend and every summer.

Q: How did they shape you into the trainer that you are today?

A: Unfortunately, my grandfather died when I was young, so I didn't really get to spend much time with him. My father just showed me the in and outs, and how to be dedicated. Things like what to look for when you're claiming horses. He had some nice horses but he was mostly a claiming trainer. My dad and I still talk, and we bounce ideas off each other all the time. I'm very fortunate that way; we have a good relationship.

Q: How did you become a trainer yourself?

A: My dad went down to Ocala when I was still in high school. I tried college after that and hated it, so I quit and ran down to Ocala. I was at the farm for a couple months, but I hated it and came back to the racetrack. It just wasn't my scene, fixing fences and chasing loose horses running around the paddocks. So I came back up here and was assistant trainer for Eddie Lehman for awhile. And then Eddie was retiring so I went out on my own and then I actually picked up Eddie as an owner for awhile.

Q. How about who was your best horse?

A. I'd probably have to say Fitz. He won the Garden State Stakes. I've had some other nice horses though - Slewville, I won stakes with her out in Chicago. She was three-year-old filly of the year out there in Illinois. I also had a filly,

Horseman's Profile: Edward Coletti, Jr.

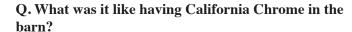
Third-generation horseman Ed Coletti, Jr. has made a point of transferring a familial atmosphere into his barn. His employees are happy to stay for years, while his horses are pampered throughout their time under his care - even after retirement from racing. His very first horse, Crosby Moto, was in the barn for 23 years. He became a stable pony despite earning less than \$20,000 as a racehorse. And now that Crosby Moto is gone, Coletti has adopted another former trainee for his stepdaughter as a stable pony, continuing that very family tradition.

Allen's Blessing, win a couple in a row. And a horse I trained named Yo won a bunch of stakes races for Ed Rudley back in 2002 and 2003.

Q. What was it like winning those big races?

A. It's a lot of fun. You

work so hard to get to that point and when you do...for the moment it's shocking, but then afterwards, you really enjoy it. And it's great to see the help get so excited about that special horse in the barn.



A. It was fun. It was neat for us because we were behind him. Our barn was actually pretty quiet, while the other side had the chaos. But it was neat seeing him in the barn and watching him train. Especially now that he won Horse of the Year.

Q. Having him in the barn, did it change your goals as a trainer?

A. I think every trainer wants to win the Kentucky Derby. You're here every day trying to get that special horse. That's what we strive for every day. You work to get to that spot and hopefully one day you get there.

Q. How could you end up with that horse?

A. Go to the yearling sales, the two-year-old sales, you look for that special horse. You do your homework and hope that you find a horse like that. You might even get lucky and breed that horse. You never know but you just have to keep pushing for that horse.









Backstret



2014 Children's Christmas Party..

Over 300 children attended the annual Children's Christmas Party, hosted by Chaplain Rick Bunker and sponsored by the PTHA. They had an opportunity to meet Santa Claus, received gifts, and enjoyed lots of food and drinks!











Do you have any news for Backstretch Views?

We're always on the lookout for backstretch views. Contact **Nikki Sherman**, Marketing & Publicity Director, in the Turning for Home office, or send over an email at nsherman@patha.org.



Congratulations...

Seven years was all it took for **Charlie Lyman** to pop the question! The third generation owner of Maui Meadow Farm and his new fiancee, third generation horsewoman **Nina Bradley**, got engaged on January 8, 2015. In addition to breeding Pennsylvania-

breds, breaking young horses on the Maui Meadow training track, and swimming horses in one of the few indoor equine swimming pools in the area, the couple has also taken on a huge role as a partner farm with Turning for Home. Just in 2014, Maui Meadow Farm found new homes for nearly 30 retired racehorses.



Longtime valet **Tony Roman** and his wife **Helen**, who has worked at Parx for just as long, celebrated their **47**th **wedding anniversary** on January 29, 2015. What an incredible milestone!



Horsing Around ...

Trainer Mary Pattershall has gone "western" with her former racing trainee, Super Brian! The duo are learning the ropes of as many disciplines as they can, including barrels, poles, team penning, and even roping! Mary last saddled Super Brian for a race in August of 2014, and is hoping to compete with him in the Retired Racehorse Project's Thoroughbred Makeover competition at the Kentucky Horse Park in October 2015. Good luck!





Chaplain Rick Bunker

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."

- Psalm 119:105 (N(U)



Thinking of the year that is still mostly ahead of us I thought of this short verse that speaks of God's word being a light for the path that we are traveling. What sort of light would they have been speaking of? Certainly the lights of that day were not the beams that shine a thousand feet down the road. It would indeed have been a light that would only show where to place your foot one more time. This type of light would show us where to take our next step, but not the one after that, nor certainly the next 100 steps. And, yet how difficult it is sometimes, to even know where to take even the very next step. It is quite a promise to declare that what God's word can do for us is to let us know what to do next.

One step at a time, one day at a time, day after day, week after week, we will make it through this year and not be any the worse for wear, if each step of the way is directed by God's word. I pray that you might be filled with the knowledge of God's will for your life. It is a prayer that was prayed for us by the Apostle Paul. He wrote that he had, "not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding." Imagine being filled with the knowledge of God's will. It is a prayer that can be answered – not a pipe dream.

We realized many good things this past year and I thank you for your support. Together a lot was done and below are some of the things that we did as we followed God's will and showed forth God's love.

Partial List of Benevolences in 2014 Coordinated with the Office of the Chaplain:

- 31 full beds (mattress, frame, and box spring), 16 high quality air mattresses, and over 300 blankets, sheets and pillows
- 389 boxes of food, and 84 turkeys with all the 'fixins'
- 61 gift certificates for groceries at local markets for over \$1,700.00
- 233 good or new jackets (a large percentage of these were new winter coats for children), and countless other items of clothing
- 28 microwaves, 11 refrigerators, and a few other appliances (most were new)
- 48 bicycles (20 were new and all were in good condition)
- 217 book bags filled with school supplies
- 89 Bibles
- Over 800 pairs of socks, countless hats, scarves, gloves, towels, wash cloths, toiletries, loaves of bread, and more
- There were 69 Chapel n' Chows in 2014 as well, and most of these provided many meals of leftovers
- In coordination with the PTHA and the Racing Office over 3,200 meals were provided through the meal ticket and meal card program at Ron's Backstretch Cafe
- Over 1,000 gifts were collected throughout the year for Christmas (and birthdays) for over 300 children related to employees of the Racetrack Community
- Several holiday/seasonal parties throughout the year for children and families
- Transportation to doctor visits, pharmacies, and many other transportation needs
- \$7,000 in Scholarships for Colleges and Technical Schools through the Granny Youmans Scholarship Fund
- AND MUCH MORE

I look forward to 2015 with optimism knowing that I am part of such a good community of horsemen. It is a privilege to be your chaplain and I want you to know that I am here for you. If you need anything or have an idea of something that we can do for anyone, please let me know and together, with God, we will make 2015 even better than 2014! In the spirit of St. Valentine's Day I share with you and close with this Scripture passage:

"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God ... because God is love" - 1 John 4:7-8



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Horsemen's Purchasing Association

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Coverage of American racing's top stories. Handicapping, analysis, interviews and human interest features highlight weekly shows, hosted by Parx track announcer Keith Jones and handicapper Dick Jerardi.



