



E-NEWS AND E-NOTES FOR THURSDAY FEBRUARY 6th, 2025

SUPER BOWL

THE HORSE, NOT THE GAME

He was a son of Star's Pride out of Pillow Talk by Rodney who was bred and foaled at Norman Woolworth's and David Johnston's Stoner Creek Stud in Paris, Kentucky on April 8th 1969. His sire, Indiana-bred Star's Pride, was bought by E. Roland Harriman and Lawrence B. Shepard for \$2,950 as a yearling in 1948 (\$32,000 nowadays) as he earned \$140,969 with trainer Harry Pownal. Super Bowl was his record 8th Hambletonian winner.

A lot has been written on the trials and tribulations of the colt – Dean Hoffman's excellent accounts are amongst the best – and I will defer to adding my two cents worth which wouldn't amount to a halfpenny. One of the reasons is that when "the Bowl" was gracing the Winners Circle in Victory Lane at DuQuoin, I was back in New England barely being able to distinguish oats from sweet feed as I was primarily a spectator.

Super Bowl was bought at Tattersalls Sale the fall of 1970 for \$20,000 by Rachel (Mrs. Stanley F.) Dancer and her long-time partner Rose Hild Breeding Farm (Hilda – Mrs. Louis Silverstein of New Hope, Pennsylvania) who were coming off their success with the 1970 pacing Triple Crown Winner Most Happy Fella p3, 1:55 \$419,033.

Their newest acquisition would go through his initial conditioning at the Farm in New Egypt and then head to Florida. Racing as a two-year-old the new World Champion won 15 of 23 starts, took a mark of 1:59.4m, and picked up over \$150,000. The Summer of '72, while his stablemate Albatross p4, 1:54.3f \$1,201,470 would demolish his pacing competition, the colt would record 23 wins in 28 starts and earn \$601,006 lifetime with 38 trips to the Winners Circle.

A great effort. A great career. And through it all caretaker John Barker campaigned “the Bowl.” Although there was an excellent support system in place it never is an easy journey as there are a multitude of things that can go wrong.

John would be the one who was there 24-7 as, like most of the dedicated grooms, would spend their days hanging with and nights sleeping in front of their charges as they would reel off win after win. It is a satisfying, yet humbling experience and one will have a deep sense of pride with each trip in front of the grandstand.

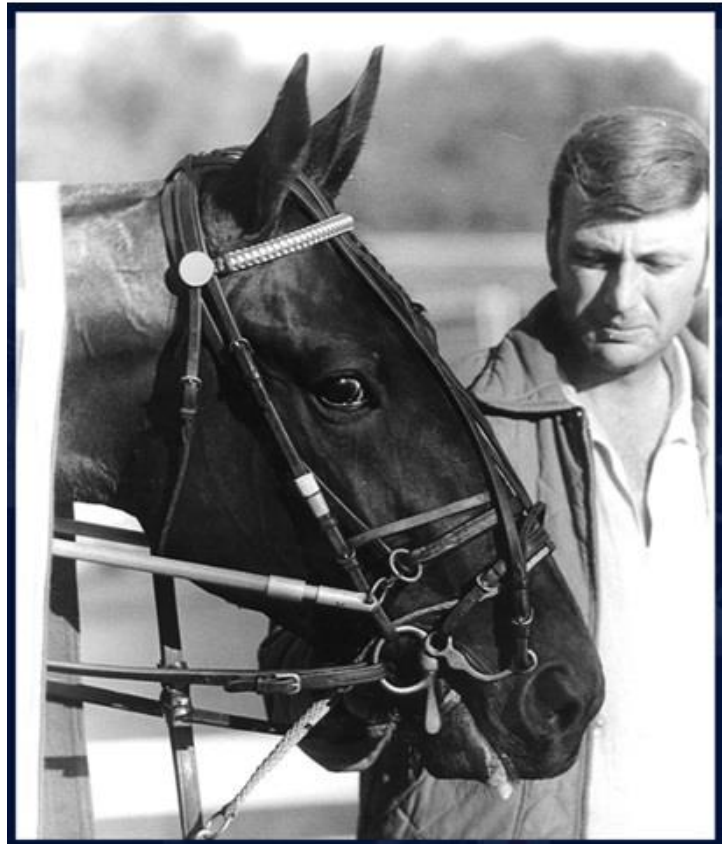
And you cannot help but hold the horse with esteem and affection.

They become your life.

After Bowl was retired to become one of the most dominant sires in trotting history John would rub a few more horses and then would go on to be an agent for a trucking company on the Grand Circuit. Later he would be the trackman at the Delaware County Fair. It was in 1999 when Barker walked into Dick Neville’s blacksmith shop (who had shod the Bowl for his career) and stated “he’s gone” referring to Super Bowl’s death.

“Even though it had been over 25 years,” said Neville, “it was like he had just lost his best friend.”

But they do grow on you.



There will be a lot of wagering on the Super Bowl (the game not the horse) as the public is wild with intrigue and second-guessing the experts. I myself did win a Super Bowl pool once but got stiffed for half the prize (I think it was something about a carrying fee) but it don't matter. The big question is: **Will Taylor be there?**

I'm too smart to bet any money on people!

