



E-NEWS AND E-NOTES FOR FRIDAY MARCH 28th, 2025

HEADIN' FOR HOME

The Great Migration is beginning again as Northern stables return home from the warmer climates with their young prospects. By now the juveniles have been somewhat sorted out as to who is what and every owner/trainer/groom will have their favorites, just ask them.

It will be crunch time soon as the hopefuls are given a few fast miles before they go to the baby races.

Flashback to 1976 in Pompano: **Weeping Cherry**, a two-year-old filly trotter by Speedy Scot was

THE talk of the whole training side. There was nothing but plaudits as she loaded onto the horse van with the rest of the stable for the ship back to New Jersey. She added to her own ever-increasing lore when even the pacing colts couldn't get to her wheel in a mile in 2:12h over the half-mile oval. Then it was on to the early morning show the next week at Brandywine's 5/8ths in Wilmington, Delaware for her debut.

Mon Cheri' had a rude awakening when she met and got beat by another Speedy Scot filly named **Sail By**, an Ohio-bred and owned Delvin Miller trainee in 2:07f in a baby race.

Welcome to the Jungle.

Sail By would eventually earn \$52,000 and take a mark of 2:03.2m while Cherry, "the best trotting filly ever" couldn't get past 2:05m or \$2,000. She did have one of her kids out of eight PACE in 2:00 while earning just over \$10,000.



WARREN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS TO ALLOW HORSEMEN TO STAY

Lebanon, Ohio Fairboard has stopped their eviction

And she wasn't the only one...

There were many fillies on those trucks that had shown promise as they worked down but, when the bar was raised, they too stopped at right around 2:05. So it was on to Plan B: if they needed time to mature, bring them back as a three-year-old, then get a record on them and, seeing that all of the group were well-bred, they would become broodmares.

Her Lady Bird p3, 1:57.4m \$38,000 (Albatross-Her Lady) would throw 13 foals with 11 in 2:00 including a Big Towner filly who made \$244,000.

Enid Gray p2, 2:06.1f \$22,000 (Lieutenant Gray-Dream On) churned out 11 for Norman Woolworth who tagged them with a plethora of creative names as they would earn over \$1.7 million including the \$800,000 plus winning French Chef filly **Concertina** p3, 1:55.1f and her full brother **Pianist** p3, 1:52.4m.

Sandy's Sable p2, 2:06.1 \$17,000 (Race Time-Carolanda) would get a better mark of 2:00.1Q and produced 14 fillies and colts. She was placed in the Hall of Fame as they would earn over \$2.8 million and included the Tyler B-sired **Dragon's Lair** p151.3f, **Cole Muffler** p1:53.3f and **Bruce's Lady** p1:53.3m.

The biggest surprise came from the next generation as "that **Aunt Hilda** mare", a 3-year-old filly by Noble Victory - unraced as were her 3 siblings out of World Champion **Worth Seein'** 1:58, \$288,000 - would have but one racehorse out of 10 foals. That one racehorse, **Worth Beein,'** would earn \$204,000 and SHE would have but one racehorse from two foals. That one racehorse was a mare named **Peace Corps** whose world-wide trotting travels earned her over \$5.5 million dollars.

Enid Gray was bred by Dan Gernatt (1917-2014) who was a lifelong resident of Collins, NY. In 1938 Gernatt and his wife started a dairy farm which grew to be the largest milk herd in Erie County (home of Buffalo Raceway in 1942) They began a sand and gravel business on the farm too. By 1960 the Gernatts decided to get into harness racing. In 1962 during a golfing vacation to Pinehurst NC, Gernatt would purchase half of a three-year-old Tar Heel colt named Lieutenant Gray who traced back to Single G on his dam's side from Percy and Jere Gray of Swansea MA (the Gray Brothers who had owned the Little Brown Jug winner Knight Dream) The price for 50% was \$2,750. He would take a mark of 2:01.3h and earn over \$97,000 & stand stud. From that half interest Dan Gernatt, selling his yearlings with the Collins surname would by 1984, include 250 mares, stallions, young stock, and racehorses with a training facility in the town of Brant with a broodmare barn in North Collins and stallion barns in Collins. He would sell the 2-year-old filly just before her 1st stake race at Goshen (she would finish 3rd to Mistletoe Shalee in 2:05h) and the filly who hails from the family of Most Happy Fella would do Woolworth well. Gernatt would breed & stand Sir Taurus & breed & sell a horse that transcends boundaries: **Gallo Blue Chip** p1:48.4m (\$4.2 million) who retired in 2005 as the richest Standardbred ever.

So I can almost guarantee that on those trucks returning there will be Little Brown Jug winners and Hambletonian Champs AND Horses of the Year! We just don't know when, where or what time period. Remember that it's the start of a new Season as Hope springs eternal... and you never know who's coming along for the ride.

And what a ride it is.