



E-NEWS AND E-NOTES FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 25th, 2025

Success...

At Sunshine Meadows in the 72-degree Delray Beach Fla 16 "Winter Warriors" went to post in five races as they all eclipsed 2:00. Wally Hennessey guided four (three trotters and a pacer) while the lone 9-year-old maverick was piloted, trained and owned by 64-year-old Gaston Lareau of Pompano Beach. Lion On Landon, the \$183,000 plus winning gelded son of Lionhunter-D's Tinkerbella by Superstar Sahbra, trotted his mile in 1:59.3m over the mile track with a two-second allowance.

Lion On Landon was bred and foaled by Gail Impson of Cedarville, Ohio (in Greene County) his papa Lionhunter (a foal of 2009) is an unraced son of Muscles Yankee who has sired over 90 foals, including one in 2022.

Lion on Landon has been owned in his time by various Ohio folks in Wilmington, Beaver Creek & Sunbury & raced Ohio, Ontario, New York and averages a self-supporting \$1,000 a start lifetime which is nice to find in a racehorse.

Years ago, up in the far reaches of New England an Ohio-bred gelding arrived at the barn from the Old Glory Sale in NY. He was an 11-year who had the mannerisms of a good animal. Back in those days I had no idea what that meant but I learned.

George had gotten him for the bargain price of \$4,000 even though he had been racing in a \$10

TENTATIVE MATINEE DATES

The 2025 Fair Season starts with the Matinees

SATURDAY 5/10 - CELINA

SATURDAY 5/17 - GREENVILLE

SATURDAY 5/17 - BUCYRUS

SUNDAY 5/18 - WASHINGTON CH

SUNDAY 5/25 - URBANA

claimer at Yonkers/Roosevelt for one of them Filion Brothers (Henri I believe)

Henri was one of the leading trainer-drivers at those plants and a good lifelong horseman as Herve was based in NJ and Giles in Saratoga. Lonesome George, the unwitting buyer, started out as an owner who decided to train his own horses. He was green and inexperienced as an unripe tomato... and I was even worse.

Anyway the new addition did look good, had great flesh and as I said nice manners.

The only thing is that he couldn't pace a lick. After about the 3rd training attempt

George came back in, threw the lines at me, and growled "I just wasted \$4,000 on a horse that can't race!" ...was it something I

did? Did I brush him out okay? Are the hobbles on right? Did a boot come down?

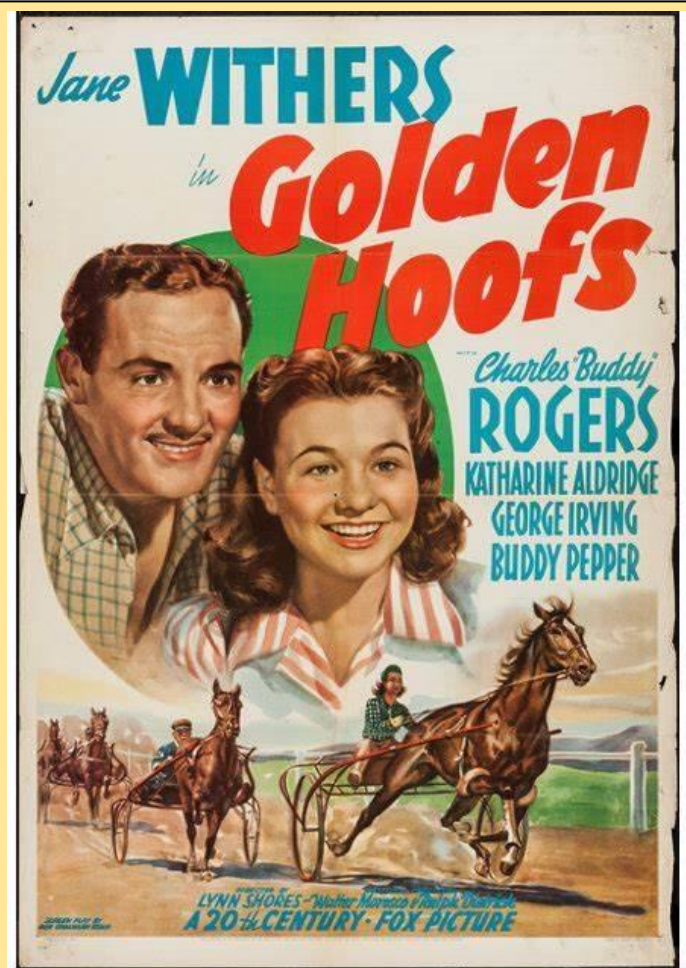
Looking back in retrospect we now realized what it was: the old fella had a dry stifle joint which was why he went cheap in the first place. Joints were a major problem in those days.

The years rolled on. It was at the Little Brown Jug just a few years ago when I was talking with a gentleman who was a breeder from Germany who, in our conversation about celebrities owning harness horses (James Cagney, Charles Colburn, Jay Silverheels, Wilt Chamberlain, Curt Schilling etc) when he mentioned Ed Sullivan. The host of Talk of the Town began on TV in 1948 and was a devoted fan at Yonkers and Roosevelt... "the World Capital of Harness Racing."

Ed LOVED the races and was part of the glamour and thrill of the sport. I can only describe the celebrities and the society that went to the races as 1) it was before my time and 2) when I did get there I was always doing battle down in "the trenches."

"Sullivan even had a horse," he said, "that they named for him: Success Ed." I blinked in shock. That was the old gelding from 1973! As I said that I was green as grass but I did know there was a farm in Ohio called Success Acres (located in Delaware County in Sunbury) that produced hundreds of good horses for over 30 years. When its founder/owner Manny Mullet passed the farm began to wind down its operation, finally going under the gavel in 2008. It is now an elite equestrian center but still has a half-mile track fashioned after Delaware. Old Ed (the horse) was a foal of 1962 by 20-year-old Jimmy Creed and had a mark of 2:00.4m having earned \$73,000 but ended up at the Fairs in Maine then, after 8 unsuccessful races, moved on. Another old champ that faded off into the sunset.

They might be gone but they are never forgotten. At least by this old timer.



From 1941 this comedy features 15-year-old Jane Withers who buys a trotter for \$5 (THIS should be a fantasy) and finds love and happiness somewhere in Texas. The popular child star was 2nd in fan appeal only to Shirley Temple and became Shirley's nemesis in the 1934 movie *Bright Eyes*. She played an obnoxious little shyster and was dubbed "America's favorite problem child" throughout the 1930's. She retired from the movies at 21 (making \$5,000 a week) to raise a family but returned to the big screen in 1956's *Giant*. From 1963-1974 Withers played Josephine the Plumber in TV commercials which she said "paid for my 5 kids' college education." Ironically her first screen appearance in 1932 was in a movie called *Handle With Care...* Hey, isn't that...