



E-NEWS AND E-NOTES FOR FRIDAY AUGUST 22<sup>nd</sup> 2025

# GROOVIN' IN GREENVILLE



## DARKE COUNTY FAIR GREENVILLE (OCRA)

FRIDAY AUGUST 15<sup>th</sup>

### 4-IN-A-ROW FOR LIL MISS SURESHOT JEFF NISONGER & CAM McCOWN TRIPLE

R	CND	HORSE	TIME	(DRIVER)	TRAINER
R01	2FP	LIL MISS SURESHOT	p1:59.4	(JNisonger)	Ste Livingston
R02	SGT	MY PAL SPARKY	1:57.2	(Cam McCown)	Jess McCown
R03	3CP	NO CONTEST			
R04	2CT	JUDGE LETT	2:06.1	(Justin Hall D/T)	
R05	2FP	SHE'SSO FAST	p2:00.3	(Hank Le Van D/T)	
R06	INV	SHER'S SPEEDYSHARK	1:58.2	(Nisonger)	StLivington
R07	3FT	ANNIE L	2:00.1	(Hank Le Van D/T)	
R08	CND	ROSE RUN WYLIE	p1:58.1	(Pat Melloy Jr D/T)	
R09	3CP	CLEVELANDTOPROOKIE	p1:58	(McCown)	PhilGroves
R10	2CT	TONY PAKO	2:03.1	(Jeff Nisonger)	Rob Werner
R11	3FT	STRAWBERRY HILL	2:00.2	(Cam McCown)	Bret Ater
R12	2FP	ITS NACHO TURN	p1:59.4	(Andre Nared)	Todd Luther
R13	SGT	TOPVILLE MASTER	1:57.1	(ManMiller)	Craig Bowman

For official results visit [ustrotting.com](http://ustrotting.com)

Race replays are at:

<https://www.harnessracingohio.com/Video>

SATURDAY AUGUST 16<sup>th</sup>

### HANK LE VAN TAKES THREE

R	CND	HORSE	TIME	(DRIVER)	TRAINER
R01	2CP	THEETOWN MAILMAN	p1:58	(J Beattie)	CrBowman
R02	MDN	LEGENDARY NIGHT	p2:01.1	(Beattie)	CraBowman
R03	3CT	SNEAKPASTTHEM	2:01.2	(Koltin Noble)	Jess Smith
R04	3FP	FUDDY DUDDY	p2:02	(Roy Wilson)	TommieJones
R05	2FT	TANGO L	2:04.4	(Hank Le Van D/T)	
R06	SGP	LOTSA KNOCK US	p1:55.3	(Odell Cross)	TreStohler
R07	CND	ODDS ON SIX PACK	p1:56.2	(J Belanger)	Belanger
R08	3CT	NINETY PROOF	2:02.1	(Pat Melloy Jr D/T)	
R09	3FP	DANCIN IN MY SLEEP	p1:58	(RTharps)	SFerguson
R10	2FT	CSNIFFYGIRL	2:06.4	(Kevin Snyder)	Kim Dailey
R11	SGP	UNDETERRED	p1:56	(Hank Le Van D/T)	
R12	2CP	FIRED UP HENRY L	p1:59.1	(Hank Le Van D/T)	
R13	MDN	I AM THE BEST	p2:04.4	(Clay Scagnoli D/T)	

## DARKE COUNTY FAIR GREENVILLE (OCRA)

THURSDAY AUGUST 21<sup>st</sup>

### SEVEN WIN SUPER NIGHT FOR LUTHER AUSTIN HANNERS HAS MANNERS ON 4

R	CND	HORSE	TIME	(DRIVER)	TRAINER
R01	PAR	FIRE THE DEMS	p1:58.3	(A Hanners)	Todd Luther
R02	PAR	READY FOR SUNSHINE	2:02.2	(Ron Gillespie D/T)	
R03	AMT	UNRESOLVED DEBT	2:04.2	(L Harper)	B Hayes
R04	PAR	LOVIN' ON THE SIDE	p1:57.1	(J Beattie)	R Miller
R05	HLT	BIG BAD WHAMO	p2:01.3	(Ranger Steck)	Brooks
R06	CND	MONEYLIKEITIS	p1:58.4	(Christopher Hope D/T)	
R07	AMT	BURNOUT	1:57.2	(Greg Luther)	Todd Luther
R08	PAR	ROSE RUN ART	1:58.4	(AHanners)	Todd Luther
R09	PAR	VOLSTARITA	1:58.1	(L Ebersole)	Cass Lecourt
R10	PAR	WOODROW BLUE CHIP	p1:56.2	(Beattie)	Luther
R11	PAR	OHOHOH IM ON FIRE	p1:56.1	(Hanners)	Luther
R12	ROB	SWAGGY CAL	p1:54.3	(AHanners)	Todd Luther
R13	PAR	DON'T TELL ANYONE	2:02.1	(Detweiler)	Schwartz
R14	CN	WESTERN READY	p1:57.2	(CNewberry)	SFerguson
R15	AMT	MACADOODLEDOO	p1:58.4	(GrLuther)	T Luther



# LORAIN COUNTY FAIR WELLINGTON (HTCS)

SUNDAY AUGUST 17th

## DREW NEILL NOTCHES FOUR A TRIPLE FOR JASON THOMPSON 4 STRAIGHT FOR JASMINES DIAMOND

R CND HORSE TIME (DRIVER) TRAINER

- R01 2FT **NO APPROVAL NEEDED 2:02** (Ryan Stahl D/T)  
R02 2FP ROSE RUN BOUNTY p1:59 (Drew Neill) Cory Deyermant  
R03 2FT **MONI OUT THEWINDOW 2:09** (Elliot Deaton) GarMartin  
R04 2FP I'LL BE HOME FIRST p2:00.1 (Justine Irvine) Don Irvine Jr  
R05 2FT **GOOD MISS GRACIOUS 2:05** (Man Miller) Miles Woolam  
R06 2FP LAUGHING TWO p2:00 (Jason Thompson) Jim Graham  
R07 2FT **JASMINES DIAMOND 2:06** (Elliot Deaton) Garry Martin  
R08 3FT **SUDSNRITZ 2:03.4** (Drew Neill) Herman Hagerman  
R09 3FP CROSWINDS SWEETPE p2:02 (Drew Neill) Ryan Deaton  
R10 3FT **PROMISE AT DAWN 2:01.2** (JThompson) Kerry Merriman  
R11 3FP ANGEL IN PARADISE p1:59 (Jason Thompson) Dlrvine Jr  
R12 3FT **SUPER ALEXANDA 2:02** (Ammon Hershberger D/T)  
R13 SGP VEL MR STEVE p1:56.2 (Drew Neill) Larry Clabaugh



MONDAY AUGUST 18th

## BRAIDEN & BETTY TEAM UP FOR FOUR DREW NEILL MATCHES 'EM WITH FOUR

R CND HORSE TIME (DRIVER) TRAINER

- R01 2CP PUMKIN SKIN p1:58 (Br Rhodes) Betty Clegg  
R02 2CT **LONG HILL 2:03.4** (Ty Angus) Levi Hershberger  
R03 2CT **PUMP AVTION 2:04.2** (Drew Neill) Rosy Weaver  
R04 2CP ULTIMATE CATCH p2:00 (JaThompson) S Cox  
R05 2CT **ECKERT HILL BRADY 2:03.4** (DNeill) RWeaver  
R06 2CP I AM THE SEA p2:00 (Braiden Rhodes) B Clegg  
R07 3CT **LETSGOTOPARIS 2:01.2** (Edward Miller D/T)  
R08 3CP THE ONYX DRAGON p1:58.3 (J Irvine) GMartin  
R09 3CT **TINY TOM 2:00** (Justin Irvine) Eli Miller  
R10 3CP RODEO JET p1:56.2 (Drew Neill) Jessica Miller  
R11 3CP DOWNBYTHEPARADE p2:01 (BRhodes)BClegg  
R12 3CT **SPEND THE PRIZE 2:01.2** (D Neill) Rosy Weaver  
R13 3CP WIDGER BOYS p1:59 (B Rhodes) Betty Clegg  
R14 SGT **SWEET SOUL DAVID 2:01** (M Miller) Hagerman



## MONROE COUNTY FAIR WOODSFIELD (SVCC)

TUESDAY AUGUST 18th

### A DOUBLEUP FOR CONRAD/CARTER

R CND HORSE TIME (DRIVER) TRAINER

- R01 2FT **TRIUMPHANT TIMES 2:04.1** (Daren Harvey D/T)  
R02 3CP LOUS BOY p1:59.4 (Jimmy Smith D/T)  
R03 3CT **POWER HILL 2:02.4** (Alex Hawk) Mike Sowerss  
R04 2FP WAR CRY p2:09.1 (Carson Conrad) Steve Carter  
R05 3CT **MISTER SQUEEZE 2:01.4** (Carson Conrad) S Carter

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 20th

### BRADY CLEMENS ENTWINES FIVE

### MADDIE'S DELITE HAS WIN #9

R CND HORSE TIME (DRIVER) TRAINER

- R01 2CT **WHISTLE ONTHE WIN 2:04.2** (Alex Hawk) EOwings  
R02 2CP I'M A DANCIN MAN p1:57.3 (Clemens) Nesselroad  
R03 3FT **DOODLE BUG 2:02.4** (Chris Meyers) Barney Dillon  
R04 3FP MADDIE'S DELITE p1:58.1 (CarConrad) Steve Carter  
R05 SGT **MJ'SLIBERTYVALANCE 2:01.4** (BClemens) D Bross  
R06 2CP TSUNAMI KING 2:00.1 (BClemens) Eric Nesselroad  
R07 2CT **MILE RANGE 2:04.1** (Carson Conrad) Steve Carter  
R08 SGP CHOOSE CAREFULLY p1:59.4 (Clemens) Hochstetler  
R09 3FT **I BEE CREAM 2:01.3** (Brady Clemens) Jeff Kirkbride  
R10 3FP TIP p1:59.3 (Christian Meyers) Ed Rider





# ALLEN COUNTY FAIR LIMA (OCRA)

MONDAY AUGUST 18<sup>th</sup>

## RONNIE GILLESPIE GRABS FOUR CLEVELANDTOPROOKIE SAFE ON 14/20 ANNIE L HAS A 1-2 PUNCH

### R CND HORSE TIME (DRIVER) TRAINER

R01 2FP **SKIMMING THE SAND** p2:02 (Gillespie) RyMiller  
**R02 2CT DUBLINS SIDNEY 2:07.4 (Ronnie Gillespie D/T**  
R03 3CP **JB MAGIC** p1:57.1 (Jeff Nisonger) Tyler Bates  
**R04 3FT BANK IT 2:02.1 (Manny Miller) Rory Moore**  
R05 HLT **BIG BAD WHAMO** p1:59.1 (RangerSteck) Brooks  
R06 2FP **BURNING SPRINT** p2:07.1 (D Fagan) Schwartz  
**R07 2CT WINDING PATH 2:07.2 (Ed Greeno Jr D/T**  
R08 SGP **MERRY JERRY** p1:56.1 (RGillespie) Ken Hurst  
**R09 3FT ANNIE L 2:04 (Hank Le Van D/T**  
R10 2FP **SHES SO FAST** p2:01.1 (Hank Le Van D/T  
R11 3CP **CLEVELANDTOPROOKIE** p2:00.2 (HawkGroves  
**R12 3FT STRIKE A POSE 2:02.3 (ManMiller) Rory Moore**  
R13 3CP **FEAR THE PANDA** p1:59.2 (RGillespie) RSmith



TUESDAY AUGUST 19<sup>th</sup>

## ZUMMA WORLD ZOOMS TO WIN #8 JEFF NISONGER NAVIGATES FOUR KAYNE KAUFFMAN TRIPLES

### R CND HORSE TIME (DRIVER) TRAINER

R01 3FP **MANDYS ROTTENAPPLE** p1:57.2 (Kauffman) MPohamus  
R02 2CP **CHATAHOOCHEE** 2:00 (Drew Neill) Ryan Miller  
**R03 2FT CREATIVE DOLL 2:08 (Jeff Nisonger) Mark Winters**  
R04 2CP **ZUMMA WORLD** p1:58 (Jeff Nisonger D/T  
R05 LDY **SMILE TODAY** p2:00 (Bobbie Jo Brewer) Randy Smith  
**R06 3CT AMAZING TOM 2:02.1 (Hank Le Van) Dan Krebehenna**  
R07 3FP **MAA HONEY** p2:00.1 (Jeff Nisonger) Tyler Bates  
**R08 SGT MR STELE 2:00 (Charles Bolen) Roger Hughes Jr**  
**R09 2FT NEIGH BRR LADY 2:07.2 (Jeff Nisonger D/T**  
**R10 SGT ULTRA UNCLE 2:01.2 (Kayne Kauffman) Rory Moore**  
R11 2CP **YANKEE'S MO** p2:02.3 (Shawn Barker II) Logan Rowe  
**R12 3CT ILLEGALLY FUNDED 2:02.2 (KKauffman) Mike Polhamus**

# DEFIANCE COUNTY FAIR HICKSVILLE (OFRC)

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 20<sup>th</sup>

## 5 IN-A-ROW FOR LYNN RANGE AND SUPREME DANCE FOUR FOR MANNY MILLER DREW NEILL TRIPLES

### R CND HORSE TIME (DRIVER) TRAINER

**R01 2FT TOMS QUEEN 2:04 (Drew Neill) Rosy Weaver**  
R02 3CP **BELIEVE IN TOM** p2:01.4 (MSt Louis Jr) Steve Novak  
**R03 2CT WHAT SAY YOU 2:07 (Dan Venier) Tyler Bates**  
R04 3FP **SECTIONLINE FLAME** p2:01.2 (MMiller) HHagerman  
**R05 2FT LYNN RANGE 2:04.4 (Manny Miller) HHagerman**  
R06 3FP **CINDER BELLA** p2:04.3 (Pierce Henry) ChWilliamson  
DH **CALLMEOVRDAHILL** p2:04.3 (RAlums Jr) JWeller  
**R07 2CT BUCKEYE BARON 2:09 (Tyler Rush) Tim Grubb**  
**R08 2FT SUPREME DANCE 2:06.4 (Drew Neill) Rosy Weaver**  
R09 3CP **MAMA SAID ZIP IT** p1:59.4 (MMiller) MikeSweeney  
R10 LDY **BLACK TILLY** p2:04.4 (Christina Johnson) Ed Konrad  
**R11 SGT STONEY RIDGETOP 2:04 John Konesky III D/T**  
**R12 CND HELP ME IM RED 2:05.2 ( St Louis Jr) MSchmucker**  
**R13 SGT RANKIN 2:05 (Drew Neill) Judy Roegner**  
**R14 CND NOLA CHRISTIAN 2:06 (ManMiller) Thomas Casey**



If this guy gets any type of Artificial Intelligence he's gonna be dangerous...





# A night at the races

And it was just one of many but it was the only one during a spell 36 years ago this month. We had been assembled by Ohio's Dave Dolezal, editor/publisher/CEO of *Hub Rail*, *Harness Horse* and *The Buckeye* magazines as well as being a past officer of OHHA to put out his new creation titled *TIMES: in harness*.

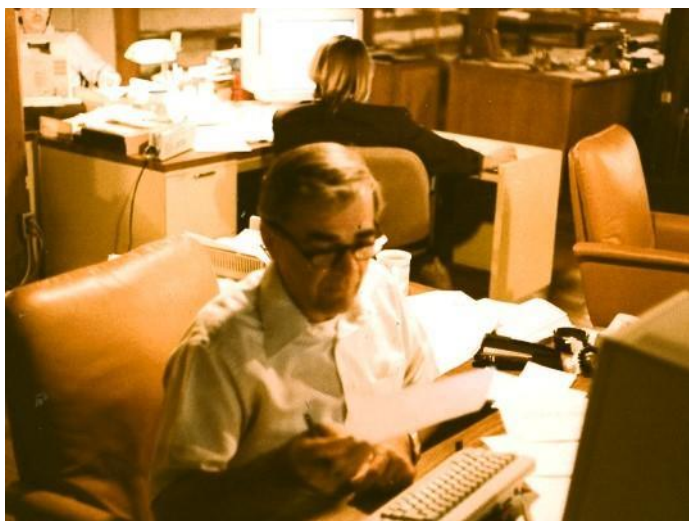
Ron, Linda, Frank, Gene, the two Sharons, myself and a few others came together to work that August of 1989.

And work we did.

Any startup is tough and we all were from a diverse set of backgrounds who shared a harness horse common theme.

As the gals had to paginate the new-style publication Frank handled ads while Ron and I would edit an overload of type and commentary. We had such renown columnists as the Squire of Walnut Hall Alan Leavitt, the curator of the Hall of Fame Phil Pines, breeding expert Curt Greene, the "notorious gadfly" Marv Bachrad, president of USHWA in 1992-1993, and numerous contributors as well as the legendary Stan Bergstein, the executive vice president of the Harness Tracks of America from 1961 to 2011. He was also the first person to be inducted into both the United States Harness Racing Hall of Fame and its Communicator's Hall of Fame.

Admittedly we had to do some choppin' to get it to fit in but David sternly corrected us to "leave Bergstein's column "as is" ...fresh off the fax. (remember those?)



Lachance le champ at Prix d'Ete    Two in-a-row for Hambo Joe    Metro mega machine    Springfield of dreams

# TIMES: in harness

**IN TIMES:**

**Prix d'Ete:**  
Goalie score—49

**Road Machine:**  
motors to victory in Metro—4

**Kuzzin Kat:**  
show'em where it's at—52

**Springfield:**  
the Charlie & Arrie show—60

**R Pappy:**  
the banner for the little guys—60

**Stan Bergstein—4**

**Ray Brienza—8**

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**Plus**  
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## Celebration TIMES: . . . c'mon by Ron Reed



We're in harness and we're celebrating! Join us. Share the excitement. In your hands is the first of two preview editions of *TIMES: in harness*, the newest and (we believe) the lightest star on the standardbred horizon. We're excited about this venture, and as you thumb through the pages of this preview edition, . . . it's a real turbo. We're offering inno-

holders are horsemen and horsewomen—just like you. And so are the people who tirelessly work to put this publication together. Like you, they comprise the heart and soul of the industry. *TIMES: in harness* will not speak for any one segment of harness racing, but it will speak to all of them. If it errs in any direction, it may be excused for siding with the "little" guy—the smaller farm with a good stallion or two; the trainer with a couple of quality horses; the down-to-earth, dependable toiler . . . the very backbone of this business-sport who doesn't get the "press" and whose "voice" often is unheard by the decision makers. Take a look at the photo on this

page of Illinois horseman Danny Rhodes and his homebred world champion, R Pappy. Or read Stan Bergstein's description of Jim Crebs' dream come true. These stories are what we're all about. *TIMES: in harness* intends to share the adventure of the thousands of Danny Rhodes and Jim Crebs in the industry.

So now, what happens next is up to you. Share your thoughts and needs with us. What do you want to see in these pages? What do you need to see? What don't you want? What do we need to do to help you thrive in harness racing?

Think about it as you pass through this first preview edition. We could have put a lot more in this issue . . . but we didn't. Because we know it's not how much we put into it that counts. What really matters is how much you get out of it.

We hope to light up the sky every week that *TIMES: in harness* goes to press. It's a fitting image, isn't it? After all, if you accept this invitation, much of that light will come from you.

Next week you'll see Preview II and then, as the dust settles from these two qualifiers, Volume I Number I will go to press. Do yourself a favor. Make sure your ideas and suggestions help mold its direction.

## A dream come true... by Tom Pye

On a warm day in Springfield and on top by 6 lengths, the stuff that dreams are made of came true. The timer showed a mile in 1:59.1, a national season's record for two-year-old trotting geldings on a mile track and R Pappy had just stepped into the fair's record books.

The homebred son of Gambi Labell out of Granny Johnson had set the stake's record for the Illinois State Fair and paid off more than the tote board would ever show. The victory was number 15 in 16 starts and for breeder/owner/trainer and driver Danny Rhodes, it was the reward of a gamble that he'd taken.

"I was actually born into the horse business," said the 43-year-old native of Charleston, Ill., "My Dad's been in it for about 48 years. I worked at a factory and decided to go full-time training just last

year." R Pappy is one of six that Rhodes trains for himself and his father. Needless to say, he's the star of the small stable.

When the slick-gaited youngster

came out for the second heat, he trotted a mile in 1:59.2 and up into another dimension: a new world's record.

See *DREAM*, page 3





"It was nothing fancy, we didn't bet that much, but what a good time we had." Some of his mannerisms would attest to his being a college roommate at Bowling Green U with Tim Conway who would portray a bumbling character on both *McHales Navy* and *The Carol Burnett Show*. Ironically Ron would say Conway "was the smartest man I ever met."

Frank Cotolo was a quick wit and exceptionally gifted musician from New York who had plied his trade in California where he befriended a driver whose star was rising by the name of Ron Pierce. Aside for writing jokes for Bob Hope, Jerry Lewis and others he was the head writer for radio superstar Wolfman Jack - *I'm diggin' you like you're diggin' me* - for a few years when they appeared on over 2,000 radio stations in 53 countries. They both had that "Brooklyn" type of humor. When I commented that he was spewing out Yogi Berra-isms Frank just shrugged and said "everyone talks like that in Brooklyn... we ask what time is it? You answer "now?"

The only thing could throw into the pot was that I had over 20 years of tales of no dough and woe and - as I tell my constituents - I was "down in the trenches" doing a hands-on battle at the races throughout the U.S. and Canada with "the Show." And I survived to write about it.



5 TIMES in harness

BITS

THE CHRISTMAS BONUS

They say that you never forget your first ship to Florida... at least that's what I've always said. I don't know if it's the promise of a Winter of warm weather and the beaches but just the thought of those balmy nights along A-1-A size up fond memories.

So say that I was a little rascally to ship that October would be an understatement and I looked up with a stab in the back that was also going to spend their first Winter in Pompano. It was a small operation from "out north" where "best waves" of minus 35 degrees are not uncommon. Even though the language barrier was a tough hurdle at first, the enthusiasm was evident. I was "awed" two racetracks that had been on the short for awhile and went wholeheartedly at the tabling and pushing to bring them back. When Gilles returned from a sale at Freshkill with two yearlings, he said "I wanted me take care of them for him."

Always thought that he wanted to break them for him because I was doing such a good job with the two old horses. I found out later that his other two groomed had threatened to quit when he asked them and I was his last resort. Nonetheless, I went to the yearlings with unbridled hope. After a few weeks of nondescript low-riding and third-classing them (they both look in the harness like ducks to water) I started jogging them by myself. I kept the hopes of all the horsemen. Handled I told her Gilles wanted the straps on every day with the Kat Flyer. "He ain't gonna be no trotter," he'd add.

So for the few remaining weeks we had in Karsings, it was the same routine. I'd jog and train the racetracks first and then jog the Handled I. As the other two could be on the creature, we'd bring out "the big cat" (actually he was a little got belted next that cost \$1,400) he had a spark to him and you couldn't help but like him! We'd try to get him going. For an hour he'd trot, pace, lope, and stop. He'd shake his head and turn and look at you and then hop, trot, and jump. It would drive you crazy. I'd tell Gilles if we could take the straps off and he'd say "no cause he got gaffed" as way we'd go again.

A few times I noticed help from different folks to get him jugged and they'd get ahead a half mile into him and come back to the barn. They'd curse and holler and tell me to get a whip but I said no cause "he gotta get going." After some around, nobody volunteered to jog me again. They'd see me out there at 11 every day and say "he's going yet!" But no matter what I'd hold her at him, he never scored.

The big downside was taken in two parts. Frank took the racetrack and most of the equipment in the clubhouse van and left "Big Gilles" to mind the things down there for a week. Gilles, Nick, and I waited for Frank to get back, then loaded the van and the car and off we went. We hit the Florida border at 3:30 the following afternoon. We were all smiles as we stopped for dinner. "It won't be too long now," we said. We pulled into Pompano at 3 the next morning.

"Seeing that it was our first Winter at the track we decided to "go up right" and got out the blue, gold, and white paint. We even painted the "hennuiche" (one of the) and enrolled a big red P on the front of it. Yeah, the stable looked good and even our eight cheap claimers looked decent. Of course everyone wanted to know "if we had any stock over there" and they thought we might know what we were doing. That's all until they saw me with the Kat Flyer colt, and the "hoppers" and "pacer".

I'd get questions like "Did you just put the hoppers on?" and I'd say "No, he's been like this for months now." and they'd roll their eyes to the outside and work a touch and beat on the small jog track for the hour.

A couple of my friends on the training side would ask me how things were over on "the egg" and I'd bring about how good their \$50,000 charges were doing. "Smooth-palmed son-of-a-bitch. Wears a 56-inch horse's ass!" While I'd take old Kat "Turd out and hop and trot and pace. Right around the third week of December, Gilles decided to go home for Christmas. He got jugged and sold. Frank of what he would do and threatened Nick and Gilles with death if they didn't show up.

"Can't sell the hoppers off of Kat Turd."

THOM PYE

I asked as he headed to his car, "Just to see if he legged up enough?" Gilles looked in the stall and nodded.

Yes. Yes," he growled. "Leave them off the little snowdrift and see if you can work some of that fat gut of his off!" Kat Turd just shook his head and playfully swiped at him. Although he acted like he was going to chew your arm off, he never took a bite.

The next week I jogged the colt on the trot for five miles a day. He never took a misstep and didn't turn a hair. He loved being out on the track. When Gilles returned from his vacation he said that he'd heard that the colt was going good and the hoppers were ready to qualify.

When back of the racetrack qualified the following week, Gilles was humming and singing. The next day he showed up at the barn before the usual afternoon but got the jugged ready. He grabbed Kat Turd's hoppers and hung them on for the first time.

He brought him out of the stall (or he should say Kat Turd brought him out of the stall) and we started to hook up to the jog cart. It was then that I noticed the front hoppers hoppers. Gilles had inadvertently raised the hoppers up three inches, and now they were riding almost on his shoulders. With a shrug and a disgruntled "never mind" I took the colt down to the small jog track and as usual, shook the lines to get him going. Instead of the trotter, "hoppers" and "pacer" the colt took off in a gallop. He cocked his tail and hit as smooth a pace as you could wish for. I braced back on the cart, laughing out loud, as I tried to get him to come back to me. He was pacing at about a 2:30 clip with his neck arched and chewing on the bit. I got him to slow down and jog along but every time he'd come within range of another horse he'd level out and take off after him on a random pace. All I could do was laugh.

When I went by a couple of cyclists from New York as they did walk look at each other and ask "that kid know anything?" That didn't matter because finally, after three months of torture, the colt was as smooth as silk.

I turned the colt for the first time later that week. Aside for a tired shadow roll, during the following weeks the colt worked on the low-riding track by himself to 4:20 without a problem. When I asked my co-workers on the training side what their champions were going in on the mile track they said 2:25. I had dreams of world records dancing in my head, but at 2:30 who doesn't? All I'd say is that maybe Gilles got a little too overzealous in his training schedule and then he decided to wait with him until next year.

Anyway, the colt came back as a four-year-old and still showed great promise and speed. He did end up racing for six years and earning over \$5,000 during his career with a mark of 2:11.19 (grounded). And he still would take wipers at you from the stall today. He was, and a gal-telied little runt but boy, did he have heart. Even though he'd been retired for years, I often think that that Christmas and the first time he let the pace. Maybe we came upon by chance, but it was the best Christmas bonus I could have gotten. It helped to regain my confidence and made me work that much more diligently towards my hopes of developing a "good" horse.

That's why this season, even if your yearlings haven't hit their paces, just remember that it's a long way to September. Give the youngsters the patience and time that they deserve.

I know of one yearling that was going to get "just one more chance" and, if she didn't turn good enough, it was going to be off to the pasture.

They ended up running a race after her.

So the one night we're sitting at a small table in the cavernous amphitheater where I felt like I was at a cafeteria with no food. Frank - who also was an author on several books on handicapping - was looking for an "overlay" in hopes of getting a double-digit payoff. Ron studied the program and admitted that "nothing stood out" when something caught my eye.

"This #3 horse that's coming in from Dover Downs in Delaware," I offered, "...his trainer was just a kid years ago in New England whose father was a pretty good horseman and Stevie became a decent driver. He doesn't look like much on paper but I don't think they're making the trip up here to sightsee."

Both of them checked the horse out and shook their heads. "Not good."

"Well," I shrugged, "I'll just take a \$10 flyer and use him in a couple of trifectas."

"Thom," cautioned Ron, "don't waste your money."

We work too hard for it."

"He might be fourth in here but I wouldn't use him," added Frank. "Save your cash." Naturally I had to run up and bet him. Just on a hunch.

ROUND AND ABOUT

NOW'S THE TIME TO THINK OF WHAT TO GIVE TO OUR MARE FOR HER CHRISTMAS PRESENT.

BROWNSTONE FARMS  
MANASSA, VA  
(703) 359-1852

IS THERE REALLY ANY QUESTION? YOU SAW HOW GREAT THEIR HORSES LOOKED AT HARRISBURG.

I SHOULD LOOK SO GOOD!

AND GREAT CARE IS WHAT OUR MARE IS GOING TO GET ALL YEAR LONG. FOR CHRISTMAS SHE'S HEADING TO BROWNSTONE FOR THE VERY BEST.

AND IN RETURN MAYBE SHE'LL GIVE US A MILLION DOLLAR WINNER.

From  
BROWNSTONE  
FARMS  
MANASSA, VA  
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He wove through traffic like a determined Xmas shopper and won by a length.

Now I wasn't as enthusiastic as a third-string hockey player who had just scored the winning goal in double overtime as I showed some restraint but I did give it a fist pump and a "yeah!"

I turned towards Ron and Frank who were both looking at the screen with the grimace to their jaws and I half-apologized: "I was lucky" as the horse paid \$35 to win with a \$140 trifecta.

Ironically it was the only ticket any of us cashed on the night.

The magazine took precedence and our schedules of going to press and our travels took all of our "downtime" away and any trip to the simulcast became a thing of the past. The production team would put in 30 plus hours straight to get it out. A sense of humor was definitely needed as in "somebody tell a joke."

Weeks later as we were immersed in paperwork and our heads were glued to the computer screens Frank was checking entries and results.

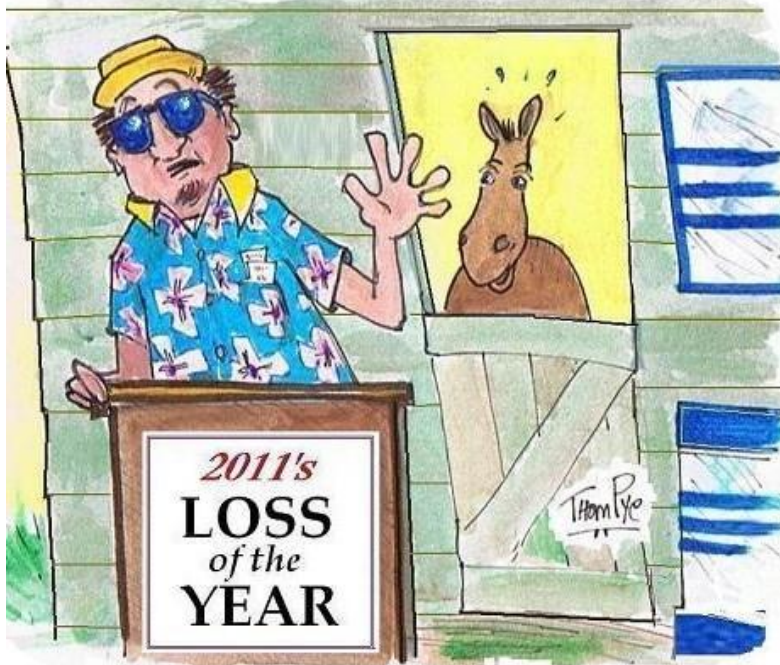
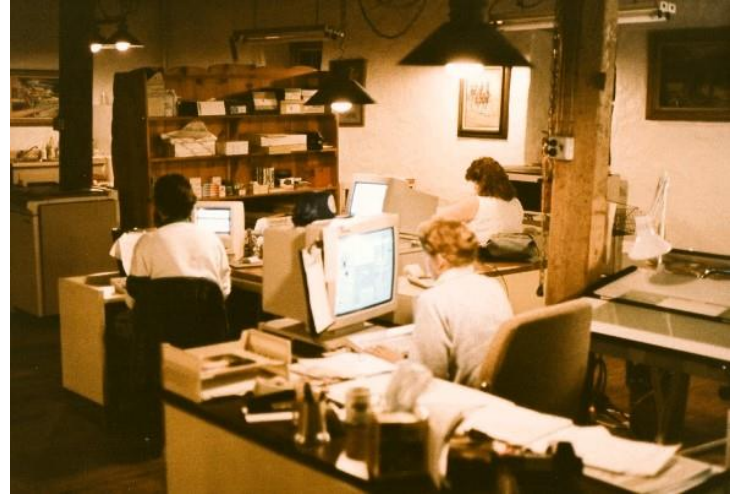
"Your *buddy* is racing at the Meadows again," he told me.

Ron and I lifted our heads up from the stacks of stories to be edited that sat in front of us.

"Now?" we both asked in unison.

Then back to work we went.

And work we did.



He's 60-1, parked the whole mile, gets run into down the stretch, beat a *nose* in a track record, ... I woulda had a \$200 exacta *COLD!*

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Thom Pye

Horse Smartz®



With age comes Wisdom...  
but some people just never  
get **QUITE** old enough!