



E-NEWS AND E-NOTES FOR WEDNSDAY NOVEMBER 19th, 2025

A Breeders Crown Reflection...

What a great night of Champions we saw at the end of October. More records were broken than a dropped case of expensive champagne glasses. And while everyone bubbled and grinned around them the drivers remained calm and gave credit to the horses, owners, trainers, and caretakers. A class act.

And the spotlight did shine on a few standouts as several new headliners emerged from the pack.

I can remember the days before the Breeders Crown which was conceived by the Hambletonian Society and contested for the first time in 1984. It produced great horses such as Dragon's Lair and Baltic Speed.

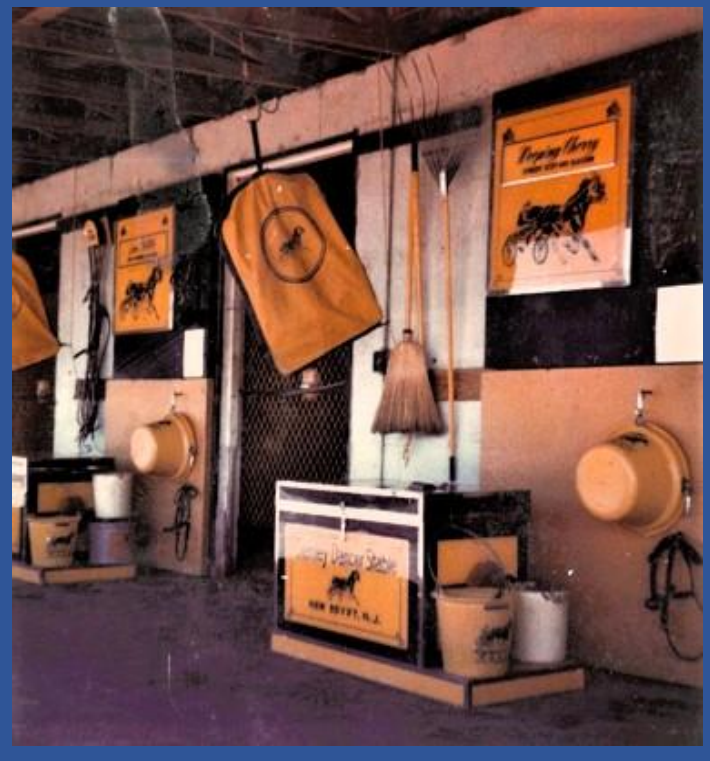
Back then (commonly referred to as "BT") I was familiar with several of the champions' parentage as I had worked with, and seen race such as **Sandys Sable**, the dam of **Dragons Lair** who would go on to be a Hall of Fame Broadmare and **Aunt Hilda**. One of "that Aunt Hilda mare's" daughters (**Worth Beein**) would be bred to **Baltic Speed** and produce **Peace Corp** whose lifetime earnings would be worth over \$10.5 million.

One of their stablemates was my charge **Sea Pebble** - originally named **Savanah Almahurst** - who would be one of the sales toppers of 1975 when Canadian Mac Cuddy purchased the daughter of **Bret Hanover-Seascape** for \$100,000 "BT." That translates to \$608,000 nowadays. She was a half-sister to **Shadow Star** (\$243,000) and **Real Hilarious** (\$191,000) both by **Shadow Wave**.

But she was the "cheaper" of my initial pair as the other filly I was assigned to was another sales topper **Weeping Cherry** as the offspring of **Speedy Scott** brought \$115,000 BT (\$665,000 nowadays) and was the highest priced trotting filly of all time. And yes, you do see dollar signs when you initially start to jog them and hope you don't run into anyone or anything.

They were both nice animals to jog and train, both had class, and neither had any bad habits. Cherry had a spark to her though. A little bit more competitive as Pebble seemed a bit too docile (possibly taking after her sire Bret) and would just become part of the pack.

Mac Cuddy would come down to Pompano from Strathroy, Ontario (he had 18 turkey farms throughout the world and started from ONE little 100-acre farm in 1950) and would sit behind a lot of his horses. He really liked Cherry. Everyone liked Cherry: the gang at Castleton, the Swedes as we'd be out being reviewed every morning on the mile track in Pompano. We even had to put head numbers on them so the fans knew who they were. Smile and wave for the camera.



Mac wasn't any novice when it came to good horses. He had owned **Smog** and **Bonefish** and his very first horse in the business had earned him over \$17,000 "B.T." and with a smile and a "hope I didn't foul her up on you" would hand me the lines back. We had hopes and they both took marks but neither really ever panned out and I felt a bit guilty when Seascape's next foal **Sherry Almahurst** (by Meadow Skipper) made \$163,000 and began making headlines. Cuddy had several really good caretakers such as Cathy Ross and Mary Jo Walsh who took excellent care of their charges. Maybe if one of them had rubbed them it would have been different?

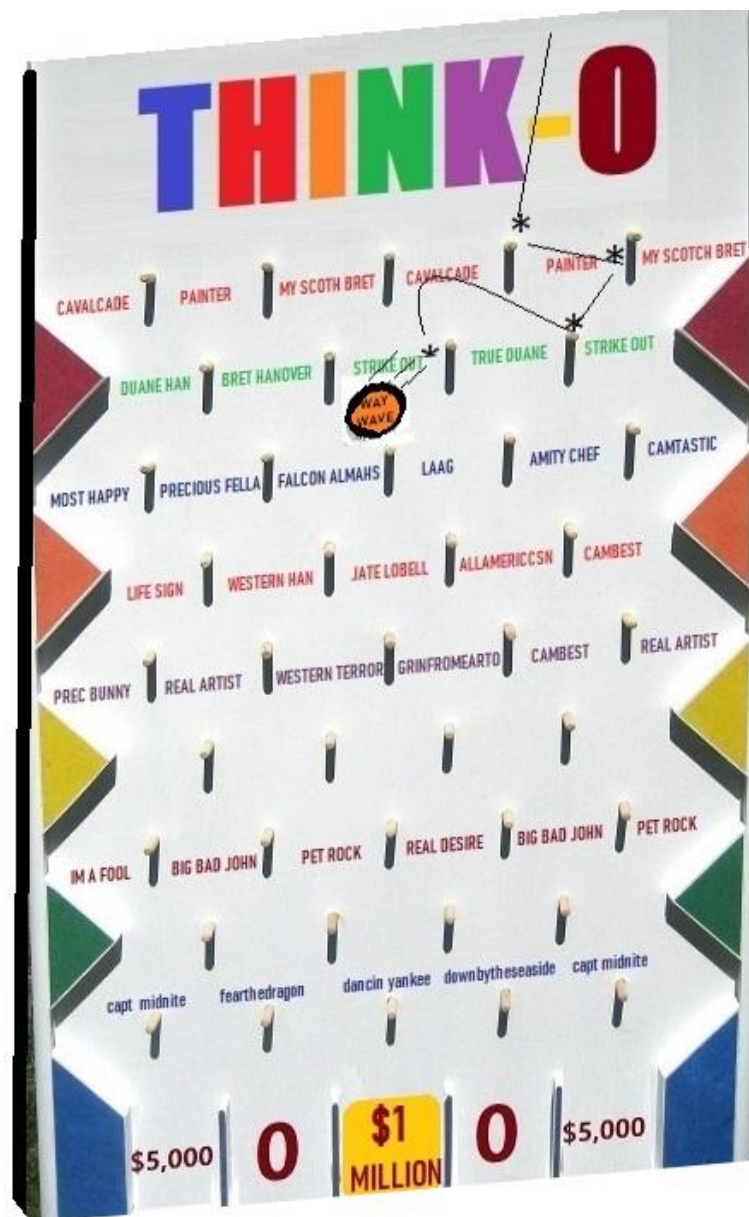
And when Seascape's full sister **Reflection** started with the headliners when she threw **Mirror Image** (\$637,000) and **Ring Of Light** \$623,000 (by Little Brown Jug winner **Strike Out**) I really questioned myself.

But as the years went by I realized that it was all in finding the right cross.

Seascape and **Reflection** were the only two fillies (both by **Painter**) out of the World Champion **Way Wave**. The cross of Bret (\$50,000 stud fee) drew four blanks while Reflection hit the jackpot with **True Duane & Strike Out**. Her unraced daughter **Outvision** would have 12 foals (only one \$100,000 winner) but her cross with **Falcon Almahurst** brought in **Mac Swifty** whose 11 foals included a \$132,000 winning **Jate Lobell** lass **Swifty But Nifty** as well as 8 in 2:00. Swifty, in turn, would have 11 foals also with 8 in 2:00 headlined by **Cam Swifty** p1:50 \$1,000,000

Full Fledged was a half-sister that came up empty on the track but did well in the breeding shed as she had **Queen Ann M** p1:52.3f, \$374,000 by **Big Bad John**. Watching the good, the bad, and the rugged crosses was like that game of *Plinko*... who knows?

And while Sea Pebble's contributions seemed to wither out after the second generation (she had 8 foals and not one \$100,000 winner) Reflection's other side of the family was going strong.



Everyone held their breath on Breeders Crown night when one of **Queen Ann M's** foals by **Downbythetheseaside** took the three-year-old pace in 1:47.3 as driver **Yannick Gringras** aimed **Sippinonsearoc** and came zooming up the rail in :26 seconds flat to make him a millionaire.

Congratulations, Cuz!

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