



RENEWS

WINTER 2004

News from the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation • Offering Renewed Hope to All Involved

Jump for Joy! An Eclipse Winner Retired to Montpelier



Eclipse Champion Correggio winning the 1997 Iroquois

If we do say so ourselves, the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation's newest facility, at the Montpelier Estate in Orange, Va., is a classy place with classy horses. A champion was among the first arrivals at the retirement farm, located on the former home of James and Dolly Madison.

Correggio, the 1996 champion steeple-chaser, was donated to the TRF by his owner, Bill Lickle, a generous supporter of the organization. Correggio arrived along with two other former campaigners from the Lickle stable, Green Highlander and Mario. Green Highlander holds the rare distinction of having set course records at Saratoga on the flat (1 5/8ths miles on the grass) and over the jumps (2 1/16th miles). Mario is a Grade I winner over jumps. But Correggio is the star among Lickle's stars. He was brilliant during his 1996 campaign, winning all four starts, including the Grade I Breeders' Cup Grand National and the Grade I Colonial Cup. Now 13, he was retired in 1998 after developing an infected hock.

Lickle had been keeping the horses on a farm in Tennessee. With Lickle living much of the year in Delaware, it was diffi-

cult for him to visit his old friends. That was one of the reasons he moved them to Montpelier. The other was that he wanted one of the TRF's showcase facilities to have a showcase horse.

"I am all for the TRF," Lickle said. "I've been involved with the organization for years. I was the head of the alumni organization at the University of Virginia and I live in Delaware. So when the facility at Montpelier came to fruition, it was a perfect fit for me. Now I'll be able to see the horses and I thought it would be a great idea to showcase a great horse like Correggio at a special place like Montpelier."

"We are always delighted when we get a horse of Correggio's stature," said TRF Executive Director Diana Pikulksi. "Showcasing a champion is a wonderful way of bringing attention to the TRF's mission, which is saving all horses, be they former

Eclipse winners or \$2,500 claimers."

The first horses arrived at Montpelier Nov. 20 and are under the care of Kim Wilkins. By Jan. 1, Wilkins was caring for 18 horses, but many more are on their way. Eventually, Montpelier will be the home of about 50 retirees, many of whom will be retrained for adoption.

The TRF's involvement with Montpelier began when the Montpelier Foundation approached the trustees of the Mellon estate seeking assistance for a planned renovation project, which included restoration of the barns and pastures on the property. A deal was struck whereby the Mellon estate would pay to fix up the pastures and a barn in exchange for allowing the TRF to set up shop on the land.

The TRF appreciates the Mellon Foundation's generosity and commitment to the horse rescue movement.



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BY THE NUMBERS

\$1,000

The amount donated to the TRF by best-selling author John Grisham

\$1.4 million

The TRF's annual expenditure on the care of its horses

8

Average number of appeals per day the TRF receives to save, rescue or retire a horse

2,837

The approximate number of miles traveled by Northern Steam to get to the Out2Pasture facility in Jamestown, Missouri after being rescued in Alaska.

130

The number of horses we adopted out in 2003 to private homes

3

Number of cheers due Betty Jo Bock, who manages the TRF's facility at the Marion County (Fla.) Correctional Institute. Bock recently returned from a nine-month stint in Kuwait, where she was serving her country as a member of the Army Reserves

One-hit wonder still behind the mike

And you thought all he could do is run an auction and lead the TRF. It turns out that TRF President Terence Collier was once a pop phenomenon. ESPN.com's Kenny Rice has the story.

By Kenny Rice

SPECIAL TO ESPN.COM

*A thumb goes up, a car goes by
It's nearly 1 a.m. and here am I
Hitchin' a ride, hitchin' a ride?*

Back in 1970, Terence Collier, the lead singer for one-hit wonder group Vanity Fare, didn't know the song that had been rejected by record producers all over Great Britain had climbed all the way to No. 5 on the U.S. charts. He was literally out to sea.

"I was in the Navy sailing around Australia and had no contact with the old band members and no idea what was going on in the American music scene," Collier recalls. "The music life was behind me and I was going to make a career in the Navy like all my family had. It was a year or two before I connected with someone who told me the song had been a hit in the States."

By the time he learned of his old band's success, Collier had met his future wife Elizabeth, who was working for the British Bloodstock Agency. That fateful encounter led him to say ahoy to Navy life and launched him toward a successful career in the horse business, where he still uses his vocal talents behind a microphone as the announcer for the Fasig-Tipton sales.

"During an extended break from sea, I met Elizabeth on a blind date. I was interested in her and what she was doing. Until then, I had no idea or interest in horse racing. But I got a job at Newmarket for six weeks working for Sir Michael Oswald, who became racing manager for the Queen. I enjoyed it so much I wanted to learn more."

He had learned enough to come to the U.S. in

the mid-1970's and began to master the often taken-for-granted craft of reading pedigrees, informing the buyers of changes in the catalogue and keeping the pace of an auction moving. His first sales event was in Maryland, after which the Kent, England native received some advice that also served as a warning. "They said with the way I spoke 'never let him south of the Mason-Dixon Line'," Collier laughs. "So my next auction was at

Louisiana Downs where I guess the buyers knew enough to ignore what, or how, I was saying it."

Six years ago Collier was visiting old friend and prominent English trainer Paul Cole, who surprised him when he turned on the jukebox in his den and "Hitchin' A Ride" blared out of the speakers. "I hadn't heard it in forever and Paul informed me it was on a CD of golden oldies. What was really funny was when this girl asked for my autograph because I was the first golden oldie she had met in person."

The song written by Peter Callender and Mitch Murray wasn't even the song Vanity Fare thought would make them stars. "That was the 'B' side. On the flip side was a song called "We All Live For The Sun," which was a Beach Boys knock-off -- high tenor, falsetto sound. We had cut a demo with half a dozen songs including that one and "Hitchin' A Ride" in 1967, but by the time some of the guys had reached the West Coast with it, that beach sound had played out."

And because he "didn't have enough faith in our ability" Collier had set sail for the Navy.

"The band that became Vanity Fare was a

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Horsephotos
TRF President and Pop Idol Terence Collier

John Stuart a 'Champion'

Nobody needed to tell John Stuart how much he meant to the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation. But we went ahead and did it anyway. Stuart was given the TRF Champion Award for his many contributions and tireless efforts on behalf of the TRF at the organization's Galloping Gala fund raiser Nov. 15 at the Montpelier Estate in Virginia. The award is given to those who have made extraordinary contributions to the TRF and the equine rescue effort.

Stuart, who operates the Kentucky-

based Blue Grass Thoroughbred Services Inc., was the TRF's president from 1998 through the summer of 2003. During his tenure, the TRF enjoyed tremendous growth and productivity. It opened new facilities in Kentucky, Virginia and Florida and laid the groundwork for a program in South Carolina, much of which could not have been accomplished without Stuart's tireless fund-raising efforts.

"John Stuart gave this organization endless amounts of time and energy, his knowl-

edge of the horse business, political experience, love of horses and his 'we-can-get-the-job-done attitude,'" said TRF Executive Director Diana Pikulski. "We made remarkable strides while he was our president."

Said Stuart, "I appreciate this award, but the real gratification comes from the much-needed amount of money that we raised while I was president."

"Thanks to that money, we were able to open several more facilities which resulted in a lot more horses being given a happy retirement and/or an opportunity to be rehabilitated into another field."

Slaughterhouse Set to Re-open in Illinois

Duchossois Joins Anti-Slaughter Forces

Despite on-going efforts to pass a bill banning the slaughter of horses in Illinois, Cavel International, a Belgium-based food conglomerate, remains committed to rebuilding a slaughterhouse in Dekalb, Illinois that burned down in March, 2002.

The Cavel plant is expected to re-open some time around Feb. 1 and would become the third slaughterhouse in this country that deals in horse meat. Cavel has proceeded despite legislation introduced by Representative Robert S. Molaro to ban the slaughter of horses for human consumption in Illinois. The bill appeared to be on its way to passing but hit the inevitable snags that delayed a vote. It will be addressed again this month.

The anti-slaughter forces received a major boost Dec. 31 when Arlington Park Chairman Richard L. Duchossois confirmed that he will use track lobbyists to help pass the legislation banning slaughter. In a letter sent to Gail Vacca, one of these leaders of the anti-slaughter movement, Duchossois wrote: "We do not wish to have any thoroughbreds slaughtered. The story that I heard regarding the Illinois Department of Agriculture being against the bill, because this might lead to a cease in the slaughter of hogs and cattle, does not make any sense...It is for this reason that we are supporting the prevention of thoroughbred horses being slaughtered."

It was originally believed that the Cavel fire was due to an act of arson, perhaps by animal rights activists, but a



Photos: Gail Vacca

Illinois slaughterhouse is nearing completion.

subsequent examination failed to come to any conclusions concerning the cause. The fire resulted in \$2 million worth of damage.

The thoroughbred industry has rallied around the anti-slaughter legislation and held a pre-Christmas fund-raiser at a pub near Hawthorne Race Course.

"The impression I get is that Cavel is planning on going ahead and reopening and then trying to stymie any new law in

Illinois in the courts," trainer Janice Ely told the Chicago Sun-Times. "This struggle is not going to get any easier."

Want to help? Call Ely, among the anti-slaughter leaders, who can be reached at 708-638-6186, or at Ajan1@aol.com.

With only two slaughterhouses, both of which are in Texas, operating in this country, the number of horses killed each year in this inhumane fashion is near an all-time low. Thanks in part to the Cavel fire, the number of horses slaughtered in the U.S. in 2002 fell dramatically, from 56,332 a year before to 24,133. Clearly, the equine rescue community can ill afford to have Cavel up and running.

LETTERS WE GET LETTERS

Just wanted to give you an update on Sonny Puff, who is in the care of the Monmouth County Park System in NJ. He is with us to see if he might have a future in therapeutic riding. There are still many questions yet to be answered regarding Sonny's ability to work in a specialized program such as ours, but in little over a week he has shown that, regardless, he's a great guy.

Cindy Ross
Barn Manager/Instructor
Sunnyside
Equestrian Center



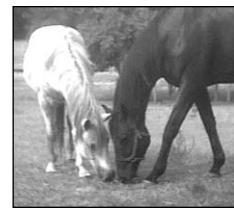
Glenye Cain aboard Emperor Tigere/Captain Sassoon

Photo: Z

I wanted to let TRF know that the horse I adopted in June from the Blackburn (Ky.) Adoption Day is completely magnificent. He has been rock-solid in temperament, has adapted quickly and with no fuss to everything from trail-riding to jumping and he's pointing for a debut on the hunt field in late October. I am completely delighted with him...His name has been changed from Emperor Tigere to Captain Sassoon, but he's still and always a TRF horse.

Glenye Cain (Cain is a writer for the Daily Racing Form)

Living Ember arrived 'home' today. He's very sweet and gets along with other horses just fine. WE just LOVE him!...All the guys at the (Marion Correctional Institute) were very kind and courteous. One even had to walk away because he was about to cry. I understand where he's coming from. (Living Ember) will be living the good life, as he so richly deserves."



Living Ember (right) with friend

Jolinda Hillegas



THOROUGHBRED RETIREMENT FOUNDATION

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Because We Care, TRF Nets \$5G prize

The TRF was one of two organizations awarded top prize of \$5,000 in the annual IVER-CARE--Because You Care award program sponsored by Farnam Horse Products. The program was initiated by Farnam to recognize nonprofit organizations and individuals that work to improve the lives of horses and/or the lives of people who care for them. The qualities considered important for the award were: a demonstrated dedication to the health and welfare of horses and the equine industry; an ability to implement successful and results-oriented work that has improved horses' lives and the human-animal bond; and a respected reputation among peers and the horse community.

More than 100 organizations and individuals were nominated. The TRF survived the first round of the competition to become one of five semi-finalists in the Large Organization category and then was awarded the top available prize of \$5,000 as one of two winners. The semi-finalists and the eventual winners were decided through an online poll conducted on the Farnam website, which attracted more than 31,000 votes alone for the process that determined the semi-finalists.

Hitchin' a Ride with Terence

Continued from Page 2

group of us who performed in school. We were teenagers having a good time. We became a pretty good local warm up band and fronted for the Yardbirds, Animals and Rolling Stones. "It was a wonderful, interesting time. Here we were drinking Guinness with Eric Burdon and (Eric) Clapton would let us use his equipment. It was a special time for rock music, particularly the growing British influence. I don't think there will ever be another time like that, the camaraderie and enthusiasm for the music." It was also a time where the artist, especially young hopefuls, had little, if any, say in their finished product, which is why Collier isn't garnering royalties. "Not a penny," he notes of his income from the hit song. "Jerry Blackburn (a Vanity Fare member) had to sign away the recording rights when he got to the West Coast just to get a record company to record it. That wasn't uncommon back then, most one-hit groups made nothing. But all the guys who stayed with the band went on to be session musicians and have done well."

Collier has also shined behind the mike. His British accent and wit plus his knowledge of the business makes him one of the premiere announcers in the world. In his self-deprecating style he says, "The auctioneers tell me the only

reason I'm there is to give them a breath. They might be right."

Like a good musician, Collier understands the importance of controlling the tempo. "Some people have incredible memory. I don't. That helps me in that I don't remember how I felt when a big horse like Vindication went through the ring. My job after a sell like that, when the audience is still murmuring, is to refocus the buyers on the next horse.

"There's no script, otherwise we'd have a recording and someone would just push a button to play for each horse. When you're selling 300 horses in a day, there will be times to bring a little excitement back into the mix. I consider myself part of the whole auction team, and that includes projecting into the minds of the potential buyer with each horse to get the process underway."

Though Collier bought a new guitar last year after going to a Bruce Springsteen concert -- "just a whim" he says -- his on-stage performances are remain strictly behind the podium at all major Fasig-Tipton sales. But there is one venue where he still might belt out "Hitchin' A Ride" or other requests. "I do perform each summer at the piano bar at Ciro's in Saratoga," he grins and winks.

This article appears courtesy of ESPN.com



About the TRF

Founded in 1982, the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation is a nonprofit organization that provides lifetime retirement for Thoroughbreds at satellite and TRF-operated farms in states that include Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin, and through private adoptions. The principal retirement programs are located at state correctional facilities, where the horses' caretakers are prison inmates and juvenile offenders who derive both emotional and educational benefits from pioneering TRF vocational programs in horse care. The work of the TRF is wholly dependent on public support.