

OLD FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY, 2009

FROM MICHAEL BLOWEN

Last week, a visitor to Old Friends... upon hearing the story of Clever Alilemont's odyssey from a kill buyer in Kansas to Old Friends commented that he was a very lucky horse.

This morning, after scarfing down two quarts of Triple Crown Senior with a shot of SUCCEED and a spoonful of Biotime from McCauley Bros., Alberto led this marvelous race horse to his paddock by the pond. He's out there now nibbling at hay and engaging Mighty Mecke and Swan's Way in some sort of communication. He's gained a lot of weight and his winter coat glistens. He's seen more out of his one good eye than most of us will see in a lifetime. He is a lucky horse, but we are even luckier.

On February 11, Clever turned 27 and I'm surrounded by his birthday cards. Wonderful greetings with donations from Fans of Barbaro, participants in Alex Brown's on-line lifeline for thoroughbreds and by dozens of others. He's received five dollar bills and ten dollar checks. 100 pesos and a Feliz Cumplea-os from The Ramirez Family and a Chinese coin from Jack Wang of Taipei and Jerry Wang of Shanghai. Perhaps the most amazing letter was from Mrs. Lynn

Whiting, wife of the man who trained Clever during his halcyon days...when everybody wanted him. Mrs. Whiting sent a donation but, even more importantly, a heartfelt letter and a collection of Clever's win pictures, particularly his victories in the Southwest and Rebel Stakes at Oaklawn Park. The photos dramatically illustrate the character and resolve of one of our most accomplished athletes.

We should be grateful to Clever for allowing us to be friends with his fans. He's introduced us to Kristin Chambers who did all the hard work at the auction and Rodney who brought him here and the hundreds of visitors who have taken his picture since he arrived. Without him, we would have never met each other.

And everyone who sees him comes away with something different. Looking at these amazing athletes is very much like staring at a great work of art. Everyone interprets the experience differently. Like Jackie and Tim Martin who had their first date at Arlington Park the day Awad won the Arlington Million and came to the farm to renew their vows after ten years of marriage or the simpleton who complained that Sunshine Forever's second place finish in the 1988 Breeders' Cup Turf cost him



Clever Alilemont Photo by Rick Capone

the Pick Six or the young woman who came all the way from Toronto to pet Ogygian because her late father took her to Belmont Park the day this great son of Damascus won the Belmont Futurity. There's the middle-aged woman from England who exercised Creator when he was two and the groom who worked for Charlie Whittingham and was afraid of Ruhlmann. Hundreds and hundreds of stories inspired by these beautiful athletes. Tonight, when he's turned into his warm stall, Diane will feed him a few extra carrots and he'll let her run her hands down his thick winter coat. Yes, he is a lucky horse, but she is even luckier.

EUREKA, HE'S HERE!

Better late than never, that's what we always say.

In March, California racing legend Lava Man will finally arrive at Old Friends's Dream Chase Farm. Originally scheduled to come east in September, "he stayed on the West Coast to bid farewell to his fans there," explains Michael Blowen, "and then it was decided

it was best if he wait out the winter and arrive in the spring."

To celebrate our eruption of good fortune, we're having a Lava Man Luau on **Thursday April 2nd** (also the opening weekend of Keeneland's spring meet). Friends and fans are invited to eat, drink, and get up close and personal with the 7-time GR1 winner. Owners Steve Kenly and Jason Wood are hoping to attend, as is Lava Man's longtime jockey Corey Nakatani. (page 2)



Artwork by Studio Mudio—Marti McGinnis

OLD FRIENDS ALONG THE KENTUCKY BOURBON TRAIL

The state of Kentucky is famous for many things: the world's longest cave system, rich bluegrass, lush farms. But let's face it, only two things matter: horses and bourbon.

On Saturday February 28th, Old Friends and Louisville's historic Seelbach Hotel will bring the two great industries together in one great night. "Old Friends Along the Bourbon Trail," hosted by the Seelbach, will be the first of what promises to be an anticipated annual event. The evening of fine food and drink will be highlighted by a silent auction to benefit the farm. "What could be better?" says Old Friends President and Founder Michael Blowen, "Great hotel, great bourbon, great horse tales, and it all goes to help these great Kentucky athletes."

The night will begin promptly at 6:00 pm, with a "meet and greet" in the hotel's unique Rathskellar. The Bourbon will flow while guests enjoy appetizers and candid conversations with the Master Distillers from Kentucky's world-renown distilleries. The silent auction will feature "Special Edition" bourbon bottles, equine art, gift certificates, and horse racing memorabilia. Se-

Guests receive a commemorative tasting glass kindly donated by the Kentucky Distiller's Association

lect "live auction" items will soon be announced. At 8pm, it's on to the Five-Star Oakroom for a full-bodied, bourbon-inspired feast. An after-hours party (cash bar) in the Old Seelbach Bar will give the night its smooth finish.

"This will be the ultimate bourbon tasting and progressive dinner experience," says Jon McFarland, General Manager of The Seelbach.

"It is a great honor to host this event for an incredible organization that gives our thoroughbred heroes the best in care."

The Seelbach Hilton is located at 500 South Fourth Street in Downtown Louisville. Admission is \$100 (including tax and gratuity) and will include the three-course meal, tastings, complimentary bourbon cocktail, and your own commemorative Kentucky Distillers/Old Friends bourbon glass.

Opening in 1905, the Seelbach is a beautiful, Beaux-Arts Baroque hotel that has attracted guests such as Al Capone, F. Scott Fitzgerald and nine U.S. Presidents

The hotel is also urging guests to "take the elevator home" and will offer rooms for the special reduced rate of \$75.00 plus tax. For information and reservations call Carrie Crouch at 502-585-9292 or log on to www.seelbachhilton.com.

MENU

First Course

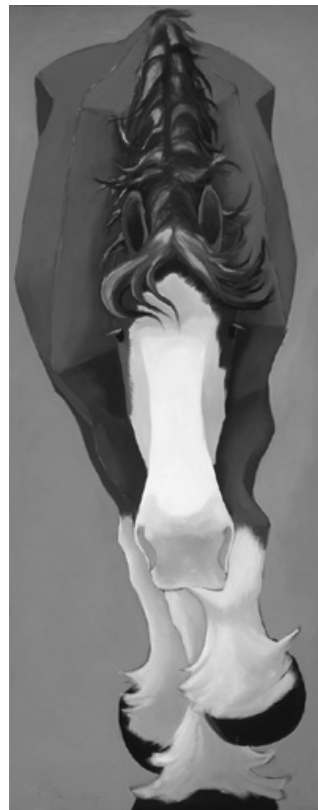
SWEET POTATO BISQUE
Topped with Bourbon Smoked
Goat Cheese Flan
Bourbon Crème Fraiche
Pancetta Brittle

Main Course

KUROBOTA PORK SHANK
With Anson Mills Polenta
Heirloom Winter Vegetables
With Bourbon Reduction
Bourbon Roasted Apples

Dessert

OAKROOM CHOCOLATE
BOURBON BREAD PUDDING
With Fee Brothers Orange
Bitters



Glacier Print—Auction Donation by Artist Katie Upton and Patron Leslie Tomaino

LAVA MAN LUAU

Continued from Page 1

Throughout his career Lava Man captured 17 of 46 starts, including three consecutive wins in the Hollywood Gold Cup (equaling the presumed unmatchable record set by Native Diver in the 1960s), the 2006 Pacific Classic, the 2006 and 2007 Santa Anita Handicap, and both the Sunshine Millions Classic and the Sunshine Millions Turf. He ended his career with over \$5.2 million in earnings and seven GR1 wins, a number unparalleled among California breeds.

Entertainment will be provided by the Caribbean Blues Band. We'll be roasting a pig. Food, music, give-aways, photo ops, and three-time Gold Cup winners—what more can you ask for? Tickets are \$75. They are \$50 for Old Friends members and shareholders. Limited attendance of 200. Reservations are required for this event and can be made by calling the farm at 502 863 1775.

OLD FRIENDS ANNUAL HOMECOMING EVENT

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN MAY

Join us on **Sunday May 3rd** for the Old Friends Annual Homecoming. This year's open house will be extra special, as we welcome many new retirees to the farm.

Oaklawn winner The Wicked North arrived this past fall, as did Mighty Mecke. The Eclipse-winning mare Hidden Lake joined us in January along with Clever Allemont. And of course there's our new California Champion Lava Man.

This year's fest will offer an appetizer buffet by Wallace Station, farm tours, special guests, & a chock-a-block auction of great racing collectibles, halters, equine art, gift certificates and much more. We'll be posting auction items on our website in April.

Auction item donations are greatly appreciated. Call Sylvia or Ruthann if you'd care to donate.

Tickets are \$50 & \$25 for Old Friends members and shareholders.



The Wicked North—photo by Matt Wooley

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY



Kudos and Bonnie's Poker—Photo by Ruthann

Ways you can help Old Friends

- Donate items for Silent Auctions
- Sponsor a horse with a Share Certificate
- Buy gifts in our eBay Store
- Save your Southern States proofs of purchase
- Donate towards fencing or waterers
- Sponsor a date on Feed For A Day Calendar

A SHORT NOTE FROM LITTLE SILVER CHARM



Little Silver Charm photo by Z

I've been very busy lately. What with practicing my soccer moves and working on my memoirs I barely have time to keep up with my fan mail. I'm more popular than ever now that my photograph has been in People magazine. A beautiful miniature mare named Champagne Dreamer even sent me a pin-up picture of herself. Michael tacked it up in my run-in shed next to my centerfold of Azeri from the Blood Horse. Here's looking at you, girls.

One of my many responsibilities here at Old Friends is helping our new retirees adjust. I have spent hours lately working with my new neighbor, Stage Colony, improving his communications skills and honing his public image. I think he'll shape up before the busy tour season starts but we have a lot of work to do.

My personal trainer Gracie visits me every Friday. She grooms me and takes me for walks. Sometimes we race Awad down his paddock fence. He always wins, but it's been pretty close a couple of times. Gracie wants to have her 10th birthday party here in April, next to my paddock. I'm looking forward to meeting all her friends and I am sure they are all looking forward to meeting me. I hope they'll have lots of carrot cake.

I have been hard at work on my memoirs, tentatively titled "A Charmed Life." It's a fascinating story and it's all about me. Look for it soon in the Old Friends e-bay store. My ghostwriter has made a lot of progress but I

think she would finished by now if she would just put her mind to it instead of frittering away her time and energy on laundry, shopping, cooking, cleaning, errands, gardening, taking care of all the cats and running the B&B. Maybe I should have engaged someone more reliable. She says she used to be a professional writer but I have my doubts. I may have to ask my agent to re-negotiate our contract.

Old Friends

1841 Paynes Depot Rd.
Georgetown, KY 40324

Phone: 502-863-1775
Fax: 502-863-1776
Email: sylvia@oldfriendsequine.org
www.oldfriendsequine.org

Old Friends is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to providing safe harbor & dignified retirement to Thoroughbreds whose racing & breeding careers had come to an end. By promoting these one-time celebrated horses through a campaign of education & tourism, we hope to draw attention & raise funds for all retired Thoroughbreds & all equines in need.

Reservations

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

LAVA MAN LUAU RESERVATIONS (APRIL 2) Please make _____ Reservations @ \$75.00 each
I am a shareholder. Please make _____ Reservations @ \$50.00 each.

ANNUAL HOMECOMING EVENT (May 3) Please make _____ Reservations @ \$50.00 each
I am a shareholder. Please make _____ Reservations @ \$25.00 each

I CANNOT ATTEND BUT WOULD LIKE TO DONATE TO HELP \$ _____

Total Amount: \$ _____

Children under 12 are free

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Name on CC: _____ CV # _____

Billing Address: _____

Signature: _____

**MAIL THIS FORM ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK TO: OLD FRIENDS, 1841 PAYNES DEPOT RD., GEORGETOWN, KY 40324
OR CALL 502-863-1775 WWW.OLDFRIENDSEQUINE.ORG**