

Old Friends

Thoroughbred Retirement in Georgetown, Kentucky

Accredited by Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA)



Summer 2020

A Message from Michael Blowen

I didn't think quiet could get any quieter. But it has.

At dusk, you can actually hear all the various bird songs that, together, sound like the Boston Symphony Orchestra warming up before a celebration of Strauss. The horses love their carrots but I really think that many of them miss the visitors. Thanks to Barbara, we're obeying all the annoying, but necessary, pandemic protocols. The more we comply, the sooner the COVID-19 terror will end.

For the moment, under the Commonwealth of Kentucky's Department of Health guidelines,

we have reopened for limited private tours. But, like everyone else, we anticipate being restricted at various times, limiting what we can offer. You can always call us for our latest tour schedule and availability. Hopefully we'll be able to welcome you to the farm during Kentucky Derby and Breeders' Cup weeks. So, keep complying with all the health protocols even if they're really annoying. It will increase the chances that we can all get together sooner rather than later.



Photo © Laura Battles

Joey P, Persie, Diversify and Racketeer

On the bright side, at least for me, I do get to spend more quality time with Silver Charm in the morning...feeding him carrots cut to his tooth-deprived specifications. Little Silver Charm walks me down to the cemetery where Charismatic is buried. He spends about an hour weed-eating while I do some office tasks, including cleaning the cat litter boxes in the basement. (It's the key to sustaining romance).

-- Continued on page 3



Photo © Laura Battles

Patch excels in his new life as an Aftercare Ambassador!

Daily Racing Form/Old Friends 2020 Magazine Is Available

- Casting Call
- Three Generations of Silver Charm
- Kings of New York
- The Brilliance of Einstein
- Boys of Summer
- Little Silver Charm
- Barbara Livingston photos
- . . . and more!

\$15.00 (includes shipping)
To order call (502) 863-1775
Web: oldfriendsequine.org



Saying Goodbye . . .

ARCHIE'S ECHO and DINARD

It's always hard losing one of our retirees. It's even harder to say good bye to a true elder statesman—the one who beats the odds and survives his expiration date.

This spring we lost the oldest resident on the farm: Dinard, a one-time champion three-year-old who lived to be 32 before his achy legs and tired body told him it was time to leave. To make matters worse, just weeks before we said God-speed to his buddy, Archie's Echo, who, at 31, clocked in as our second oldest horse. Their ages, when compared to time transpired in human life, would have made them approximately 88 or 89 years old. Kind of pre-historic when you think about it.

In retirement, they were alike: a little cantankerous, a little ouchy, grateful for a soft place to nap, and always happy to see friends and score a few treats. In these last years they were also joined at the hip, perhaps thankful to have another old coot around to shoot the old-time breeze with. In their heydays, however, they could not have been more different.

In 1991 Dinard was at the top of the heap. Owned and campaigned by the prestigious Allen E. Paulson Stable, he won his the Los Feliz Stakes in only his second start. He captured four of his first five starts in fact, and a win in the GR1 Santa Anita Derby made him a leading contender on the Kentucky Derby trail. But injury temporarily sidelined him and he missed the Run for the Roses. He returned briefly in 1992, but plagued by unsoundness, his track career soon ended.

Post racing, the son of Strawberry Road failed attempts at a second career, but by then he'd met

Beverly Sharp, who cared for him at the Kentucky Horse Park. Beverly adopted Dinard and cared for him for more than 15 years before placing him at Old Friends in 2010. A Georgetown resident until very recently, Beverly visited Dinard often and they never lost touch, even Face-Timing to say goodbye the day before his death.

Archie, meanwhile, worked at the other end of the spectrum. A blue-collar horse from the get-go, he competed for modest purses in claiming races at small-time tracks, everywhere from Atlantic City and Philadelphia to Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and New York. Like most claiming horses, he passed through several owner-ships and trainers' barns, until he was retired in 1995.

It's unclear what happened in between, but some 20 years later the chestnut son of Palace Music turned up at a slaughter auction facility, blind in one eye. Remembering him from his Suffolk Downs and Rockingham Park days, PARX Racing Vice-President Sam Elliott bought Archie out of

the auction, and, with help from some caring friends—Turning for Home, which provided care and transport, and trainer and Thoroughbred advocate Lorita Lindemann, who had groomed Archie early in her career—he made it to Old Friends in the nick of time.

The two took good care of one another. But while he may have been rank-and-file on the race track, it was Archie who was in command of the pasture. Bigger and a bit more imposing, he would call the shots and Dinard, the GR1 hero, would happily settle for second place.

It seems it's never too late to be a winner.



Dinard (l) and Archie's Echo

. . . and Hello!

One of the major affects of COVID-19 on Old Friends has been our inability to welcome new retirees to the farm. When things opened up a bit, the first horse off the new horse bandwagon was **POSHSKY (10)**. Posh is a war-horse who began his racing career on the west coast, including a victory in the (G3)Berkeley Handicap at Golden Gate Fields. In his later years he raced in New York and on the mid-Atlantic circuit in a career spanning 76 starts and over \$800,000 in winnings. Michael had been admiring Poshsky's grit and determination for almost two years, and when the opportunity came, we snatched him up. **Welcome home, Posh!**



*Photo © Mary Green
POSHSKY off the track and into our hearts!*

A Message from Michael Blowen . . . continued

Poshsky's Here!

Somehow, in spite for our inability to accept new retirees during the crisis, Poshsky arrived. He's been on our radar for nearly two years and, after a lackluster finish at Delaware Park a few weeks ago, his trainer agreed to retire him to us. So, he got to break all the rules. (Read more about Poshsky on page 2.)

Breeders' Cup Charity for Champions

The 46th Annual Breeders' Cup returns to Keeneland Race Course in Lexington in November. For the fifth consecutive year we are honored that Breeders' Cup has allowed us to share in the proceeds for the Maker's Mark® Charity for Champions commemorative bottle program.



This year's limited-edition bottle honors Thoroughbred racing's Gentleman Ambassador, James E. "Ted" Bassett III, and we couldn't be more thrilled. Mr. Bassett has toured the farm and is our special Old Friends envoy to the Keeneland Track Kitchen. (See page 7 for information on securing your bottle.)

Stepping Up

Is there anything more edifying than Jack Knowlton's smile? And, it was, of course, wider than ever after Tiz the Law's breathtaking win in the Belmont Stakes. For Old Friends, Jack is emblematic of Bob and Jill Baffert and so many owners that support Old Friends and dozens of other TAA-accredited facilities. From the beginning, Jack has contributed to Old Friends every time Sackatoga purchased a Thoroughbred. While they had a few dry spells, that made no difference in Sackatoga's contributions. We're privileged to care for Saratoga Episode at Old Friends in Georgetown and Doc N Roll at Cabin Creek in Saratoga. We're happy that Tiz the Law is a shining light for racing. It keeps Jack, and Old Friends, smiling.

Cover Boy

If you have a chance, take a look at the May 2020 issue of *Smithsonian Magazine* with our 1996 Breeders' Cup Classic winner Alphabet



Soup on the cover. The brilliant *When The Race Is Over* text of Eclipse Award-winning columnist, Jay Hovdey, is complemented by the heart-warming images of photographer Annie Marie Musselman, conveying just how

special our retirees are. We can't thank the great folks at Smithsonian enough!

Consider the Lily

Our friend and neighbor, Jim Smith, is the Preston Madden of lily breeders. He's designated some of this year's award-winning crop as Old Friends lilies and will register their names with the proper authorities. While we already have the delicate yellow *Old Friends* lily and the equally majestic *Nikki*



The award-winning lily named Old Friends.

Bacharach flower, Jim is going to name some of these new beauties after some of our illustrious retirees --Silver Charm Afternoon Deelites, and Summer Attraction.

From the Bottom of Our Hearts

Thank you so much...once again! We're extremely grateful to all of you who have donated, regardless of the amount, and have stepped it up big time to support our retirees in the midst of global crisis. Each of you has helped to keep everyone not only alive but thriving during these difficult times.



Michael Blowen
President & Founder

Personally, I'm more indebted to our Thoroughbreds than I've ever been. It's a debt that I'll never be able to fully re-pay.

Michael

The World according to Little Silver Charm

It will not surprise you to learn that I have been designated to head up the equine portion of the Old Friends pandemic response. It's a big job. We have 127 horses on the farm and I have to make sure they all practice social distancing, cough and sneeze into their armpits and use hoof sanitizer. It would be easier if some of them weren't prima donnas who dislike being told what to do, even if it's for their own good. I will mention no names here, but those familiar with our herd can guess which personalities I have in mind.



It's just one more extremely important task added to my already lengthy list of responsibilities here at Old Friends, responsibilities too numerous to list here, however. I will proceed to list them anyway, just to give you a taste of the pressure I am under.

- ♥ Official Old Friends greeter.
- ♥ Helping new arrivals transition to retirement.
- ♥ Hoof care and shoeing consultant.
- ♥ Author.
- ♥ Supermodel.
- ♥ Landscaper.
- ♥ Social media influencer.
- ♥ Handicapping expert.
- ♥ Michael's personal trainer.

How do I manage to do it all? That might be a problem for an ordinary little horse, but not for Yours Truly. I was multi-tasking before the term was invented.

One of my most important jobs is acting as Michael's personal trainer. Frankly, friends, he's not getting any younger and he needs somebody to help him get in shape so he can continue to do whatever it is he does. With typical unselfishness, I volunteered to take on the job. Even though I am

actually older than he is - if you count my age in horse years - I am in far better shape than he is. We begin in the day with a brisk walk from my paddock down the hill. While I embark on another of my many tasks, trimming the grass in the cemetery, Michael goes into the office and works, or so he tells me.

When he emerges, an hour or so later, we start walking back up the hill, somewhat less briskly than we walked down. I feel compelled to pause every once in a while, ostensibly to graze or visit my friends Nicanor and Sun King, but in reality I stop to give Michael a chance to catch his breath. I keep telling him that he has to try harder, but you know humans. They hate it when you go to the whip.

All in all, I think horses are handling the COVID-19 pandemic better than humans. Don't get me wrong, some of my best friends are human, but generally speaking, horses are smarter.



8 Ways to Keep With Your Old Friends

www.oudfriendsequine.org

Find the latest Old Friends news

@Oldfriendsfarm on Twitter

Old Friend of the Day, breaking news & more

@oudfriendsequine on Facebook

Lots of videos, photos, farm news & more

oudfriendstv YouTube Channel Virtual Tours

Alphabet Soup & Gorgeous George

Nicanor & Sun King

Patch & Stormy Liberal

Silver Charm

Game On Dude, Little Mike

Hogy & Soi Phet

and more . . .

E-Newsletters

Do we have your email address?

Snail Mail Newsletter

What features would you like to see?

Our Blog

Periodic posts on our website home page

Old Friends/Daily Racing Form Magazine

Published annually

Horses in Pandemic Seclusion Tales

#TeamKentucky #HealthyInOurPaddocks #TogetherKY
Photos © Laura Battles



PORFIDO & DAYTONA. We're not sure. Maybe horse yoga?



LITTLE MIKE got bored with horizontal and decided to give vertical a try.



DIVERSIFY spent quality time with his tree.



New guy **POLLARD'S VISION** got bored waiting for the tourists he was promised.



MISS DU BOIS learned this in ballet class

↓ Paddock Mates ↑

GAME ON DUDE got bored, tried a new tail stylist. It didn't go so well.



SMOOTH AIR invited the neighborhood geese over for a paddock party.



SARATOGA EPISODE played hide-n-seek. The farm staff indulged him. His paddock mates? Not so much.



Whatever **BOULE d'OR** was working on didn't make him happy.



DIVERSIFY and PERSIE failed their social distancing class.

Horses Healthy at Home

The COVID-19 worldwide health crisis has caused a significant disruption to our farm and tour operations. We are adhering to Kentucky Department of Health guidelines to keep our hard-working staff and visitors safe from exposure to COVID-19.



We are happy to say that our horses are doing well this summer, and while they surely miss their fans, they are maintaining good spirit. As are we. And during this tough time, we hope you are, too.

But with limited public tours, reduced gift-shop sales, and the cancellation of several farm fundraising events, a significant revenue stream has dried up.

We are asking for your help as we weather this crisis in order to maintain the same level of horse care we have been proud to provide over the years. To that, we are introducing *Horses Healthy at Home* and offering a series of sponsorship opportunities. We hope you'll consider one that fits your budget.

Horses Healthy At Home

Sponsors will Receive

Your name on our website "Wall of Thanks" and the following thank you gift(s):

- \$5 & up** Set of 5 Old Friends bookmarks
- \$100 & up** Set of 5 Old Friends bookmarks and the *Old Friends/Daily Racing Form* magazine
- \$250 & up** Book set: Rick Capone's *The History of Old Friends* and *Celebrating Old Friends*
- \$500 & up** Private tour of Old Friends for 4 adults
- \$1,000 & up** Private Founder's tour with Michael Blown for 4 adults
- \$2,000 & up** Private Founder's tour with Michael Blown for two adults and a tribute plaque on our big barn Wall of Honor.

For additional information contact:

Barbara Fossum = barbara@oldfriendsequine.org
 Cindy Grisolia = cindy@oldfriendsequine.org
 (502) 863-1775
www.oldfriendsequine.org

FEED THE FARM



Tribute Kalm Ultra® Feed

One bag of feed	\$ 17.50
One day of feed (12 bags)	\$ 210.00
One week of feed (85 bags)	\$1,487.50

Hay (approximately 50 bales per day)

One bale	\$ 6.00
One round bale for a paddock	\$ 53.00
One day of hay for the farm	\$300.00



Carrots (Two 50# bags per week)

One bag	\$ 22.00
One week	\$ 44.00
One month	\$176.00

EQUINE CARE

Farrier Hoof Care (approximate; multiple horses)



One farm visit	\$ 300.00
Six months	\$1,200.00
One year	\$2,400.00

Equine Dental Care

Single Visit	\$ 75.00
Two horses	\$150.00
Five horses	\$375.00

Vaccinations (Veterra Gold XP)

One dose	\$45.65
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Equine Wormer (Quest® Plus gel wormer)

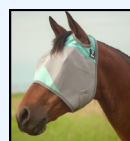
Single dose	\$13.29
6-pack	\$74.74



Halter (with name plates)

1 Halter	\$50.00
2 Halters	\$100.00

Fly Control (Cashel® Fly Mask, horse, no ears)



Single mask	\$19.00
Five masks	\$94.00

Fly Control (Pyranha® Wipe N Spray™)

One quart	\$18.60
One gallon	\$61.40





How You Can Help Old Friends

Friends for All Seasons

Is monthly giving right for you? Do you believe in dignified equine retirement to a forever home and the value of steadfast, reliable partnerships? Sign up as a monthly donor & receive a gift of Old Friends bookmarks.



Charity for Champions

Breeders' Cup and Maker's Mark®
2020 Honoree James E. "Ted" Bassett
Thoroughbred Racing's Gentleman Ambassador
Limited-Edition Commemorative Bottle



Limited prior year bottles remain:
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A portion of all proceeds benefits Old Friends
Call 502-863-1775 to Order

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Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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General Donation \$ _____

Horses Healthy At Home \$ _____

Sponsorship for: _____

Clubhouse Annual Membership (\$150.00) _____

The Hoof Patrol \$ _____
Gold (\$250) Silver (\$125) Bronze (\$50)

Shares for Life (\$100.00) Horse: _____
Little Silver Charm & Gorgeous George (\$25.00 each)

Old girlFriends Society (\$100.00) _____

Friend for All Seasons Monthly Donor (credit card)
Indicate amount to be charged monthly \$ _____

Other \$ _____ Purpose _____

Check enclosed Credit Card

Account number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ CVV# _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Old Friends is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.
Your contribution is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

1841 Paynes Depot Road, Georgetown, KY 40324
(502) 863-1775 • oldfriendsequine.org

Clubhouse Annual Membership

Your \$150 membership includes leather & brass keytag, free tours, discount admission to Homecoming in May, and free general admission to Kentucky Derby Museum in Louisville, KY & National Museum of Racing & Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, NY.



The Hoof Patrol

Support the 500+ hooves of Old Friends retirees who have short/long-term hoof issues. Hoof Patrol keychain, email updates, videos & more!

Bronze (\$50)
Silver (\$125) • Gold (\$250)
Membership Levels



Old girlFriends Society

Do you appreciate great mares? Your \$100 lifetime membership donation includes an 8 x 10 photo of one of our Old girlFriends, an annual visit to the mares paddock, and your name on the Old girlFriends web page!



Shares for Life

Show your love for an Old Friends horse! Donate \$100 to support your favorite horse and you'll receive a photo of your horse & a certificate suitable for framing.



Old Friends

1841 Paynes Depot Rd.
Georgetown, KY 40324
(502) 863-1775

Old Friends is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to providing safe harbor & dignified retirement to Thoroughbreds whose racing & breeding careers have come to an end.



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What You Should Know About Old Friends Tours

Old Friends tour availability is subject to Commonwealth of Kentucky Public Health COVID-19 gathering guidelines & limitations, and current pandemic conditions in our local area and surrounding states.



When we make a decision to open our farm for tours, our sole concern is the safety of our visitors, staff and retirees.

We look forward to returning to our normal tour schedule as soon as it is safe to do so.

Until then, for information on current Old Friends tour availability:

www.oudfriendsequine.org
[@oudfriendsequine](#) on Facebook
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Phone (502) 863-1775

