

Old Friends

Thoroughbred Retirement in Georgetown, Kentucky



Summer 2016

A Message from Michael Blowen

There are certain days that seem like a dream. Yesterday, I took the golf cart and meandered around the farm starting, of course, with Silver Charm and Little Silver Charm. I just watched them eat. It seemed more thrilling than the sixth game of the 1975 World Series. A few stops later, the unidentified bay from the Maria Borell dispersal, was trotting around the round pen and Game on Dude was out-sprinting Catlaunch. It wasn't a dream, because my waking life is more exciting and imaginative than any dream I've ever had.

Who would have thought that when Old Friends began in 2003 with one horse, Narrow Escape, that we would end up with 164 retirees with more stakes wins than any farm in history? And, lest we forget, it also includes non-winners such as Zippy Chippy and Leave Seattle.

Who would have thought that Old Friends would be selected by Jerry and Ann Moss to be the recipient of all proceeds from the Maker's Mark Zenyatta bottle as the official charity for the 2016 Breeders' Cup? Who would have thought that Fasig-Tipton, under the auspices of Blue Horse Charities, would allow us to name our new barn after John Hettinger, one of my handful of heroes, and donate \$50,000 to make sure it was the best facility for our retirees? Who would have thought that Archie's Echo would be galloping up to his gate every night or that the great Wallenda would have lived as long as he did through pure guts and tenacity?

Who would have thought that the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame would be conducting an Old Friends Day in the middle of the Saratoga meet or that Corey Johnsen would name a stakes race for us and retire our Thoroughbreds at Kentucky Downs? Or that Joe Boker would allow so many Old Friends supporters to stay at Anne's Washington Inn during the Saratoga high season, sacrificing thousands of dollars? It's not because of me, for sure. It's because they adore these animals.

I drove the cart to the top of the hill where our other new barn, financed exclusively through donations from "Christmas" Mary Ostrowski, is home to Saint Aloysius. From here, you can see the new run-in sheds and trenches for the waterlines preparing for the new fence to be installed. And, if you drive just a few more yards, there's the nearly 100 acres all the way to the traffic light. That needs fence as well. When we raise enough money for all this, we'll be able to provide a dignified retirement to dozens more deserving athletes. There's also something else to see that's not quite as obvious. It's the thousands of racing fans that

support us along with dozens of other groups trying to do what's best for the athletes that form the heart and soul of this great sport. Can the sport do better? Of course. Can we do better? Of course. But, even though we've had plenty of narrow escapes since our first retiree, it seems that everyone involved in horse racing is beginning to see what we at Old Friends are privileged to see every day—the greatest athletes in the greatest sport in the world. We're just trying to do our small part to pay back just a little of what they have so generously given to us. And that's not a dream.



Michael Blowen
President & Founder



John Hettinger Memorial Barn Ribbon-Cutting

Photo Rick Capone

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Michael

Raising the Barn

On the morning of January 23, 2016, Old Friends' hospital/quarantine barn burned to the ground. Through the quick action of staffers James and Tammy Crump, Alphabet Soup and Archie's Echo were safely evacuated, and thankfully no equines or humans were injured. We owe a huge debt of thanks to the many supporters who donated to our barn replacement fund, with a special salute to Fasig-Tipton and Blue Horse Charities who generously gave \$50,000 to help the John Hettinger Memorial Barn become a reality. Below, Farm Manager Tim Wilson describes the thought and consideration that went into creating a barn that will be vital to the care of our equine population.



The new John Hettinger Memorial Barn is going to play a central role in the care of our horses here at Old Friends. Built with the specific needs of our horse population in mind, there are several features that will give us a level of flexibility and capability that we have simply not had before.

There are six stalls on one side of the barn that have doors and will open up into three small paddocks, giving horses the opportunity to move at will between their stalls and the open space of the paddocks. This will create a perfect situation for horses who are temporarily needing an increased access to the medical and feeding care that being in a barn can provide, but at the same time benefiting from time outside. Also making perfect use of this feature will be horses who could temporarily benefit from limited time on pasture.



Old Friends Photos

Two of the eleven stalls in this new barn are “Penthouse Suite” stalls that are 1.5 times the length of the other nine stalls. These two larger stalls are ideal for horses who may have to spend a more extended time inside and for horses who are temporarily facing challenges with mobility. The larger stalls are easier and safer for the horses to move around in and safer for the veterinarians and staff who may be helping them with their mobility challenges.

Another benefit of the new barn that will quickly become a favorite is the large wash stall, featuring access from both the inside and outside of the barn.

Finally, all stalls have beautiful doors with yokes. These yokes will allow the horses to poke their heads out into the aisle to greet caretakers and visitors, and to socialize with each other.

This is a beautiful new barn that the residents of Old Friends will enjoy for many, many years to come.



You can still contribute to our barn replacement fund!
For a donation of \$50, you will receive this stunning Barbara Livingston signed/numbered photo of Kentucky Derby champion Silver Charm running in the snow on the afternoon of the fire.

The World according to Little Silver Charm

I am a very creative little horse. If you don't believe it, just ask me. The horse gods may have scrimped a bit on my stature, but they made up for it by blessing me with a seemingly bottomless bucket of artistic talent.

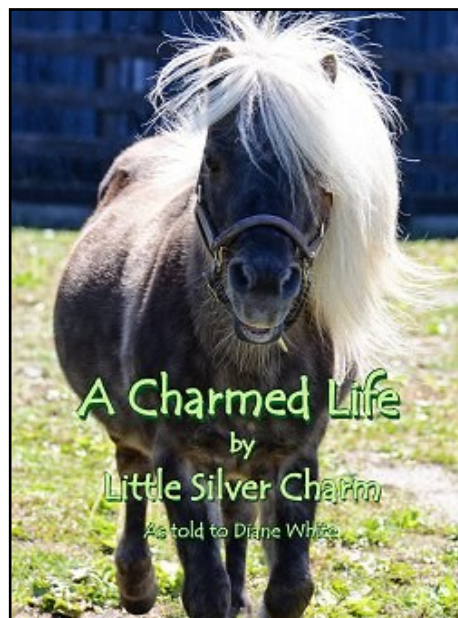
I have dabbled, literally, in painting, with my nose, sometimes my tail, occasionally my hooves. I don't think it's immodest of me to point out that my paintings are highly coveted in certain rarified equine art circles where my style has been compared to the work of leading abstract expressionists.

But writing has always been my first love, so I suppose it was inevitable that eventually I would write a book about my life here at Old Friends. *A Charmed Life* is a full and frank memoir, an account of my mutually rewarding friendships with our famous residents, my unrequited love for Zenyatta, my encounters with fans and celebrities, my endless feud with the goats and much, much more.

A Charmed Life is lavishly illustrated with photographs of yours truly, Old Friends official spokeshorse, many taken by world-class photographers who find me an irresistible subject. Can you blame them? Order a copy. Only \$15. Order two or three. You'll thank yourself. And everyone here at Old Friends will thank you too. All proceeds go to help support our horses.

I am planning to write a sequel, but it may not appear for a while. Writing, for me, is very time consuming because I must dictate my thoughts to my assistant, who does her best, or so she claims, to get it all down. In my next book, I hope to showcase my artistic side, and my intellectual side too. I feel an obligation to share my opinions on some of the larger issues of the day. War. Peace. Whatever. Meanwhile I am hard at work adapting *A Charmed Life* for the movies, as well as writing the libretto for *Old Friends: The Musical*.

People sometimes ask me: Little Silver Charm is there anything you can't do? I guess the answer is obvious.



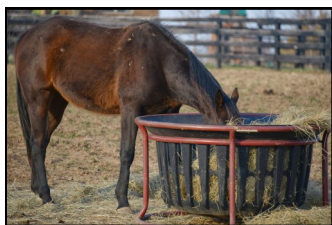
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\$15 = 2 bales of hay



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Hidden Lake warm in her blanket



Silver Charm stays out of the rain

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\$500 = 7 Veterinarian treatments

\$1,000 = Install a paddock waterer

\$1,500 = Build a new stall

\$2,000 = Build a run-in shed

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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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