



# Season's Greetings

## A Christmas Carol

I had a bad cold. Could have been fever induced or late night returning from Charlestown, but as I faded into a deep sleep I encountered three visitors. The first was an elderly man making his way from the press box. "Hey Pop did you see that filly?" He turned reached for his program pointing to her sire Deputed Testamony. Without a word I knew he meant that a good racehorse will make a good sire. Though "DT" had very little pedigree, his abilities to compete always passed on. My grandfather then puffed on his captain black tobacco and showed me a large fireplace with a yule log placed upon two irons of horse head ends; a tree filled with ornaments with many presents under its trimmed limbs. Yes that horse was a gift that helped us build a new life in Darlington, breed many wonderful horses for quite some time. "Yes Pop I will not forget to take care of the horse for in return he will take care of us."

Next I found myself on a cloud looking over four hundred acres of lovely horse farm. I noticed a man with an English cap, Irish wool sweater, and high top sneakers (an unlikely combo but unique). He gestured to come. I did. "I know dad, that filly can't compete in that spot." We were standing in the hay field not a weed in sight. He pointed at the lush growth. I knew what he meant. In farming you reap what you sow. We had not been sowing a very good seed. We must persevere. If you get lemons make lemonade but we had a champagne appetite. I understood what he was trying to convey; if the going gets tough the tough get going. He walked toward the stallion barn disappearing over the hill.

(Continued on Page 2)

Check website for

- Breeder incentives
- Stallion facts
- Nicking links
- Subscribe to newsletter

Inside in this issue:

- Bill's Saddlebag - p. 2
- Behind the Stall Door p.3
- Training Barn Update p.3
- Breeding Services - p. 3

Join us for an  
Open House  
Jan 13th 11am - 2pm  
Refreshments will be served



## St. Nick's List



See how they nick with your mares!

# A Christmas Carol

(continued from p.1)

Next as I followed him over the hill on the other side I suddenly saw a young man tall and strong walking with a purpose toward me. He looked very similar to myself when I was a young man but more the resemblance of my daughter Michelle. He then stopped me motioned his hand in the direction of the broodmare field. I notice many mares with beautiful foals by their side; some strong chestnuts, typey bays, and few I could tell are gonna be gray. I then knew what he was trying to tell me. We had changed direction diversified and sown better seed. The operation was once again an envy of Maryland horse farms. But in that moment the young man raised his hand to show construction started on a housing development to my right.

Beep. Beep. Beep. I am awakened by the alarm. Time to feed but what day is it? That seemed so real. Has it changed me?

## Bill's Saddlebag



In 1721 the first thoroughbred horse race in America was run in Annapolis Maryland.

In 1936 the first state horse magazine (The Maryland Horse) was published.

In 2017 the first Bonita Farm newsletter is created!

Few readers will remember back in the 50's and 60's when the great editor and true horseman, Humphrey Finney, provided a diary of sorts called the Editor's Saddlebag. He shared his horse related travels, sometimes by Shank's Mare, for readers of The Maryland Horse.

Here are a few of my recent travels.

**Oct 15** - The resurgence of incentives in Maryland for breeding and racing prompted a flight to California to meet three exciting new stallions. First I flew to San Francisco to see Alliance at Golden Gates racetrack. The cab driver put the hustle on me, \$170.00 for the ride. I liked the horse. I then flew to Los Angeles to visit Santa Anita. I was impressed by Kobe's Back but not the the 7 lane highway with an average speed of 10 MPH. Then finally to Los Alamitos to see Dortmund. He made a great impression on me, stood like a statue outside his barn. Back to the creeping highway for the red-eye back to Philadelphia.

**Nov 10** - I gave a speech in honor of my dear friend, Jim McKay, at the equine journalism award ceremony. I find it difficult to speak about the departed but my stories about Jim and Margaret brought back great memories of our times spent together.

**Nov 19** - Bonita Farm hosted their stallion show. Attendees enjoyed oysters, pit beef and crab soup while Alliance, Dortmund and Kobe's Back paraded for the crowd.

**Alliance**, a smaller, Northern Dancer type, struck a pose as though he knew his half sister, Tepin, had just set a record a week earlier at the Fasig-Tipton sale, selling for \$8 million. His owners, Larry and Barbara Karp were in attendance from Dallas, TX.

Dortmund walked in before the large crowd with a stoic presence. The multiple G1 winner of over \$2 million even posed like a gentleman with his owner, Kaleem Shah, who journeyed from San Diego, CA.

Kobe's Back, a striking grey, still race fit from running on Breeder's Cup Friday only two weeks earlier, drew wows from the crowd.

**Dec 5** - Attended the Fasig-Tipton mixed sale at Timonium. We were looking for in-foal mares, as I always remember an Old Timer telling me at 14 "Kid, never walk behind an empty wagon 'cause nothing is going to fall out of it". The short list was down to 8 and we bought two for Kaleem Shah. Our luck was not so great selling two for Amerman Racing. Which reminds me of a morning many years ago as a young consigner I was sitting in the shed row when John Finney walked up the morning after the sale and asked the consigner next to me how the sale went. He thought a minute and said "My horses didn't bring what I thought they would but, I didn't think they would anyhow."

As Sir Winston said "Never Give Up!" *Semper Fi, Bill*

I reached the stud barn, I had told Sam I'd feed Christmas morning for him. As Dortmund eagerly awaited his grain, I remembered someone saying he's too big. That's not the case as I admired him, he is a wonderfully made individual even ,refined - a true racehorse. Then I turned to Alliance, I realized some reservations being unraced but I could see in his eye the DNA of Tepin. Ali's father didn't box. Finally to Kobe, "Wow guy, a Saturday afternoon horse you were, only raced in stakes!" As I closed the large red and white door on this cold Christmas morning I knew the visitors were real and each had told me a lesson. Continue, preach the word, be kind, and let the world know you are thankful for what you have and lucky you have it.



## Behind the stall door

Fun facts about the horses at Bonita Farm. This issue, the facts are shared by Sam Hopkins, the stud man.



**Alliance** is the young gun. If there is a mud hole, he will find the biggest one to roll and play in. The day of the stallion show, he came in from the field caked in mud. A lot of elbow grease from the team was used to get him looking so handsome.



**Dortmund** makes a 10 minute walk out of 200 yards every morning. He stops every 50 yards to take in the activities going on around him. He has the look of eagles as they say. He also makes a point to watch the first set train on the track from his paddock.



**Kobe's Back** will trot to you in the paddock as he has already learned that Sam carries carrots with him. He will keep you honest to the schedule because if feeding time is one minute late, he is going to let everyone know his dissatisfaction.

## Training Barn Update



EMZ Firecracker returns to training this month preparing to run over timber in the upcoming spring steeplechase season.



This fall 10 yearlings were broken here at the farm. Class ended around Thanksgiving and will resume March 1 with a small group of late bloomers



A frequent quote from Fritz - "Best bet of the day was Old Grand Dad in the Fifth"

## Breeding Services

Nestled in the heart of the Mid-Atlantic, Bonita Farm is a thoroughbred operation unlike any other in the United States. Bonita is a place where you can breed, board, foal, break, train, and retire your racehorse on the same property.

Our 400 acres boast facilities that are second to none: 156 stalls, 235 acres of pasture, a 5/8 mile dirt track, a 1/2 mile turf course, steeplechase jumps, an indoor track, and a turf course circling the entire farm.

2018 Breeding Season:

Mare foaling Fee: \$400.00

Non-Resident Mares: \$25.00 a day

Non-Resident Foals: \$ 5.00 a day

## An English Christmas Feast with Plum Pudding Dessert

Serve with Prime Rib and Yorkshire Pudding

Recipe from Louise Boniface wife of Fritz Boniface, manager of Prospect Hill Farm (also Bill's grandparents)



4 slices bread, torn in pieces	1/2 c diced mixed candied fruits and peels	Soak bread in milk; beat to break up.
1 c milk	1/2 c chopped walnuts	Stir in ground suet, brown sugar, eggs, orange juice and vanilla. In a large bowl combine raisins, dates, candied fruits and peels, and nuts.
6 oz beef suet, ground	1 c all-purpose flour	Stir together the flour, cinnamon, cloves, mace, soda, and salt; add to the fruit mixture. Mix well. Stir in the bread-suet mixture; mix well.
1 c packed brown sugar	2 tsp ground cinnamon	Pour into well greased 2-qt mold (do not use ring mold or tube pan).
2 beaten eggs	1 tsp ground cloves	
1/4 c orange juice	1 tsp ground mace	
1 tsp vanilla	1 tsp baking soda	
2 c raisins	1/2 tsp salt	
1 c snipped pitted dates	Foamy Sauce (optional)	

Cover the mold with foil and tie foil on tightly with string. Place the mold on rack in deep kettle; add boiling water to the kettle to depth of 1 inch. Cover and steam the pudding 3 1/2 hours; add more boiling water as needed. Cool the pudding about 10 mins; remove from the mold. Serve the pudding with Foamy Sauce, if desired. Serves 16.

Foamy Sauce - In a large bowl beat 2 egg whites to stiff peaks, gradually adding 1 cup sifted powdered sugar. Beat 2 egg yolks and 1/4 teaspoon vanilla till thick; foal into egg whites. In a small bowl whip 1/2 cup whipping cream till soft peaks form; fold whipped cream into egg mixture.



**We will not spam your inbox, we promise!**