



MERRYLAND MAGAZINE

And COUNTRY LIFE PRESS



“From Beginning To Winning”

Quarterly Newsletter from the Mid-Atlantic's Racing Partnership Leader

Why MERRYLAND MAGAZINE?

The easy alliteration. The future capacity. The convenience. To complement our Internet site. A publication to be thrown on a coffee table, or pocketed for the ride to Merryland Farm to watch horses train, or read in bed on a winter night.

Why COUNTRY LIFE PRESS?

For a Doubleday Printing plant on the Long Island Railroad. Adolphe A. Pons worked in New York City as advisor to August Belmont and Averill Harriman. He returned evenings to Garden City, disembarking at the Doubleday stop named Country Life Press. The sign meant home. He liked the name, and brought it with him when he founded Country Life Farm in 1933.



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S L O T S , S L O T S , E V E R Y W H E R E

T H E N E W E R A O F M I D - A T L A N T I C R A C I N G

by Josh Pons

With this first issue of combined news from Merryland and Country Life Farms, we set sail into a Mid-Atlantic ocean of racing, the trade winds of the slot-machine era blowing all around. These winds may someday blow against racing but, like it or not, it is the way of the world right now.

From Philadelphia Park, where a cool million dollars in purses was awarded every Saturday in September; from Delaware Park, with its amazing 50% bonuses for Delaware-certified horses; from Laurel, its purse account swelling from parlors at Perryville and Ocean Downs (and more late in 2011 from Arundel Mall); from Aqueduct, where the grandstand is being gutted for the new casino in the heart of Long Island's teeming population; from tiny

Charles Town, where rich graded stakes races are coming to a bullring-size track. The entire Mid-Atlantic is awash — or soon will be — in slots-enhanced purses and breeders' awards.



Around the country, Mid-Atlantic racing is looked on with envy. And here we sit, with these two beautiful old farms, within easy distance of all these tracks. Our mission is to adapt to this changing horse business. Country Life was founded

in 1933 by the grandfather of the present Pons generation. Merryland, founded in 1939 by Irish trainer Danny Shea, was purchased by Country Life in 2001.

We see a future full of opportunity. Country Life evolves as the communication center for clients and partners, a high-tech campus headquarters. Merryland enhances its reputation as the best training center in the Mid-Atlantic, the athletic fields for equine students, the launch pad for racing careers.

While daily news is updated at www.countrylifefarm.com, we hope these Quarterly Newsletters add to your enjoyment of your horses, and of your involvement with our farms.



M O O N L I T M A L I B U I N N E W Y O R K

Entering the 2011 racing season, Moonlit Malibu has emerged as the star of the Country Life Partnership stable. The \$65,000 Busanda Stakes (at a mile and 70 yards) at Aqueduct on January 8th, was her first effort beyond 6 1/2-furlongs. Coming off a win in a \$45,000 Philadelphia Park maiden race, Moonlit Malibu ran second in the Busanda to Dance

Quietly, an A. P. Indy 1/2-sister to Champion St. Liam. Moonlit Malibu is pointing for Aqueduct's Busher Stakes on February 19.

Pictured in the paddock at Aqueduct are **Greg Shelton** (Knoxville, TN); **Pat Lynden** (New York, NY); **Josh Pons** (Bel Air, MD); **Lucy Howard** (NY, NY); and **Lou Rao** (Baltimore MD).



PASTURE RENOVATION AT COUNTRY LIFE



Drill Seeding Fields of Country Life

Since 1933, the pastures at Country Life Farm have felt the weight of horses and the effect of year-round grazing. We moved all the stock to Merryland in September. Then we weed-killed, fertilized, and drill-seeded all the pastures with a Bluegrass and Timothy mix. The pastures

will lay dormant for the coming season, as root systems of the new pastures take hold.

Meanwhile, the Maryland-bred fund banks a percentage of slots-revenue allocated to the Breeding Industry. We anxiously look forward to bringing mares and foals back to Country Life, to graze and be raised on beautiful freshly renovated fields.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW? "SUNDAY IN MALIBU"

This Country Life Racing Partnership filly was a star in her first start, winning at Delaware Park. She ran back in the \$75,000 Small Wonder Stakes, hoping for black-type, but over soft turf she tired.

Sent to Florida, she ran second in the Sandpiper Stakes at Tampa Bay Downs. She earned \$120,000 before being claimed for \$25,000 at Aqueduct last February. She immediately went to Kentucky, where she was bred to Harlington.

At Keeneland in November, loyal partner Linda Walls bought her back for \$31,000. Sunday in Malibu now lives at Merryland, and is booked to Line of David at Spendthrift Farm in Kentucky.



Merryland - October 2010



Delaware Park Sept 2008

WEBSITE FEATURES @ WWW.COUNTRYLIFEFARM.COM

Do you know the features of the Country Life website? Among many things:

1. See Daily News on the "scrolling banner"
2. View Horses - in - Training photos
3. See latest Racing Partnership Offerings
4. Visit our Facebook page
5. See Photo -of-the-Week
6. Order Eclipse Award-Winning *Country Life Diary, Three Years in the Life of a Breeding Farm, or Merryland Diary, Two Years in the Life of a Racing Stable*, by Josh Pons
7. Get Driving Directions
8. Link to Maryland Horse Breeders Association
9. Review List of Partnership Horses
10. Request Information
11. Do Hypo-Matings: Malibu Moon and Oratory
12. Shop for smart-looking farm Merchandise at zazzle.com
13. Bookmark our site as a Favorite
14. Calculate Foaling Dates at our "Training Center"

FOALING FUN

GUESS THE FOALING DATE FOR PARTNERSHIP MARES. CLOSEST TO THE CORRECT DATE AND TIME OF BIRTH WINS A COFFEE CUP: E-MAIL: CHRISTY@COUNTRYLIFEFARM.COM

1. FIFTEEN MOONS
LAST BRED **FEB. 23, 2010**
TO POLLARD'S VISION

2. SAGAMOOON
LAST BRED **MAR. 12, 2010,**
TO TIZ WONDERFUL.

BEST MALIBU MOMENT OF 2010?

The single "Moon" highlight for 2010 is different for everyone, I suppose. But the excitement surrounding Malibu Moon's 3-year-old filly "Devil May Care" in the Kentucky Derby, in particular the moment she loomed up into 3rd-place, turning for home in striking distance of the lead and a chance to win the

world's most famous race, well, that is the adrenaline-rush of the year for me.

Others will recall "Malibu Moon Dance" surging from last-to-second in the Bennington Stakes at Saratoga as the Moment of the Year. Or "Moonlit Malibu" in the stretch at Philly Park to break her maiden.

Maybe having four shots at a Breeders' Cup win at Churchill Downs in November, with Life at Ten, Malibu Prayer, Sweet August Moon, and Sara Louise? What? Nobody hit the board? Oh, well, that's racing. The Breeders' Cup is back at Churchill in 2011. Round Two coming up this fall. *jp*



Malibu Moon's "Devil May Care", the lone filly in the Kentucky Derby.

MALIBU MOON: THE NO. 1 SIRE BY NORTH AMERICAN EARNINGS, AND NO. 3 WHEN FOREIGN PURSES ARE INCLUDED



Country Life Farm started Malibu Moon at stud, and remains a partner in him at Spendthrift Farm in Lexington, Kentucky. He is booked full for the 2011 breeding season.

The emergence of Malibu Moon as an “Elite Sire” occurred during the 2010 Racing Season. That’s what three Grade One winners and \$8.6-million in progeny earnings will do for a sire -- especially if he’s by A.P. Indy out of a Grade 1-winning daughter of Mr. Prospector. Malibu Moon’s stud fee rose from \$40,000 to \$60,000 for the 2011 Breeding Season. A fifty percent appreciation in the value of his services was driven by both racing and commercial success in 2010.

Just look at these numbers:

- 59 Yearlings averaged \$152,000; topped by \$700,000 filly and \$650,000 colt
- 18 Weanlings averaged \$101,000; topped by \$225,000 filly and \$195,000 colt
- 16 2-year-olds averaged \$166,000; topped by \$575,000 colt and \$370,000 filly
- 14 Mares-in-Foal averaged \$219,000; topped by \$825,000 mare.

THE BILL QUINN AWARD

It’s almost too sentimental to consider the name of the last horse he owned: “Brushed by Love.”

So we resist reading more into the name than the pedigree suggests — a 2008 filly by Not for Love out of a mare by Broad Brush.

Still, life imitates art, and Brushed by Love might have been the theme of the Quinn Family gathering held in the front yard at Merryland Farm last August to honor a fine

gentleman and a most patient horseman, Bill Quinn, who died after a brief illness.

Bill bred mares to Country Life stallions in the 1980s. He resurfaced two years ago, with brother Tom, in a Country Life Partnership runner named Cotton Moon, a horse so slow he could make the Pope cuss. But Bill never cussed him, wanted only that the horse have a good home after racing. At our annual “Autumn Day in the Country” in October of 2011 (the day after the Maryland

Million), we’ll present the inaugural Bill Quinn Sportsmanship Award, in recognition of a partner who exemplifies the spirit of racing the way Bill did.

Meanwhile, Brushed by Love may debut at Pimlico for Bill’s wife Nona and sister-in-law Lisa, in the silks of the artfully named Nona-Lisa Stable. We imagine that event will bring a wry smile to Bill, watching from the skyboxes.

jp



Bill Quinn and Brushed by Love

BILL ASKED ONLY THAT COTTON MOON HAVE A GOOD HOME AFTER RACING.

COTTON IS NOW A NOVICE TIMBER PROSPECT, JUMPING SMALL FENCES.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: RICHARD HARRIS

This year of 2011 marks Richard Harris’s 27th year of employment at Country Life. He is famed as a steady hand with whatever task is asked of him. Richard’s favorite time is Breeding and Foaling season.

Richard’s were the coaxing hands on the long legs of a bay colt he guided into life on April 18, 1990, at Country Life. The man who foaled “Cigar” is modest in describing his part in welcoming a future two-time Horse-of-the-Year.

“It weren’t nothing” is how Richard would put it, but don’t

underestimate the pride and satisfaction he feels for every new foal he delivers.

The durable Country Life racehorse “Jenkin Jones” was named in honor of Richard’s hometown near Bluefield, West Virginia. Jenkin Jones’ work ethic of always trying his best matched perfectly the reliable man who keeps the country in Country Life.

Richard lives near the foaling barn at Country Life, and he hosts weekly Monday Night Football “apple pie socials” that harken back to a routine he

kept with the late Joe Pons. His summer vacation plans always include camping trips to Hungry Mother State Park in southern Virginia and to the mountains of Tennessee. He enjoys Sunday visits from his daughter Roxanne, who lives just up Route 1 near Oxford, Pa.

Next time you visit either Country Life or Merryland, spend a minute with Richard Harris. He’s a wellspring of knowledge of both animals and people.



The man who foaled “Cigar”

RACING INTO 2011
THE BEST LAID PLANS FOR 2-YEAR-OLDS

Nothing excites the spirits like a promising 2-year-old, and Country Life has five good ones in Racing Partnerships for 2011, each sired by Malibu Moon. All five are currently in Delaware serving their 90 days of residency prior to March 31 of their 2-year-old year, to be eligible for Delaware-Certified awards when they race.



Irish Moon

Irish Moon: A New York-bred colt, this big red rascal is the head-turning standout among the boys currently at Candyland Farm in Middletown, Delaware. We expect him to run at Saratoga next summer, with perhaps a prep at Delaware.

Merryland Moon: At Candyland. Maybe the best-balanced baby by Malibu Moon we've ever offered. Merryland Moon walks like an angel on a cloud, and Partners will be on Cloud Nine if she runs as good as she walks.

Moon Map: At Cut 'n Run Farm, below Dover. Rugged Kentucky-bred girl who looks like Devil May Care. She's quick, and professional. Look for her mid-summer at Delaware.

Moon Philly: At Candyland. Lanky Pennsylvania-bred filly out of a Deputy Minister mare. Aiming for rich juvenile Pa-bred races

at Philly Park next fall.

Red Moon Girl: At Candyland. Fiery red-head temperament. Dances to and from the track. Should be the first 2-year-old to start in 2011. Get tied on. She'll be out of the gate quick.



Red Moon Girl

Dazzle with "Zazzel" Gear.
Ellen Pons continues to develop a wide range of Country Life and Merryland items for purchase and as prizes for contest giveaways at the Country Life merchandise link. Check out the variety of gear and clothing you can pick out in your size and color.
Or, at the zazzel.com site, simply search ELLEN107 for a quick link to her merchandise. If you need help, drop an e-mail to: ellen@ellenpons.com

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University of Merryland E



Oratory, by Pulpit

ORATORY: A TIMELINE

2005: Son of Pulpit wins Gr. II Peter Pan Stakes by five lengths, running a 114 Beyer, and breaking Slew o' Gold's 22-year-old Stakes Record.

2006: Retires to Stud at Country Life Farm, in partnership with Darley Stud.

2007: First Foals Arrive.

2008: Yearlings are being broken. However, on Dec. 1, Oratory slips while playing in his paddock, and he fractures the tip of his femoral bone. His life depends on his intelligence, in how he handles

his injury. Meanwhile, Pulpit's sons Tapit and Sky Mesa signal Pulpit as a "sire of sires."

2009: Standing on three legs and confined to his stall, Oratory misses the 2009 Breeding Season. He learns how to maneuver with his injury after several months, to lie down, to stand back up. His attitude garners everyone's respect. Ultrasounds by farm veterinarian Dr. Nick Meittinis show knitting at the injury site. Meanwhile, his first crop races, and he is the Mid-Atlantic's Leading Freshman Sire, with 22 Winners from 30 Starters.

2010: Oratory returns to the Breeding Shed, serving a reduced book of 35 Mares. He gets 34 in-foal. And his runners continue to excel.

2011: His daughter D'Oratory wins Aqueeduct allowance, emerging as the top New York-Bred filly in training. Oratory is the best young sire in the Mid-Atlantic, and smart breeders book to him. He stands for \$4,000, and he's "the man" among young sires in the region.

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WHERE RACING FUN STARTS