



LINES FROM LINDA

by LINDA AYERS TURNER KNORR

My head is spinning after returning from Louisville, Kentucky where the action was non-stop. As one of the sponsors of Take the Lead on Millionaires Row, my first stop was Churchill Downs, the venue for the Collie Club of America's first National Breed Club TTL Gala. My plane was late getting in so I missed our afternoon festivities, which took place during the Louisville Kennel Club Show.

The Kentucky Derby Festival is held in Louisville every year two weeks prior to the Kentucky Derby. During this critically acclaimed festival there is the Great Steamboat Race on the Ohio River where Louisville's grand ole steamboat, the Belle of Louisville races Cincinnati's steamboat, the Delta Queen. This nationally renowned festival also includes the Great Balloon Race where the skies above Louisville are filled with over fifty hot air balloons, the Pegasus Parade which runs through downtown Louisville from one end of Broadway Boulevard to the other, the

largest fireworks display in North America called "Thunder Over Louisville" and a one-of-a-kind event called the Run for the Rosé where waiters from Louisville's finest restaurants carry trays of wine

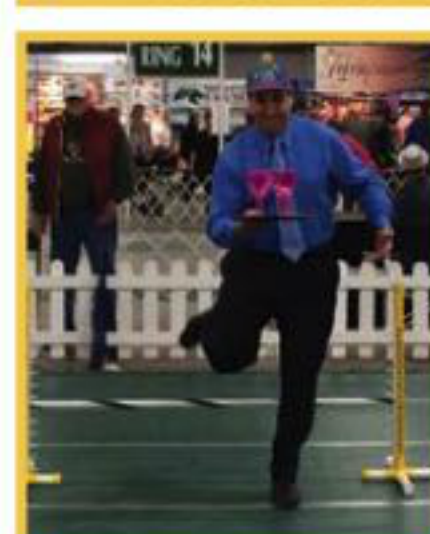
down Fourth Avenue in a competition for the fastest time.

Prior to the Take The Lead On Millionaires Row gala, the committee held a Run for the Rosé event of their very own where professional handlers carried trays of wine through an agility course on the show grounds. Butch Schulman, Connie DuBois of Sylvan-Argent Collies, Marie Mullins of Sunnland Collies and Kate Long of Tamiami Collies spearheaded the Run for the Rosé event held on the show grounds prior to the gala on Saturday afternoon.

Each handler wore a colorful jockey cap with their assigned number and exhibitors along with those in attendance at the All-Breed Cluster placed bets on their favorite handler in support of Take The Lead. Every bettor received an actual mutuel ticket commensurate to those given out at the racetrack when horseracing enthusiasts place their bets. There was a huge crowd of spectators around the ring to cheer on their favorite handlers and the event was a phenomenal success.

The winner Run for the Rosé was professional handler, Carissa Shimpeno who was presented with a bottle of wine at the Take The Lead On Millionaires Row gala that evening. Professional handler, Laurie Jeff Greer, came in a close second place.

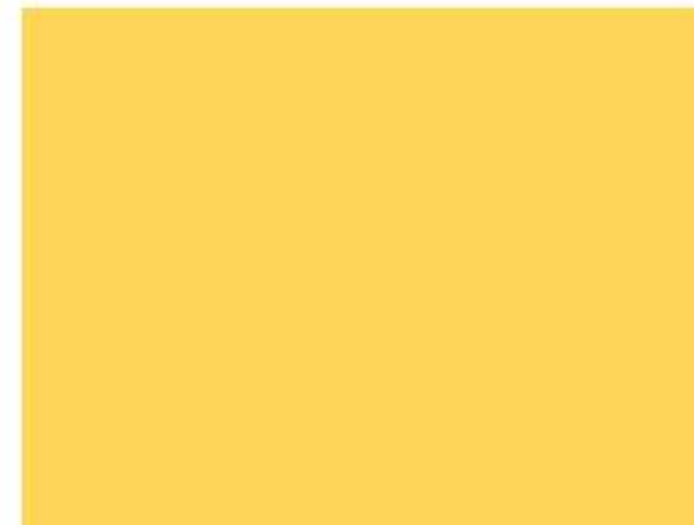
Also, entertaining the crowds were racing professional competitors: Jamie Klute, Jody Garcia, Laura King,



Collie Club of America Run for the Rosé Benefitting Take the Lead



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Paul Catterson, Lenny Brown, Scott Yergin, Joel McCarty, Kent Boyles, Esteban Farias and Bill McFadden—who I hear was performing his own version of “Dancing With the Stars.”

Photographer David Sombach captured the entire sold out evening extravaganza, planned by Butch Schulman’s committee. In next month’s issue you will find proof of this extraordinary successful first of a kind fundraiser.

Flying in from Chicago for the Collie Club of America National Specialty were two of my best friends Judy Cooper and her daughter Marcy Bankus. Judy had arranged for Clint Harris to join us for the show one day. More than anything I was looking forward to spending time with Clint who I had loved since my childhood. In the old days professional handlers judged “Junior Showmanship.” Clint Harris always placed me first in my class. What a good-looking man he has always been and I remember his dark hair and flattop so well.

The day before I arrived in Louisville Clint and former AKC Rep. Steve Hurt came over to the all-breed show and

made the rounds. Everyone was thrilled to see them! But, oops! Clint slipped and fell later at home and had to be rushed to the hospital for hip surgery.

Our plans were adjusted and Judy, Marcy and I spent a memorable afternoon with Clint at the most beautiful rehab center I have ever seen. At 92, he’s still got it! Clint greeted us walking unassisted. I was amazed. At the foot of his bed he had the latest issue of *Show-sight* with the page bent back to show me my column. Reminiscing the afternoon away with these four friends was the highlight of this trip!

Spring pollen and show building air were beginning to take a toll on my lungs by the time I arrived for my Easter afternoon flight to Greenville, SC. Asthma kicked in and as I sat quietly, I began to cough uncontrollably until the point I thought I could not breath and may die. Passengers sat by horrified I’m sure, but no one moved to help.

Then came my Easter angel. A tall, handsome young man had rushed to buy water and offer concerned care for me. Once I could breath again Bobby

Thomas from San Francisco bought me hot tea to soothe my cough. Next, he alerted the Delta airline personnel of my difficulties and they moved me up on the plane to be able to take care of me if needed. Following the first leg of our flight to Atlanta Bobby, who is the same age as my son Todd, rode with me on the train to my next gate. Again Delta took care to see that I stayed well.

Angels do exist on earth and Bobby Thomas is one. His smiling face can be found at Andronico’s where he is a butcher in San Francisco. According to Edward Guthman of the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Bobby is a charismatic man who is devoted to raising funds for Koret Family House, a non-profit that provides free housing to families of seriously ill children receiving treatment of UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital. For over 16 years he has been Easter Bunny for the children and entertaining them with songs and videos he created to help raise funds. There is so much more to learn about my Easter angel Bobby Thomas. Thank God for placing him in my life! ■



Clint Harris, daughter Barbie Johnson and Judy Cooper.



Clint Harris, with Marcy Bankus, Linda Ayers Turner Knorr and Judy Cooper



Preview of May Issue: Collie Club of America/ Take the Lead on Millionaires Row