

# CHEAP THRILLS

Send submissions to: Gale Good, 1359 Sherrill, Anaheim, CA 92804

Denise Deen of Yucaipa, California says she usually doesn't find anything exciting but her luck seems to be changing. So far this year she's found an old mold bay PAF, a pinto Indian Pony with warpaint, a palomino 5-Gaiter, a seal brown Canterng Welsh Pony, a liver chestnut Scratching Foal, and a glossy "4-eyed" Misty. She also discovered a pearly palomino Rearing Stallion a couple of years ago and nearly passed him up because she didn't realize what he was. (Not many models came "pearled" so they are harder to find than chalkies--Gale.)

Sheryl Leisure, staunch model horse hunter, was rewarded recently with a walking polled hereford bull, a smooth-muscled glossy bay Clydesdale stallion, a gold buck and doe (I think her husband, Brad, found those), as well as two black bisque Hagen-Renaker Art Deco cats (these are so bizarre looking).

Chris Ertl has a great tale to tell. "I took my hubby and last \$10 (yes, we're rich, too) to a tack sale/swap for a local saddle club. Thanks to L. Rockmaker's ad for the HR draft colt being auctioned off or I would never have known my find. Two HR draft colts in excellent condition--one with slight crackling and one that's perfect--for a whopping \$3.00 apiece! Fortunately, I had shown Jim the ad, just to prove what models go for, and he was just as thrilled over the buy. We even took our last \$4 left over and celebrated with a copy of coffee. Now, that's excitement in Wisconsin!"

Heather Wells, tireless editor and searcher of new antiquities, had a fabulous (though not cheap) thrill when she purchased 10 Hagen-Renakers and a few assorted Japan models. The HRs included the DW Love, Crusader, Comanche, Butch, Two-Bits, QH foal in dun with no black, palomino Lippitt, and the mini Percheron, head-up standing palomino and Citation. The Japan models contained the Josef Original appy, palomino and a couple of older foals.

My finds weren't many but they made up for it in quality. There was another apply Western Prancer, a balking mule, the glossy bay QH Gelding, a white Poppytrail drafter with show harness (as opposed to the one with a work harness) and an old bay Hartland pony all in excellent condition. And last, but not least, another variation of the HR DW baby squirrels (the painters on these must have been given free rein to use their imaginations.)

Kim Fairbrother, who was featured in our last issue as the now proud owner of a Breyer Davy Crocket horse/rider with the original Breyer box, was kind enough to send me a photo of the box that

I could keep! Thank you, thank you, thank you. It doesn't reproduce well enough to put into the RAG so we'll tell you that on the side of the box is a "wonderful" blurb that reads: a colorful TOY...a COLLECTOR'S JOY...an authentic ROOM DECORATION for every GIRL and BOY. (Isn't that special.)

PLEASE NOTE: I'm still receiving missives saying that I have not printed their "Cheap Thrills". Please be sure you send them to ME and not Heather or Kay. If two issues go by and you still don't see it, please write me again. Mail has been known to sit in our Post Office for weeks or even disappear completely!

#### COLLECTOR'S NEWS

Unfortunately, a local U.S. Beswick Club looks like it would involve a lot of work (registration, shows, points) and I simply don't have the time. We're thinking of having a Beswick page/column where one or two molds might be featured per issue and where information from England is passed on to you. For instance, some of you already know that Royal Doulton, the parent company who owns Beswick, has decided to discontinue quite a few of the horse pieces and issue the remaining ones with a Royal Doulton backstamp instead of the Beswick one. Whether there will be new pieces added to the line has not yet been announced.

What does this mean to the collector? It means the horses (and other pieces) will be harder to find and higher in price depending on the number of years a particular mold was in production. Some collectors will prefer those pieces with the Beswick backstamp over the Royal Doulton just like some prefer Monrovia Hagen-Renakers to those of San Dimas or San Marcos. However, unless there is a significant difference in the detailing of the paint job, I'm not going to feel compelled to have two identical mold/colors just because one says Beswick and the other Royal Doulton.

Besides the Beswick Collector's Guide by Harvey May, there is a Beswick Price Guide by the same author which gives estimated price ranges (in pounds) of various Beswick pieces. Written in 1988, it reflects the current production line at that time. Current pieces have RFP written in the price column with no explanation anywhere in the book as to what this means. It probably means to check the current rate but doesn't state what those rates were. A shame since so many of those "current" pieces have been discontinued and there's no way to guess at its worth unless you knew what it sold for originally and added a little to that to reflect the increase in value. This price guide is not easily found in the States and apparently there is no plans to reprint either the Collector's Guide or the Price Guide. It does help the collector determine the value of their models. Heard one person say the old Bessie Zebra was worth \$300 but found the price guide valued it at just over half that!

## Guide to Racing Your Model Horse

BY SHERRIE KIDDER

Model horse racing may seem like an elite thing to most showmen. Perhaps something only open to a certain few who are "in" on it or who follow real horse racing closely. But this is not really the case. It is true, however, that any person who is interested in model horse racing really needs to have some info on the subject to get started. Hopefully, this guide will help you to get involved and help give you the "insight" you need to be a successful model horse racing enthusiast.

First off, you need a model. The only horse breeds that race in real life are Thoroughbreds, Quarter Horses, Standardbreds (Trotters & Pacers), Appaloosas, Paints, and Arabians. Make sure that the model you use to represent your horse is an adequate example of the breed you chose. In other words, if Blackie is supposed to be a Thoroughbred, the model should look like a Thoroughbred, not a Shetland or a Clydesdale.

In the real world, horses also age, so it is best to have your horses "age". A good system to use is that all horses have a birthday on January 1st of every year. Even if foals are born at different times, this date is used to eliminate confusion. For example, Blackie was born on April 8th of 1989. When January 1st of 1990 rolls around, Blackie will only be one year old although chronologically he will only be 8 months old.

Most horses in the real world (Thoroughbred at least) don't start racing until around May of their second year. They will usually race for 2 to 6 years before retiring. Mares will usually race the least (about 2 to 3 years), stallions for 2 to 5 years, and geldings may race for up to about 6 years. Few horses race for more than 6 years since the racing and training causes stress to the legs of the horses which accumulates to a point where the horse can no longer race without risking a major injury. Some breeds however will race much longer than others. Standardbreds for instance may race for as much as 14 years without injury. This is due to the fact that Standardbreds never race with a rider or weight on their backs, thus less stress to the legs.

Getting back to the story now, you should have your model and have given it a name, specified it's breed and sex, and decided it's age. The next thing to do is set up your racing cards. These cards are your means of entering your horse in a race. They list information about the horse for the race holder to read and use. Different people ask for different information, but as a general rule, this is what your card should list: the horse's name, age, breed, sex, color, past performance, and your name and address. Other things you can list on your card are: sire, dam, dam's sire, jockey, trainer, breeder, running style, surface preferences, distance preference, and achievements of the horse's sire and dam.

Past performance is a breakdown of how the horse has done in previous races and usually looks like this: 12 sts. (4-1-3-0) \$230,458. What this says is that the horse has started in 12 races, has won 4 of those races, come in second (or "placed") in 1 race, come in third (or "shown") in 3 races and has not come in 4th in any of its races. This also lists the amount of purse money (not real of course) the horse has won. In listing past performances, a 5th place finish or less is not mentioned. Past performance can also be a listing (usually on the back of the card) detailing the individual races the horse has run in. A detail can look like this:

2nd-Allowance, 5f T, firm, 4e, 116, 3/26/89 "From behind, well rated, missed by hd."

Translation: Finished second in an Allowance race (explained later). The race was at a distance of 5 furlongs (a little more than 1/2 mile) and it was on turf. The turf condition was firm (the best possible condition for a turf track). There were 4 horse total entered in the race and this horse carried 116 lbs. The date of the race is listed and a brief description of how the horse ran is usually included (hd is the abbreviation for "head").

Sire, dam, and Dam's sire is pretty self explanatory, and jockey, trainer, and breeder are much the same. The jockey is usually a friend or family member or simply a made-up name, never use your own name. Trainer, however, can be yourself, a friend, a family member or again a made up name. **Never use a real trainer or jockey's name!!!** The breeder is the name of the person of establishment where the mare that gave birth to the horse lives. For instance, a horse that was born at say Claiborne Farms in Kentucky, was bred by Claiborne farms and that is what is listed on the card.

Running style, surface and distance preferences are much more complicated. The running style is how the horse will usually run a race. Since model horses cannot run much less move, this takes a bit of imagination. Most horses will run "one the lead", "near the lead", "mid-pack", "off the lead", or "way off the lead". Generally, a horse that is starting out for the first few times has no "known" style or preference. A good idea is to list "unknown" as your horse's style and preferences for the first few races until a trend develops. In other words, if your horse usually races up front, that is the running style. If the horse wins at a certain distance several times

after having failed at other distances then that winning distance is preferred by the horse. Same goes for track surfaces. Some horses prefer fast dirt tracks, other muddy tracks, other turf tracks. Most horses prefer fast dirt tracks, but others prefer turf tracks or even muddy tracks. These preferences should come out the more you race your horse.

The achievements of the horse's sire and dam are not always looked at, but are sometimes useful for horses that are just starting out. This should list the sire's and dam's race record and, if you want to and have room, the produce record. The race record is just like that for your horse listing starts, wins, places, etc. The produce record is the number of starters and the number of stakes winners, multi-stakes winners, and other successful foals. This will often look like this: 12 strs, 1 wnr, 4 SWs, 2 MSWs, 1 MSW/CH/HOTY (PRINCE CHARMING).

Translation: 12 starters, 1 horse who has won at least one race but no stakes races, 4 stakes winners, 2 multi-stakes winners, 1 multi-stakes winner/champion/Horse of the Year whose name is Prince Charming.

Now, I have explained setting up your card, here's some information that will help you to decipher some of the more complicated things. The condition of the track the horses race on varies. There are two types of track, dirt and turf (grass). A dirt track can be "fast", "good", "slow", "muddy", "sloppy", or "heavy". A fast track is a track that is in perfect condition and enables the horses to race their fastest without being hindered by the track itself. A good track is similar but not quite perfect. It might be too deep or too hard, or any number of different minor problems. A slow track is a track that is perhaps slightly damp, it hinders the horse somewhat. A muddy track is exactly that, usually created by a fresh rain. It's the kind of race where all the horses and jockeys come back a uniform shade of brown. A sloppy track is usually created by a heavy downpour and is differentiated from being just muddy by standing water on the track. This is the most dangerous of the dirt tracks since it is quite slippery. A heavy track is the kind of track where the dirt has just begun to dry and tend to pack and clump around the horses' feet. This kind of track usually occurs sometime after a rainfall. On a turf track, the grass can be "firm", "soft", "hard", or "wet". The firm track is the best. A soft track is one where the grass is perhaps a bit deep while the hard track is usually too thin. A wet track is of course just that, wet. But it also means that the track is somewhat slippery and horses are prone to many more injuries while on this kind of surface.

Well, now that you understand how to set up your cards, you need to find a place to race your horses. Several clubs exist that are devoted to model horse racing, some more realistic (i.e. complicated) than others. There are also individuals around that advertise races in some of the showing magazines. A letter and a SASE to one of these people will generally get you a racelist.

Once you have found a place to race your horses, you need to sit down and figure out what kind of a race to put your horse into. There are about seven kinds of races around: Maiden, Allowance, Ungraded Stakes, Grade III Stakes, Grade II Stakes, Grade I Stakes, and steeplechase. Maiden races are for those horses who have never won a race before. Allowance races are for those horses who have won at least one race. However, some people let maiden horses enter the allowance races, it depends. Ungraded Stakes races are simply named races. These are the most common of stakes races and are good for those horses who have never raced in a stakes race before since the competition is not usually stiff. Grade III Stakes races are the next step up, both in purse amount and in competition. Grade II is again the next step up and Grade I is the last step. Grade I stakes races are the toughest and the richest with purses varying from \$100,000 to \$1,000,000. An example of a real Grade I stakes race is the Kentucky Derby. The last type of race is a steeplechase race. These are usually much longer than so-called flat races and are over jumps. Steeplechase races can be Maiden, Allowance, or any stake grade. The best idea when starting a model racehorse is to start at the bottom of the ladder and work the way up. However, some people don't wish to do that and may start at the top of the ladder and stay there. It all depends on what you feel is best.

Another hint that is useful, try not to "over race" your horses. Some race stewards will watch for horses who have been racing too frequently and will penalize those horses. A safe rule is that a horse can race up to twice a month but once a month is best. And give your horse a month vacation now and again. Sometimes, believe it or not, that can help turn a horse around from a losing streak. Try to think realistically, but don't let realism start to get in the way. Model horse racing can be a fun sport, just go with the flow and don't get carried away.

### An Example of a Racing Card

**Blackie** Race Entered: #5  
 1985 blk. TB c. (Black Knight x Darling Dear, Dapper Dan)  
 Jockey: Joe Blow Trainer: June Bloom  
5 sts. (2-1-0-1) Earnings: \$127,231  
 Distances: seems to prefer about 1 mile.  
 Style: usually goes w-t-w or sets the pace.  
 Surfaces: Loves turf but does well on dirt.  
 Status: Allowance O/B Jane Doe  
 Bred by Juniper Hills Ranch(KY) 111 Anywhere St.  
 Reg. # Z-99999 Anytown, OH 66401

Front →

Comments: Blackie has been given a bit of a rest lately so he's very ready for this race. He will wear a hood for this race.

Sire- 19 sts (7-3-5-4) \$461,160 MSW  
 Dam- Unraced, dam of 6 str., 1 wnr, 2 SW, 3 MSW

Race Record:  
 2nd-Maiden, 5f T, firm, 3e, 116, 8/16/87 "almost w-t-w"  
 1st-Maiden, 1m T, firm, 4e, 115, 10/3/87 "w-t-w easily" T=1:37.2  
1987-2 sts. (1-1-0-0) \$23,540  
 4th-Allow., 1-1/4m, fast, 6e, 118, 3/21/88 "Set pace, faded"  
 1st-Allow., 1m T, firm, 4e, 117, 5/8/88 "w-t-w ridden out" T=1:46.8  
 5th-Godzilla S., 1-1/2m, fast, 5e, 122, 7/12/88 "Set pace, tired"

Back →

The number of the race entered, the past performance records (including Earnings), and the status should all be written in pencil so that they can be changed frequently whenever new results come back. Also understand that this is just one way of organizing your cards. There are many others that are just as good if not better.

## Typical Abbreviations Used in Model Horse Racing

- AP-----Appaloosa
- AR-----Arabian
- c.-----colt
- Cl.-----Classic (a type of stakes race like "Arlington Classic")
- D.-----Derby (another type of stakes race)
- ETW-----Equald top weight (carried the most weight in the field along with one or two other horses.
- f.-----Furlong or Filly (depend upon context)
- fur.-----Furlong
- h.-----horse (a male horse 5 years old or older)
- H.-----Handicap (type of stakes race)
- hd.-----Head (in other words, beat the next horse by a head)
- HOTY-----Horse of the Year
- len.-----length (the distance of one horse from the chest to the rump)
- m.-----mare (5 years or older)
- MSW-----Multi-stakes winner (has won more than one stakes race)
- nk-----neck
- no-----nose
- NW-----non-winner (in other words, a maiden)
- PA-----Paint
- PT-----Paint
- QH-----Quarter Horse.
- s.-----stallion
- S.-----Stakes
- SP-----Standardbred Pacer (rarely used since it can also mean "stakes placed"
- SPW-----stakes placed winner (came in second or third in a stakes race and has won at least one other race)
- ST-----Standardbred Trotter (rarely used)
- STB-----Standardbred
- STB-P-----Standardbred Pacer
- STB-T-----Standardbred Trotter
- SW-----Stakes winner
- T-----Time
- TB-----Thoroughbred
- TW-----Top weight (carried the most weight in the race)
- WNR-----Winner (has won at least one race)
- 2YO-----a two-year-old horse
- 3YO-----a three-year-old horse
- 4YO-----a four-year-old horse

## Distance Equivalences

1 furlong	-----	1/8 mile	-----	220 yards
2 furlongs	-----	1/4 mile	-----	440 yards
3 furlongs	-----	3/8 mile	-----	660 yards
4 furlongs	-----	1/2 mile	-----	880 yards
5 furlongs	-----	5/8 mile	-----	1100 yards
6 furlongs	-----	3/4 mile	-----	1320 yards
7 furlongs	-----	7/8 mile	-----	1540 yards
8 furlongs	-----	1 mile	-----	1760 yards

# DRIVEL DRIVEL DRIVEL DRIVEL DRIVEL DRIVEL DRIVEL DRIVEL DRIVEL

(With added editorial comments by Kay...Hee!)

Hiya hiya hiya! Time once again for another chapter (episode?) (*Kay here - seizure?*) of "As the Drivel Churns..." **READY? HERE GOES NOTHING:**

Got some positive feedback re: The Wiener Wagon. Seems I dredged up all kinds of nostalgic feelings in ya'll (*I know I found myself reaching for the old Kingsford briquettes...*) I should find out where it's kept and see if they'll let me pose with it in a photo. Stay tuned for THAT pic (*Same Drivel-time, same Drivel-channel*).

ACK! I just went to pour myself a small glass of white Grenache (*you trendy thing, you!*) and the CORK BROKE OFF! Had to try all kinds of tricks to get that stupid thing out of there! It was like a cartoon, I bet. Me gnawing on the bottle. (*Yeah, just like something you'd find in a Peanuts' strip - Snoopy suffering DT's while Charlie Brown desperately searches for a corkscrew...*) But I finally got it open. Back to the Drivel! (*You realize, of course, that if she didn't get the cork out, this column would have ended real soon. For some strange reason, Laurie seems to need some additional fortification before she can open her Drivel mail. I don't know why...*)

Sandy Tomezik sent a wonderful poem that she wrote herself! (*She admitted this without duress?*) She's such a talented person! Here it is:

## MY TREASURE By Sandy Tomezik

Mt horse is such a treasure  
My horse is such a prize  
She's just the wonderfulest thing  
You'll scarce believe your eyes.  
I know my list said she was twelve,  
But she's really worth much more  
I've decided I couldn't part with her  
For less than twenty-four.

The more I think about it  
The rarer she becomes  
I never saw one quite this shade  
I really couldn't sell her  
Maybe we could trade?

I'd take two discontinueds  
Maybe even four  
If you throw in a few test runs  
To even up the score

Give me a Froelich remake  
A Rio Rondo too  
No, even with two Diamonds  
It will never do  
I just grossly underpriced her  
I must've had the flu!

Thought you'd fooled me, didn't you?  
I was smarter than you thought  
I raised the price when you'd believed  
You'd had a bargain bought  
No, all the tea in China  
Won't make me sell her now  
I know how rare a thing she is  
I'm just a model dealing whiz!  
And if there's ever another  
That you think you might want  
I'll know I have a treasure there  
Just like this Family Arab Mare.

Thanks, Sandy! More poems wanted! Any drivel or model horse subject! (*Be careful what you wish for...*)

On a serious note: Tammy Wong sent several brochures regarding People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). Now I make all kinds of jokes regarding stuffed (taxidermy-stuffed, I mean) (*real, live, dead, etc...*) animals and slugs and everything else. But I would NEVER advocate or condone cruelty to animals! Ask Kay or Sarah or Darian or Heather or anyone who knows me and they'll come up with all kinds of stories of how I raise baby caterpillars on my kitchen's acoustic ceiling (anyone else would vacuum them up) (*I'd often wondered what that different taste was in your food...*) and how I take spiders outside instead of squishing them (*Of course, they often return the favor...*) I talk like I don't care about animals but I love them (with the exception of fleas, ticks and bedbugs, which I will NOT love, no matter what!! So there!!!) Anyway, if you want more info on PETA, send a SASE to: PETA, Box 42516, Washington, D.C. 20015-0516

Ah, the joys of parenthood. Those of you who have children-type-persons (*would that include Labradors?*) living in the same place you live will know:

1. How hard it is to keep the toilet paper ON THE ROLL (as opposed to: ON THE FLOOR IN A BIG PILE, IN THE TOILET IN A BIG WAD, OR THROUGH THE HOUSE LEAVING A BIG MESS!) I buy those huge industrial sized packages of T.P. at The Price Club and I still end up wiping with a page out of Mechanics Illustrated before the week is out!! I've gotten so I HOARD my own PERSONAL roll of toilet paper in each bathroom. *(You selfish wench, you!)*
2. "Merryl's Law of Inversely Proportional Nutrition." This law states that the nutritional value of any food item offered is inversely proportional to the volume of that particular food item the child will actually ingest! Sometimes I give in and she lives on chocolate milk, popsicles, M&M's and multi-colored marshmallows. O.K., O.K. So I'm a bad mom. Sue me.
3. "Lloyd's Law of Diaper Dynamics." This law states that the chances of a major lower G.I. tract event is directly proportional to the inaccessibility of a clean diaper and/or are to change it without gagging people as they walk by. Added intrigue is involved when at a major wedding or expensive restaurant. *(Wait a minute...a MAJOR wedding? Is that as opposed to a MINOR wedding? What are the variables here: number of bridesmaids, food service at reception (cake, buffet, or sit-down), or whether or not the bride and groom grind cake into each other's face? Maybe we can get a reading on this in the next issue...)* Boy, the looks people give you as you try to exit gracefully. Upon departure from the social event, Merryl helps by interjecting, "That baby SMELLS!" So much for decorum. *(And last issue, she had the nerve to ask when I was going to have children. HA!)*

So much for parenting. Incidentally, I'm taking a class on "How to Parent." My husband bought it for me for Mothers' Day (he paid the tuition). So far, it has really helped. (Helped me to see just how horrible a parent I am...) Oh well. I try my best. It's not every mom who allows her child's pillbug collection into her bed. (The more, the merrier, I always say.)

Well, I can always get a new job. People keep sending me clippings from the classifieds, for interesting job opportunities:

#### CRAB OBSERVERS

"We will train biological observers. Prefer exp. at sea. No seasickness...Bring/mail resume..."

What job experience do they want, do you suppose? *(Well, they don't say that it is JOB experience! Also, they don't say what you will be observing the crabs doing...Hmmm...)*

Also got an article on "The Ketchikan Slug Race." According to the clipping, there is a big gastropod race that is held in conjunction with the Blueberry Festival. *(Wait, wait...let's just pause here and savor the visual image...)* In this particular racemeet, a slug named "Speedy" slimed his way to victory. Meanwhile, you could also enter "Dr. Woody's Owner and Pet Look Alike Contest." I think Kay should enter with one of her pets. How about it, Kay? *(I resemble that remark. But seriously folks, I entered the contest with Dr. Woody...)*

Cathy von Matt sent these sniglets at least a year ago...I finally dredged them up...(yay!)

AIRPUT - Any of a series of kicks that advances one's baggage toward the airport counter.

IDIOLLOCATION - The spot on the shopping mall map marked "You are here." (Often where you'll see Elvis and Misty.) (Hey Kay! What ever happened to the Padded Pony Perusal expose you promised many issues ago?) *(Thanks, L. The day we went to go see the Wooden Wonder, they were (alas) closed. Besides, I think that the stellar story sent in by the Liz/Paula/Judy gang really about summed it up. But if you're really desperate, I could always go snap some pics of the two meaty mini mares up in yonder pasture, but of course, they're not dead yet - they can still manage a pretty good impression of living beings when they hear the jingle jangle of a bridle approaching.)*

ILLUMINOT - Device in airplane bathrooms that won't let the light come on until you lock the door.

And speaking of slugs, Mindy B. sent this photo (see next page) and Lea D. sent this ad for a Skunk Family Lawn Decoration (also see next page)

Thanks, I think, Mindy and Lea!

And speaking of slugs, *(Now, now, I know what you're thinking. But remember where you are: if it's Drivel, we must have been speaking of slugs.)* here is a photo of "Giant Northwest Slug A.K.A. Jabba"

Chris E. sent a fascinating article on "Creeping Creek Foam." Seems the Schaubles' of Cedarburg have a huge, advancing WALL OF BUBBLY FROTH within 10 feet of their home. According to the clipping: "the Department of Natural Resources said it was a natural phenomenon, most likely



caused by a combination of decomposing organic matter, heavy rains, and moderate temperatures." YUM! Kay! Any advancing walls of foam around your house? (You mean aside from the two black Labs...well, at a quick glance I'd have to say no. There is a baby bunny rabbit sitting on my garden steps, but he doesn't appear to be foaming...yet.)

And speaking of slugs (Remember...) I am not only the proud owner of a wonderful slug original sculpture (a great gift!) by Judy Renee Pope, but I now own the fantastic PUNK FROG by the same talented artist (with help from Liz B. and Paula O'K? Yes?) Anyhow, me hopes that Kay F. (as opposed to any other Kay who might be editing this mag) will include his glorious photo SOMEWHERE in this Rag! Yes? No? (I promise that it is prominently displayed...)

And speaking of crabs (O.K., I know it's not quite the same as when we weren't speaking of slugs, but try to be flexible and stick with the program...) I need to mention that ANY and ALL Disney Little Mermaid goodies should be sent directly to ME! Yes, I am a Little Mermaniac! I got the video 3 days ago and it's already showing serious signs of wear! (Well, so do most PEOPLE who have been exposed to you for three days...) Typical conversation around here:

ME: "Under da sea, under da sea..."  
 MERRYL: "Mommy, can we watch something else?"  
 ME: "What do they got...a lot of SAND? We've got a hot crustacean band..."  
 MERRYL: "Mommy - I'm tired of The Little Mermaid..."  
 ME: "Les poissons, les poissons, HEE HEE HEE, HAUW, HAUW, HAUW!!!"  
 MERRYL: "I'm going to go play in the street."  
 ME: "Quiet! This is my favorite part!"

**SKUNK FAMILY**  
**Parade Across Your Yard!**

- Attached Ground Stakes
- Lifesized

They look so real! Watch neighbors and visitors run for cover when they first spot this lifesized Skunk Family on your lawn. Just press into ground and delight all who pass by. Momma stands alone and measures 16 1/2" long. The little ones are 13 1/2" long. Each piece is cut from an exterior grade sheet of hi-impact materials. They're painted black and white — won't fade, chip or peel.

No. 8184 — Skunk Family ..... \$4.99  
 Special: Two Set \$9 — Three \$12



**9013. GIANT NORTHWEST SLUG. A.K.A. JABBA.** This ugly fellow was a star in Star Wars some years ago. He is 4-1/2" tall, 9-1/2" long, the arms move and if you twist the last 4 inches of his tail, his head turns. The color is an awful greenish ochre. A true couch potato that some locals claim looks just like some slugs they've found around here. \$2.95 each.

"Jabba the Hut, who looks like a 6,000-pound intestinal parasite."  
 ---Dave Barry

PEOPLE, PLACES & THINGS PEOPLE, PLACES & THINGS

HEY!!!!!!(That's Californian for "Listen to what I have to say.") BUYER BEWARE.....we are having a rash of FAKE Breyers....again!! Request past history on any model that you find questionable.....ask other collectors about any doubts you may have.....check around!!!! Enough said!

Hope everyone has a real good time at BreyerFest in July. Kentucky Horse Park looks to be a fun park with lots of interesting sites. Now, we don't want to be hearing of any of our readers being thrown in the rock pile because of deals in the parking lot!! And no running around trying to buy those Decorator Mistys' from the raffle winners! We will have our spies out there and they will be reporting back to us all kinds of juicy tidbits!!!! Stay tuned!!!!

Congrats to Paola Groeber on her new position with a new company.....we will most definitely miss the complete line of Hartland Collectables you origiated over these past few years. We do look forward to the line of Hartlands that you will be producing in the near future. Keep up the good work.....we know our readers will be behind you!!

Oh....saw the note Kay left me about THE CONTEST....those artisans who would like to participate in this worthy meeting of the minds.....Black Horse Ranch offers direct to you:

- #426-Prancing Arabian Mare(Lady R).....\$12.00
- #460-Khemosabi.....\$16.00
- #450-Rugged Lark.....\$13.00
- #813-TB Mare (T.O.C.).....\$14.00

Mark the order..T.M.R./HSO Contest and BHR will pay shipping charges, one model per contestant. Send orders to BHR Shadow Hills address.....so come on.....get those dremels out and start cutting up those puppies....thats the only satisfaction you may get!!!!

Show season is in full swing, hope everyone gets a chance to get out. Looking forward to all the shows we will be having here in California (hint, hint Kay!) and all the lucrative swap meets here (shove, shove....)....it's SUMMERTIME!!!

Saw some model horses in tv and ads lately..a Beswick in the Hoover vacuum ad....magazine ads.....a Breyer Buffalo in the comedian's act on Showtime.....



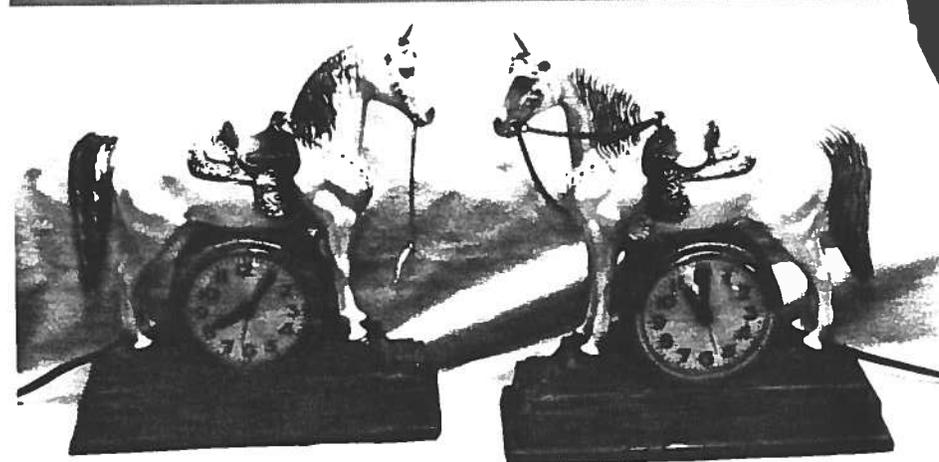


FINALLY A PHOTO.....

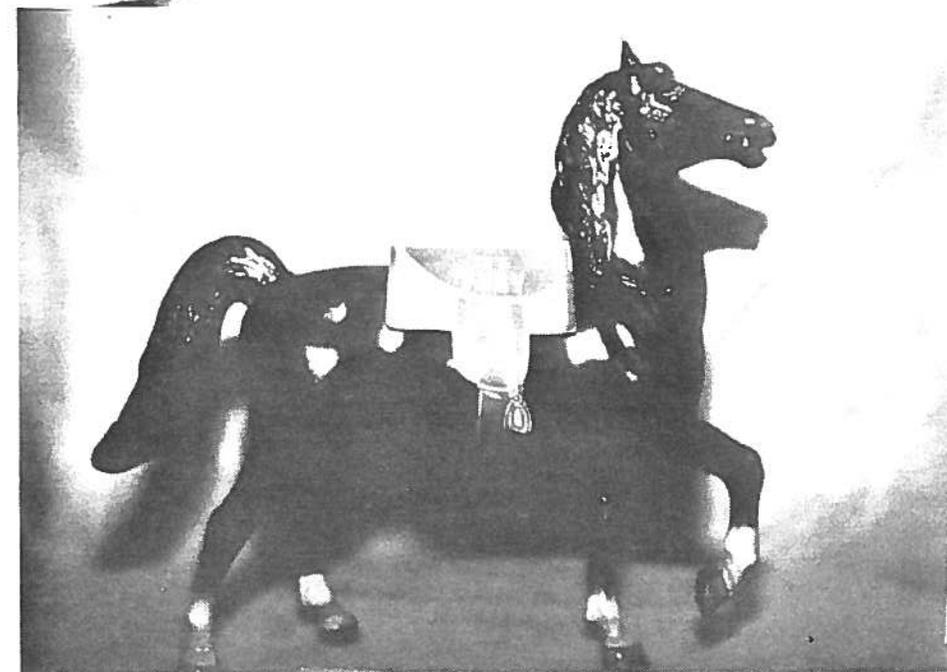
It's been awhile..so here are some photo's we thought you might enjoy!

Breyer Proud Arab Mare Woodgrain with gold foil sticker....  
..o/b Kim Jones

Breyer and Hartland Horse clocks...as you can tell..both use the Western Horse... Hartland made the clock first..did not keep the mold...then Breyer made the mold but kept them in lieu of payment....  
..o/b Heather Wells



Breyer Fury with paper saddle...hard to find with the paper saddle.... writing on saddle sez TV's FURY....  
..painted on white markings, no reins..  
..o/b Heather Wells



Hope to have this column again in the next issue with some models that are harder to find.....

LITTERBOX LITTERBOX LITTERBOX LITTERBOX LITTERBOX LITTERBOX

Not much to go on about.....send me anything you hear and I'll try to confirm it and PRINT it!

Breyer just sent out partial shipment on the new Roemer model just to quench everyones thirst.....why can't they just fill the mail order houses first, then the toy/department stores? Guess they can't..might show that they actually are doing a little something for the collector! Enough of that! Roemer does look good..has his common Breyer faults..but the position is great! How can we convince Breyer to try one of the many talented collectors available in this hobby?

Black Horse Ranch is the second mail order house to get a special run from Hartland Collectables..Your Horse Source was the first, but unlike YHS all of BHR's run was painted by HC, hand painted to resemble Karen's real filly...Dun In Dreams. Dun colored 11" Quarter Horse (LOVE that mold!) with a white blaze and one hind white sock.

Haven't heard if any of the mail order houses received the over - stock from Penneys.....the Warmblood horses...did hear rumor that they were going to be available in the 1990 Christmas book. We'll keep you all posted.

Just went to the Hallmark shop.....guess what folks?...the Christmas ornaments are IN! Go and get them! That also goes for the Fall line of Hagen-Renakers...aren't they suppose to be out in July too? Look for the catalog Christmas books to be released in a couple of months too!

Flipping the channels on the telly....saw a Mickey Rooney interview...he's about to lens a series for the Family Channel about the Black Stallion! Twenty episodes in Canada and six in France, with more inked for next year! And to top that...Mickey turns 70 this year!!!!

Hope everyone has a super time at BreyerFest....write me (Heather) and tell me how it went....send me those Litterbox items too!!!!

Gold Secretariats are out now....the signing parties have begun!!!!Contact any store that will be holding a signing party or write to the mail order houses for details. Not really the "old" Decorator type but its not all that bad...kinda grows on you, if you know what I mean!!!

Hope everyone has a safe fourth of July.....attend and support all the models shows you can....that's what keeps the hobby going.....Happy Showing!