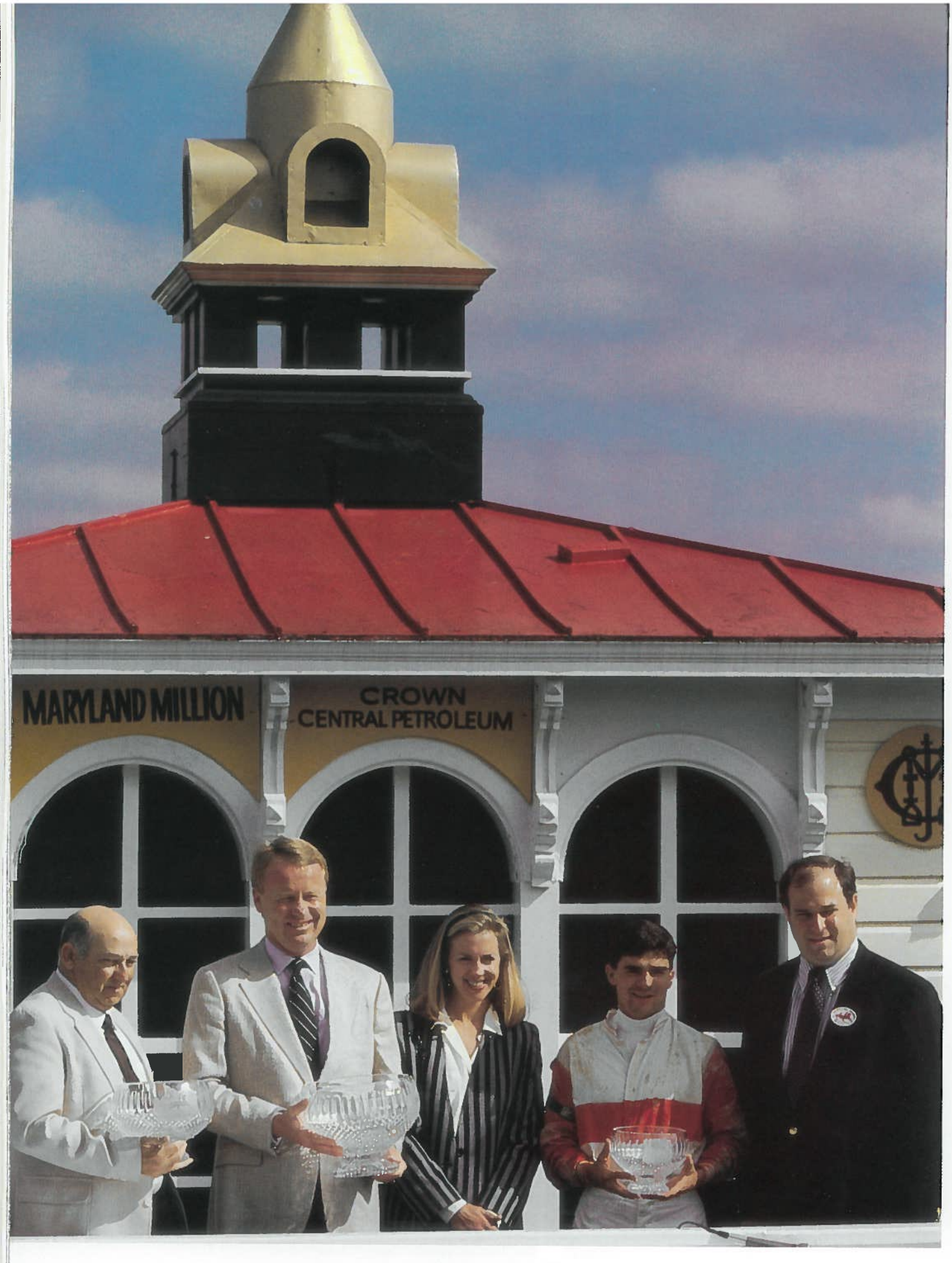


1993 Maryland Million 12

Janney runners upheld tradition on last year's Maryland Million Day

By Lucy Acton

Every owner dreams of winning a $100,000 stakes race. Getting the job done with a homebred is the ultimate. Having it happen twice in one day? Well, that verges on the impossible.

Unless your name happens to be Stuart S. Janney III.

When this year's Maryland Million Day rolls around, Janney will be hoping to build on his amazing 1992 Maryland Million achievement: three starters, two winners.

And considering the quality of his modest-sized racing operation, there could be a shelf full of Maryland Million trophies in 45-year-old Janney's future.

For many years, Stu Janney watched from the sidelines while his parents, Stuart S. Janney Jr. and Barbara Phipps Janney, took many major racing prizes with their renowned Locust Hill Farm breeding and racing establishment in Glyndon, Md. A partial list of the Janneys' most memorable campaigners includes the great, ill-fated Ruffian, Promise, Assault Landing, Icecapade, Buckfinder and 1988 Kentucky Derby favorite Private Terms.

Since his parents' deaths (Mr. Janney in 1988; Mrs. Janney in '87), Stuart Janney III has stepped in and carried on, adding a new chapter to the family legend.

"There doesn't seem to be any reason to depart from the basic game plan my parents had," says Janney. "It worked for them. I've made some changes here and there to reflect the times. But basically what my father tried to do is a model for what I'm trying to do."

It's unlikely that the senior Janneys could have done better than Stuart Janney III did in last year's Maryland Million, when the classy filly Deputation, whom Janney campaigns in partnership with his uncle Ogden Phipps, trounced her opposition in the $100,000-guaranteed Maryland Million Oaks and Military Look scored resoundingly in the $100,000-guaranteed Crown Central Petroleum Maryland Nursery.

Although the younger Janney wasn't a player in the racing game until recently, he seems to have slipped easily, and eagerly, into the role. "Growing up in a family that's very interested in horses is bound to have an effect," remarks Janney, sitting in his downtown Baltimore office at Alex. Brown and Sons, where he heads the asset management division and is managing director. "I was always interested in the racing part, and somewhat interested in the other."

Military Look outdueled Guru Dude in last year's Crown Central Petroleum Maryland Nursery, bringing to the winner's circle (opposite page, left to right) Charles H. Hadry, Stuart and Lynn Janney, and jockey Kent Desormeaux.

NEENA EWING (2)

Excellence was a tie that bound it all together—life, family and sport—in the stately, white-columned Locust Hill Farm mansion where Janney spent his formative years.

You couldn't invent such a sterling resume as that of Stuart Janney Jr., who was at various times in his 81 years a Harvard-educated lawyer, World War II hero, four-time winning rider in the Maryland Hunt Cup (1935, '42, '46 and '47), Master of the Green Spring Valley Hounds, chairman of the Maryland Racing Commission, and president of the Maryland Horse Breeders Association.

Also an avid horsewoman, Barbara Janney came from one of horse racing's most illustrious families. Her mother, Mrs. Henry Carnegie Phipps, was a major force throughout the 1940s, '50s and '60s with her mighty Wheatley Stable, propelled by the nation's then number one sire Bold Ruler.

Mrs. Janney's brother Ogden Phipps, former chairman of The Jockey Club, has bred and raced many outstanding runners, including champions Buckpasser, Relaxing, Easy Goer and undefeated Personal Ensign. Inheritor of the Phipps legacy is Ogden Mills (Dinny) Phipps, Stuart Janney III's first cousin, who is currently chairman of The Jockey Club.

NEENA EWING

"My father didn't push me to become involved with horses," says Stuart Janney III. "He was more concerned that I apply myself and whatever I chose, do it well."

Tennis was young Janney's favorite sport in his youth. He was runner-up in the Baltimore singles championship in the early 1970s ("I think that trophy peeled a while ago," he says with a chuckle).

But he followed the family tradition and became a lawyer, taking a route through Gilman School on to graduation from Lawrenceville Prep, then the University of North Carolina, where he majored in political science, and the University of Maryland law school.

From 1973 to '75, Janney worked as a legislative assistant to Maryland Senator Charles Matthias. He briefly served as a special assistant to the Secretary of State, and political assistant to Senator Howard Baker, before starting a law practice in Annapolis in the late 1970s. That firm has since merged with another, and evolved into the Baltimore-based firm of Niles, Barton and Wilmer.

Janney left the practice of law in 1986 to take his present job with Alex. Brown, an investment advisory operation which manages some $8 billion. He oversees the workings of the firm, rather than directly handling the plannings and transactions, as he explains it. "Running an investment advisory operation wasn't what I had in mind all along," he says. "But I was offered the opportunity, and it's turned out to be great."

Janney has also been a volunteer civic leader in Baltimore, guiding the Baltimore City Zoo through a period of tremendous improvement and expansion during the 1980s and into the '90s. He served as president, and now chairman, of the Maryland Zoological Society, a role that is also not unprecedented in his family. His mother's uncle, Howard Phipps, was once president of the New York Zoological Society.

He has been married since 1975 to his wife Lynn, whom he met at the University of North Carolina. Originally from Long Island, Mrs. Janney is not a horseperson, but she is definitely an entrepreneur. Under the label Lynn Buchheit (her maiden name), she has a sweater business. Mrs. Janney's sweater designs are farmed out to knitters, who work in their own homes, and the resulting creations are sold in boutiques and shows. Before starting her own business several years ago, Lynn Janney was art director for *Washingtonian* magazine.

The Janneys and their two children, Emily, 12, a student at Bryn Mawr School, and Matthew, 10, who attends Gilman School, live on a farm that Janney purchased in 1975, adjacent to Locust Hill.

Since his father's death five years ago, the Locust Hill Farm estate has passed almost seamlessly (based on outward appearances, at least) from one generation to the next.

"When my parents died, my sister Sheila and I basically bought their property. Sheila was already living on one side, and I was on the other," explains Janney. (One of four Janney children, he has two older sisters: Sheila Williams and Barbara Trimble. A younger sister, Sally [Mrs. Boykin Rose], died of leukemia in 1989. Mrs. Trimble, whose husband Bill is a partner in the Baltimore law firm Venable, Baetjer and Howard, lives in the Chattolanee Hill section of the Green Spring Valley, and is not involved with horses.)

As Janney explains it, he and Williams bought part of the Locust Hill property in their own names, and the balance in partnership. "Sheila is now buying me out of the partnership, and will own the majority of the land that was our parents'." Right now, Janney has about 300 acres, including the property he's owned since '75, and Williams has more than 400.

There aren't any horses on Stuart Janney's portion of the land—just a bunch of steers. He boards some of his broodmares with his sister at Locust Hill, and the remainder at Claiborne Farm in Kentucky.

But there is still plenty of activity at the old Janney estate. Mrs. Williams and her husband Rufus live in the main house, and the barns and fields serve as headquarters for the steeplechase training operation of their daughter Sheila and her husband Jack Fisher.

While Mrs. Williams has acquired a greater portion of their parents' land, Janney has taken over more of the race horses. "My sister's main thrust was always with jumpers," he explained. "So when it came time to divide the horses, everything was fairly easy. She chose the fillies and mares she wanted, I took the rest, and we decided to go on campaigning the male horses already in training jointly—figuring they would either prosper, or not. Gradually, the racing stable would dwindle, and we wouldn't entangle ourselves beyond that."

Most of the inherited Locust Hill racing stock has long since been retired. But one is remarkably enough still going strong. That is 8-year-old Finder's Choice, who recently (on July 18) finished third in the Pennsylvania Governor's Cup Handicap. As tough as they come, Finder's Choice (by Buckfinder) has won nine stakes and placed in six others, in 53 starts, earning $594,899.

An attempt to retire Finder's Choice to stud at Green Willow Farms, in Westminster (Md.), for 1993 failed. "He didn't show much interest in breeding mares," says Janney. "We'll probably give him another chance next year, and if that doesn't pan out, he can come back home to the farm and run around the fields for the rest of his life."

Janney has eight horses in training, divided nearly equally between trainers Charlie Hadry at Laurel and Shug McGaughey in New York. The star of his stable is Deputation, a 4-year-old Deputy Minister filly who annexed the $200,000 Pimlico Distaff last May, pushing her total earnings to $434,387. Deputation, who is trained by McGaughey, most recently finished fifth as 11-10 favorite in the Grade 1 Top Flight Handicap at Belmont Park.

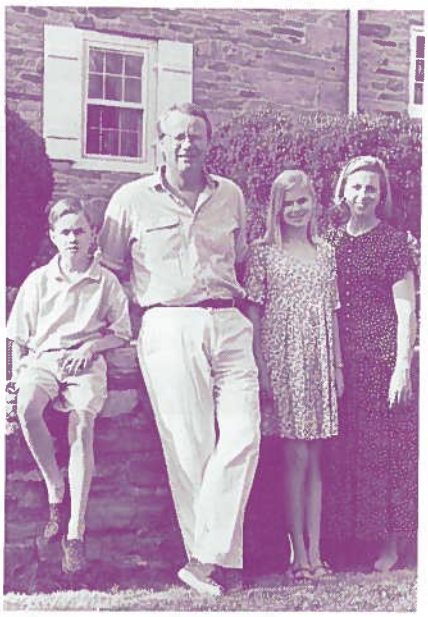
Janney's other 1992 Maryland Million winner, Military Look, is still running and winning for Hadry. His two allowance victories so far this season have pushed the Assault Landing gelding's lifetime earnings to $85,970.

Fortunately for Janney, the dams of both Deputation and Military Look are both still actively-producing members of his broodmare band.

WINANTS BROS.

JIM RAFTERY/TURFOTOS

The late Mr. and Mrs. Stuart S. Janney Jr., shown above with trainer Frank Whiteley, were most widely known for homebred Ruffian, pictured here with rider Jacinto Vasquez aboard after winning the 1974 Sorority Stakes.



KRISTEN MOWERY (2)

Stuart and Lynn Janney live on a farm adjoining Locust Hill in Butler, with son Matthew and daughter Emily.

Using his father's guidelines, Janney has set ten as his ideal number of broodmares. "It's not an absolute number," he says. "But to hover around that number, you have to upgrade and cull, and you're mindful that mares should accomplish certain things over time."

Janney currently has seven mares, all from well-established Locust Hill bloodlines. Two (Wedding Party and Steel Maiden) are owned in partnership with Ogden Phipps. The roster consists of:

- Deputation's dam Wedding Party (by Hoist the Flag) foaled a colt this year by Seeking the Gold and is back in foal to Private Account. Herself a graded stakes winner, Wedding Party ($174,306, Gallorette H-G3, Chrysanthemum H-G3, etc.) is a granddaughter of the Janney foundation mare Vowed (by Dedicate).
- Military Look's dam Laughing Look (by Damascus) slipped her 1993 foal by Forty Niner and is in foal to Seeking the Gold. Only 7 years old, Laughing Look was unraced due to a conformation defect, and Military Look is her first foal. She is out of Ruffian's half-sister Laughter, one of the Janneys' outstanding producers.
- Trial Landing (by Solo Landing) slipped to the cover of Opening Verse for 1993 and is in foal to Private Terms. Dam of Finder's Choice, and additional stakes winners St. Brendan ($371,868, Riggs H-G3, Ventnor S, etc.) and Assault Landing ($108,189, Gotham S-G2, etc.), Trial Landing, at 21, has long been a prized member of the Janney broodmare band.
- Steel Maiden (by Damascus) had a Cox's Ridge filly last spring and is back in foal to Cox's Ridge. Also a daughter of Laughter, Steel Maiden, now 10, has yet to prove herself as a broodmare. But she was a solid race horse who won the Dancealot and Resolution Stakes, placed second in the Black-Eyed Susan Stakes-G2, and earned $119,030.
- Bless You (by Halo) was barren for 1993, but is due to foal next spring to Forty Niner. A daughter of Wedding Party, Bless You won or placed in 14 of 22 career starts, including a third in the Geisha Handicap, earning $123,120. Her first foal, Spanish Mission (by Seeking the Gold) is 2.
- Docking (by Blue Ensign) has a 1993 filly by Private Terms and is in foal to Private Terms. A 5-year-old daughter of Trial Landing, Docking also has a yearling filly by Allen's Prospect.
- Laughter's Last (by Vaniandingham) is Laughter's final foal. The 2-year-old filly was born with a club foot, and so has never been put in training, but will be bred next spring. Janney owns her in partnership with his sister.

Not on the list, but still quite a presence, is grand dame Laughter. Twenty-three years old and a pensioner at Locust Hill, Laughter (by Bold Ruler) is the dam of five stakes winners: Private Terms ($1,243,947, Wood Memorial Invitational S-G1, Gotham S-G2, Massachusetts H-G2, etc.), Blue Ensign ($243,065, Woodlawn S-G3, etc.), Light Spirits ($198,690, Lamplighter H-G3, etc.), Dover Ridge ($155,355) and Steel Maiden.

Janney owns only one stallion share—in Private Terms, who stands at Northview Stallion Station in Chesapeake City, Md. "I toyed with owning more," he says. "But I'm limited in what mares I can send to him, because so many of them are related."

Which is one of the reasons Janney is gradually branching out. In the future, he does not intend to rely on homebreds to carry on his entire breeding program. "That strategy is a major departure from my father's approach," he says. "He only bought one or two fillies or mares at sales, during 40 some years in the business. But I perceive that to be necessary now, especially since prices are relatively reasonable. Each year I buy one yearling

filly who offers racing potential and a good family that will fit into our breeding program."

This year at the Keeneland July sale, Janney bought a Mining—Petite Diable by Sham filly, who is a half-sister to Grade 1 stakes winner Dixie Brass, for $210,000.

His 1992 purchase, in partnership with Seth Hancock, was an 'outstanding physical specimen,' though more modestly priced. They paid $42,000 for a daughter of Time for a Change—Stolie by Navajo at the Keeneland September sale.

The year before that, at Keeneland in 1991, Janney acquired the current 3-year-old filly Defense Spending (by Spend a Buck—Battle Creek Girl by His Majesty). A half-sister to major stakes winners Tricky Creek, Wavering Girl and Speed Dialer, she was a $230,000 purchase. Although far from recouping that investment, she is a good New York allowance winner of about $45,000.

For Stuart Janney, who was elected in 1992 to his first term as a director of the Maryland Horse Breeders Association, the new should blend easily with the old. ❖

Ruffian's half-sister Laughter, now a 23-year-old pensioner at Locust Hill Farm, achieved greatness as a broodmare, producing five major stakes winners.

Last year, seven owners registered their first victories in Maryland Million events. The Maryland Million has definitely not been dominated by the "same old crowd": 52 owners have taken turns in the winner's circle.

Proud past, promising future

Trainer Richard Dutrow waxed prophetic seven years ago, after saddling King's Swan for his victory in the First National Bank of Maryland Sprint on inaugural Maryland Million Day. "This thing (the Maryland Million) will balloon!" observed the horse racing veteran.

And that is exactly what's happened.

Conceived during the financial prosperity of the 1980s, the Maryland Million continues to flourish and expand during the deflated '90s.

The eighth running of this rich day of racing restricted to progeny of Maryland stallions will be presented at Laurel on Saturday, October 9.

From the early planning stages back in 1985, the Maryland Million has been built upon the dedicated efforts of Jim McKay's team of volunteers, remarkable cooperation on the part of breeders, owners and track management and a bedrock of corporate sponsorship.

Nominating statistics demonstrate the enthusiasm of Thoroughbred owners and breeders for the annual event. In this era of declining foal crops, some 806 current 2-year-olds are eligible for competition, nearly matching last year's figure, which was a record 878.

More than 6,000 Thoroughbreds have been nominated throughout the Maryland Million's existence, making for a huge pool of potential starters, even though some of these nominees are no longer in competition.

Widespread hopes have been largely rewarded, as 106 stallions have been represented by starters over the years. Fifty-nine horses, and 54 owners, have had their names engraved on trophies in the 67 Maryland Million events to date.

A pioneer venture under the day-to-day guidance of executive director Richard W. Wilcke and Cricket Goodall, assistant executive director, the Maryland Million has served as a model for similar programs in California, West Virginia, Ohio, Louisiana and New Mexico, among others.

This media guide, which includes charts and statistics, is designed to provide a detailed account of the first seven Maryland Million race days. We salute these heroes of yesteryear and look forward to a time in the not-too-far-off future, when their sons and daughters step out on the track bearing Maryland Million saddlecloths.