



Country Life Press

August 2021

Newsletter

From Maryland's Oldest Thoroughbred Farm

Established 1933



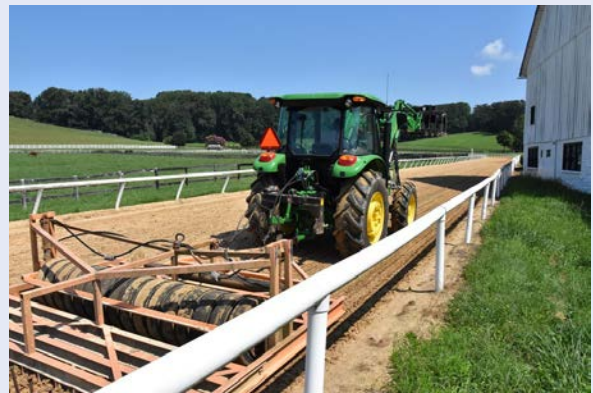
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Celebrating 20 Years at Merryland Farm

THEN....



NOW...





Excerpt from *Merryland, Two Years in the Life of a Racing Stable*

Published by *The Blood-Horse* in 2007

By Josh Pons

In 1939, restless trainer Danny Shea settled on a farm in Maryland's Long Green Valley, with the playfully punned name, Merryland...

By the time Country Life Farm purchased Merryland in August 2001, the twinkle in Danny's eyes had been gone from this earth for 42 years. His racetrack rail could be pushed over with a touch. Poison ivy climbed the bank barn's faded walls. The finish pole had toppled...

It's a different world than when Danny plowed his life savings into these acres, but his island of merriment is intact. His barns have all been painted, his hedges tamed, and his track has been restored.

When Danny died, Merryland was the largest commercial horse farm in the state. Marylanders remember a picture on the front page of the Baltimore Sun. There were 19 yearlings running at full tilt, strung out across a deep, broad hillside. A spectacular photograph. The perfect image of a perfect farm in a state where people loved horses.

Partnership Winners

We had some happy partners in August as two of our fillies, Getting Lucky and Mosler's Image, reached the winner's circle within days of each other.

Getting Lucky, with two previous starts on grass, was making her third start in a turf Maiden Special at Penn National on August 18th. Thunderstorms and heavy rain took the race off the grass and she relished the slop, coming from off the pace to grab the lead on the turn for home and win by 1-1/4 lengths. The regally-bred filly by Pioneerof the Nile is from one of the best female families in the stud book. Her dam Lucky Number is a half-sister to G1-winner Got Lucky and their 2nd dam is the prolific mare Get Lucky, who produced G1-winner and sire Girolamo, graded-stakes winner Daydreaming (dam of Imagining), Supercharger (dam of Super Saver and two other stallion sons) and She's a Winner (dam of Bluegrass Cat, Cal Nation and two other stallion sons).

Then on August 21st, our homebred filly Mosler's Image was making her second start off a layoff and trying turf for the first time at Pimlico. She loved the grass, stalking the pace in 2nd on the rail before driving to the lead in the stretch of the 1 mile contest and winning by 2 lengths. Partners Jay Lebow and Pat Quinn were on hand with some friends to celebrate the victory in the winner's circle. The daughter of Mosler, out of partnership mare Imagistic (by Deputy Minister), has only been off the board twice in her 7 lifetime starts and looks like she'll run on any surface going forward.





Mosler's Image (Jim McCue photo)



Tour of Mike Trombetta's Barn at Laurel

With racing about to resume at Laurel Park in September we took a trip down to see the recently resurfaced racetrack and take a tour of our trainer Mike Trombetta's new barn on the Laurel backstretch. The video proved popular among our partners and clients, who don't get to see the backside at the racetrack much, so we thought we'd share it again here:

[Video tour of Trombetta Stables at Laurel](#)



Maryland Horse Breeders Yearling Show Recap



Country Life exhibited a dozen yearlings at the annual MHBA Yearling Show, judged by trainer Gary Contessa, on August 1st. Despite the grey skies and light rain, the day was a success with several yearlings we handled earning ribbons in their classes. The highlight was a 1st place award (out of 28 yearlings) for the Mosler colt out of Keep Right in Class 1, for MD-sired colts and geldings.

Among the others that earned ribbons or made the final cut in their classes were:

- 3rd place in Class 1 to Dowsing Rod (Divining Rod - Final Humor), bred by Country Life Farm and owned by David & Lori Hughes of Mens Grille Racing
- 2nd place in Class 3 (for MD-sired fillies) to the Divining Rod filly out of Imagistic, owned and bred by Country Life Farm & Imagistic II Broodmare LLC
- 4th place in Class 3 to Willful Desire (Friesan Fire - Will Do), owned and bred by Nick & Delora Beaver's Bell Gable Stable
- 4th place in Class 4 (for out-of-state sired fillies) to the Cross Traffic filly out of Your Flame in Me, owned and bred by Country Life Farm & Your Flame in Me LLC

All of the yearlings we showed were raised and prepped at Merryland Farm and they behaved like professionals on their first trip off the farm. You can watch a replay of all the classes on the Maryland Thoroughbred Facebook page here: [Maryland TB](#)

Winners By Our Stallions

DIVINING ROD (*first crop)

LOCAL MOTIVE: 8/2 at COLONIAL, \$100,000 Hickory Tree Stakes (breeder Wasabi Ventures Stables LLC, Greenspring Mares LLC & Bowman and Higgins Stable; owner Bird Mobberley LLC)

PETITION PRAYER: 8/25 at COLONIAL, Allowance (breeder Gainesway Thoroughbreds Ltd, owner Mens Grille Racing)

FRIESAN FIRE

GRANDFIRE: 8/3 at PARX, Starter/Opt Clm (breeder Burning Daylight Farm, owner Mr. Ree Stable and Gary Matthew)

MOSLER

FOOL YOURSELF: 8/13 at PIMLICO, Starter/Opt Clm (breeder Marathon Farms, Inc., owner Robert D. Bone)

DEPOSITORY: 8/14 at PIMLICO, Allowance (breeder/owner Hope Haskell Jones)

MOSLER'S IMAGE: 8/21 at PIMLICO, Claiming (breeder CLF & Imagistic II Broodmare LLC, owner CLF & Mosler Girls LLC)

FOOL YOURSELF: 8/29 at TIMONIUM, Allowance (breeder Marathon Farms, Inc., owner Robert D. Bone)

SUPER NINETY NINE

MAID THE JOURNEY: 8/25 at DELAWARE, Maiden (breeder Country Life Farm, owner Bell Gable Stable)

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