

Giuseppe's Gazette August 2020

Greetings from Giuseppe! What is most appropriate with everything that is going on is the quote from **William James**. He says that a sense of humor is just common sense dancing. What a great image! So let's keep our sense of humor this summer and keep dancing! And, of course keep giving us equines treats! (Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw!)

We welcome **Mark Harricharan**, Bronx NY. Mark is an EMT with the New York Fire Department. We also welcome **Trevor Farino**, Middlesex. Trevor is **Kaci Mulligan's** son and **Bob Mulligan's** grandson. Bob started riding with us in June and at one lesson brought his grandson. Trevor had the opportunity to get on Chester and was smitten. Bob said he was "over the moon". We're happy to give you the chance, Trevor to be over the moon often! (Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw!)

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We extend a big hello to **Zoe Reaves**, Tenafly and **Samantha Vargas**, Middletown, NY. They are interested in improving their riding plus learning more about horse management. Now, remember one of the most important aspects of horse care is the feeding of treats! (Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw!)

August Birthdays

Our best wishes for a very happy birthday go out to Nancy Nelson (1), Ed Picard (12), Jake Delvalle (15)

August Anniversaries

Our best wishes go out to Kathy Barrand (2000), Kimmie Coscia (2017), Addisyn Fazio (2019), Tara McAdams (2017), Karen Soccia (2018), Caprice Tanis (2017), Julie Glista (2018).

Late Summer Calendar

8/8	Cross Country Clinic	9/12	Oxbow Riding Club Begins
8/16	Oxbow Show (Closing Date: 8/ 8)	9/13	Oxbow Show (Closing Date: 9/3)

Congratulations!

Barbara Nabors aboard Loki and **Melissa Sinopoli** with Legacy journeyed to the Ridge Show in Asbury on July 14th. They both rode well with Barbara competing in the Level O Division (2'9") and Melissa showing in the Teeny Tiny Division (2'). Each division had 3 classes with differing requirements such as time taken the first round or time taken in the jump off. (Riders going clean, i.e., having no faults will do a timed "jump off". The horse that goes the fastest with no faults is the winner.)

Barbara and Loki earned a second place, a fourth place and a fifth place which gave them the Reserve Championship. Melissa and Legacy earned two firsts and a second and won the Championship in their division! Great job!

Barbara and Loki also competed at The Ridge Show on July 28th. Riding in the same division (Level O), they earned a second place, a third place and a fourth place and again won the Reserve Championship! Congratulations!

Oxbow riding Club

Can you believe that it's August and we're starting to think about the beginning of the Oxbow Riding Club, aka the Saturday Program? Time goes by when you're having so much fun with us equines! The new fall program starts on Sept. 12th. (Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw!) There's information enclosed.

Oxbow Show

The weather cooperated for our show on July 12th. **Patricia Piccillo** judged dressage. A big thank you to **Philippa Bowles**, our dressage scribe, **Darby Callahan**, our dressage steward and **Erin Rizzi**, our scorer. We also thank **Melissa Sinopoli** our show jumping course designer, **Jo Iacono**, our show jumping judge, **Karen Soscia**, **Ty Tanis** and **Dave Chauvin**, our show jumping crew. We couldn't have done it without you!

The results:

Introductory & Elementary Combined Tests

1st **Kimmie Coscia & Timmy [I] (38.20)**

2nd **Capri Tanis & Mariposa [E] (40.70)**

3rd Eliminated

Combined Tests

1st **Melissa Sinopoli & Legacy of Honor [S] (26.70)**

2nd Katelyn Vanderbeck & Whinnie [BN] (30.50)

3rd **Barbara Nabors & Loki [N] (36.50)**

4th **Barbara Nabors & Loki [BN] (38.80)**

5th Sophia Kucinski & Ethel's a Heartbreaker [PS] (44.00)

USEF Training Level

1st Jessica Calabrese & Sweet Caroline [T-3] (69.30)

2nd Kaitlin Kopshaw & Indy [T-1] (68.60)

3rd Jessica Calabrese & Sweet Caroline [T-2] (62.20)

USEF First Level

1st Dana Billman & Raven [F-1] (66.000)

2nd Vany Bauer & Lhavren [F-2] (63.200)

3rd Vany Bauer & Lhavren [F-1] (62.500)

4th Kaci Kopec & Shiraz [F-2] (62.100)

Individual Tests

Addisyn Fazio & Little Princess [I-A] (68.70)

Addisyn Fazio & Little Princess [I-B] (64.00)

Kaitlin Kopshaw & Indy [I-C] (72.000)

Laura MacNamara & To the Max [S-1] (75.600)

Giuseppe's Jottings

As everyone knows the 2020 Tokyo Olympics have been postponed to 2021. The latest issue of the *Chronicle of the Horse* included an article called "A Lifetime of Olympics" by Kimberly Loushin. **J. Michael Plumb** has competed in more Olympics than any other U.S. athlete. Here are excerpts.

1960: YOUNG AND UNPREPARED (ROME)

Fresh off a team gold and individual silver from the 1959 Pan American Games in Chicago, J. Michael Plumb earned his first Olympic berth in 1960 alongside **Michael Page**, David Lurie and Walter Staley.

"I didn't have a clue as to what I was doing," Plumb recalled. He was 20 and had never been out of the country. Plumb rode his Pan American Games partner Markham, a 7 year-old gelding Plumb's father had foxhunted.

Lurie and Staley both failed to finish on endurance day and Plumb completed the course – albeit with a fall – and ended up the best U.S. finisher in 15th place.

1964: PLAN B, THEN PLAN C (TOKYO)

Plumb was planning to ride Markham but he panicked in the plane and had to be euthanized after kicking a hole in the side of the plane. Plumb had his alternate horse onboard but didn't want to compete him because he wasn't a good jumper. Bill Haggard, Plumb's teammate in '59 and '63 (Pan American Games) offered to send his horse, Bold Minstrel to Tokyo. By the time Bold Minstrel arrived, Plumb didn't have long to get to know the gelding. "It was probably good because he knew what he was doing and probably if I had any practice on him I'd just screw him up in a heartbeat," Plumb said.

Plumb was grateful for the opportunity that led to a team silver alongside **Michael Page** on The Grasshopper, Lana DuPont on Mr. Wister and Kevin Freeman on Gallopade.

1968: INVISIBLE JUMPS AND A MONSOON (MEXICO CITY)

Heavy rain soaked the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico City. As endurance day progressed, conditions deteriorated so much that jumps were underwater, with just the tops of the flags indicating the location of the obstacles. "I fell at one of my water jumps where all you could see were flags. The water was so high you couldn't see the jump. It was a mess – Mexico was a mess, but we won a silver medal in spite of it."

His teammates were Kevin Freeman on Chalan, **Michael Page** on Foster, Jimmy Wofford on Kilkenny and Plumb rode Plain Giuseppe's Gazette ☞ august 2020 ☞ 3

Sailing, who was loaned to the team by Ray Firestone. The gelding went on to earn team silver in the '72 Games (Germany) with Bruce Davidson and team gold at the 1974 World Championships (England) with Don Sachey.

1972: ENTERING A NEW ERA (MUNICH)

By 1972 the U.S. team was entering a new era. After a rotating group of coaches, Jack Le Goff took over the position in 1970 and would stay through the 1984 Olympics.

The team consisted of Kevin Freeman on Good Mixture, Bruce Davidson now on Plain Sailing, Jim Wofford on Kilkenny and Plumb on Free and Easy. The team won their third consecutive silver medal.

1976: "IT'S A WONDERFUL THING" (MONTREAL)

Heading into the 1976 Montreal Olympic Games, the U.S. Eventing team had developed a rhythm after six years under Le Goff, but many of the top horses were out due to injury.

Plumb had two options: Good Mixture, with whom he'd won individual silver and team gold at the '74 World Championships (England), and a greener 7 year-old by the name of Better and Better.

"Jack didn't want me to ride Better and Better, but I did because I trusted him," said Plumb. "He was young. He wasn't a very good jumper, but he would try anything. So damn if I didn't make the right choice because he tried everything, and he almost won it. He's just a horse full of heart."

The team – Plumb, Tad Coffin on Bally Cor, Bruce Davidson on Irish Cap and Mary Anne Tauskey on Marcus Aurelius won the team gold with Coffin winning the individual gold and Plumb winning the individual silver.

"It made you feel like you won something for the United States of America, and standing on the podium, what happens to you – a little something happens to you, and you feel kind of sad and kind of glad and kind of proud," he continued. "It's a wonderful thing, and it doesn't happen very often. That's how I felt even though I'd been there before in the three prior – I was too young; I didn't really know what I was doing."

1980: JUST HAPPY TO COMPETE (ALTERNATE OLYMPICS AT FONTAINEBLEAU, FRANCE)

After the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in late 1979, the United States led more than 60 nations in a boycott of the 1980 Olympic Games. Only 11 nations participated in the equestrian sports, and the Fédération Equestre Internationale hosted an Alternate Olympics, with the Eventing competition in Fontainebleau, France. "I would say we were just happy to compete," Plumb said. "All the good riding countries competed in France." The U.S. team, which included Mike Huber on Gold Chip, Jim Wofford on Carawich and Torrance Watkins on Poltroon, were second following dressage, and as cross country progressed they amassed a larger lead. Then Huber's Gold Chip came in with a cut on her knee that made it unlikely she'd show jump. As the anchor rider, Plumb had to finish to keep the team in it. Plumb was riding Laurenson, purchased by the Mara family from the Australians after Wayne Roycroft rode him at the Montreal Games.

"If he was in an area where he wasn't so sure he would stop," said Plumb. There was a zigzag jump; it was a water complex that was pretty straightforward, but he would have none of it. The pair was eliminated and the U.S. dreams of a team medal were dashed, although Wofford won individual silver with Carawich and Watkins took bronze aboard Poltroon.

1984: TENSION AND TRIUMPH (LOS ANGELES)

The lead-up to the 1984 Olympic Games marked the beginning of the end of Le Goff's tenure. Following a run at Ledyard Farm International Horse Trials (Massachusetts), the riders wanted a change. They felt they needed good gallops and hills in order to be prepared and the team headquarters in Gladstone didn't provide that. Against the wishes of Le Goff, they shipped to Unionville, Pa for their final prep work.

The Santa Anita racetrack hosted the Olympic dressage and show jumping, but the cross-country took place two hours away at Fairbanks Ranch, San Diego. Due to the travel time, the competition was spread over six days, with rest days on either side of cross country.

Aboard Blue Stone, Plumb was team trailblazer, and his information about the slippery course proved crucial to the team, as most accidents were happening on the flat.

In front of a home crowd, the U.S. team of Plumb, Bruce Davidson on J.J. Babu, Karen Stives on Ben Arthur and Torrance Fleischmann on Finvarra won the team gold. Stives also earned the individual silver.

1992: A RUSH JOB (BARCELONA)

Without a suitable mount in 1988, Plumb was left off his first Olympic team since 1960, but four years later he was back to compete in Barcelona with Adonis, owned by Michael Friedlander.

Plumb admits that the whole process felt rushed since the owners were eager to have an Olympic horse. But he lays as much blame on himself. "I didn't give him the best ride," he said. He could've been a better horse if I'd had a little more time."

Plumb's teammates – Stephen Bradley, Todd Trevin and Jil Walton – were young, and he was considered a mentor for the team. Due to the terrain and high heat, the endurance phases were shortened and time limits extended in order to allow horses to recover before cross country.

Plumb was first to go and fell. He then was held for 40 minutes while a Russian horse was extricated from a fence. They finished, but the effort left him and the team off the podium.

Quotes of The Month

There are only two emotions that belong in the saddle; one is a sense of humor and the other is patience.

- John Lyons

Common sense and a sense of humor are the same thing, moving at different speeds. A sense of humor is just common sense, dancing.

- William James

HAPPY SUMMER!

