

Never Mind the Stallions *by Howard Streaker*

Native Dancer was there in full force, five studs with seven Native Dancers in power. Weather overcast, but that was all that was overcast. Crowds of interested, knowledgeable people from all walks of life. Can any of them trace their ancestry as far as this? Was as much time spent on picking a stud or mare? I doubt it. But the “genes” do pop up, and the “nicks” are terrific.

Bowman's Band—Native Dancer. This was the one main event of “Maryland Horse”. You are glad you were invited. At the gate entrance, you are met by a valet to park your vehicle and a great coach to carry you up to the barn.

Rock Slide—Native Dancer. Ringling Bros. the only one with tents up. Main breeding shed, huge with two offices in corners to check semen. Special place to hold mares while being readied for service. Padded walls, high ceilings. Plenty of light! Excellent footing!

Jazz Club—Native Dancer. Short walk to the main stud barn. Entrance to the stud barn takes your breath away. Foundation of block topped off with post and beam construction. High ceilings, excellent doors, large stalls with doors on each side. Water in each stall and easy to feed box.

Outflanker—Native Dancer. Step out through the main office and overlook 100 acres. 18,000 feet of board paddock, double-fenced with water in each lot. Stud horse name on each gate—that way he knows where he belongs.

Seeking Daylight—Native Dancer. Back inside, the main barn business office is in full swing. You can get a free run on your mare, full of nicks with A+, B+, and maybe a D. Not much use for a D.

Never mind the studs. If you looked up on top of the hill there appeared to be a “grey ghost” calmly overlooking the “goings on”. Was that A.G. Vanderbilt leading him, or his groom? Just too hazy to make it out clearly. Or maybe my eyes were misty. One gets misty looking back.

Never mind the studs. Outside and surround the walking ring. Big talk. Politics, etc. All the big guns were brought to light. Who's who of Maryland Stallion Station were credited. Kentucky was included. Horsemen and financiers also.

Never mind the studs. Finally, the main act began. One at a time, the studs were carried out, stood up and talked over, paraded around, and led back. Five times, each one better than the other. Which one will Native Dancer speak to? Which one will you breed your mare to?

Never mind the studs. Excellent food, service, and free bar. Heat in the tents. Big screens to look at the stud racing. Plenty of places to get more food. Food and bar estimated to cost a buck two ninety eight.

Never mind the studs. If you want to have a horse sale, turn out right. This “do” was turned out right. When a prominent carriage owner has a sale, the rich step up to the plate and make it a huge success. Bidding and running each other up and setting records. When their offspring are sold, the rich will step up.

Never mind the studs. Bowman's Band, as he was led out, was seen throwing an “I'm your huckleberry” to a prominent horse lady.