

# BEHIND THE BARN DOOR

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## CORONAVIRUS

### *A generational catastrophe*

March 25, 2020

"Coronavirus". That's about all a person has to say and images are stirred. People dashing to stores and buying all the toilet paper. (No one has successfully explained that to me yet.)

Events cancelled, including one of most watched month-long events in the world in March Madness. Even the 2020 Olympics has been postponed until 2021.

Horse racing continues as of

this writing on a limited basis, but many tracks closed their meetings early (FG), cancelled meetings entirely (KEE) or suspended racing with limited training available for those horses "trapped".

This is a major catastrophic time like the Dust Bowl and Great Depression. This is a time when major changes will take place that will affect lives for subsequent generations.

Amid this crisis, horse racing experienced a significant game changing event when the FBI arrested prominent trainers and other horsemen for illegal activities, most for giving horses illegal substances. This will NOT get buried beneath government requested "self-quarantine" and travel

restrictions that draw most of the attention now.

I have taught a lot of people about horses with an emphasis on doing what is right for the horse.

Sometimes giving a horse a medication is the right thing to do for that horse. To pass a rule that no horse in race training can ever be given a therapeutic medication that a horse may need is as wrong (in my opinion) as allowing illegal doping of horses. We need to apply the rules that are already on the books regardless of the number of horses or number of wins a trainer (or owner) has. And, if evidence proves that a

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### RACHORSE OWNER-TRAINER PREP CLASS & OTHER VIDEOS IN PRODUCTION

With restrictions in place for the health and well-being of humans during this Coronavirus pandemic, all Racehorse Owner-Trainer Prep classes and all Groom Elite classes are postponed or suspended. Dr. Mac is setting up a video studio in his Louisiana office and will produce a series of videos based on lessons from ROTP classes, Groom Elite classes and just some "life in general" videos. Let Doc know if you want to be notified as these videos go online.

trainer allowed an illegal substance to be administered to a horse (not being in attendance of a horse is not mitigating if a long time employee administered that illegal

substance) that trainer loses privilege to be licensed and participate in this sport.

I'll discuss this more in future ramblings. Enough for March 25th. Read information about upcoming educational video series starting April 13 in next section.

## EQUINE EDUCATION ONLINE

ROTP and Groom Elite class materials available online starting April 13

During this "self-imposed isolation" I'm developing a series of lessons that will be available online. First of these will be from the first two days of the Racehorse Owners-Trainers Prep class. Those days cover Philosophy & Methods of Training Racehorses (See class outline at: [www.purplepowerracing.com](http://www.purplepowerracing.com)).



Additional lessons will be based on the popular Groom Elite materials

that I have presented to racehorse grooms around this country for over 20 years.

Additionally, along with this newsletter, I will tell some "stories" Some to illustrate a lesson, and some to entertain myself.



(AQHA Youth Experience, Albuquerque 2019)

be a vignette rather than a "novel".

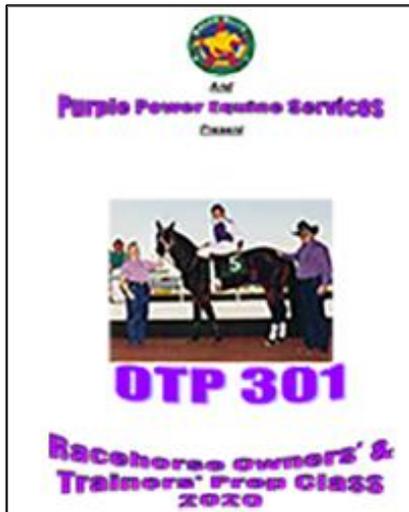
Until 2020 I was not a fan of Valentine's Day. Not even in elementary school. I WAS a BIG fan of Valentine Candy, but not so much of cards and flowers. It was a part of my "weirdness". **February 14, 1967.** I presented my first wife with her engagement ring. I had cleverly (I thought so anyway) sealed that solitaire in a small, red, heart-shaped candy box where the middle chocolate was before I ate it. Rather than impressed, my fiancé was, in fact, a bit "annoyed".

**February 14, 1985** (17 years, to the day, later) is the date on that marriage's divorce papers.

Recently, my siblings and I gathered up items from our old R5J farmhouse before it was taken down as a result of the 2016 Baton Rouge flood. In one of my historical "picture books" mom had saved a bill from Baton Rouge General Hospital for the scrotal hernia surgery I had as a two-year old. The date of that surgery?

**FEBRUARY 14, 1948.**

THAT is **ANOTHER STORY!**



- Age Descriptions .....
- Color Descriptions .....
- External Body Parts .....
- Chapter 2. Acquiring a Racehorse .....
- Breed to Race .....
- Purchase Yearlings .....
- Two-Year Old in Training .....
- Pinhooking .....
- Claiming Step by Step .....
- Private Purchase .....
- Chapter 3. Preparing a Racehorse .....
- Training a Horse's Mind .....
- Communicating with Horses Part 1. Leadership and resp  
    CUE - RESPONSE - REINFORCE .....
- APPLYING THE PRINCIPLES .....
- Communicating With Horses Part 2 - The Round Pen .....
- Chapter 3. Training a horses Anatomy .....
- Conformation .....
- Anatomy and Conformation .....
- Ligaments connect bones to bones .....
- Chapter 4. Training a Horse's Internal Systems .....
- Health Check (Temp, Pulse, Respiration, Dehydration) .....
- Digestive System .....
- Respiratory System .....
- Circulatory System .....
- Furosemide .....
- Other Medication Rules .....
- Non-Steroid Anti-Inflammatories (NSAIDs) .....
- National Uniform Medication Policy .....

## LET ME TELL YOU A STORY

Those that know me know that when they hear those words they might as well pull up a chair, turn over a bucket or grab a bale of hay and get ready to sit for a spell. Since I'm just getting started with this newsletter format, this will

