



Your **ROTSOPE** for
Thursday, September 10, 2009
 for the Rotary Club of San Marino, California, USA

LAFFIT PINCAY: ANATOMY OF A WINNER

MADELYN CAIN HAS PRODUCED an excellent read, Lloyd Ownbey says, so he is bringing the author of this life story of world renowned jockey Laffit Pincay, Jr., to our noontime meeting. Laffit's story could be a Hollywood epic – born in poverty in Panama, he came at 17 to race in the United States, and over the next forty years won every major horse race including the Belmont three times and the greatest race of all, the Kentucky Derby. Laffit was named our leading jockey seven times, the winningest rider at Hollywood Park, Santa Anita, and Del Mar.

AS HAPPENS WITH TOO MANY JOCKEYS, Laffit suffered through bouts with bulimia and anorexia, the suicide of his first wife and divorce from his second, losses of personal millions through an accountant's mismanagement, a couple score of broken bones all over his body, and a tragic end from breaking his neck while riding in his 9,530th race at age 56.

WE TOLD YOU IT'S A STORY worthy of Hollywood, and Ms. Cain will spin it out for us. She also tells of the circus type world that is horse racing. Lloyd found the book one he couldn't put down, and he recommends it and its author to us as a storyteller of excellence, and an account of the business and professional problems of thoroughbred racing in America. The industry is in deep trouble since the sport lost its near-monopoly on the gambling dollar to lotteries and casinos, and Madelyn Cain will trace that story too. With a Master's from USC where she earned election to Phi Kappa Phi, she has written for newspapers, magazines, the stage and television, and teaches writing now at USC. She's been on NPR, CNN, NBC, and Larry King's show. And she'll be with San Marino Rotary at Community Church this Thursday.

HEALTH BY HORSEBACK

LAST WEEK'S BULLETIN reported on a health care project in a remote village of the Guatemalan Highlands. We noted how **Polo Plus** worked in part of the area but not all. One (only one) member questioned the spelling (we presume no one else reads Rotoscope). Our Wise Guy needs to know that Rotoscope doesn't *ever* err. We were referring correctly to Rotarian horse enthusiasts who have been distributing sugar cube vaccines as they gallop past poor villagers, using their mallets to knock aside anyone who may try to bother this service project.

PLEASE RSVP!

IT'S \$35 PER PERSON to join the "night" at San Marino Courtyard, September 17th from six to nine – and that gets you eight vouchers to spend as you wish on dinners, after sipping complimentary beverages and wines and maybe having a beard trim from Jann's of Sweden. BUT ...

RSVP NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 9, WEDNESDAY – send your check, payable to Rotary Club of San Marino, to Lucille Norberg, 1872 West Drive, San Marino 91108. Dress is very casual, she says. But she's waiting to hear from you.

ROTARY RIGHT IN TOWN ON SEPTEMBER 17TH

YOU CAN ENJOY a prix fixe dinner at Jasmines, or your choice of beef, ribs, chicken, meatloaf, or frittata at Sweet and Savory, or maybe you'd prefer salmon or swordfish at San Marino Seafood Restaurant, all started off with beverages and wine in the San Marino Courtyard, and finished off with desserts at The Ice Cream Shop or maybe Sweet & Savory Bakery – but you need to send in your reservations NOW for this unusual and delightful "night on the town" right at home.

ALL THE STORES WILL BE OPEN in the block, and Margie's will bring the latest fashions to the Courtyard. You can tour Jann's museum, see Michael Kwok's inventory of beautiful children's items at Oshun, pick out a bottle at Wine Connections or bring your own (no corkage fee), and hear from Fang Ho about laser hair removal. The new Kodak copier at San Marino Stationers will be ready for you too. But the Social Committee *really, really* needs your response! Some 37 members and spouses have signed up – but more than two thirds of our happy group haven't answered Lucille's call for a RSVP. Please, let her know you'll come – and let her know where you'd prefer to dine!

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2009

SEPTEMBER

- 10 Noon Story of champion jockey Laffit Pincay, Jr.
- 17 NO NOON MEETING – "ON THE TOWN" at Huntington Drive restaurants
- 24 Noon Clearing land mines from Cambodia

OCTOBER

- 1 Noon Brazilian GSE team visits
- 8 Noon Craft talks from two "D's"

THE ROTOSCOPE

For the Rotary Club of San Marino, California, U.S.A.

September 10: A Champion Jockey's Story



ALEX AND MARY SMITH

ALEX AND MARY served our club as president and as hosts during the Bicentennial Year of 1976, when Mary also headed the San Marino Historical Society. Alex was a gracious if canny Scot, rising in banking with several local institutions and advising large Japanese banks when they wanted to enter the California market. He had come with nothing from Aberdeen, but found success in America as well as finding Mary at Los Angeles High School, near where her family had moved from St. Louis.

THE SMITHS BUILT their family home on Lorain in 1936, when the old San Gabriel Steam Railway still ran in their back yard along the city limits. They raised Bill, Alex, and Nancy there, while vacationing on Balboa and up at Lake Tahoe. Mary joined Bill at San Gabriel Country Club as often as they could, both nutty about golf. Meanwhile, Mary was busy with Community Church, San Marino Woman's Club, and PEO.

MARY AND ALEX hosted several Rotary dinners and demotions in their back yard, deepened when the rail line was removed as wartime scrap. Quite incidentally, their home was beautifully redecorated by Mary and another of our club presidents, Debbie Lowrey, providing a meeting place for our board and committees over the years. Alex and Mary were the first to be Grand Marshals in our 4th of July parade, honoring both for their community service with San Marino organizations.

MARY LOST ALEX suddenly one Saturday afternoon after he had played a winning round at San Gabriel. She continued to help with the Historical Society and church activities for several years, but we've not seen much of this lovely lady recently. Last month, she died quite peacefully in her San Marino home of 73 years – at the good age of 103.

MEMBERSHIP PROPOSAL

To fill the open classification of:

MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION B. BENJAMIN MASOYAN

Business address: POB 70647, Pasadena
Home address: 3131 East Green Street,
Pasadena

Proposed by Carl Minton

HERE'S THE FIRST PROSPECT FOR chairman Matt Ballantyne and his Membership Committee for 2009-10 – but certainly not the last, if you'll help find good folk for membership. Turn-over runs about a dozen members a year, so Matt & Co. need at least a dozen more just to stay even. It's an important job, and every Rotarian needs to think of worthy candidates. Here's one, though don't hold his sponsorship by Carl against Ben. He's a good guy, even if he associates with questionable characters such as Mr. Minton.

ANNE KIBLER

TOM'S BEAUTIFUL ANNE slipped away last week from him, Grace, John, and their grandchildren after a brief illness. For Anne, we're grateful for her release. For Tom and the Kiblers, of course, our hearts reach out with all our sympathy and love.

ANNE WORKED FOR the city of Los Angeles in personnel before her children arrived, and again after the younger started college. She give much time to Showcase House, The Huntington Library, and Chi Omega alumni projects.

ANNE'S MEMORIAL SERVICE will be at Church of Our Saviour where she had been active for many years. Friends are welcome on Friday, September 11th, at 2:00 p.m.

Our OFFICERS for 2009 - 2010:

OFFICERS:

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DIRECTORS:

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FRITZ SEARES, <i>Foundation / Charities</i>			

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Bulletin news or gripes? – send to: kveronda@southwesternacademy.edu – or call 626-799-5010, x1202

EMILE'S PHILOSOPHIES:

If at first you don't succeed,
skydiving's not for you.