

1010 Hurley Way, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95825
(916) 263-6000
Fax (916) 263-6042

CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

12235 Beach Blvd., Suite 7
Stanton, CA 90680
(714) 890-7001
Fax (714) 890-7006
Contact:
Mike Marten
(714) 890-7004
Pager: (714) 212-0325

CHRB NEWS RELEASE

MARCH 16, 2004

(Revised release. Please disregard previous release.)

‘CALL TO POST’ IS SWEET MUSIC TO JERRY MOSS

BEVERLY HILLS, CA – Winner’s circle photos and distinctive modern art compete for wall space and grab the attention of visitors to the Beverly Hills office where Jerry Moss does business these days.

Long ago, Moss sold A&M Records – the company he co-founded in 1962 with trumpeter Herb Alpert – and moved out of the stately Charlie Chaplin Studios on La Brea, a location that conjures up images of Joe Cocker, Cat Stevens, Burt Bacharach, The Police, Quincy Jones and other popular A&M stars.

His new office on a trendy Beverly Hills thoroughfare is smaller but better suited to the scaled-down business activities of the 68-year-old music man, still managing a variety of interests. But this also leaves him with some extra time to devote to another love of his life: Horse racing.

Moss has owned racehorses since 1970 and he and his wife, Ann, have enjoyed considerable success with thoroughbred stars, including millionaires Fighting Fit and Ruhlmann. They also breed about 20 mares a year and race some of the foals, most notably their third millionaire, Kudos.

And now Moss has another compelling interest in California horse racing. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger recently appointed Moss to the California Horse Racing Board to a four-year term, subject to Senate confirmation, that runs through January 1, 2008.

“If by serving as a racing commissioner I can contribute something, I’ll be thrilled,” said Moss, seated comfortably in a lounge area within his inner office, relaxed and eager to discuss a sport that has seen significant changes since his first involvement more than three decades ago.

The crowds at California racetracks are not as large, the horse population has declined, and revenue has not kept pace with the rising cost of participating in horse racing, posing economic hardships for horse owners, breeders, trainers and racetrack operators.

“The downturn should be something we all need to concern ourselves with”, he continued. “Business and purses were down at Hollywood Park last year and down as well at the current meet at Santa Anita.

“However, there are some positive signs. Attendance is definitely up at Del Mar, which meant increased handle and higher purses. And the Breeders Cup at Oak Tree was a huge hit. So, there is an appetite for racing that we should be able to tap into more effectively if we all pull together.”

Moss has placed horses with many trainers through the years, initially with George Hartstone, a former record distributor who in his retirement years fulfilled a lifelong dream of training thoroughbreds. His current trainers are Richard Mandella, John Shirreffs, John Sadler and Art Sherman.

Given his background and associations, it’s natural for Moss to bring a horseman’s perspective to the CHRB.

“Along with the safety of the horses and the total support of the fans, we must also make strides to create a healthier financial climate for the owners, breeders and trainers. I’m anxious to attend my first CHRB meeting later this month to see how I fit in and how I can help to have more people get to enjoy this great sport of horse racing.”

When Moss talks about fans enjoying themselves at the races, it clearly comes from the heart. He and Ann go to the races every chance they get. Their pleasure is evident from their broad smiles in the winner’s circle photos that line the walls of his private office and the adjacent office of his racing manager, Dorothy (Dottie) Ingordo.

With obvious pleasure, he lingered over every photo, every silver plate, every memento.

When asked about Rulhmann’s Santa Anita Handicap trophy, he responded with almost reverence, “That’s on the mantel at home.”

Through all his years of involvement in the sport, Moss has avoided the politics of horse racing – at least until now. As a racing commissioner, he will join with six other members of the CHRB to establish policy and regulate the industry. It is a responsibility he takes quite seriously.

“For most of the years I was a working guy and I was just happy to make the races when I could,” he explained. “Now I am coming off the sidelines. For me, it’s a tremendous honor to serve the sport I love. I’m going to give it my best shot.”

#