

WEST COAST

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Going to Town

*Tom and Debi Stull thrive with
Tommy Town Thoroughbreds*

BY TRACY GANTZ

MOST PEOPLE HAVE fond memories of the horse that lured them further into racehorse ownership. Not Tom Stull. His distinct recollection of an Irish-bred filly named Leccia is of ripping up betting tickets.

"She was one of those horses who would run from 10-15 lengths back," Stull said. "I remember tearing my tickets up once because it was so frustrating—and she ended up winning. She was so far back, and I threw the tickets on the ground before the end of the race. Afterward, I had to look for them and pick them up."

Such frustrations aside, Tom and Debi Stull love the game and did venture more extensively into ownership. That led to the purchase of acreage in Santa Ynez, Calif., now called Tommy Town Thoroughbreds.

The Stulls have created a textbook example of how to succeed in the racing and breeding business. They bought the farm in mid-2000, acquired stallions that fit the market, supported them with their own mares, and today stand atop the California breeders list, as well as high on the national list.

With a team that includes farm manager Mike Allen, formerly with another high-profile California operation, John and Betty Mabee's Golden Eagle Farm, the Stulls had perhaps their best year ever in 2013. Home-



RON MESAROS



BENNETT & ASSOCIATES

Tom and Debi Stull in the paddock at Santa Anita Park

LUCKY PULPIT colt CALIFORNIA CHROME enters Kentucky Derby picture with a 5½-length victory in Santa Anita's \$250,000 Cal Cup Derby.

A stakes-winning son of **A. P. Indy's** most successful "Sire of Sires" **Pulpit**, from the immediate family of **Unbridled's Song**, **Lucky Pulpit** had the credentials to be a successful sire when he entered stud in 2007.

With four crops to the races, **Lucky Pulpit** ranks second only to **Unusual Heat** by Lifetime Average-Earnings Index among stallions now standing in California and

has consistently maintained solid statistics in all categories: **76% Winners/Starters**, **17% Wins/Starts** and **\$59,648 Average Earnings/Starter** as of 1/28/14.



California Chrome on cruise control while defeating Grade I winner Tamarando in the \$250,000 California Cup Derby at 1 1/16 miles.

Pulpit – Lucky Soph, by Cozzene • **Fee: \$2,500 Live Foal**
Property of Mr. and Mrs. Larry D. Williams

2014 ALSO STANDING

UNUSUAL HEAT by Nureyev
Leading California sire for six consecutive years (2008-2013) includes an Eclipse Award champion among his 15 California-bred divisional champions. **Fee: \$20,000 Live Foal**

THORN SONG by Unbridled's Song
The leading money winner and only multiple **Grade I** winner by **Unbridled's Song** standing outside of Kentucky. His first-crop 2-year-olds will race this year. **Fee: \$2,500 Live Foal**

TIZBUD by Cee's Tizzy
Sire of Champion California-bred Turf Horse and Older Mare **Tiz Flirtatious**, a **Grade I** winner of \$779,800 and the leading Cal-bred money winner of 2013. **Fee: \$1,500 Live Foal**

HEATSEEKER by Giant's Causeway
Grade I winner was a dominant leader among California's second-crop sires and was nationally-ranked in 2013 with progeny earnings of \$1.5 million. **Fee: \$5,000 Live Foal**

DESERT CODE by E Dubai
Breeders' Cup millionaire was the third-leading California Freshman sire of 2013 by average earnings per runner with five 2-year-old winners from 12 starters. **Fee: \$2,000 Live Foal**

LUCKY J. H. by Cee's Tizzy
Breakout year in 2013 for this leading second-crop sire who ranked at the top of the General and 2-year-old California sire lists by average earnings per runner. **Fee: \$1,500 Live Foal**

All stallions are nominated to the Breeders' Cup. Stud fees are payable at foaling.



Harris Farms

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2014 LEADING SIRES IN CALIFORNIA

➤ Go to BloodHorse.com for daily updated sire lists

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB, Sire), Where Stands	2014 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2014 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	UNUSUAL HEAT (90, Nureyev), Harris Farms	\$20,000	50/10	1/1	1/1	(Unusual Way, \$77,600)	\$426,922	*650	44	2.13	1.27
2	TRIBAL RULE (96, Storm Cat), Ballena Vista Farm	\$6,500	60/12	2/2	1/2	(Ciao Bella Luna, \$79,000)	\$373,063	545	34	1.35	1.16
3	DECARCHY (97, Distant View), Magali Farms	\$3,000	37/6	1/1	1/1	(Susans Express, \$110,250)	\$325,221	320	9	0.96	0.98
4	LUCKY PULPIT (01, Pulpit), Harris Farms	\$2,500	23/3	1/1	1/1	(California Chrome, \$140,000)	\$204,619	141	4	1.57	1.24
5	BENCHMARK (91, Alydar), Ballena Vista Farm	\$5,000	42/8	0/0	0/0	(Magic Mark, \$33,600)	\$204,060	703	41	1.24	1.13
6	KAFWAIN (00, Cherokee Run), Tommy Town Thoroughbreds	\$5,000	30/6	0/0	0/0	(Let Faith Arise, \$40,000)	\$164,823	*470	21	1.14	1.28
7	MINISTERS WILD CAT (00, Deputy Minister), Tommy Town Thoroughbreds	N/A	50/9	0/0	0/0	(Curvy Cat, \$27,300)	\$162,287	250	15	1.10	0.97
8	BERTRANDO (89, Skywalker)	Pnsd	40/3	0/0	0/0	(Tamarando, \$50,000)	\$159,756	1057	58	1.35	1.51
9	COMIC STRIP (95, Red Ransom), Gray's Farm	\$2,500	10/1	1/1	1/1	(Weewinnin, \$137,500)	\$142,708	317	12	0.79	1.17
10	GOOD JOURNEY (96, Nureyev), Magali Farms	\$5,000	28/5	1/1	0/1	(Dancingtothestars, \$60,000)	\$140,681	*408	5	1.52	1.02
11	SOUTHERN IMAGE (00, Halo's Image), Rancho San Miguel	\$2,500	25/5	1/1	0/1	(Winning Image, \$60,000)	\$133,424	*431	7	1.21	1.31
12	EDDINGTON (01, Unbridled), Ballena Vista Farm	\$3,500	39/4	0/0	0/0	(Joya Real, \$27,600)	\$129,156	*335	5	1.29	1.59
13	DIXIE CHATTER (05, Dixie Union), Ballena Vista Farm	\$5,000	15/6	0/0	0/0	(Public Policy, \$38,600)	\$97,585	72	2	0.76	1.05
14	HEATSEEKER (IRE) (03, Giant's Causeway), Harris Farms	\$5,000	24/5	0/0	0/0	(Heatseeker Sharon, \$24,000)	\$96,039	*100	2	1.13	1.50
15	IN EXCESS (IRE) (87, Siberian Express)	Died, 2013	21/6	0/0	0/0	(Velvet Mesquite, \$34,800)	\$90,393	987	63	1.57	1.39
16	MARINO MARINI (00, Storm Cat), Rancho San Miguel	\$2,500	24/4	0/0	0/0	(King Kelly, \$27,300)	\$89,231	283	7	0.91	1.03
17	TIZBUD (99, Cee's Tizzy), Harris Farms	\$1,500	24/2	0/0	0/0	(Ambitious Brew, \$45,240)	\$87,427	149	4	1.17	0.93
18	CYCLOTRON (00, Grand Slam), Old English Rancho	N/A	6/2	1/1	0/1	(Cyclometer, \$62,200)	\$82,875	51	2	1.81	1.46
19	SWISS YODELER (94, Eastern Echo), Lovacres Ranch	\$3,000	35/7	0/0	0/0	(Swiss in Paris, \$7,726)	\$80,602	730	28	1.02	1.07
20	ROCKY BAR (98, In Excess), E. A. Ranches	\$2,500	27/8	0/0	0/0	(Tempe, \$16,492)	\$79,039	115	14	1.02	0.86
21	OLD TOPPER (95, Gilded Time), Tommy Town Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	29/5	0/0	0/0	(Chati's On Top, \$20,280)	\$78,945	508	22	0.96	0.86
22	STORMIN FEVER (94, Storm Cat), Golden Eagle Farm	\$3,500	22/5	0/0	0/0	(Marriage Fever, \$19,830)	\$78,230	*708	27	1.18	1.40
23	BEDFORD FALLS (03, Forestry), Poplar Meadows	\$2,500	7/3	0/0	0/0	(Wonderful Lie, \$33,600)	\$64,480	35	0	0.89	0.85
24	STORMY JACK (97, Bertrando), Brazeau Thoroughbred Farms,	\$1,500	18/6	0/0	0/0	(Quinnette, \$18,000)	\$62,181	182	3	0.62	0.75
25	GLOBALIZE (97, Summer Squall), Victory Rose Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	12/2	0/0	0/0	(Life Is a Joy, \$27,500)	\$60,311	165	5	0.81	0.78

bred Doinghardttimeagain, a daughter of Tommy Town stallion Ministers Wild Cat, won the Hollywood Oaks (gr. II) as part of a racing stable that banked more than \$2 million last year, not counting various partnerships.

Tom and Debi have been married more than 35 years and have raised two children. Daughter Shelly runs a hunter-jumper facility near Bradbury, Calif.,

training riders and competing herself, with some of her parents' former racehorses in her stable. Son Aaron has worked in property management in Costa Rica and is now in the motorcycle business in California's Orange County.

Tommy Town is part of the old West-erly Stud Farm, which Mrs. Amory Hare Hutchinson began in the 1940s. Computer whiz Fletcher Jones made the place

famous in the 1960s and early 1970s by expanding it to nearly 4,000 acres and amassing some of the best bloodstock ever seen in California.

"Fletcher Jones didn't hold back on anything," said Tom Stull. "Money was no object when he built this place. The original barn—our main barn—is very well-constructed."

Jones stood Promised Land, eventual



BENOIT & ASSOCIATES

Tommy Town Thoroughbreds' Doinghardttimeagain winning the grade II Hollywood Oaks

2014 California Sires by Winners

Sire	Rnrs	Wnrs
Tribal Rule	.60	12
Unusual Heat	.50	10
Ministers Wild Cat	.50	9
Benchmark	.42	8
Rocky Bar	.27	8
Swiss Yodeler	.35	7
Decarchy	.37	6
Kafwain	.30	6
In Excess (IRE)	.21	6
Stormy Jack	.18	6
Dixie Chatter	.15	6
Old Topper	.29	5
Good Journey	.28	5
Southern Image	.25	5
Heatseeker (IRE)	.24	5
Stormin Fever	.22	5
Terrell	.21	5

Special Note For Sire Lists:

For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in North America (stallions exported prior to the 2010 breeding season are excluded), and have runners in North America. All available statistics listed for the Northern Hemisphere through January 29, 2014. As supplied to *The Blood-Horse* by The Jockey Club Information Systems, Inc., earnings exclude monies from Japan and Hong Kong. Current year stakes winners include all N.H.-foaled stakes winners worldwide and any S.H.-foaled horses that won a N.H. stakes. *Foal counts include Southern Hemisphere. Cumulative stakes winners includes all countries. (A ¶ indicates a sire represented by his first crop to race.)

*AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX AND COMPARABLE INDEX: Lifetime AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX indicates how much purse money the progeny of one sire has earned in relation to the average earnings of all runners in the same years; average earnings of all runners in any year is represented by an index of 1.00; COMPARABLE INDEX indicates the average earnings of progeny produced from mares bred to one sire, when these same mares were bred to other sires. Only 32% of all sires have a lifetime AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX higher than their mares' COMPARABLE INDEX.

TOMMY TOWN THOROUGHBREDS

KAFWAIN

*Cherokee Run-Swazi's Moment,
by Moment of Hope • Fee: \$5,000*

**Progeny Earnings Over
\$2.5 Million in 2013**

Average Earnings Index (AEI) for 2-year-olds = 1.42
& lifetime average earnings per starter
of more than \$45,500.

**LET FAITH ARISE 2nd,
La Canada S. (Gr. II, 1/19/2014).**



MINISTERS WILD CAT

*Deputy Minister—Hollywood Wildcat,
by Kris S. • Fee: Private Treaty*

**Progeny Earnings Over
\$3.5 Million in 2013**

**Co-Leading California Sire by
2013 Graded Stakes Winners.**

Ministers Wild Cat is ranked among the
top 4 California Sires by 2013 Earners,
Winners, repeat Winners, Stakes Winners,
Stakes Wins and Graded Stakes Winners.

OLD TOPPER

*Gilded Time—Shy Trick,
by Phone Trick • Fee: \$2,500*

**A Perennial Leading Sire in
California Since 2001**

Lifetime progeny earnings in excess of
\$18 Million & the sire of 52 stakes
horses, including 4-time stakes winner
AIN'T NO OTHER (\$541,765).



Inquiries to Mike Allen

5699 Happy Canyon Road • Santa Ynez, CA 93460

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2013 LEADING SIRES IN CALIFORNIA

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB, Sire), Where Stands	2014 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2013 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	UNUSUAL HEAT (90, Nureyev), Harris Farms	\$20,000	124/65	9/13	5/9	(Unusual Way, \$404,750)	\$4,903,019	*628	43	2.13	1.27
2	TRIBAL RULE (96, Storm Cat), Ballena Vista Farm	\$6,500	203/107	7/11	2/7	(Ethnic Dance, \$249,500)	\$4,810,599	530	34	1.35	1.16
3	EDDINGTON (01, Unbridled), Ballena Vista Farm	\$3,500	128/82	1/1	0/1	(Secret Circle, \$859,800)	\$3,696,967	*327	5	1.29	1.59
4	MINISTERS WILD CAT (00, Deputy Minister), Tommy Town Thoroughbreds	N/A	121/82	7/11	2/7	(Tiz a Minister, \$405,250)	\$3,526,137	242	15	1.10	0.97
5	BENCHMARK (91, Alydar), Ballena Vista Farm	\$5,000	117/68	8/12	1/8	(Points Offthebench, \$434,780)	\$2,836,167	687	41	1.24	1.13
6	KAFWAIN (00, Cherokee Run), Tommy Town Thoroughbreds	\$5,000	121/69	5/7	1/5	(Raging Daoust, \$203,300)	\$2,532,511	*453	21	1.14	1.28
7	BERTRANDO (89, Skywalker)	Pnsd	105/53	4/7	2/4	(Tamarando, \$455,120)	\$2,409,301	1044	58	1.35	1.51
8	OLD TOPPER (95, Gilded Time), Tommy Town Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	103/63	3/4	1/3	(Hail Mary, \$198,288)	\$2,047,923	498	22	0.96	0.86
9	SOUTHERN IMAGE (00, Halo's Image), Rancho San Miguel	\$2,500	85/55	3/5	2/3	(Better Bet, \$202,380)	\$1,853,150	*415	7	1.21	1.31
10	GOOD JOURNEY (96, Nureyev), Magali Farms	\$5,000	63/33	2/4	0/2	(Dancingtothestars, \$158,416)	\$1,744,639	*380	4	1.52	1.02
11	DECARCHY (97, Distant View), Magali Farms	\$3,000	95/43	1/1	0/1	(Stoney Fleece, \$92,676)	\$1,723,239	298	8	0.96	0.98
12	TIZBUD (99, Cee's Tizzy), Harris Farms	\$1,500	51/28	1/4	0/1	(Tiz Flirtatious, \$505,000)	\$1,595,921	146	4	1.17	0.93
13	HEATSEEKER (IRE) (03, Giant's Causeway), Harris Farms	\$5,000	58/34	2/2	1/2	(Surtsey, \$113,418)	\$1,454,079	*91	2	1.13	1.50
14	SALT LAKE (89, Deputy Minister)	Died, 2010	59/37	4/7	1/4	(Teddy's Promise, \$397,416)	\$1,367,856	*1224	58	1.41	1.40
15	SWISS YODELER (94, Eastern Echo), Lovacres Ranch	\$3,000	89/47	2/5	1/2	(Swiss Lake Yodeler, \$235,600)	\$1,353,563	712	28	1.02	1.07
16	LUCKY PULPIT (01, Pulpit), Harris Farms	\$2,500	47/27	3/4	2/3	(Rousing Sermon, \$218,342)	\$1,291,116	92	4	1.57	1.24
17	MARINO MARINI (00, Storm Cat), Rancho San Miguel	\$2,500	87/45	2/2	1/2	(Sweet Marini, \$219,100)	\$1,259,385	263	7	0.91	1.03
18	IN EXCESS (IRE) (87, Siberian Express)	Died, 2013	89/47	1/2	0/1	(Dixieland Blues, \$128,454)	\$1,222,913	986	63	1.57	1.39
19	VRONSKY (99, Danzig), Old English Rancho	\$3,500	42/20	1/1	1/1	(Somethings Unusual, \$107,976)	\$1,187,797	114	4	1.53	1.14
20	STORMIN FEVER (94, Storm Cat), Golden Eagle Farm	\$3,500	73/30	0/0	0/0	(Meinertzhageni, \$105,300)	\$1,100,005	*679	27	1.18	1.40
21	ROCKY BAR (98, In Excess), E. A. Ranches	\$2,500	59/36	5/8	4/5	(Lazy Daisy May, \$124,781)	\$1,002,537	102	14	1.02	0.86
22	CINDAGO (03, Indian Charlie)	Died	32/22	0/0	0/0	(My Cinsation, \$117,480)	\$845,904	64	2	1.45	1.39
23	ATTICUS (92, Nureyev), Magali Farms	N/A	44/23	1/1	0/1	(Atta Girl Alma, \$139,570)	\$821,698	445	14	1.06	1.45
24	AFFIRMATIVE (99, Unbridled)	N/A	32/13	1/2	1/1	(Warren's Veneda, \$300,064)	\$807,234	86	2	1.13	0.78
25	GAME PLAN (93, Danzig), E. A. Ranches	\$2,500	38/23	0/0	0/0	(Mel's Game, \$126,531)	\$741,182	424	23	0.85	0.80
26	SUANCES (GB) (97, Most Welcome), Rancho Temescal	\$1,500	31/16	0/0	0/0	(Sassy Suances, \$99,658)	\$718,891	110	1	1.01	1.11
27	TERRELL (00, Distorted Humor), Shalem Farm	Died	58/31	0/0	0/0	(Hansarella, \$60,750)	\$661,929	159	3	0.58	0.92
28	AWESOME GAMBLER (04, Coronado's Quest), Lovacres Ranch	\$5,000	43/14	1/1	0/1	(Willie B Awesome, \$82,412)	\$647,778	94	2	1.14	0.78
29	GLOBALIZE (97, Summer Squall), Victory Rose Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	31/15	1/1	0/1	(Life Is a Joy, \$131,330)	\$645,767	159	5	0.81	0.78
30	PERFECT MANDATE (96, Gone West)	Died, 2012	36/21	1/1	0/1	(Kilat, \$88,120)	\$586,902	298	12	0.91	1.23

broodmare sire of Hall of Fame member Spectacular Bid, and raced such horses as champion older female Typecast and 1966 Hollywood Derby winner Fleet Host. However, before Typecast won her championship in 1972, Jones died when the light plane he was piloting crashed.

That tragedy had even greater ramifi-

cations for the California breeding industry. The dispersal sale at Hollywood Park of Jones' quality bloodstock ending up dispersing horses everywhere but California. California owners and breeders could not compete with the many national and international bidders. Typecast, for example, sold for a then world-record

\$725,000 and went to Japan.

Westerly's 4,000 acres became several other farms through the years, and at one point trainer D. Wayne Lukas owned part of it, operating a training facility. When that portion came up for sale once again in the late 1990s, the Stulls were looking for a farm, though it took them a couple of tries to get it.

Tom and Debi had grown up in the Los Angeles area in Whittier, and they met through Debi's brother, Mike Kappmeyer, who went to high school with Tom. Debi rode both English and Western horses as a youngster, while Tom developed his interest once they began attending the races.

The Stulls claimed the late-running Leccia in the mid-1980s with their friend Jim Wilson, owner of Wilson Stock Farm near Hemet, Calif., and she ultimately won a stakes in Northern California.

"We became very enthused," said Debi. "Jim suggested that we go in together on a package of 2-year-olds that a farm was offering, and Fa La Te Dough was part of that package."



RON MESAROS PHOTOS

Tommy Town has grown to about 365 acres

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Horses can get up to half-mile works at the training facility

Trained by Walter Greenman, Fa La Te Dough earned \$254,050 and won many stakes, including the 1987 Coronado Stakes at Del Mar. She spurred the Stulls into the idea of owning a farm.

The Stulls began their search near the Wilson farm, considering such places as the Allen Paulson farm now owned by Mercedes Stable's Ernest Moody. Debi's brother, Mike, had moved to the Santa Ynez Valley and told them about the Westerly property.

Debi looked at that acreage, but Tom thought—erroneously as he has since discovered—that it was never sunny and always overcast.

"I could not convince him, and so it sold," said Debi.

A year later the property came back on the market.

"I said I'd go look, but I really didn't want to," Tom recalled. "Boy, I came over that pass, and I thought, 'Oh, my God, this is all I ever wanted and more.' It took us a day to hammer it out, and we were done. We closed escrow in 15 days."

The Stulls have never regretted that decision. They originally purchased 165 acres and have since bought some contiguous land to bring it to about 365 acres. Though the farm came with structures from the Jones era, the Stulls are constantly adding to the facility.

They live nearly year-round on the farm, which borders the farm of California Horse Racing Board member Bo Derek. The Stulls do return to the Los Angeles area occasionally for Tom's machine-shop and property business, and they summer in Del Mar during the race meeting.

"The main barn has 18' x 18' stalls, 36 of them," said Debi. "The training track is seven-eighths of a mile."

That allows Allen's crew not only to break the young horses, but also to get them up to half-mile works.

"You can work them in company and get an idea of what kind of horse you have," said Allen. "We try to get our trainers to work with us because they can go right on with the horses. We try to get horses to a race within six to eight weeks of coming off the farm."

Allen said they have 70 training stalls plus 35 outside pens. On the breeding side the farm houses about 120 mares between those owned by the Stulls and permanent boarders, with the numbers rising to about 200 during the breeding season.

The facility also lends itself to layups, such as when they gave Doinghardtimeagain a break after the Del Mar season.

Jerry Hollendorfer trains Doinghardtimeagain, a 4-year-old filly out of Silver Hawk Lady, by Conquistador Cielo. The Stulls own about 250-300 horses, including breeding stock and young-

NORTHERN INDY

GRADED STAKES PLACED SON OF A.P. INDY



BREED CLASS TO YOUR MARE

PERFORMANCE:

MSW WINNER BY 5 LENGTHS AT TWO GRADED STAKES PLACED AT THREE STAKES WINNER AT FOUR

BY A.P. INDY - HORSE OF THE YEAR CLASSIC WINNER

LEADING SIRE OF TWELVE CHAMPIONS

FEMALE FAMILY

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sters, and they usually have about 40 in training. They use Hollendorfer and Jeff Mullins in Southern California, Bill Morey and Steve Miyadi in Northern California, Henry Dominguez in New Mexico, and Todd Beattie in Pennsylvania.

“Jerry probably has 15 for us right now,” said Debi. “He’s been really great for us. And since we have our own farm, if they have a problem, we can send them home.”

Hollendorfer also trains Stull homebred stakes winners Ain’t No Other, Curvy Cat, and Let Faith Arise, by Tommy Town stal-

have run themselves.”

Tom, Debi, and Mike collaborate on their sale choices, often shopping at Kentucky mixed sales. Tom said that they will sometimes buy weanlings as eventual broodmare prospects because the prices can be reasonable.

The Stulls have also done well with claims. For example, they claimed the Street Cry mare Northern Station for \$12,500 at Santa Rosa in 2009, sent her to Beattie, and she won the 2010 Nellie Morse Stakes at Laurel Park. The mare

folk Stakes (gr. II), and he finished second in the 2002 Bessemer Trust Breeders’ Cup Juvenile (gr. I).

They bought Ministers Wild Cat during his racing career as a stallion prospect. By Deputy Minister out of champion Hollywood Wildcat, the horse won stakes in California and Canada. The Stulls also own the stallion Old Topper.

Their three stallions acquitted themselves well on the California sire list in 2013. Ministers Wild Cat ranked fourth with more than \$3.5 million in progeny earnings while Kafwain ranked sixth and Old Topper, was eighth.

Two other stallions stand at Tommy Town, though the Stulls do not own them. Nick Alexander stands Grazen, a stakes-winning son of Benchmark whose first foals were 2-year-olds of 2013, while Desperado Stables stands Awesome Spirit to service its own mares.

Allen heads up a staff of about 30 employees that keep Tommy Town running year-round. The Stulls hired Allen a year after they bought the property. He had previously worked at Golden Eagle for about six years during the time of major winners General Challenge and Excellent Meeting.

“Mike has been an unbelievably good manager,” said Tom. “He’s there 24/7. He loves the industry and loves what he’s doing.”

Added Debi, “He cares about the horses. He’s very honest and a hard worker.”

Scott Ooley and Esteban Melchor aid Allen, Ooley as the assistant trainer and Melchor as the stallion manager. Dr. Bill Stevenson does the farm’s reproductive work, and veterinarians from nearby Alamo Pintado Equine Medical Center, often Dr. Ed Hamer, handle the racing and training side.

In recent years the Stulls have embarked on a new venture at the farm, bottling their own wine. California’s Santa Ynez Valley has become such a popular place for vineyards that the 2010 film “Sideways” was filmed in Los Olivos just up the road from Santa Ynez.

The Stulls have planted about 30 acres of grapes, nine in Sauvignon blanc for white wine and the rest for red.

“We probably produce 300 or 400 cases a year, all Cabernet,” said Debi. “The label is Tommy Town Vineyards. The story on the back of the bottle is all about racing and wine.”

Fast horses and fine wine—Tommy Town has built a combination that is hard to resist. **BH**



Tommy Town is also a vintner, bottling its own wine

lions Old Topper, Ministers Wild Cat, and Kafwain, respectively. Ain’t No Other is a multiple stakes-winning 6-year-old gelding, while 5-year-old mare Curvy Cat won the 2013 B. Thoughtful Stakes.

The 4-year-old filly Let Faith Arise captured the California Wine Stakes last June and then received a four-month break. In her second start back, she finished second by a neck to Spellbound in the Jan. 19 La Canada Stakes (gr. II) at Santa Anita. Let Faith Arise was making her first attempt around two turns.

Horses such as these led to Tommy Town’s topping the California breeders list in 2009, 2012, and 2013. Last year Tommy Town ranked 19th among all breeders nationally. The Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association honored them as the state breeder of the year for California in 2005.

The Stulls’ homebred fillies might ultimately end up in the Tommy Town broodmare band, though they also buy prospects in Kentucky for their stallions.

“We look for conformation first,” said Allen. “We like younger families so that on a younger first dam, the page can actually get better. We also like horses who

produced a colt by Speightstown that sold for \$160,000 at the 2013 Keeneland September yearling sale.

The Stulls’ broodmare band numbers about 65 and also includes stakes-placed Silent Fusaichi, a daughter of Fusaichi Pegasus out of Fantasy Stakes (gr. II) winner Silent Eskimo. Northern Station and Silent Fusaichi are among the few mares that the Stulls keep in Kentucky to breed to stallions there.

“We tend to sell the colts out of those mares,” said Debi, “and we keep the fillies to eventually replenish our broodmare band.”

Let Faith Arise emerged from that plan. They bought her dam, the El Corredor stakes-placed filly Babe Hall, at the 2007 Keeneland November mixed sale for \$400,000. They purchased Kafwain in late 2008 and stood him in Kentucky for a season before bringing him to Tommy Town. Let Faith Arise is from that Kentucky crop.

Kafwain (Cherokee Run—Swazi’s Moment, by Moment of Hope) was already standing at stud when the Stulls acquired him. He earned \$715,848 on the track by winning such California stakes as the Nor-

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& third in the
SIR BEAUFORT S.-GII

At Four, WON the
STRUB S.-GII and
second in the
CITATION H.-GII

At Five,
second in the
SAN PASQUAL S.-GII

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Out of the multiple stakes-winning mare, LETITHAPPENCAPTAIN



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