

The beauty of the racetrack is that, if variety is the spice of life, then in terms of the human race, there is no greater spice rack than a racetrack. You've got guys in the grandstand scooping up tickets off the floor, hoping to find a winner, and you've got guys up in the director's room that are literally the wealthiest human beings on planet Earth. I'm talking about the sheiks and the kings of Saudi Arabia, the Queen of England. The biggest movie moguls. Just literally the richest people in the world, to the poorest people in the world, and everything in between. So from the ground floor up to the fifth floor, and everywhere in between, you never know. Are you standing next to a multi-billionaire? Or are you standing next to some guy who's going through the garbage, praying that he's going to find a five-dollar voucher that somebody threw away, or a ticket that got dropped that is worth the four dollars and forty cents?

Well, once once horses get into your blood, it's ... I mean there's guys that are obsessed with airplanes. There are men and women that are obsessed with boats, airplanes, dogs, cats, whatever. There's all kinds of obsessions in this world. And once horses get into your blood—that's it. It's a lifetime thing.

It's a wonderful sport, it's been a wonderful business, it's been a lifestyle for me. And the people that I've met—the experiences that I've been able to experience—have been something that you could not duplicate anywhere else. What really makes it special, besides the animal, are the people that are involved in racing: the people that groom horses, that exercise horses, all the way up to the people that own horses, train horses. There's a constant—what's the word—we have something in common, and that's the love of the animal, the horse, and whether you're rich or poor, that's a common denominator that we all share together, growing up on the racetrack. And I've met some of the most—I've sat in a box with Fred Astaire, and I've heard him turn around to me, right here at Hollywood Park, and just touch me on the knee and say, "I wish Robin Smith"—who was a female jockey at the time, and his girlfriend—"would stop riding; she really scares me when she's on the horse." And that's Fred Astaire talking to somebody, you know? I'm just a person, but that's the camaraderie that exists in horse racing, and you get that everywhere you go, whether it's in California, back east, doesn't matter. It's something that's prevalent on every racetrack

I've been a horse rider my whole life and it's hard to escape that. Like, if you ever saw my apartment. You can't see any of the wall, there is this horse art—equine art—everywhere. My cabinets don't have any spices and only a couple plates because they're completely filled with artifacts. Museum pieces, just all sorts of equine memorabilia. You know, race pictures. I love horses and I don't know where I'd be without horses. Absolutely. And until my last dying day I'll be with the racehorses.

Gambling on horses and wagering on horses is not really in my blood, but neither is blackjack or poker or slot machines or anything else. I just am not that type of person—put me in a record store, I'll spend a hundred bucks without batting an eye. However, after being in this business for thirty-five years, I realize that people will probably wager on just about anything. Put a couple mice out there in a maze. But I can feel the adrenaline pumping when—I'll be honest, I put a few bucks on horses before—I know that feeling. But it's a very complicated game to learn. And to try to master. I don't think you really *can* master it. You can get pretty close and do pretty well wagering, but it's very hard. It's a complicated sport and it might scare a few people away to try to read a racing form and understand the horse's past performances, and try to make a wager on that horse because of what you've seen the horse do in the past. You have to learn a lot. And then, of course, there's always the inside information. You know who the trainer is, who's the jockey. There are so many elements that come in that people might just be overwhelmed. But once you get into it, I think, for the most part, you enjoy it. And even people that I've had as guests come out to the track for the very first time, I tell them you don't have to bet a lot of money to have a good time. You can put two dollars on a horse, pick a name that you like or the color of the horse or whatever, and just have fun with it. And they usually do, they usually do. It's a good time. It's exciting for just about anybody.

I just love to gamble, myself. Personally, I love all of the pageantry, I love everything about it, and I love the fans. I think a lot of times in management they forget that the fans are really the reason that we even have a job, and so I'm really partial to the fans. I try to come up with fun contests and promotions for the fans. I walk around like I'm the

mayor of Hollywood Park. I walk around the track like, “Hey, I know you, and how are your kids and babies?” I just I love people. I love the track. You know, my mother had ten brothers and sisters. So she comes from a huge family surrounded by uncles and cousins and everything, and every one of my uncles and aunts, including my mother, loved to gamble. Every outing we had was either to the dog track or to the horse track, so I just grew up going to the track. I think the first time I really knew what I was doing, I was like ten years old. I bet and I won. And that was my downfall right there. If I lost, I would have been done, but since I won, it was such a rush and such a great feeling. I think it paid seventeen dollars, but to me, when you're ten, seventeen dollars was like a fortune. I just hit the mother lode. Horse racing is the greatest thing that ever walked the planet.

Hollywood Park is a major, major racetrack on the racetrack circuit here in the United States. For this iconic place to be lost, obviously I'm ridiculously heartbroken. It's bittersweet. It's terrible. I feel sad that it's going. And I feel so blessed that I've been a part of this. I could've been doing commercials or some other stuff—who cares?—but I was part of Hollywood Park. I feel so special. I mean, I know every nook and cranny of this place. I'm probably going to have those memories for the rest of my life. The first floor where the paddock is—Native Diver is buried in the infield. I know so much of this, I am so fortunate to be a part of this. I feel blessed and happy that I was part of it, that I could move on with my life and say *wow*. Looking back, I wasn't prepared. Chills down my spine.

I bring [my children] to the track see me on the track, but none of them have fallen in love with it. I don't know what it is, and I think that's one of the problems with the horseracing industry, where in the '70s, in the '50s, in the '30s, it was almost the only game in town, and it was the number-one spectator sport in the country. And they would open the gates and 100,000 people would go every weekend, every day: 100,000 people a day. The park in its heyday would get 100,000 people, you'd see the pictures and it would be packed to the gills. It just slowly became less and less interesting to the new generation. I think there's too much competition for their time. Entertainment value—the bottom line is, horse racing is entertainment. Watching the races and wagering a little bit—it's just that they've been bombarded with options so they've been so bored. And with so many other entertainment options, horse racing has become sort of like, “my grandfather goes to the horses.” It's too complicated to learn, it's too time-consuming. There's a race every half hour, whereas for kids on the PlayStation there's a game every ten seconds.

The people that really love to come to the track are the people who have to sit out in the bleacher seats, way up in the top. These are the people that come because, you know, only in America one day you could be down to a dollar, and the next day you could be a millionaire. Just hit the lotto one day and you're there. They're the ones that come day in and day out, and those are the fans that really make the game.

I think my generation was probably one of the last generations to go to the racetrack and appreciate the horses. Like my daughter, my daughter loves horses but doesn't want to come out to the track and bet horses. I think it's just that generations have gone by, horse racing stayed too long in the way it was always done and not moved with the times, and I think that's hurt racing a lot. It's hard to say. Technology moves fast. Horses are fast, but the racetrack and the way things are done at the racetrack move very slowly. We are always one step behind the times in terms of technology.

If you're a regular fan, you want the big score so you can go out and have a steak dinner, buy some drinks for people. And that's what's great about being at the track. When I wasn't working here and I'd go to the track, you'd watch a race and a complete stranger was standing next to you. And he bet on the same horse. When you watch the race and—you know, I don't know who this guy is, but you're all of a sudden friends for that few seconds or those few minutes afterwards, congratulating everybody. And that's what made coming out to the races fun. And now you don't have the people coming out here. You still have people, some people, they'll gather together. But you don't have the big crowds like you used to.

I've been [a jockey] professionally for ten years. I'm twenty-eight years old. In Puerto Rico—I'm from Puerto Rico—in Puerto Rico, we have a racetrack and we have jockeys also. When I was eighteen I came here, to the United

States. New York. I have a good friend in Puerto Rico. One day, he brought me to the racetrack to show me the horses, and I fell in love with the horses and things—they go from there. And from that point, I said, “That's what I want in my life.” I love everything. I love the horses, I love the racetrack, morning workouts. The weather, the morning weather, the people, I love everything. No complaining at all.

Everybody, every jockey, wants to win. So it's a competition. We are friends, but when all is said and done, we try to win the race. Not friendly, the race—it's not friendly at all. But, I feel when my horse breaks out of the gate, I feel something emotionally in me, my horse going faster just trying to win the races. That's it. I'm a relaxed guy. But I believe in myself. I believe in myself. God put me on this level for a reason, to be a jockey, every day in practice, every day on. I've got a feeling that one day I will do something, be somebody big. First, the Big Guy, he let me do it, but I have that feeling that I have to prove myself every day because I know I want to make this happen soon. Yeah. Yeah, you have to have a faith. First of all, you have to use the faith of God, first for everything.

I'm a gambler. I guess, I *was* at least a gambler. Now I've served as chairman of the Horse Racing Board. I'm an attorney—I represented a lot of different jockeys, owners, trainers, breeders. I've been involved, I've owned horses myself. I bred horses myself. I've been involved in every facet of this business. In 1966 my parents brought me here on Memorial Day, and I never stopped coming. I was twelve, the first time I came out here. I was always a sports fan, my parents were casual horse race fans. They'd come a couple times a year, and they brought my brother and I out here that year, in 1966. I always loved all sports, but I developed an incredible affinity for horse racing and it never stopped. And it's pervaded every part of my life: business, personal, everything. The excitement of the game, the combination of using your mind to try to figure out these puzzles, the pageantry of the sport. The cross-section of people, I think, is the greatest part of this game. Every type of person you can imagine is here. Everybody's looking for the same thing: to find the winner. No question.

Well, I didn't work at racetracks, per se, but I did cover racing for a long time. I worked for *Los Angeles Herald Examiner* from 1977 until 1989 and then that paper went out of business, and I was hired after that by the *Los Angeles Times*, and I worked there from 1989 to 2008. And then I got the job here in 2010. I covered horse racing for most of that time. I saw racing in its heyday, in its glory days. I was at a racetrack in 1985 and it was 80,000 people there, and the atmosphere was just electric. It was a day at Santa Anita where Bill Shoemaker won over one million dollars in career earnings, the first jockey ever to do that. And so it was just—to me, that was the pinnacle of racing, and since then I think it's begun to decline for a lot of different reasons. And you know, it is sad. It's something I never thought I'd see. Growing up, you think nothing's going to change—just the same with the newspaper business. I didn't think that would change either but they they both have dramatically. No question. Just—the world has changed, and [neither] of those entities changed with it, or didn't have the foresight to change and maybe do things a little bit differently. I think that's key to any successful business, always to be thinking ahead and know “what's the next thing that can keep us relevant and successful.”

Other forms of gambling became more popular. Simpler forms of gambling than what racing is. Racing takes a lot of work and a lot of effort, a lot of study to be successful, as opposed to just pulling a slot machine or pushing buttons on a video poker machine. Maybe if racing had collaborated, gotten involved with those two, some of those other forms of gambling, back in the '80s or '90s when things were going good, maybe things would be different now. Because they were doing so well, I don't think they thought things would ever change.

My grandfather lived in New York, so I didn't see him that often, but he was heavily into [racing]. And he went to the track a lot, and he took me when he came out here when I was a little kid and I just enjoyed it, and just progressed from there. Because my parents couldn't stand it. They had no interest. If we were lucky, I went once a year with them when I was a little kid, and I looked forward to that day every year, but my grandfather got me into it so I used to listen to the races on the radio. They used to have the replays on the radio. And I looked at the paper and picked horses on my own and just started from there, actually. Honestly, I thought I knew more than he did. He'd been gambling for a long time but he looked at things differently than I did. I'm not trying to brag, but I just think I

was a natural at it from an early age. I just knew what to look for and it was just something I was always into, and, like I said, I did it almost every day and I looked at the past performances, and listened to the results on the radio at night And it was fun.

I try to visualize in my mind how the race will be run by knowing the styles of certain horses. And that's basically where I start. If I think there's a race that is going to set up for a horse coming from behind, that's what I look for. If I think there's only one horse in the race with early speed, I'll focus on that. So I just try to visualize in my head how the race will be run. You study the past performances and you get to know them. When you are on this, you see the same horses year-round, basically. They move track to track, from Santa Anita to Hollywood, Del Mar and so on. So you know the same horses, you know what trainers are good at what, certain jockeys ride certain horses better than others—just a lot of different variables. It's just seeing the same thing every day, just sort of developing your strategy. I probably have won a little bit more than I've lost over the years. I mean, in the '80s we had some really big scores and we did very well. That's probably the best decade we ever had—in the '80s and maybe early '90s. I don't bet as much now, because I have a family and I have kids. I have older kids now, but raising them, you change. You have a lot more expenses than you did you did when you were single.

I'm the race secretary. Clerk of Scales. I make sure the jockeys weigh correctly, or if they're fat I tell the announcer that they're fat. They don't like to hear that.

It's going to be the saddest day of my life [when Hollywood Park closes]. It's like a death in the family. Any institution that's been around for more than seventy-five years, like this track has. The first horse I ever trained won here, one of the first winners. Chris McCarron rode for me; the horse was named after my brother, Foxy Terry. I always remember that day. And I remember all the people I've met, how beautiful this track was, just all the great horses that ran here. There will be a huge void left once this track closes, that people won't even realize until after it happens. They know the track is closing now, everybody's making arrangements to deal with it, but once the track does close, it's going to be a serious reality check for a lot of people. This is a wonderful track, not only to run your horses at, but to train at. That's going to be sorely missed in Southern California—big time. And it's very sad that a major track like this has to close down. I don't believe that. I think racing, especially in California, has some serious issues that need to be dealt with. I think they need a person, or persons, to have some kind of vision, or a goal for where they see California racing in five to ten years. And I don't think that exists right now, and I think that's one of the biggest negatives to racing in California. But when you look at the overall picture, there's still billions of dollars that are wagered on our races every year. From that aspect, racing isn't dead, it's just a matter of trying to take the tracks that are now left and make them into something that people want to show up at.

My name is James E. Allard, aka Jimmy the Hat, and I'm a professional horse player. Not a professional gambler—a professional horse player. The difference is that most people gamble on sports, cars, dice, horses, golf, whatever. I gamble on one thing, and one thing only: thoroughbred horse racing. Ninety percent of it is on the Southern California horse racing circuit. Twenty-seven years. I've been doing it professionally for twenty-seven years. I've been betting on horse racing literally since I was a child. My first memory in life is sitting on my father's shoulders at Batavia Downs in Upstate New York. And I was either three or four years old, and I can still remember watching everybody around him jumping up and down and yelling for the harness horses to turn for home. And many, many years later—my father passed away when I was five—my great-aunt told me the whole scenario about how we used to get in the car and take everybody down to Batavia Downs. And so that's literally my first memory in life.

My passion in life has always been horses. I've been fanatically obsessed with horses since before I could speak. When I was in diapers, I saw a picture of a horse and I went nuts. My mother thought it was a good idea to take me to a movie where there were horses in it, and I had temper tantrums on a regular basis until she would take me back to the movie so I could see the horses in the movie. And it never stops.

I've been touting that horse for the last month, just strictly off of the body language of that horse that I saw a month

ago. I just said, "This is a very big, powerful horse that is going to get better and better," and he ended up running second yesterday to a stone-cold freak named Shared Belief. There was another horse yesterday called Blue Skies and Rainbows—same thing. I saw him schooling in the paddock the day before, and just body language said to me, *oh my God, is this horse ready to do something?* And he won the Native Diver yesterday, it went wire to wire. The greatest example of all time would be Zenyatta. First time I ever saw her come out of the paddock here at Hollywood Park, I was with one of the great, great exercise riders in the world, named Nuno Santos, who's ridden five or six of the best racehorses in the last fifty years, and when Zenyatta walked past us we both just looked at each other and said "What the *bleep* is that?" because the goosebumps were the size of golf balls. You just don't see a horse that size. Most them are awkward, they're not athletic, they're too big. And Zenyatta walked by, she was the size of a train car, but she walked by you like a cat. Just a whole different deal, and I'm not going to say that I knew she was going to turn out to be one of the greatest racehorses anybody's ever seen, but I was certainly like *wow, what the hell has John [] got there?* And, needless to say, this was her home her entire racing career, Hollywood Park. And I was at all of her races—the greatest female racehorse of all time, and definitely one of the top racehorses in horse racing history.

Some of the people I've been so incredibly blessed to have met, I've befriended and become part of their lives in the last thirty years. It's just ... it's unbelievable. We're talking about Burt Bacharach, we're talking about Jerry Moss, A&M Records Talking about Bobby Frankel—in my opinion, the greatest racehorse trainer of all time. Talking about all the great riders, Laffit Pincay, Chris McCarron. The great, great horses, and it just goes on and on and on. David Milch—huge television producer. The variety of humanity, and the people that I deal with and talk to on a daily basis. From the guy who shines my shoes to several billionaires, the B. Wayne Hugheses of the world. I can name a bunch of them, they probably would rather have me not mention their names. But when you see these people invest tens of millions and hundreds of millions of dollars in a game, and they finally get a really great racehorse, you're just so happy for them because it's such an integral part of our game. We need people who are passionate about the game.

I came to California in 1974, before off-track betting, when you had to come to the track. On a weekday we had twenty-five thousand people out here, on the weekends we had fifty, sixty thousand people out here. Once technology kicked in, and you can sit home on your couch, why would you come to the racetrack anymore? Losing pari-mutuel clerks and adding self-service machines, losing that social environment where people used to love to come to the track and talk to the guy behind the window—the racetrack was such a social situation. Unfortunately, technology also has been a huge negative for us, because young kids are so obsessed with their technology—to them, horse racing is like a dinosaur sport. It's something they just don't relate to. And I don't care what you're talking about in life, if you don't replace the old blood with the young blood, it's just a matter of time before you're not going to be around.

Horse racing is, for a lot of us, a religion, because you're going back generations. The three original stallions that started this whole thing in the mid-1700s—the fact is that every thoroughbred alive today goes back to one of those three stallions. One of the stallions was called the Darley, one of them was called Godolphin, and one of them was called the Turk. Those three stallions then started breeding the Queen of England's coach horses, the horses that have been pulling the royalty of England's coaches for years and years and years. Every thoroughbred alive today goes back to one of those three stallions.

I support myself. I gamble on thoroughbred horse racing professionally, and have done it since 1986, so going on twenty-seven years. It is totally unusual. There's a few of us around the country. Not a lot—I'd say there might be, I don't know, maybe fifteen, twenty guys in the entire country that can legitimately say that they come out here and gamble on horse racing every day. And it's no different than anything else. It's no different than a guy playing the stock market. It's the same thing. We actually refer to the horses as "stock"—"so-and-so doesn't have much stock this year," or "so-and-so's got some unbelievable two-year-old stock." We refer to the horses as stock because that's what it is. And it's no different than anything else. If you're talking about airplanes, don't talk to me. If you're talking

about boats, don't talk to me. If you want to know about thoroughbred horse racing and you want to know about what's going on day-in and day-out in the Southern California circuit, there's nobody that will give you more general knowledge about what goes on day-in and day-out around here than me.

There's literally a thousand ways to lose a horse race, and only one way to win it. And I mean literally a thousand ways. I'm talking about everything that could happen from the time that they leave the barn area, to the time they get in the paddock, to going through the tunnel and getting out in front of the gate. A million things can happen during the race, in terms of traffic, in terms of, you know—I lost a race one day when a bird flew in and smashed into the horse's head, turning for home with Gary Stevens on him. Right here, at Hollywood Park, a bird flew into the horse's head. There are so many variables, there are so many things that can happen. Which obviously keeps it very interesting, very exciting.

Most people don't understand what gambling is. Gambling is a psychological drug. The name of the drug is "action." Action takes on a physical manifestation of an adrenaline rush, which triggers an accelerated heart, which creates sweaty palms. Your adrenaline is pumping, your heart's racing, your palms are sweating. That's what action is. I don't care if you're rolling dice, I don't care if you're playing pinching pennies in stupid New York, or playing cards or betting horses or on the golf course. Guys, women, anybody that's into any form of gambling love a thing called "action." Most people don't know how to articulate it that way.

Well, in Southern California, obviously, the sun is incredibly bright so I use my hat and a pair of sunglasses as tools. I bring the hat down like so and my sunglasses are down below my eyes so that the sunglasses are taking the glare from the ground. And the hat's taking it from in between so that when a horse walks in front of me, I'm getting a perfect perspective of that horse's body. And so I use my hat and the sunglasses as tools. And also, like, I'm Jimmy the Hat. So, I guess you gotta wear a hat.

This was the track where the movie stars came, and some of the most historically significant horse races that have ever been run happened here at Hollywood Park. You add all that up with the fact that the place was built in '38, it was here all during World War II. The fact that this was Zenyatta's home for the last for her entire horse racing career. And you have a historically significant place that really isn't getting the kind of attention that I would have expected from Los Angeles and from Southern California. This isn't just a racetrack. This is an extraordinarily historically significant piece of property in Southern California, where so many unbelievable things happened. And the bottom line is, it's very sad to see the fact that horse racing has gone downhill so much.

I'm talking about highly educated people walk in here and are just completely like *man, this is too much for me*, and *I'm going to go to a casino and pull a lever on a slot machine*—you know, do something mindless. And that's sad, because if they understood horse racing a little bit more, they'd be so much more attracted to it. Because it's so much greater a way, if you're interested in gambling, to gamble than a mindless pulling of a lever on a slot machine, or any of the other games of chance that Las Vegas would provide you. The pageantry, and, you know, there's only one creature on Earth more beautiful than a horse, and that's a woman. That's it! Of all the creatures on the Earth, the most beautiful creature in the world is a woman—unfortunately, you got way too much power—and horses. I mean you see a horse and it's like they take your breath away, absolutely take your breath away. *60 Minutes* came out here and did a piece on Zenyatta, and when they first got here the guys were like, "We don't get it." By the time they left, the last thing one said was, "Simply speaking, she is the most magnificent creature I've ever seen on this Earth." And she was!

My name's Jay Cohen. I play the trumpet here at the racetrack. And my job is to signal and let people know that the horses are coming out onto the track. Between races I play birthdays, anniversaries, any kind of a party and make people have fun here. The song is called "Call to the Post" and I've performed it over 87,000 times. Yeah, that's right, I have OCD and I keep a little book. Not every day, just once a year I fill it in and see where I am. I've had the same book for twenty-two years. I started at Hollywood Park in 1988. So I'm going to complete twenty-five years. I love

what I do. If I didn't love what I do, I wouldn't do it. I have to admit that I taught for eight years, I was a high school band director. Didn't have quite the fun and the appeal, so I decided to get into performing with music. And never had a dream that I'd play for the racetrack. But it's worked out perfectly. Never had been to a racetrack until I started working. I've placed one bet this year, it was part of a joke that we used to do. There'd be a group of us that would bet on the seventh month, seventh day, seventh race, seventh horse. And nobody wanted to do it this year, and this was my only bet of the year, and I'm searching my pocket because I still have the ticket. That's right, I lost. There it is. Still have the ticket as a reminder: Don't bet on the horses when you're working.

I'm a horse owner, a horse player, and a patron. And it's kind of become my life for the last two years. I'm an actress. Well, I was a *Playboy* model and then I became a reality TV personality, and I had my own radio show, and then I caught the eye of this producer-creator. His name was David Milch, and he was preparing me for a major part with Dustin Hoffman, and I was going to be this big actress. Unfortunately, he never gave me the part. While I was preparing for the part over at Santa Anita, I met some people, and before you knew it, I was in business with them. At first, when I didn't get the part, I was kind of a sore loser. They say in horse racing, "Show me a good loser and I'll show you a real loser." So there's really no good losers in horse racing.

I know that Hollywood Park opened in like 1938, because Jack Warner and Louie B. Mayer wanted to be members of the Turf Club in Santa Anita. And they allowed them to be day members, but back then Jewish people couldn't hold a membership in the Turf Club. So I think it was Louie B. Mayer and Jack Warner, and that's why they opened up Hollywood Park. Because they wanted to be members of the Turf Club. So it was so exciting, because I'm Jewish too.

Riding a racehorse—I mean in a race—is no comparison to anything. When I try to explain to people, it's kind of like, you're either driving a BMW or a Volkswagen, I don't know. That's the closest I could tell you about some horses. It's just a big, powerful, beautiful animal. Most of the time they're just so smooth, and I just love the sound of their hooves on the ground, and the competition. I first got into racing when I was thirteen, and I thought it was great that I got paid to ride a racehorse and I just continued to learn as much as I could and do as much as I could from there. And I left school for it, because I thought, "That's what I want to do." From thirteen years old, I left school and I've been racing since I was seventeen, so I gave myself four years training before I got licensed. As a jockey, I think you can get licensed when you're sixteen but it's different in every country.

Having a child and running races is a lot easier than people think—love makes anything easier, more enjoyable. I'm not away from him for long periods of time, so it's easy to have him around and for him to have me away and it works out good. With the new workplace regulations and stuff for having newborns around, I'm able to bring him, and I'm only away from him when I'm actually with the horses. So Hollywood Park's been really accommodating to me and it's worked out good. Yeah, I bring the baby, I'm just away from him when I'm riding. So it's good. I can breastfeed, and ride, and then take a nap with the baby, and then ride later, and still be at the track the whole time.

See, I'm going to keep working until I can't. I've got nobody to tell me nothing, so I get up when I want to, work when I want to, you know—just do what I want to.

You get older, I mean—everything's got to change.

I'm an old former combat marine. I was in the invasion of Iwo Jima, I was in the occupation of Japan. And had a pretty bad temper. That's why I won't train for anybody, because if they upset me, who knows what would happen.

At my age now I'm thinking about getting out of this business. Because the business—racing business— isn't like it used to be in my time. I thought that racing was the greatest thing on Earth when I first got in the business. And now, just like BB King said, "The Thrill is Gone". The thrill is gone, I just don't have the stomach for it anymore, because the regulations and the "this" to the "that," it just knocked everything, drained everything, every feeling I had for

racing has drained out of racing. The people in the business have changed. Now you've got a lot of promoters in the business. They're not thinking about the future of racing. They're only thinking, "How much I can get out of it?" And not put anything back in it, to improve the industry. That's my thoughts. Now you might get a different opinion from some other people. But racing ain't what it was, because you just don't have many horsemen in the business, you have a lot of promoters in the business. And it's real horsemen that care about the industry. So that's why I'm out of here. I'm getting out.

My name is Scott McClellan and I'm a second generation jockey's agent, my father was a jockey's agent. And I'm fifty-eight years old. I started when I was seventeen, I was in high school at the time I started. I've been here every meet, every summer, every fall meet since 1972. My brother was an agent, now he's a mutuel clerk here. My father passed away about eight, nine years ago but he was an agent, a jockey, a trainer. He did about everything there was involved in racing. I learned from them and I just stayed in it. Didn't really know what I was doing at the start, and forty-two years later I'm still here. My job is kind of like managing the jockey, as far as the horse racing industry. You're the handicapper behind the jockey. So you're going out, trying to find the highest- or the lowest-odds horse in the race for your jockey to ride.

So I've actually been here my whole life. I'm not real good riding horses. I've seen Dick Van Patten, Dick Van Dyke, I met Sylvester Stallone. I've met a number of actors and actresses that went through. But I would say the glamour days were a little bit before that, where more actors and actresses would come out. But they still did, there were still a lot, and you would see them. MC Hammer, I remember him walking around here with just suspenders and pants and no shirt. And he owned some horses, he had a filly named Light—Light was a very good filly. But through the years I remember Ernest O... can't think of his name, the one from Bonanza, used to be out here and owned horses. Over the years there's been quite a few that I've met.

It used to be thirty, forty thousand on the weekends, maybe fifty or sixty. And weekdays it was probably fifteen or twenty and nowadays, you might have two or three thousand on weekdays and six thousand on the weekends. So that just shows you the difference—how it's dropped off with simulcast wagers and you can bet with your phone, your computer, on your TV or whatever you can follow on now. And you don't have to leave your office or your home. And you don't have to fight the traffic on the freeway, so that has made racing drop. And it's not popularity. I think there are more people betting on the races than there were in the past, but it's attendance at the track and the excitement of being there. It's a little more exciting when the people are there, and all getting excited. You see a lot of characters around the track, and you don't see as many as you used to. There's some funny people, they would dance after a race, or some that would just have their routine that you would just get a kick out of, how they would root, how they would act after they won and how they would dance and run around, and you don't see that as much anymore. But racing has been very exciting to me and I will hate to see Hollywood go, just because it's been my life. Santa Anita and Del Mar too, but that's been—my whole life is the racetrack.

My name's Gary Sherlock, and I train horses. I was kind of born to the business, my father was a jockey. Just kind of born in it. And just wound up doing that. I have twenty horses, since 1966. A long time. Fifty years on the track, no other jobs.

Racing's not in great shape, except for big days and Del Mar. And Del Mar's the happiest [track]—the people go, they go every day, and it's a happy thing. It's not easy to get here, I live by Santa Anita, and it's not easy to get from here to there. And for people to get in their car and come to the races at 1:00 and go home at 4:30 and spend an hour and a half in the car, it's not easy to do, and a lot of people work. I don't think we indoctrinated a younger group and a younger crowd, I don't think they got into it. I think it's a little slow for them and with all the technology they can stay home and bet. People do bet and stay home and bet on TV, watch it on TV, and bet. It cut the crowd, and by cutting the crowd, it cuts some of the experience down.

Things are just gone: coats and ties and hats. Just changed. I don't think it's going away completely, but there's going

to be some revamping.

I mean, it's like a casino. They get people to gamble there, but at the slot machines, and they just sit there and go like this now **imitates cranking a slot** and there is all this stuff going on. It's a constant motion where, here, the pageantry and the beauty—handicapping, and picking a horse and all that—I think it's a little slow for a lot of today's people, especially the younger generation. It's just a little slow.

It's not a lost art in the sense that horses are going to be trained and horses are going to be raced. Never going to be like it was in its heyday. You have to do what you do to have the races. You can't have races without the betters, you can't have betters without the races or horses, so they have to live together.

I can't remember the names of all the races, but I've been here a long time with a lot of success. Well, what the trainer does is, I select horses for the for the owners. I pick it out, I buy it for them, I get it ready to run the races, which involves the day-to-day training. And I employ all the people that work the horses: the people that exercise them, the people who feed them, the people that walk them, night watchmen, everything everything like that. Then we pick out the races, select the jockeys, and cross our fingers.

My feeling is that, you know, I'm not overly sentimental. I'm looking ahead, and looking forward to next year. We're going to have two Del Mar seasons, and Del Mar is great. It's in North County San Diego, it's a beautiful place, a beautiful track. So we'll be there, this time next year. I imagine we'll be sitting here, talking about horses at Del Mar. So I'm looking forward to the next step. Sad to see it go, but you can't really force something to be there if they don't want to be there. So Hollywood has decided they don't want to be here, so we're moving forward and looking ahead.

When you work on the backside, you know the people on the other side. I know the workers in the front side, and I know the workers in maintenance, and even though they're separate, we're all connected. What's happening as far as the fans is that all the gambling has been moved off the live site, so that's the big change. So people can now bet on their phones, they can bet on their computers. They can bet a lot of different ways, so you don't have to be at the racetrack to make a bet. So you don't see the fan gambling as much as you used to. You can view it two different ways: If you can handle more gambling, make it easier for people, it's going to be a bigger slice of the pie. But you want them to have that on-track experience, because that's the real true experience, and a lot of fun. But who would want to drive an L.A. freeway anymore?

The whole race, jockeys are working with an animal. Everybody makes mistakes. So I don't say it's not the jockey's fault, I just say that the trainers blame the jockeys and the owners blame the trainers. Always the game is like that.

I'm improving myself, the racetrack, listening to the older jockeys. Like Mike Smith, if he says something to me, Nakatani, Flores, all the bigger jockeys that have [been] here before me—I listen to those guys. Even if I think I got really big, I cannot be that guy. Even trainers, agents, they used to be jockeys before. So I have to listen to everybody. It does help for me to improve myself for the future, in the bigger races.

The whole racing sport: That's my passion. To prove myself to the racetrack.

The racing secretary is kind of like the chef in a restaurant. He presents a menu of races from which owners and trainers choose from, to enter their horses. And from there, you take those races, that are your best races for each day, and that's your racing program. There are times on particular races, where if I see a particular horse should be in that race, I will call the owner or trainer, and say, "You know what, I think your horse belongs in this race." Pretty much eight out of ten times, they're glad they did it.

In the grandstand, yes, there is a definite class distinction. I think it exists more today than it did way back when, when eighty thousand people were going to the races at Santa Anita, or seventy thousand people were going to the

racers here at Hollywood Park. You know, things change. But the one thing that has remained consistent and constant is that class separation has never left the backside. I'll have to give you a perfect example of that: I was working for Eddie Gregson at Santa Anita, and we were training for Alfred Vanderbilt. And I was grooming, and Alfred Vanderbilt—he was one of the richest people in the country at the time—walks up to me with a brown paper bag. I have no idea what he's gonna give me. Says, "Dan, I think these will fit you. These are for you. I've only worn them once." And I open up the brown paper bag, here's four sets of Hush Puppies. And to this day I'll always remember that. That was one of the greatest gifts I ever received. I should have had him autograph it. But that just goes to show you—that still exists today. It's something that's very special. Unless you're involved in horse racing, how else do you experience something like that? You don't. And that's a memory I'll always have.

They're looking for the leading, standing jockeys. I'm not in the standing jockeys, but I will be one of these days, it just takes time, be positive. Working every day, hard work, dedication, pushing myself everyday, positive thinking. All that stuff. Horse racing is a little funny, but I enjoy it.

And I tell you, you have this twelve-hundred-pound horse and you have this little saddle that weighs about eight ounces, and you've got to balance yourself—no thank you. So I've always been very respectful of people that get on horses, whether they're actual-size riders or jockeys. It's an art, and you have to be pretty athletic to be successful at it. That, too, takes a lot of courage. Yes. Because the people that are on the front side, that are wagering on your races, are holding you—they don't know who you are, but you are being held accountable for what you produce, what we call the product, for them to gamble on. Not only is it a huge responsibility to the owners and trainers, who are trying to make a living from horse racing, but to the gambler who's trying to cash a ticket.

One aspect of racing that I miss the most is training racehorses. I think one of my happiest moments was winning races for my dear friends—there's not a better feeling in the world. And that was the one thing I missed, going to the barn in the morning. I used to go to the barn in the afternoon, take my horses out and graze them, walk them around. I miss that interaction with the animal itself, being able to just walk down that barn, the smells, and being able to pet your horse, and take full responsibility for that horse's welfare. I miss that. I miss that a lot.

Our purse structure is still pretty strong throughout the country, and I think what our racing needs in California is someone to step up to the plate and say, "This is where our business needs to be in five to six years, this is what our barn area needs to look like, these are the improvements that we need to bring the horses back to California, to bring owners back to California."

Well, my name is Joe Taylor and I'm the parking manager at Hollywood Park Racetrack. My daily job is basically assigning jobs to the various parking lot attendants: the paddock area, the track driver, the flagman. There used to be the heavy equipment operator, but no longer. It's mostly parking attendants throughout the area of Hollywood Park. Well, we were the first ones [patrons] see and the last ones they see, so, whatever comes, if they're treated with respect and with a smile they usually go in with a smile. Sometimes they don't come out with a smile because they lost their money, but we try to make them smile on the way out, and we enjoy our customers and we want them to enjoy us. But my family is here at Hollywood Park. I've had fourteen family members that worked at Hollywood Park. About fifteen years ago somebody on the communication system said, "Taylor's in trouble, should somebody help them?" and one of the security guards said, "Well, which one?" They're at every stable gate, entrance, they're at the parking lot. There's one on the track moving the soil out there. My father was the manager of the stable cafeteria. I have an uncle that galloped Seabiscuit the first year he ever ran, worked for C. S. Howard. And another uncle was a trainer, so there's a tremendous family history here at Hollywood Park. And one of my greatest experiences was '83, I was nineteen. We had three Breeder's Cups here, '84 and '87 and 1997. In 1984, Gerald Ford, ex-President of the United States, came with Secret Service and limos. It was so busy that year for that Breeder's Cup and the congestion was so great outside Hollywood Park, he had to get out of this vehicle by Gate 3—which is across from Prairie Avenue—walk all the way up to the Turf Club area, and he saw a gentleman named Art. Art was here fifty years, he knew all the high echelon. Prior to this, at Santa Anita, Art was told to save that one spot right in front for

Gerald Ford, but the Secret Service noticed that there was a car [in the spot] and that car happened to be Jack Nicholson's car. His driver put Jack Nicholson's car in Gerald Ford's spot. And so Secret Service told the parking lot attendant "That's Gerald Ford's spot, not Jack Nicholson's." Jack Nicholson was in the car and rolled down the window and the Secret Service said to him, "You have two options: Move your car or be arrested." And all of a sudden Jack Nicholson just took off. That was a real experience.