

Bell Searching for Future Stallion Prospects

When Headley Bell of Nicoma Bloodstock went shopping at the Keeneland September yearling sale, he wasn't just looking for future racehorses. He also was looking for stallion prospects.

If any of the four colts he purchased for a partnership during the auction's select sessions are successful as runners, they will stand at Mill Ridge Farm near Lexington. Bell's mother, Alice Chandler, and his stepfather, Dr. John Chandler, operate Mill Ridge.

"The stallion business is very competitive," Bell said. "This is just another angle that Nicoma and Mill Ridge are going to try so we can cover our bases. There are about six people in our group."

Bell spent \$1,275,000. His most expensive purchase was a \$500,000 Deputy Minister colt that is the first foal out of grade II winner Brulay (by Rubiano). The mare is a half-sister to Belmont Stakes (gr. I) winner and champion Lemon Drop Kid (by Kingmambo). The colt's family also produced Horse of the Year and Belmont winner A.P. Indy and Preakness (gr. I) winner Summer Squall.

Bell paid \$400,000 for a son of A.P. Indy that is the first foal out of Imperfect World (by Carson City), who captured the Gen-



Headley Bell of Nicoma Bloodstock

uine Risk Handicap (gr. II) and was a group III winner in France. The colt's fourth dam is champion Straight Deal.

In addition, Bell spent \$250,000 for a Seeking the Gold—Magic of Life colt that is a full brother to English group II winner Enthused and \$125,000 for a Thunder Gulch—Silver Hiawatha colt that is from the family of grade I winner Grand Canyon (by Fappiano). *By Deirdre B. Biles*

Dudley Sidney was a familiar figure in the Keeneland sales ring. "He was a consummate horseman who professionally and carefully handled thousands of weanlings, yearlings, and broodmares as they took their turn in the sale ring," remembered director of communications Jim Williams. Sidney who started working at Keeneland in 1986, died Sept. 8 at 73.



Winchell *continued*

purchased by Mike Ryan as agent for \$650,000. The colt will be owned by a partnership headed by WinStar Farm co-owner Kenny Troutt. Both Winchell and David Fiske, who has managed Oakwind since 1980, believe the price to be the highest ever for an Oakwind-bred yearling sold at public auction.

Cuvee (pronounced coo-vay) and the yearling colt are out of the Star de Naskra mare Christmas Star. The second dam is the Whitesburg mare Carols Christmas, whom Fiske remembers Verne Winchell claiming sight unseen. Though Fiske said she wasn't much to look at, Carols Christmas produced grade I winner Olympio and grade II winner Call Now, and is the granddam of graded stakes winners Wild Wonder, Early Flyer, and Bien Nicole.

Wild Wonder, by Wild Again, stands at Spendthrift and is one reason Cuvee will stand there as well.

"After Cuvee won at Churchill Downs (the grade III Kentucky Breeders' Cup Stakes) the phone started ringing off the hook," Fiske said. "Ron flew in and we went around and listened to the offers."

"Because Wild Wonder is there, we already had an established relationship with Spendthrift," Winchell said. "He is a colt who is a great (stallion) prospect. Selling half eliminated some of the risk."

Winchell was also a buyer at the sale, buying out a partner on a colt and spending \$410,000 for a filly by Summer Squall out of the graded stakes-placed Mr. Prospector mare Here I Go.

Verne Winchell once owned 65 mares, but today Oakwind has a broodmare band numbering 21. There are 18 horses in training with Asmussen, Michael Dickinson, and longtime Oakwind trainer Ron McAnally.

Christmas Star is in foal to Cat Thief, and among the other Oakwind mares are Call Now, in foal to Touch Gold, and grade I winner Fleet Renee, in foal to Gone West.

"Dad didn't want to miss out on the big ones. He wanted to race them. We never used to sell our top prospects," Winchell said. "Now, we will take our good horses to the sales."

Winchell lives in Las Vegas where he is a shopping center developer and recently opened the first Winchell's Pub & Grill.

By Dan Liebman