

## *From the Executive Office*



# Sale Outlook Very Promising

**T**he 2002 Del Mar Yearling Sale promises to build upon the success of recent years. The quality and quantity of yearlings nominated continues to increase, making the strenuous task of selecting the yearlings to be offered even more difficult.

It is our goal and commitment to assure that the Del Mar Sale continues to be the showcase for California breeders to market their prize yearlings. As in the past, the yearlings accepted underwent lengthy reviews on both pedigree and conformation.

The statewide and national success of recent graduates, along with the lucrative Cal-bred ownership advantages has placed the Del Mar Sale at the top of the list for prospective buyers. With the incentives available, if you're racing in California you should have quality Cal-breds in your barn. Such quality is prominent at the seaside locale.

Although the sale is not limited to Cal-breds, it has been our policy to catalog at least 80 percent California-breds. The strength of the quality of horse now bred in the state and the overall demand for Cal-breds has assured that the eighty percent goal is easily obtained. In fact, this year 150 of 159 yearlings offered (94 percent) are Cal-breds. This is the highest percentage of California-breds cataloged in recent years, if not ever.

There are a wide variety of stallions represented this year. Of the 150 Cal-breds that are offered, 59 top stallions located in California, Kentucky, Florida, and Maryland are represented. Many of these are

leading sires both regionally and nationally, which most certainly adds to the attractiveness of this year's catalog.

It is also our goal to include qualified yearlings by young California stallions. The Del Mar Sale is the ideal venue to showcase and market promising new stallion prospects. This year is no exception, as there are offspring by Event of the Year, Free House, Illinois Storm, Mud Route, Nineeleven, Swiss Yodeler, Twin Spires, Tychonic, Western Fame, and Wild Gold.

Although it is never an easy task to top a record setting event, this year's sale definitely has the potential to improve on last year's success. Hopefully, on the evening of August 12th we will be celebrating another triumphant occasion.

**O**n a different note, the California breeding industry lost another champion recently with the passing of Mrs. Georgia Ridder. Mrs. Ridder, along with husband Ben, campaigned top California Champions Flying Paster and Cat's Cradle.

The Ridders were very committed to the breeding program in California, choosing to keep Flying Paster in the state and rejecting the offers from afar. His influence is quite evident, with many successful sons and daughters currently residing in the state. We have given recognition to Mrs. Ridder's accomplishments on page 19 of this issue.

I hope to see everyone at the Del Mar Sale in August.

— Doug Burge