

From the Executive Office



Top of the Class

“Congratulations California, it’s Tiznow” stated NTRA Commissioner Tim Smith upon announcing the Eclipse Award for the Horse of the Year for 2000. National Horse of the Year. What an honor for California. As the breeding industry in the state continues to make tremendous strides forward, people across the nation are taking notice. Champion Tiznow continues to grace the covers of the leading national publications and most recently, the Grade 1 winner and promising 3-year-old filly Golden Ballet, also made an appearance on the cover of *The Blood-Horse*.

This recognition is most deserving as Cal-breds continue to star in Graded Stakes races across the country. The commitment toward quality by breeders, both large and small, is evident in these results.

While attending the Eclipse Awards in New Orleans, I was fortunate enough to sit with Eclipse Award-winning writer Jay Hovdey. Jay won an Eclipse for his meaningful article on former CTBA Director Eddie Gregson, which appeared in the *Daily Racing Form* last June 7. Hovdey’s piece, titled “Racing Loses Man of Taste”, acknowledged Eddie’s contribution to not only the CTBA and California Thoroughbred Trainers Association but his overall commitment to the welfare of horses and backside workers.

It was fitting that on a night celebrating the triumphs of the California-bred, that Eddie Gregson was so remembered and a story depicting his loss, so honored.

On another note, the CTBA’s 2000 Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon held on Saturday Feb. 10, that was attended by nearly 200 members, was deemed a success. The business meeting portion of the Annual Meeting, which was held in the CTBA’s Carleton F. Burke Memorial Library, included traditional committee reports as well as a video highlights featuring some of the top Cal-bred performances of the year.

And, for the second consecutive year, the Awards Luncheon was held at the FrontRunner Restaurant at Santa Anita. The crowning of the divisional winners throughout the afternoon, allowed for exceptional exposure for the California Champions, with over 10,000 people on-track who witnessed the crowning of Tiznow as the California Horse of The Year and Champion Three-Year-Old Male. All divisional winners are featured in depth in this edition of *California Thoroughbred*.

Also, congratulations to the newly-elected CTBA Director, Dan Schiffer. Dan, who is the son of a past CTBA President, the late Ken Schiffer, is an equine attorney who manages the family farm, The Hat Ranch West, in Temecula Calif. I look forward to working with Dan, as well as all the other directors, during this coming year. For complete coverage of the Annual Meeting and Awards luncheon, including the board of directors election results, please see pages 49, 50, 53 and 54.

—Doug Burge