

A Love for Horses

Since I was about six or so my family and I have always gone to Scarborough Downs to see our horses race from around mid-August until November. ~~Out front there is a sign that says “Scarboro Downs”, but when you get to the main building the sign out front says “Scarborough Downs” Its kind of funny the way it is spelled differently on both signs, but there is no confusion about where I am.~~ When I walk in [to the racetrack], I’m surrounded by the familiar aroma of horses and cigarette smoke. ~~We always get a program and go outside and wait for the race we came for. My dad bets on almost every race and usually gets my mom and me a ticket.~~

The announcer’s spunky country voice talking about all the horses, their names, driver and who owns them and also saying “here they come” ~~in the beginning~~ adds to the excitement. The hooves smash the ground as they come down the stretch, the whips crack as they come close to the finish line, and the driver’s yell, “come on, come on”, pushing their carts to make them come in a better place. My dad paces back and forth with his program in his hand hoping and wishing for his horse to come out and win. When we see our horse cross the finish line first, there's this excitement of getting that certain something you've always wanted.

~~I always love going to Scarborough Downs; it’s just something special we have always done together. There are so many people there that I grew up with and am growing up with now. My dad and I always wear our matching jackets that say “Gray Stables Indiana Meadows Training Center”. We wear those jackets with pride [in the horses we have raised.] because we own Indiana Meadows Training Center in West Gardiner.~~

Although the following two paragraphs were recorded, they were cut from the final program in order to make this piece one tightly coherent contribution.

(Besides going to Scarborough Downs, [we] ~~my mom, Mimi, Pepere and other family from New York~~ always go to Windsor Fair every year, ~~First thing when we get there we go right to the race track and have to get our programs and the picks for the day.~~ We sit together and watch the race and bet on the horse we like, Its cool looking around and seeing all the different generations of my family and knowing that maybe someday someone else in the family will be looking at my children and me.

Both of these places I have grown up with so it's special to me when we go and bet because that's our little family ritual. We all enjoy getting to be together to share our love for horses. Horses are a big part of my family and hopefully always will be.)