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**PROFILE**

CALIFORNIA  
COUPLE REAP  
REWARDS  
OF MERIT

# CATHY AND PAUL SCHROEDER

BY EMILY SHIELDS

**C**athy and Paul Schroeder have discovered one truism in horse ownership: Horses tend to multiply, whether planned or not.

“Sometimes we buy them, but sometimes they come to us because they may have gotten injured and couldn’t race anymore,” Paul said. “On three different occasions we’ve just been given a mare.”

Their small operation has grown to some 35 horses,

with six mares in foal for 2019.

“We do have a good reputation for taking good care of our horses,” Paul added. “It’s very important for us to find them second homes when their racing days are over.”

The Schroeders were introduced to racing via their daughter, Anne, who was a champion equestrian as a teenager schooling with Amy Hess. The former wife of Thoroughbred trainer Bob Hess was an influence in the Schroeders’ lives, ultimately

leading them to meet Hess on the track.

“At the time, Bob was offering a thing during a Del Mar summer meet called Frisky Fillies,” said Cathy. “It was \$2,500 per person, women only, to get involved. Our silks were shocking pink, with a shocking pink cap cover, and showed a horse sitting at a bar drinking a martini. Why wouldn’t you get involved with that?”

After the summer ended, the Schroeders started claiming horses, then later bred



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Ever mindful of aftercare, Paul and Cathy Schroeder have retired their grade 3 winner Blue Tone, whom Amy Hess is retraining to be a show jumper



them. They recently moved their herd to George Yager and Hector Palma's BG Thoroughbred Farm in Hemet and are extremely happy with the ranch.

"We love BG," Cathy said. "We love George and the other people out there."

The Schroeders' lone stallion, Merit Man, also stands at BG. A stakes winner at Santa Anita, Del Mar, and Gulfstream Park, Merit Man retired with \$462,030 in earnings and needed a place to go.

"He was owned by three different partners and Bob Hess," Paul explained. "When his racing career was over, one of the partners that owned 30% didn't want to continue on, so he gave us his interest. Keep in mind these are all people we have known as friends, and we've raced together as partners before in 10 or 12 horses. Everyone just wanted to ensure he would have a good home."

Merit Man has proved to be a sneaky good stallion, with three winners from only five horses to race.

Those runners have combined to win six of their 12 total starts. He is also responsible for the Schroeders' undefeated California-bred stakes winner Give Me a Hint, out of the Beat Hollow mare Hint of Promise, and two-for-three All Tea All Shade, out of the Whywhywhy mare Why So Serious. Another Merit Man daughter, Buddug, is a winner in Arizona.

"Merit Man only just started breeding a few years ago," Paul said, noting first foals were born in 2016. "He's had a really good start. We want to promote him as much as we can so that people see how good he has been."

Give Me a Hint debuted at Del Mar Aug. 12, and rocketed home to win by 9/4 lengths. She returned in a starter optional claiming event at Santa Anita and won again, this time by 6 1/2

lengths. She was sent off at 5-1 odds in the \$200,345 Golden State Juvenile Fillies, which she won by 2 1/4 lengths. The race was a thrill for her connections.

"We were so excited," Cathy said. "I was screaming my head off when she came up on the outside to win. We are hoping for very good things from her, but we will be very careful with her."

All Tea All Shade won just an hour before the Golden State Juvenile Fillies, taking a starter optional claiming by 2 1/4 lengths. The two fillies had also both won in back-to-back races on Oct. 12, giving the Schroeders two spectacular afternoons.

Their horses' names are very important to the Schroeders as well. Anne helps name many of them; she's

Kentucky-bred by Giant's Causeway—Modesty Blaise, by A.P. Indy, was originally a \$100,000 Keeneland September yearling who traveled to England, then shipped across the channel to France. He returned to the United States after the Schroeders could not resist him.

"We were looking at some of the other horses," Paul said, "but people weren't bidding on him because of his American pedigree."

"When he came out to sell, I was punching my husband in the ribs," Cathy said. "I had to have that horse."

They marveled at technology, as they were able to call trainer Hess from France, who immediately looked up the horse's catalog page and videos.

"That's the wonder of this world," Paul said. "We're in Paris, and our trainer in Los Angeles can look at videos of the horse at the same time we're really looking at it."

French Getaway broke his maiden at Santa Anita in his third start, prompting a rich offer from an outside buyer.

"He was a Derby prospect at that point," Paul said. "Rightly or wrongly, we turned it down."

French Getaway ultimately injured a suspensory in 2017, but is back in training after spending a year rehabbing in Idaho.

With six yearlings, two juveniles, and a winning Cal-bred 3-year-old filly named Wild Edie returning to training, the Schroeders' breeding and racing program continues to expand. Although the Corona Del Mar couple has been sending one mare a year to Kentucky, that might change.

"We've been successful here," Cathy said. "Let's keep a good thing going. We're very happy with using California stallions. It's such a good program that the California Thoroughbred Breeders Association has. Why not breed Cal-breds?" **CTB**

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the one who recommended Give Me a Hint for the daughter of Hint of Promise. She is in the theater business, where All Tea All Shade is a slang term that essentially means "no offense."

Another of their horses is Lighthouse Point, a son of Concord Point—Haviland, by Tale of the Cat. He is named after the Schroeders' restaurant, the Lighthouse Bayview Café, in Newport Beach.

"What is riskier, the horse racing business or the restaurant business?" Paul joked.

French Getaway was named for a vacation in France, when the Schroeders visited the Arqana Saint-Cloud Breeze-Up auction in May 2015. The