

# For Horse and Country

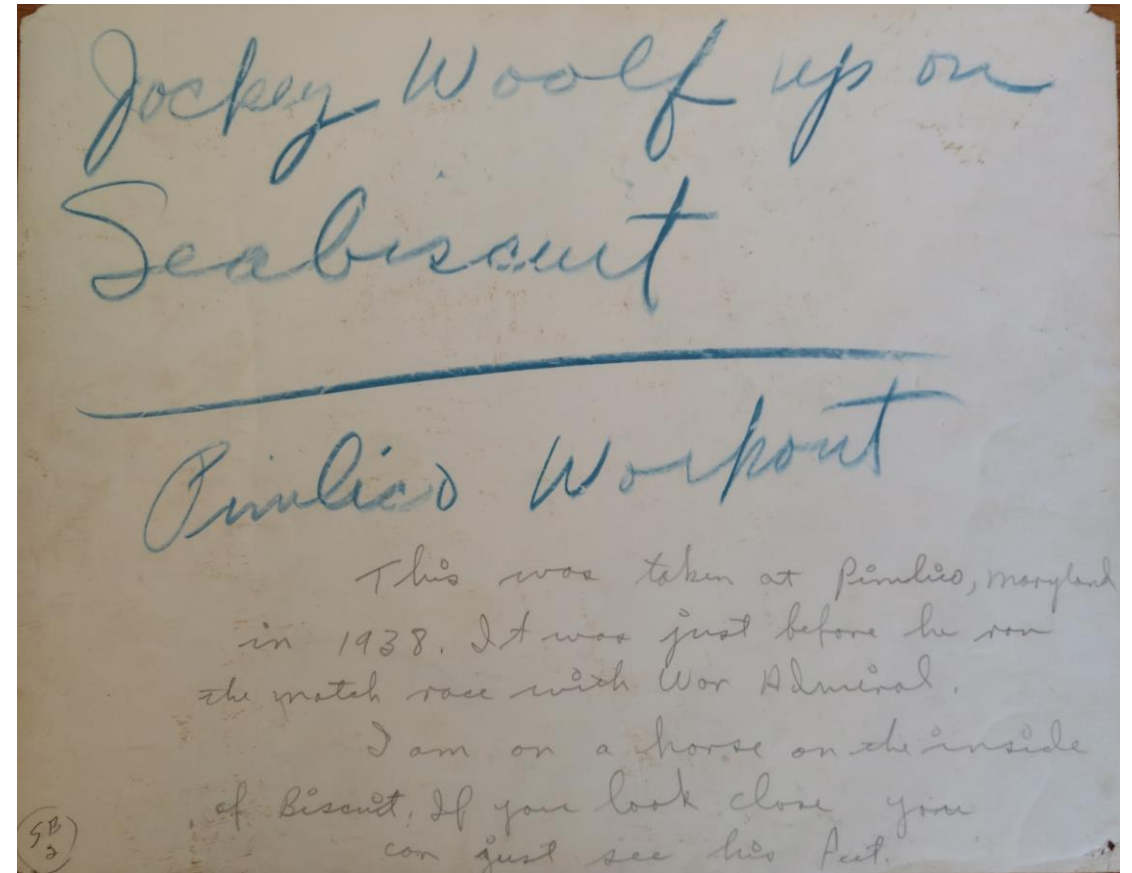
**Raymond Lavern Allen**

“Love for horses and serving the homeland during WWII”

# Raymond Lavern Allen – Here's his Story

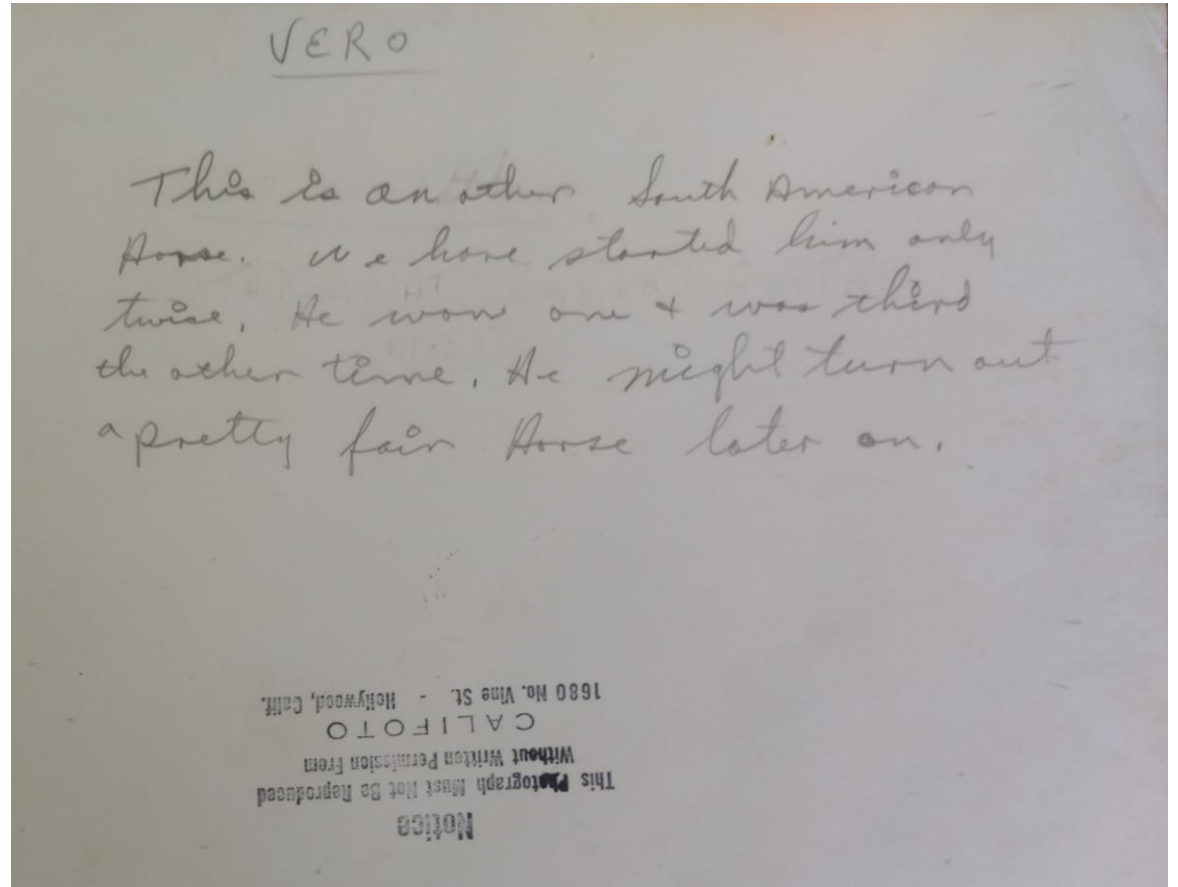
- Born July 11, 1919
- Raised on a farm in Irrigon, Oregon
- Left home to work on a horse ranch as a teenager
- Moved to California and lived at the horse farm of Seabiscuit
- Exercised horses and worked in stables for Charles Howard
- Drafted to serve in the 7<sup>th</sup> cavalry during WWII
- Patrolled the U.S. Mexican border on horseback
- Killed in Action while on patrol in the Philippines on March 8, 1945

# George Woolf on Seabiscuit & Raymond on inside horse (well hidden)



Raymond writes on back of photo... "Jockey Woolf up on Seabiscuit. Pimlico Workout. This was taken at Pimlico, Maryland in 1938. It was just before he ran the match race with War Admiral. I am on a horse on the inside of Biscuit. If you look close you can see his feet."

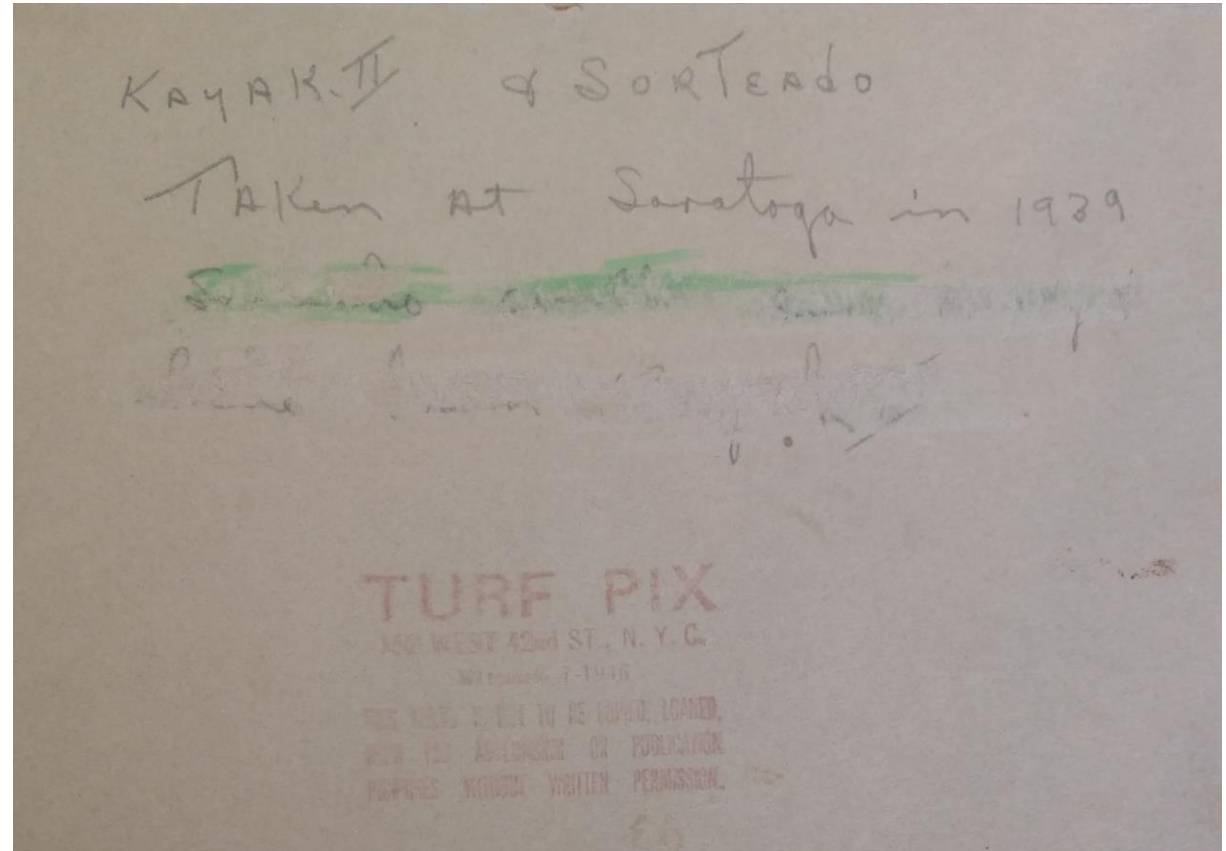
# Raymond Allen on Vero



Handwritten by Raymond... "VERO"

"This is another South American horse. We have started him only twice. He won one & was third the other time. He might turn out a pretty fair horse later on."

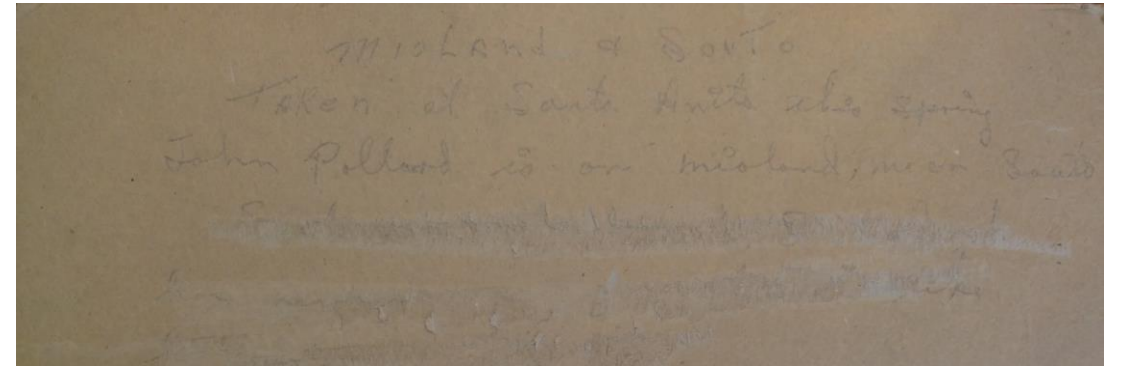
# Ted Kinley on Kayak II and Raymond on Sorteado



Handwritten by Raymond...

“Kayak II & Sorteado. Taken at Saratogo in 1939.”

# John Pollard on Mioland & Raymond on Souto (Brother of Sorteado)

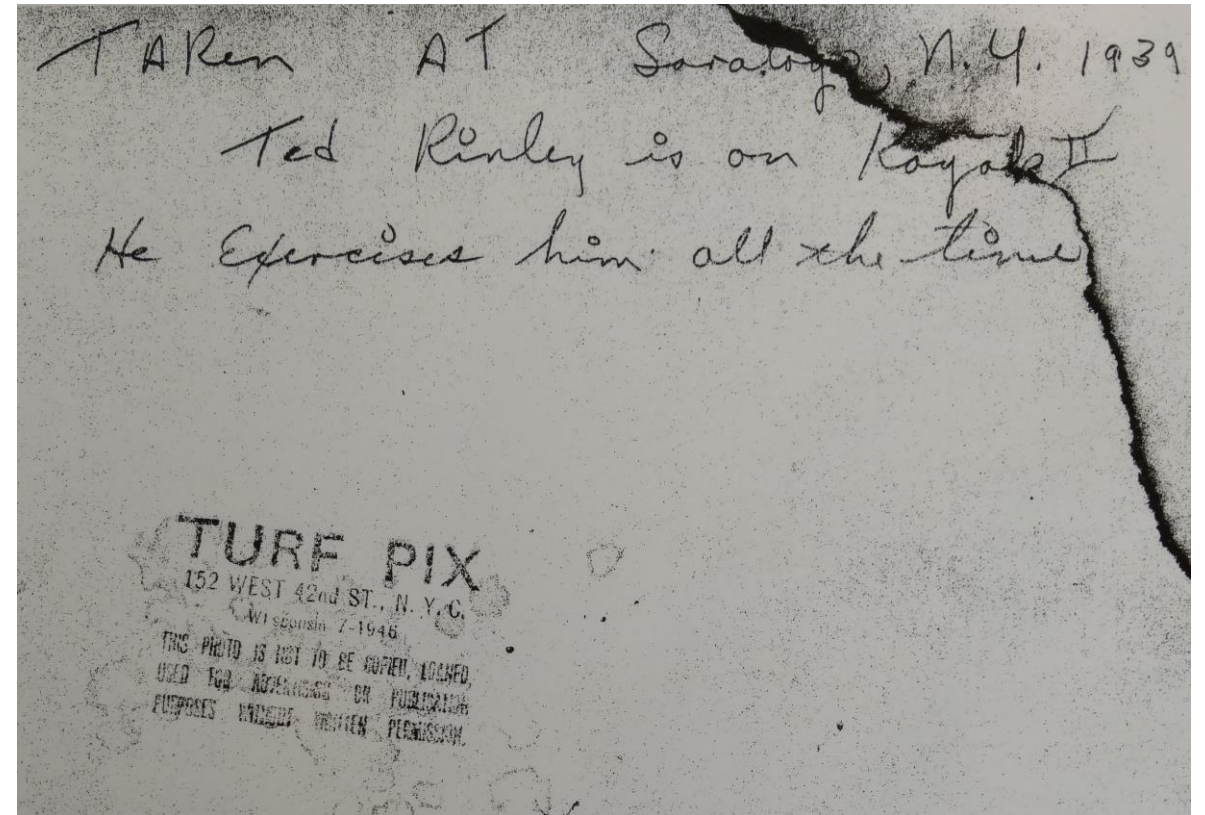
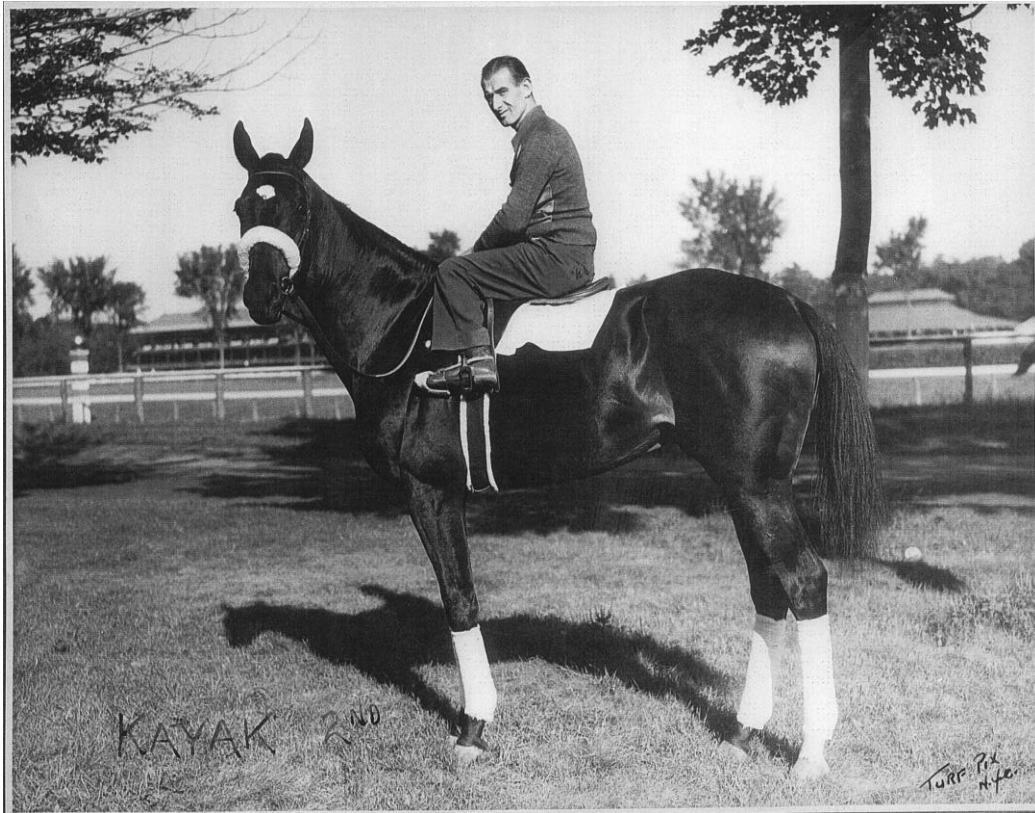


Raymond wrote...

Mioland & Souto

"Taken at Santa Anita this spring. John  
Pollard is on Mioland and me on Souto."

# Ted Kinley on Kayak II



Raymond wrote...

"Taken at Saratoga, N.Y. 1939

Ted Kinley is on Kayak II. He exercises him all the time."

# Porter's Cap



Tom Smith took this photo  
of Porter's Cap



Raymond on Sea Convoy (outside) and  
Sea Skipper is on the rail. Other rider  
appears to be John "Red" Pollard



Two of Seabiscuit's colts  
The one I am on is named  
Sea Convoy the other is  
Sea Skipper

Handwritten by Raymond...

"Two of Seabiscuit's colts. The one I am on is  
named Sea Convoy. The other is Sea Skipper."

Raymond wrote many letters to his mother and family about Seabiscuit and his times in the military. This is the only letter known to exist.



ELMONT Long Island, N.Y.  
MAY 13. 1938.

Dear Mother & All;

I thought it was about time I woke up wrote for a change. We left Saw Bronx right after I received your letter and so I didn't have time to write before I left there.

We come back <sup>here</sup> to win a ~~with~~ matched race with Seabiscuit May 30 & there I don't whether we we go back to California for the rest of the summer or stay here in the east.

Continued...>>>

Continuation...>>>

May 13, 1938 letter to family

They have him matched with what some people think is the best horse in the country but James don't think so. The winner of the race will get \$100,000.00, not bad huh?  
Will sure as hell try & send home a few dollars once in a while from now on, I know I ought to have the devil beat out of me for not doing it before.  
We get paid every two weeks 15<sup>th</sup> + 15<sup>th</sup> so you can expect to find a little money every month or two weeks.  
We get \$90 a month now about fifty goes for ~~taxes~~ eats & ~~money~~ maybe \$10 or \$15 for laundry & things, so you see we really don't

have so much to waste. Some time they "stake" us \$10 or \$20 dollars, and so you see it helps out a lot.  
Am going to save all the stakes I get from now on & try to get home fast for Christmas & New Year's this fall.  
I can get two weeks off with pay I think & am sure I'm going to try.  
Will send some pictures of Seabiscuit if I can find any.  
Well I don't know any news so will close for now with love  
RAY ALLEN

RAY ALLEN  
Elmont Long Island <sup>New York</sup>  
Gen Del  
P.S.  
We will leave here about the 1<sup>st</sup> of next month so if you write, write soon as I can leave no forwarding address I don't know where to me go from here but I ~~think~~ think its Boston, Mass.

Raymond enjoyed writing notes and sending pictures of Seabiscuit to his family.



This is a picture of the finish of the match race with War Admiral. Biscuit was just playing around with him.

Raymond writes... "This is a picture of the finish of the match race with War Admiral. Biscuit was just playing around with him."

Raymond Allen shares what he sees at the Santa Anita Race. Handwritten notes on news print photos were sent to his family. "Can you here the sound of the crowd through his words?"

*These are pictures of the Santa Anita Handicap, Seabiscuit got beat in this race about this far \$100,000 worth*

SUNDAY MORNING. Los Angeles Times \*\* MARCH 6, 1938.—[PART II.] 15

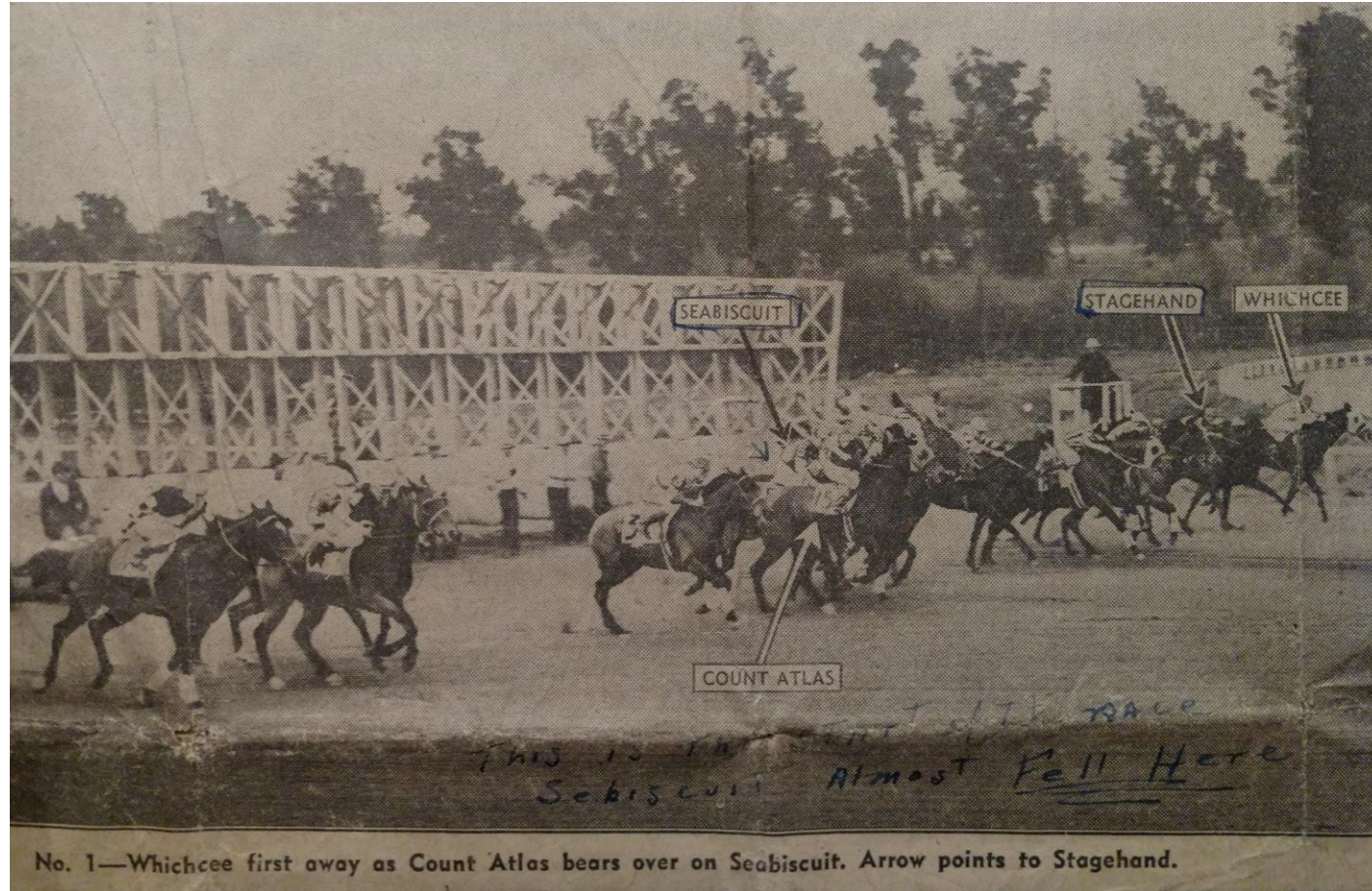
### Pictorial Progress of Pole to Pole Battle for Rich Santa Anita Turf Prize

*This is the point where Seabiscuit almost fell here*

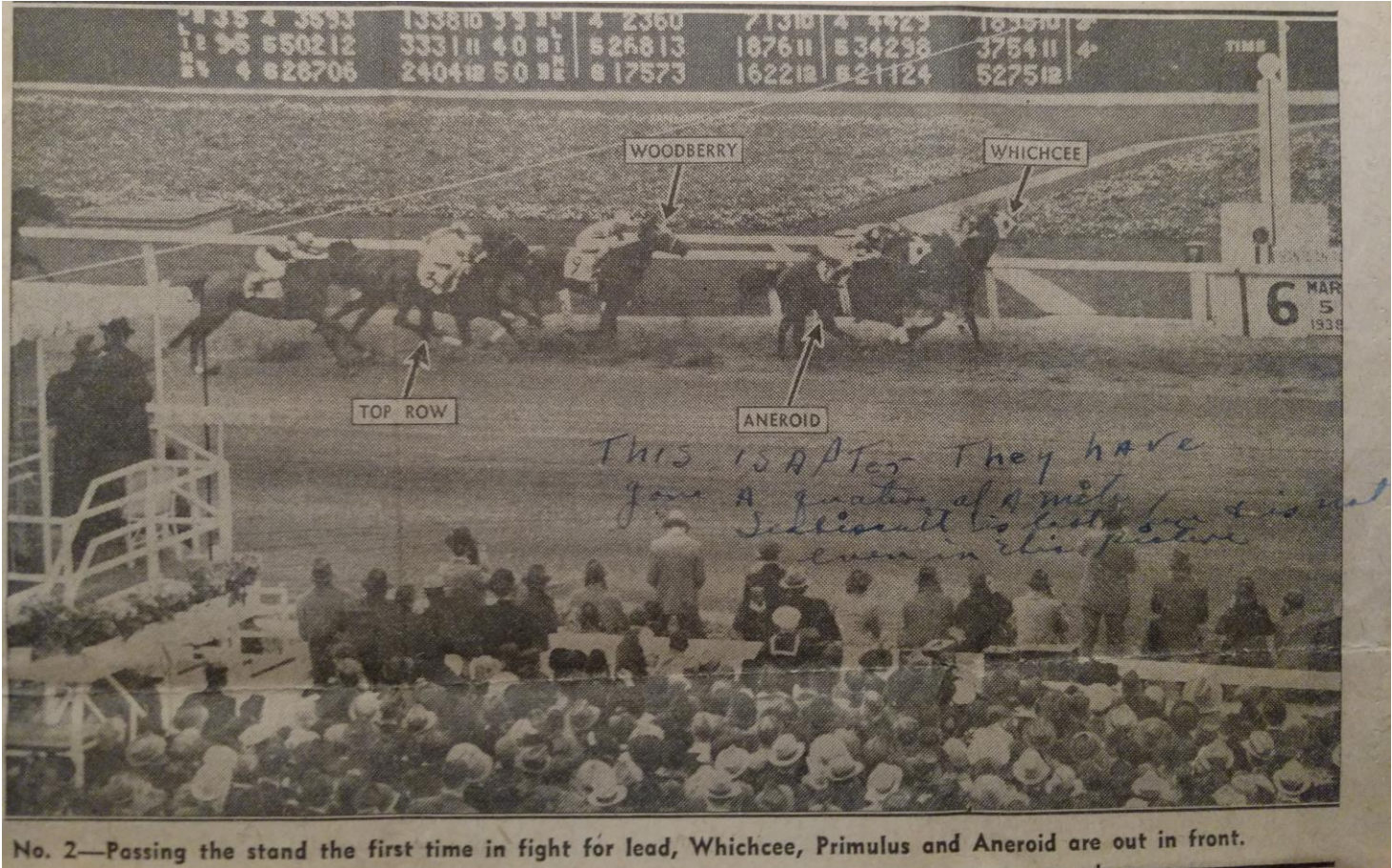
*This is after they have gone a quarter of a mile. Seabiscuit is probably the winner in this picture*

4 3593	133810 99 14	4 2360	71310 4 4429	185910
7 96 850212	333111 40 87	8 25813	187611 834298	375411 4
8 4 826706	240418 50 12	8 17873	162218 821124	527518

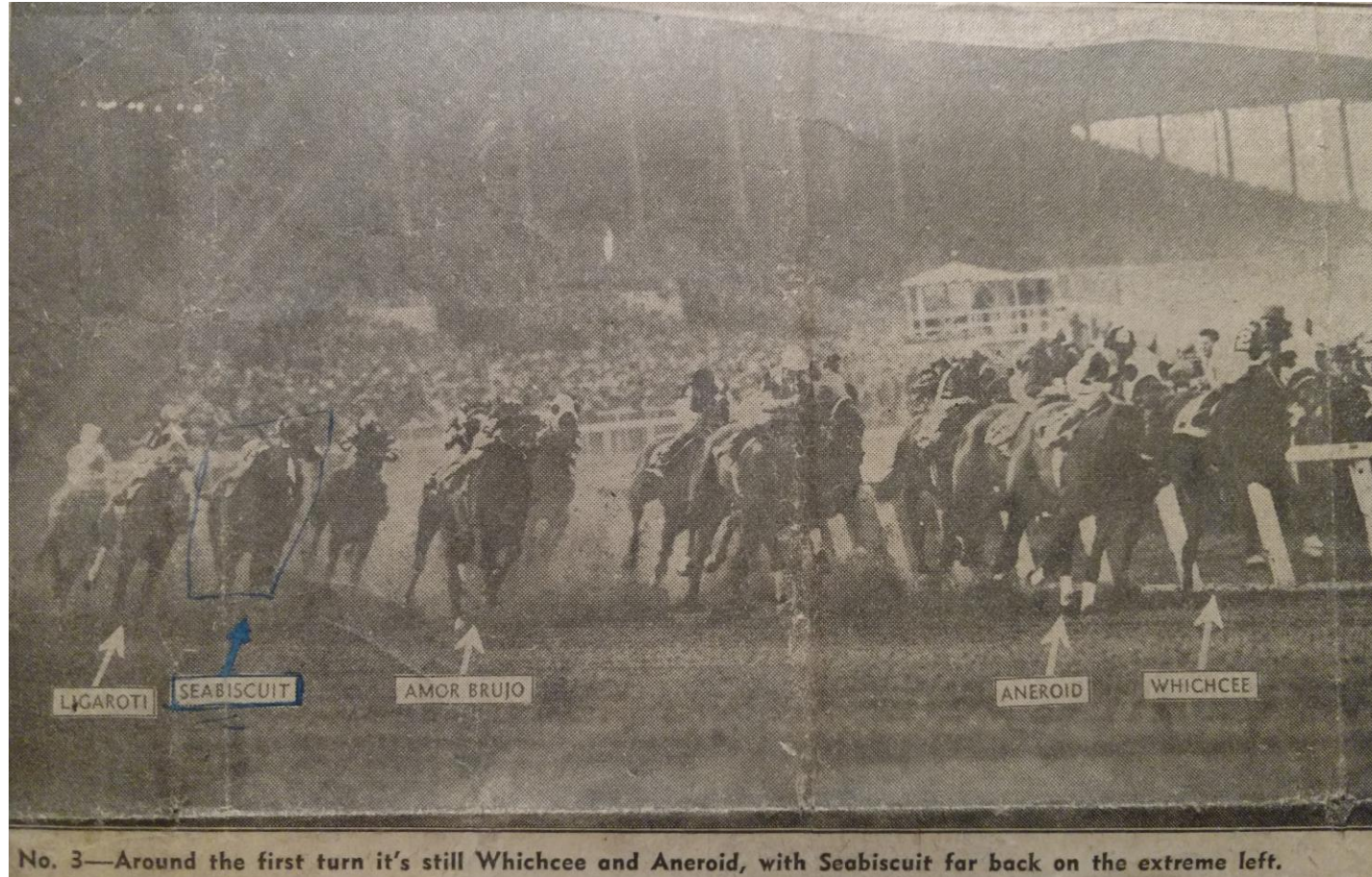
No. 1: Out of the gate Seabiscuit almost fell.



No. 2: Seabiscuit in last place at quarter mile. Not Visible.

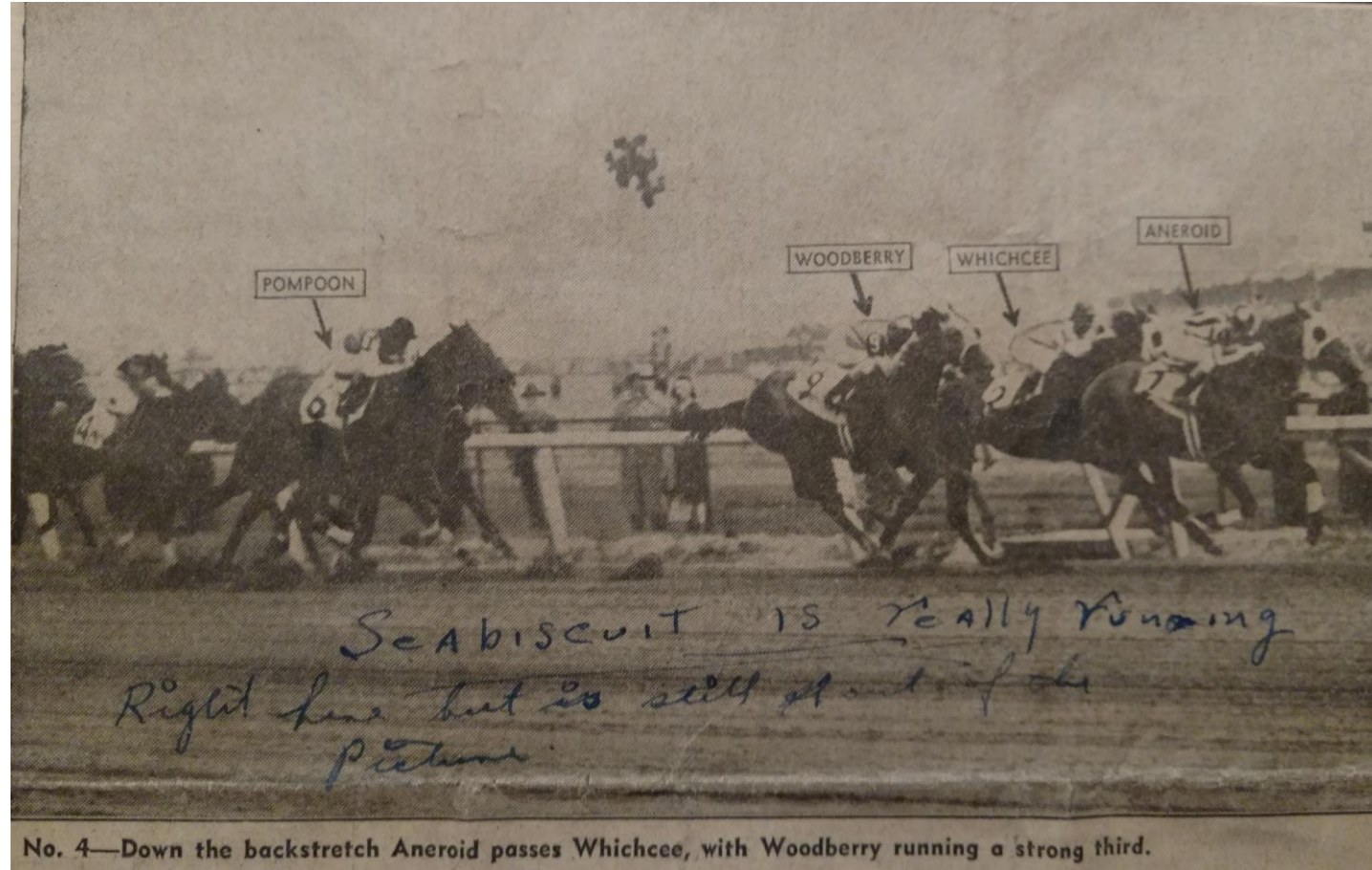


No. 3: Seabiscuit far back around the first turn.

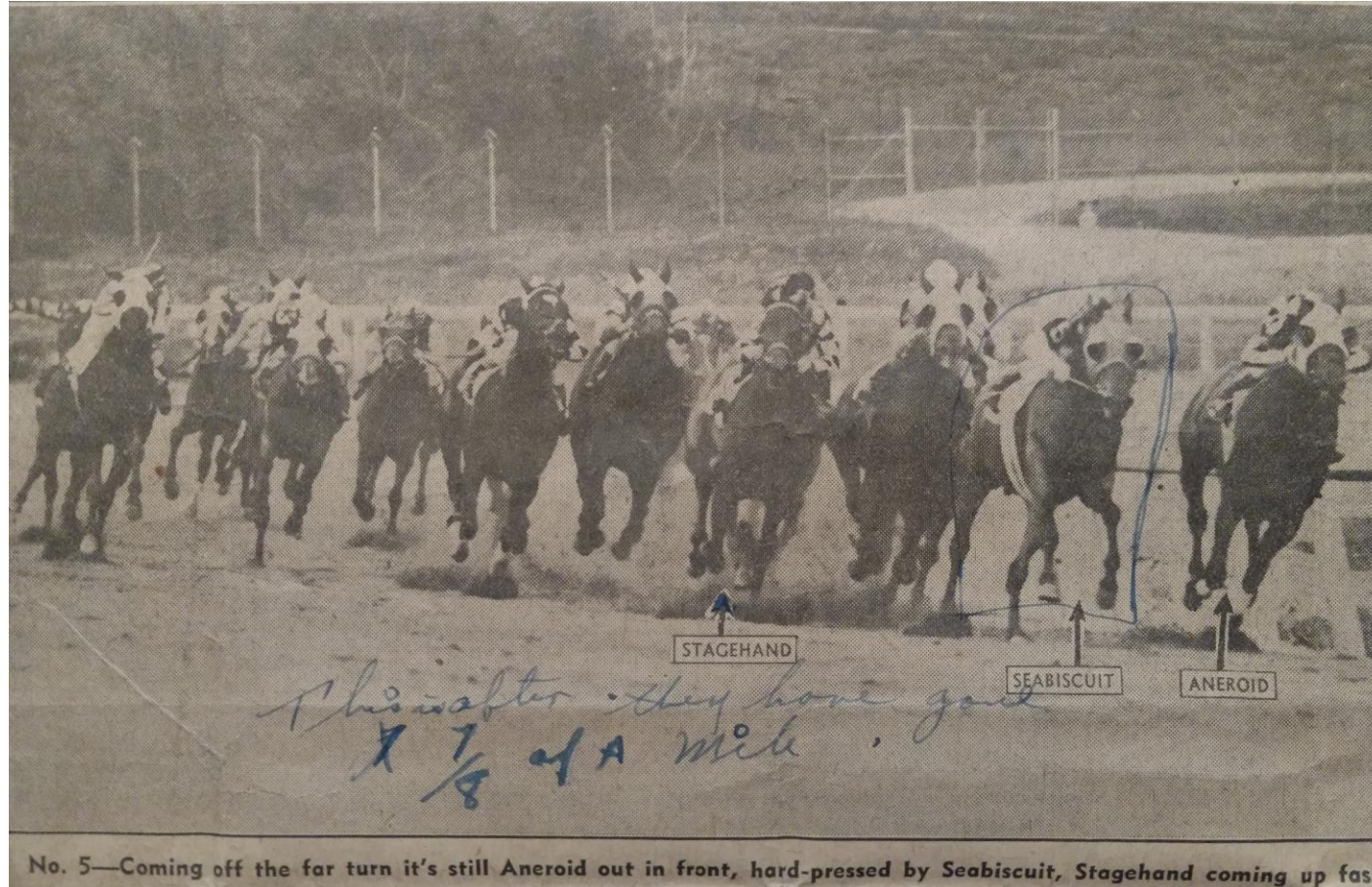




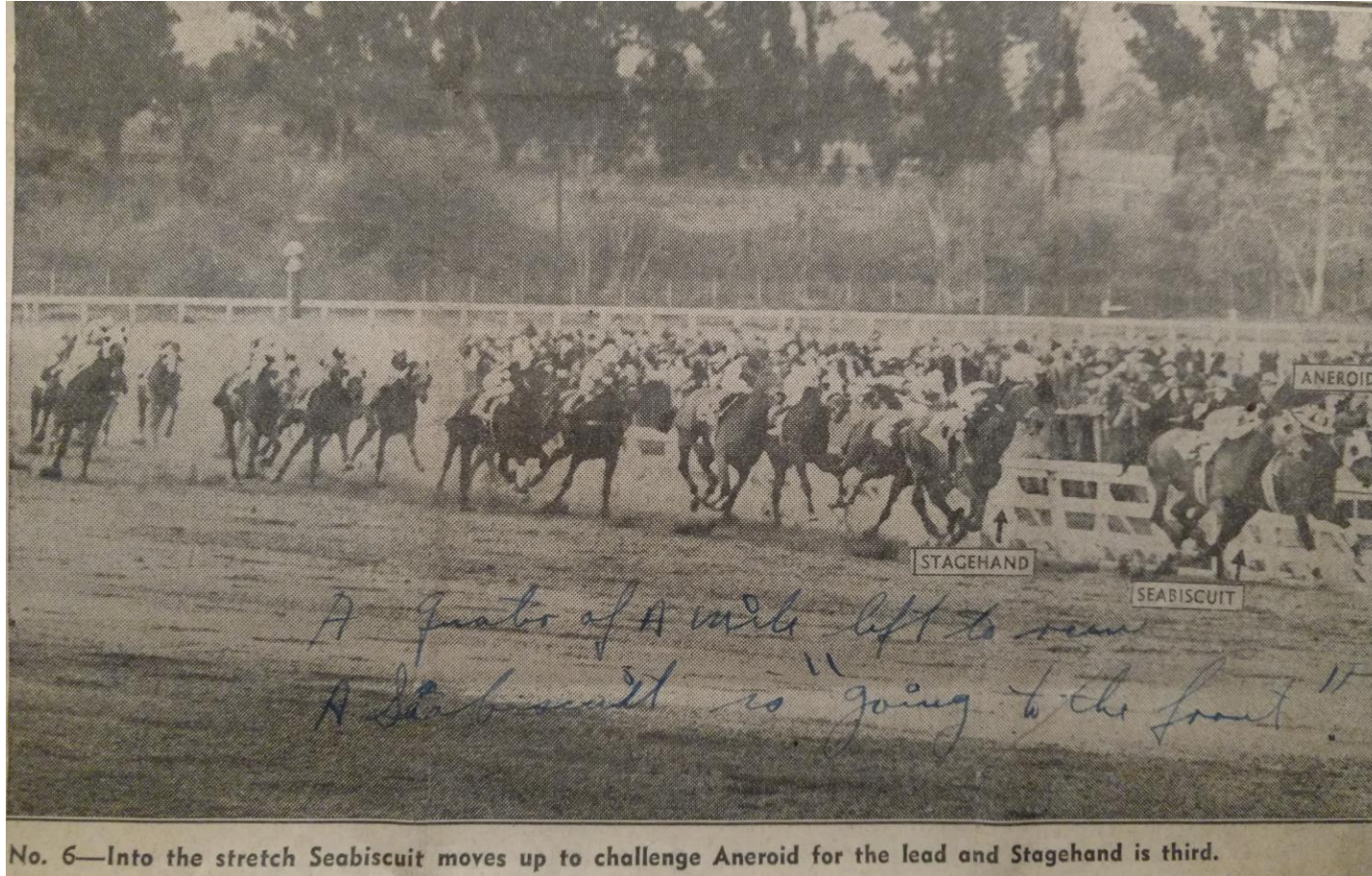
No. 4: Seabiscuit running hard and still not visible in picture.



No. 5: Seabiscuit hard-pressing Aneroid out of the far turn.



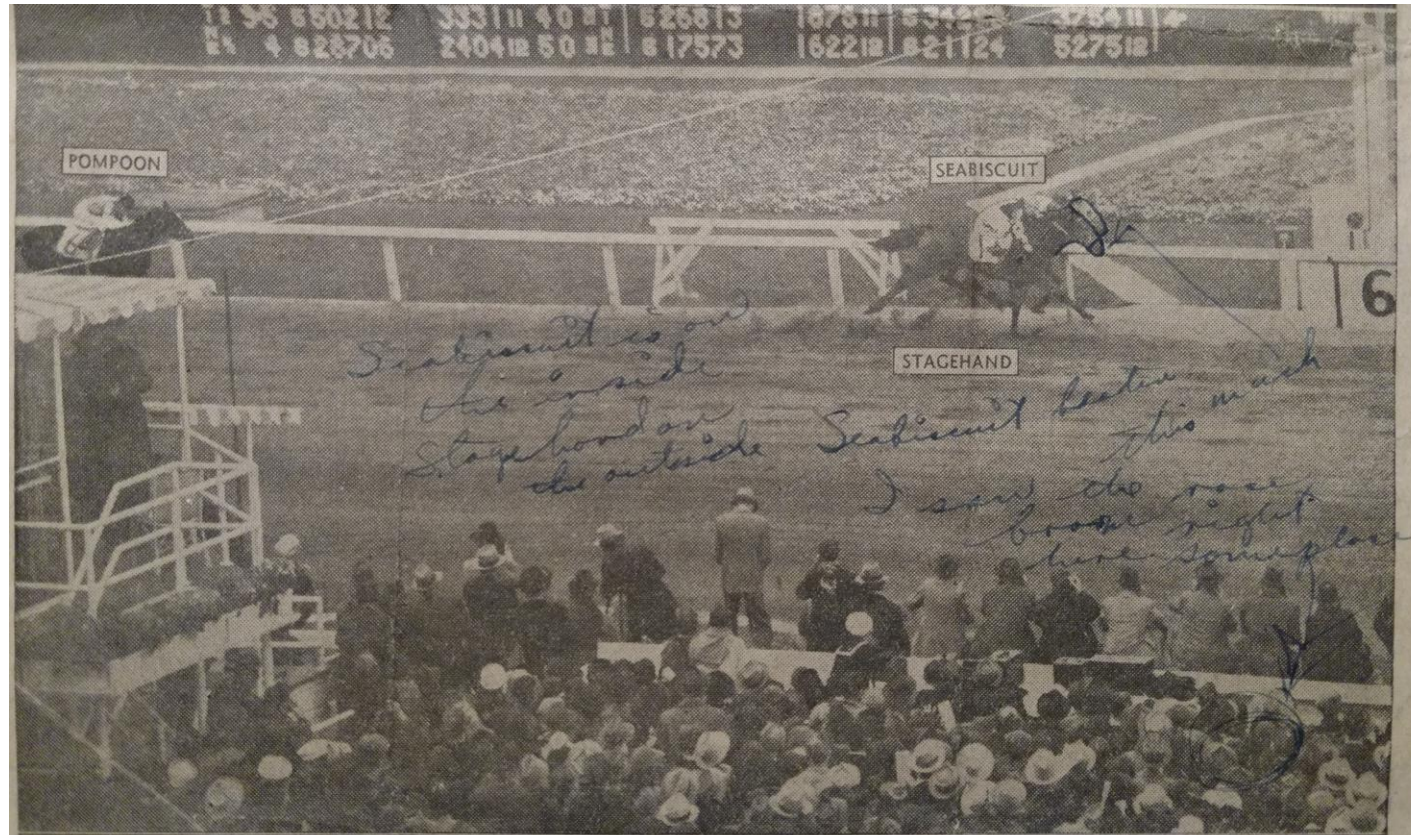
No. 6: Seabiscuit going to the front at last quarter mile.



# No. 7: Seabiscuit "on top" down the homestretch.



No. 8: Two horse race! Seabiscuit 2<sup>nd</sup> by a nose.



No. 8—At the finish it's a two-horse race, with Stagehand nosing out the turf king of 1937.

All Times photos except fifth (Wide World) and seventh (Associated Press.)

# Front Page News: "Stagehand Noses Out Seabiscuit"



# Raymond shares story about training the little biscuits



SEABISCUIT  
AT RIDGEWOOD RANCH WITH HIS FIRST LITTLE BISCUITS

*Seabiscuit & his first colts  
Taken at the Ranch in Ukiah, Cal.  
We will break them this  
fall & they will start racing  
next spring.*

Handwritten by Raymond... "Seabiscuit & his first colts. Taken at the Ranch in Ukiah, Cal. We will break them this fall & they will start racing next spring."

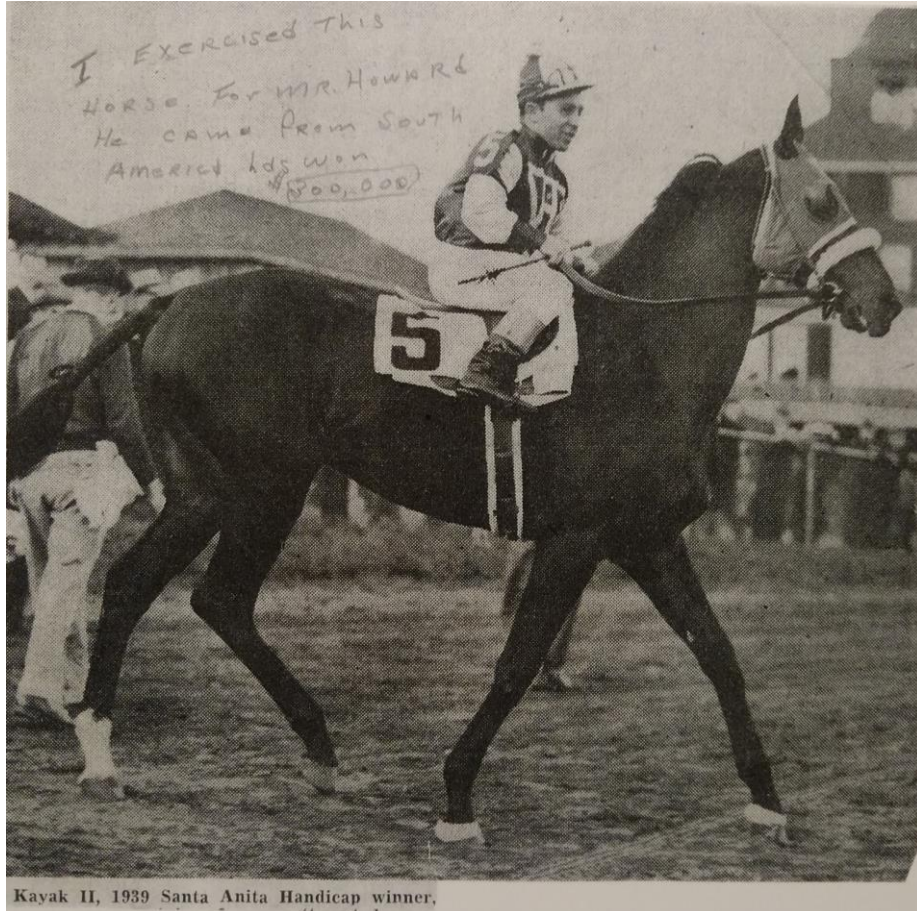
# Just riding for pleasure on the ranch



Charles Howard enjoys time for a relaxing ride.



# Kayak II. 1939 Santa Anita Handicap Winner



Raymond writes on picture...

“I exercised this horse for Mr. Howard. He came from South America. He’s won \$300,000.”

# Raymond Lavern Allen was drafted to serve during WWII



Raymond's experience working with horses qualified him for service in a cavalry unit.

# Riding with the cavalry patrolling the U.S. Mexican Border during WWII



Raymond's initial assignment with the cavalry was in Texas along the Mexican border.

# Serving with Machine Gun Platoon Provisional Troop.



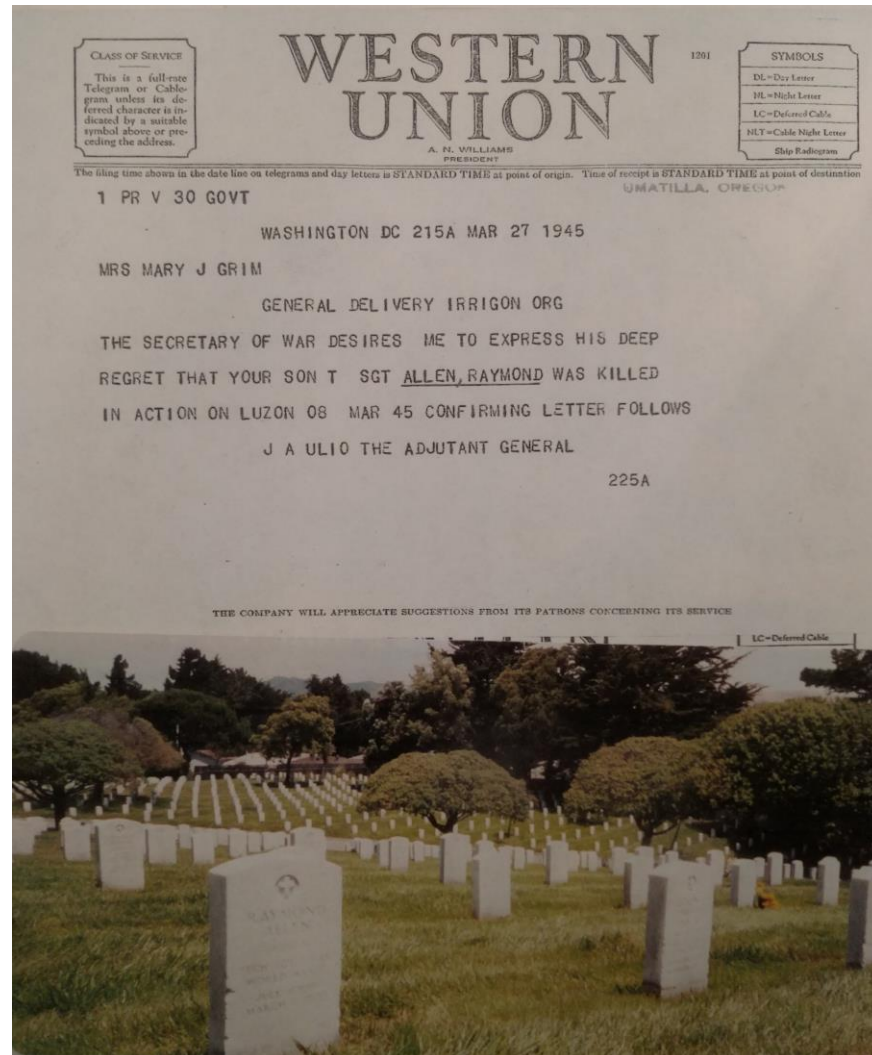
- Raymond is reassigned from riding horses to foot soldier.
- He is kneeling in the second row, 4<sup>th</sup> from the left.

# Raymond as Assistant Gunner of First Squad

- Raymond is seated 2<sup>nd</sup> from left in the front row.



# Brothers Raymond and Eldon Killed in Battle

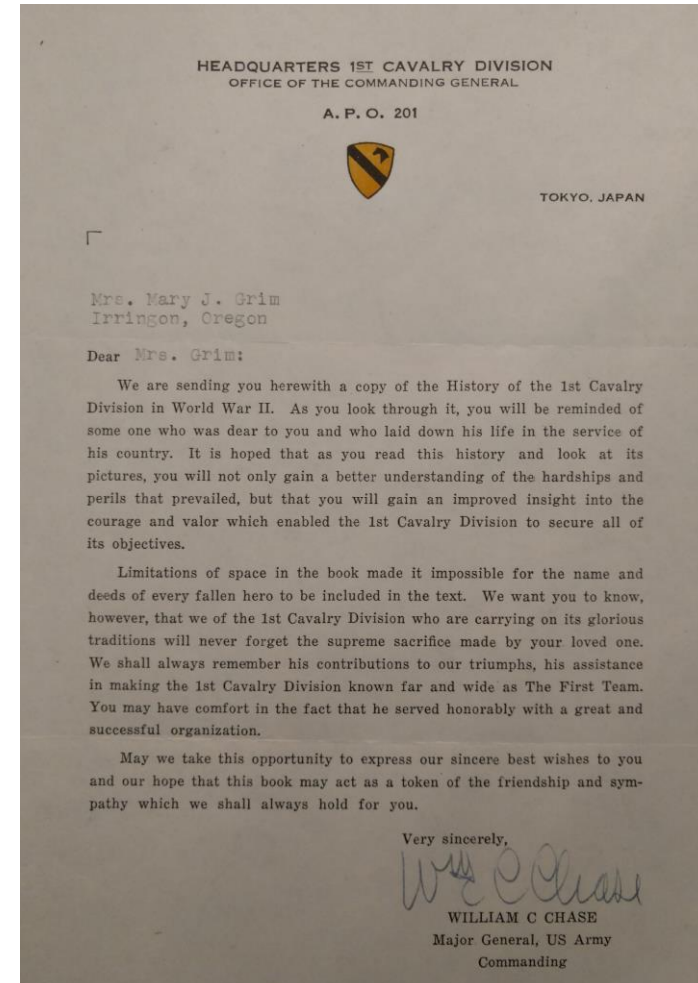
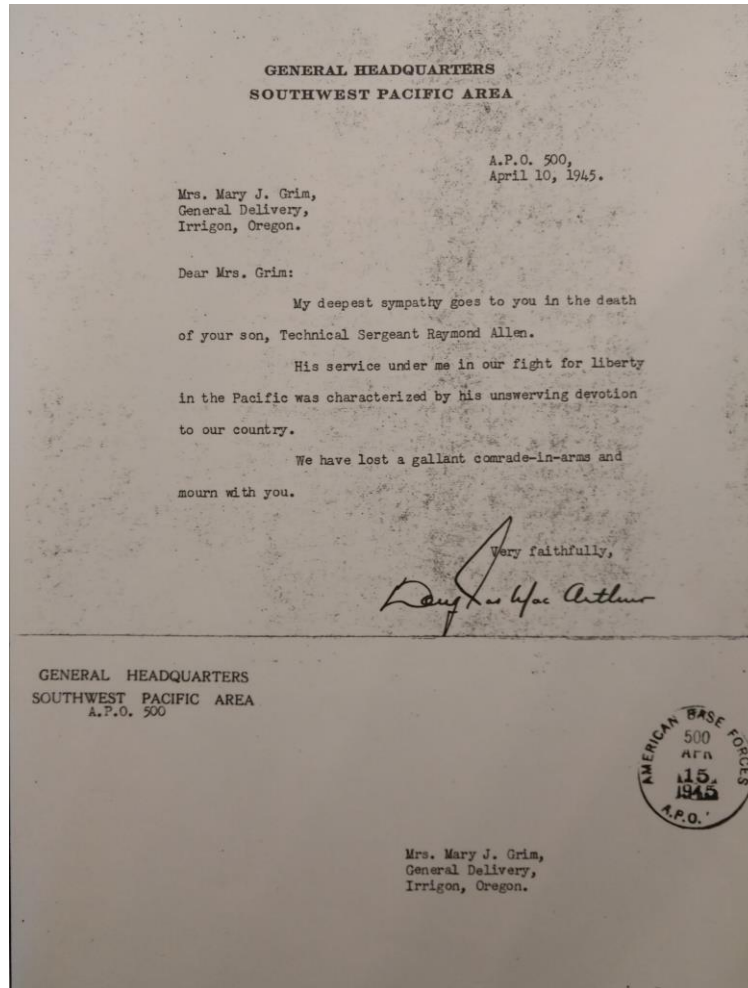


Raymond's youngest brother Hugh W. Grim remembers the day when the telegram arrived.

A sad day for the family having already lost Raymond's older brother, Eldon, to the war on Christmas day 1942.

Raymond and Eldon were laid to rest next to each other at the Golden Gate National Cemetery, San Bruno, California.

# Raymond was Killed in Action on March 8, 1945



# Raymond Allen makes local news in Irrigon, Oregon

- He was from a farm growing watermelons, asparagus and local honey.
- Raymond's passion for riding horses and training them led him to Seabiscuit.
- The Irrigon Irrigator published September 2003 tells the story.

 **The Irrigon Irrigator** U.S. POSTAGE PAID IRRIGON, OR PERMIT #6

September 2003 FREE

## Famous "Seabiscuit" has Irrigon connection

With the resurgence of the popularity of Seabiscuit, the hero of the movie currently sweeping the country, it seems a good time to remember an Irrigon family member who had a part in the horse's success. Raymond Allen and siblings lived with his mother and step father, Hugh and Janie Grim, on what is now Washington Avenue, just a short distance west of the present city limits. Of course, back in the 1930's, we didn't have city limits or street names. The family made their living by raising asparagus and other crops and shipping them by truck and by rail from the depot in Irrigon to other destinations.

Raymond attended school in Irrigon, but at age 16, left to work for Mr. Crawford, who owned race horses on a ranch between Plymouth and Patterson. Mr. Crawford was an acquaintance of Charles S. Howard, and was instrumental in Raymond securing employment with the now famous C.S. Howard, taking him to California, where he worked in exercising and caring for horses. Shortly thereafter, in August of '36, Mr. Howard purchased Seabiscuit for the sum of \$7,500.00. Seabiscuit went on to become "Horse of the Year" and the world's leading money winner. Raymond's part in this story was in exercising and caring for Seabiscuit, often riding in the boxcar with the horse all over the United States, where the horse participated in many races. Raymond once commented these journeys took him to nearly every state in the country. The box car that transported Seabiscuit was not your everyday box car, but was lavishly outfitted for both horse and attendant.

Raymond was drafted from the race circuit during World War II and served in the Mounted Cavalry, patrolling the Mexican borders until being shipped overseas and taking part in the liberating of Manila. Raymond was scheduled to return home in 1945, and his sister, Ella Mae (Grim) Watson of Hermiston, remembers how excited the family was anticipating his homecoming. Sadly, shortly before his return date, Raymond was on patrol in the Philippines, and was killed by a land mine. Ironically, an older brother, Eldon, also lost his life in the war, on Christmas Day, 1942, while serving in New Guinea. These two brothers were the only Irrigon men to lose their lives in World War II.

Ella Mae has read the book entitled "Seabiscuit: an American Legend" by Laura Hillenbrand, has seen the movie and acknowledges the movie follows the book very accurately. Memorabilia in the family's possession include the following photo of Raymond on Souto racing with Red Pollard (Seabiscuit's jockey) on Mioland. A brother, Bill Allen, is the owner of an original picture entitled "Seabiscuit and his little biscuits" (seven two-year-old colts), which is said to be worth \$4,000.00. Bill's comment: "NOT FOR SALE"!!

*LaVelle Partlow*



**Red Pollard, the jockey who rode Seabiscuit to victory in the Santa Anita 100 Grander race in 1940, rides Mildland and Raymond Allen originally from Irrigon, rides Souto. Allen exercised horses for C. S. Howard, owner of Seabiscuit.**