

Posted on Sun, Dec. 28, 2003



#### NOTEBOOK

### Owner's lyrics wind way to radio

Abercrombie's song gets some country music airtime

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HERALD-LEADER RACING WRITER

**Josephine Abercrombie**, the owner of Pin Oak Stud, has done many things in her lifetime. She's been a boxing promoter, philanthropist, a show horsewoman, a prize-winning ballroom dancer, and breeder and owner of champion racehorses.

Her most recent on-track triumph was winning the \$60,000 Furl Sail Handicap at Fair Grounds the day after Christmas with Bedanken (a winner at Keeneland). Bedanken had not raced in more than a year yet won in stakes-record time.

Off-track, Abercrombie's latest accomplishment has teamed her with a rising young music artist, **Kristy Lee**, whose manager, **Marty Rendleman**, also discovered the country star **LeAnn Rimes**.

Abercrombie wrote lyrics for a song she titled *Lonely's Only Me*, then turned the words over to her cousin, **Michael Clay**, of Grapevine, Texas, when they renewed acquaintances this year at Lone Star Park.

Clay then combined with some colleagues in the recording business to write music for the lyrics. Through Rendleman, they arranged for Lee to record the song on a CD single which might become part of Lee's first album.

The question now is whether Rendleman can turn Lee into another Rimes. And whether Abercrombie's song might help propel Lee to the top.

You might hear the song if you tune in to a country music station, for it's been getting airtime in some places. You'll recognize it by its signature lines: *Lonely's only me; it takes two to do misery*.

You can also order the CD in Lexington from Ronald McDonald House

Charities of the Bluegrass ([www.rmhclexington.org](http://www.rmhclexington.org)) by sending a donation (\$8 minimum, which includes \$2 for shipping and handling).

WinStar Farm's **Bill Casner** and his wife, **Susan** (Casner owns the farm with **Kenny Troutt**), set all this in motion. According to Clay, Abercrombie had been visiting with the Casners in Texas late in the summer when they phoned him and said, "There's someone here you need to see."

The Casners, who live near Dallas, are among sponsors of an educational initiative called the Texas Music Project. Clay, Abercrombie's second cousin, is a lifelong musician and songwriter who also is executive producer of the project.

When Clay began working with the Casners on the Texas Music Project, he told them he had a cousin in the horse business: Abercrombie. Thus the music project and the Casners facilitated a family reunion for Clay and Abercrombie.

Founded only last year, the Texas Music Project is intended to strengthen and restore music education in Texas schools. The project sponsors a marketing campaign called Don't Mess with Texas Music that brought in 21 Texas artists, among them 11 Grammy Award winners, who all agreed to donate one song apiece to a CD the project produced as a fund-raiser (see [www.texasmusicproject.org](http://www.texasmusicproject.org)).

The artists cross a diverse section of musical genres and include **Willie Nelson**, **The Dixie Chicks**, **Boz Scaggs**, **Delbert McClinton** and **Michelle Shocked**.

Abercrombie, who grew up in Houston, has a longstanding commitment to education as well as to the arts, so the Texas Music Project piqued her interest. Clay said he hadn't seen her "in years" when the two got together with the Casners at Lone Star Park, yet they had a delightful reunion. Abercrombie also offered to become a sponsor of the music project.

During their conversation at Lone Star, Abercrombie also told Clay she'd written the words for a country music song. She asked him to write the score and Clay agreed. He and collaborators **Bob Gentry** and **Gerry Moss** (stage name: **G. Maslak**) worked on the music, changed

the lyrics slightly to fit Lee's style -- and came up with the CD single, produced by Gentry.

The local address for ordering the product (and seeing Abercrombie's name among the writing credits) is Ronald McDonald, P. O. Box 1472, Versailles, KY 40383. Enclose either your mailing address or e-mail

address if you'd like to receive the song as an MP3 file.

You also can order the CD by making a donation to the Texas Music Project.



