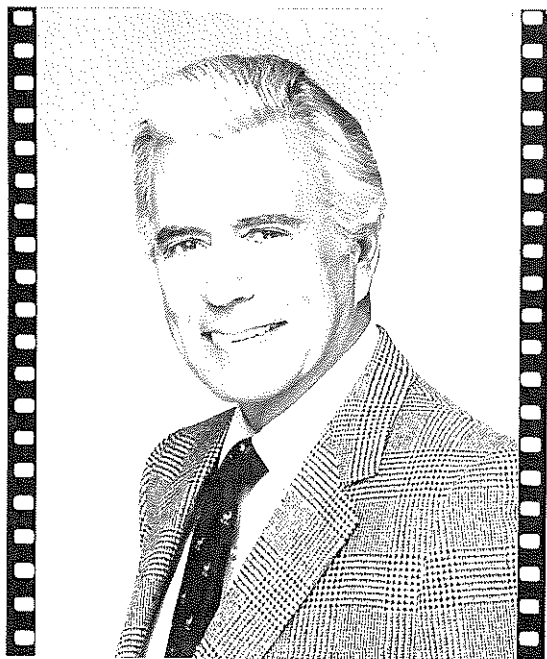


JOHN FORSYTHE

Award of Merit

By Rich Schulhoff



Known to millions of television viewers as "Blake Carrington" in the ABC hit series "Dynasty" and as the voice of "Charlie" in "Charlie's Angels," John Forsythe is known in racing circles as the "voice" of the Eclipse Awards.

Forsythe, who has been a contributor to numerous racing productions for the past three decades, again will lend his special aura of sophistication and elegance as the master of ceremonies of tonight's festivities, a post he has held since 1977.

Forsythe is being presented the bronze trophy for his long and distinguished service to the thoroughbred industry, but especially his role in the growing success of the Eclipse Awards program.

During the 1950s, Forsythe starred as "Uncle Bentley" in the widely popular series "Bachelor Father." Throughout his successful show business career, Forsythe's distinctive, smooth voice has been heard as the narrator on numerous films, including several on racing.

But Forsythe's involvement with racing goes beyond his professional chores. In the mid-1980s, Forsythe's racemare Targa successfully campaigned in the West and Midwest. She won the Grade II Santa Maria Handicap at Santa Anita Park and the Sixty Sails Handicap at Sportsman's Park.

It was back in 1977, while hosting a weekly racing show from Southern California with jockey Bill Shoemaker, that Forsythe's relationship with the Eclipse Awards Dinner began.

Former TRA executive vice president J. B. Faulconer approached Forsythe at the suggestion of the show's producer, Joe Burnham, and asked Forsythe if he would be interested in becoming the master of ceremonies for the dinner. According to Faulconer, Forsythe was thrilled at being asked and immediately accepted. "He has done more than anyone in gaining national recognition for the Eclipse Awards, especially with the general public," Faulconer says.

For his long service, for his unyielding support and for that special charisma he brings this ceremony every year, the Thoroughbred racing industry honors John Forsythe.