

observing sports

PASADENA, Calif.

Dear Boss:

You know I'm not one who makes any drastic demands. Just pay off every week and I go my merry way like "disappearing" out west this week to do some "trooping" with the Pistons to places like Phoenix, Los Angeles, San Diego and Seattle.

And, yes...even Pasadena...you know what that means on New Year's Day...the rose parade and then the big football game.

And you probably know what that probably will mean next Jan. 1, for us Michigansers...It sure looks like the University of Michigan may be right out here to oppose UCLA, or it could be Southern California.

So, that's why I'm writing. If Michigan comes out here, I'd like to come back and stand where I was just a few minutes ago...in the Rose Bowl.

I'D LIKE TO SEE it jammed with 100,000 fans instead of the way I saw it...with nobody in it, except for a couple of workers, sprucing the place up for the Jan. 1 attraction.

Sure, I know, you'll tell me it'll be on TV and I can sit right home and watch it.

But, gee, boss, this is a gorgeous sight. It's pretty tough to sit here and really describe how the Rose Bowl sits in a valley with mountains all around it.

And honest, there are some roses around the stadium. I spotted some red rose vines...and here it is almost the middle of November.

But there's always something about California that "gripes" you.

The people don't have to worry about snow or cold. Heck, they came out to see the Pistons the other night, just wearing light sweaters, and it was the same the night before when the Montreal Canadiens were in town for a hockey encounter.

GETTING BACK to the Rose Bowl, though: I hope you realize that the trip out to LA can be covered in something like four hours thanks to either American or United Airlines. Both lines will stuff you all the way out, too.

And who needs that? The ride from the airport to Pasadena takes only about 45 minutes under normal conditions.

So you can see, it won't take me long to get back here when Michigan comes out -- and I trust I'm not jinxing them -- for the battle of the Roses on New Year's Day.

Heck, I'll even settle for a ticket to the coach section of one of those jets.

Thanks for your patience and understanding. I do promise to hurry back because we have to announce our all-area Observer football team next Wednesday in our paper.

MOST OF THE WORK of picking has been done and let me assure you that this will be one tremendous football team. One of the best we've ever picked.

It's got some great backs and some brilliant linemen and it posed a lot of problems, trying to pick the 11 best players.

And it'll offer one real surprise, too.

So, think about Pasadena for yours truly -- and I won't make too many more demands between now and the time I get back to Metro Airport.

Excuse me, now, that pool looks very inviting.

Yours, as always,
GEORGE MASKIN

IN THE POCKET

By W.W. EDGAR



One of the oldest bowling combinations in Metropolitan Detroit was broken up during the week with the death of Don Pelzer of Livonia.

For more than a quarter of a century he had teamed with "Okie" Okestrum as a doubles combination and competed in major events across the country.

Although never listed among the all-stars and never winners of any major titles, they never missed the ABC or state tournaments. For years it seemed that no event was "official" unless "Okie" and Don were entered.

They were charter members of the Civic League that was formed back in 1940 when Livonia Lanes was opened for business and, until Don became ill, they were among the leaders in attendance over the years.

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Heights on Detroit's north side.

The women's state officials have awarded the big event, which annually draws close to 3,000 teams, in Fairlane in Madison Heights and Ark Lanes in Warren. The team event will be held in the establishment with the minor events in the other.

JERRY RITTER, newest member of the Holiday Magic team in the all-star leagues, paced the entire circuit Wednesday night with a 678 series, and no one was happier than Ann Setlock of the contending Guleswick team. Several weeks ago Gerry complained to Ann, an instructor at Garden Lanes, about her low scores.

"You're trying too hard," Ann told her, "and you'd do much better if you just calmed

down, began to think positive, and forget the score."

That's exactly what Gerry did. And after she fired the 678 Ann remarked, "I didn't think she would calm down that much."

BILL NUNNERY came through a 700 series in the Garden Classic this week to lead his nearest rival, Ed Church, by 29 pins. Bill Collett with 662 and Phil Phillips with a 659 were the other top scorers.

ONE OF THE happiest women bowlers in the area is Yvonne Tolkowski. Carrying a 133 average in the Coffee and Doughnut League at Garden Lanes, she linked games of 193, 184 and 188 for 575 -- the highest series of her career.

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AIMING HIGH -- These five Bentley High basketball stalwarts are the main reason that school is expected to go for this season. From left are newly designated head

coach Ken Timmons, a former assistant coach, and players Lou Lovett, Craig Rosenthal, Tom Guilfoyle and Dave Rice.

(Observer photo by Harry Mouthe)

Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

The Detroit Race Course meeting finally wound to a close last Saturday with all figures on the plus side, even though by only a few percentage points.

Total attendance for the 90 days was 960,908, highest in the 20-year history of the Michigan Mile track. The turnstile count was up only fractionally from a year ago with an average of 10,667 contrasted to 10,664.

The mutuel play climbed from an average of \$901,116 to \$916,822 with a total of \$82,514,030, an all-time high for the plant.

Larry Snyder, who had the jockey championship in hand several weeks back, ended the season with a record total of 134 victories. He shattered the previous high of 119 firsts set by David Whited a year ago.

It marked the end of the

most successful year for racing--thoroughbred and standardbred--in Michigan.

Every single meeting set new standards, starting with Wolverine in the spring with its all-time high nightly average of \$451,000, followed by Northville with an average of \$382,000, another record; and Hazel Park closing the Motor City harness racing campaign with an all-time high average of more than \$500,000.

The same story was true of the runners where Hazel Park became the first Michigan track to average more than a million daily and the DRC wound up with its \$916,000. All of which makes one wonder what the story will be next year when the runners start at the DRC and the trotters and pacers at Hazel Park. It isn't official yet, since the dates haven't been announced by Racing Commissioner Leo Shirley, but top management at all tracks is making plans for a reversal of dates.

For those interested, Michigan's season is still in progress outstate at the Jackson Raceway and will continue through the end of the year with the Jackson-at-Northville 30-night campaign beginning Monday, Nov. 24.

FROM HOLLYWOOD, Calif. comes word that Pres Jenunie, who years back served as an official at Northville Downs and then moved west to become boss of operations for the Western Harness Association, is seeking more stringent requirements for drivers at future WHR meetings.

We know of drivers currently campaigning in Michigan who have passed the 70-year mark and some up in their 80s. It isn't that they aren't capable of handling horses, but there always is the danger of heart attacks, missing a driver coming up on the outside and pulling out and numerous other things that a younger man can handle, but an older person can't.

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back when a well-known driver-trainer, who was in his 80s, was appearing regularly in races. The only problem was that he didn't see too well and the other reinsmen gave him plenty of space. We remember many races he won when he took his horse to the top and not a single driver had enough nerve to try and pass him.

These are the kinds of incidents that Jenunie would like to have removed. It isn't that old drivers are the only ones that have heart attacks and die during races--a case in hand was a 41-year-old who collapsed and died not too long ago at an eastern track--but the track management feels a bit more comfortable with younger men in the sulks.

TURNING TO Windsor Raceway, Trainer Bill Longo, who has had horses in all area tracks for the past several years, discovered that a long rest can work wonders. Long's Fanny Mite, one of the top pacing mares in the midwest, went lame during the late winter meeting in Chicago and he kept her away from the races until a few nights ago.

It was with tongue in cheek that Bill entered Fanny in a rich overnight at Windsor. Imagine his delight when she charged home in her usual last quarter style and won for a \$13.40 payoff.

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based on the college coaches who scout all sections of Michigan and the country for future players.

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To pick its 1969 dream team, the Observer Newspapers contacted all the coaches whose teams play in the district.

Based on their opinions, those of members of the Observer staff

and other experts, the final selections will be made under the supervision of Sports Editor George Maskin.

There'll be three dream squads picked. There'll be pictures and biographies on the individual players.

There'll also be the naming of the 1969 Observerland coach of - the - year.

Watch for this great feature next Wednesday in all editions of the Observer -- YOUR newspaper for the BEST in area high school coverage.

less animals from the southern part of the state.

UPPER PENINSULA hunters, especially those who will work the Lake Superior watershed, are expected to see fewer deer than last year because the herd has continued its downward trend. Also, the severe 1968-69 winter placed a severe stress on adult does and, as a result, this spring's losses of fawns were higher than normal.

For those hunters who want a chance to sight their rifles or to brush up the state rifle ranges are very busy these weekends. The closest range to Observerland is the facility located at Bald Mountain Recreation Area.

Got A Buck?

Get A Pic

As they say in Las Vegas, the point is six!

If you're one of the luckier Observerland hunters who bring back a six-point buck, or better, feel free to telephone our News Editor at either 261-8600 or 453-5500.

We'll not only believe you but we'll take your picture so that your in-laws and the fellows at work will believe you also.

Remember, though, it's six points. Two three's won't do. Good hunting and play it safe.

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Gun Prospects: 1 In 6 For Deer

If you're planning to go deer hunting during Nov. 15-30 the odds are about one in six you'll hit the mark.

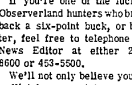
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) predicts about 100,000 deer will be harvested this year, about the same as in 1968. An approximate 600,000-hunters will be in the field.

According to the DNR, a hunter stands the best chance in southern Michigan where deer face no winter food problems and where the herds have continued to grow. In 1968, hunters took a record-breaking 11,460 bucks and 2,940 antler-

less animals from the southern part of the state.

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