

'Jackson's Action' Opens Monday At Northville

By FRED DeLANO

NORTHVILLE Michigan will begin its first winter horse racing experiment Monday night when "Jackson's action" moves to Northville Downs for a 30-night meet that will carry through Dec. 30.

Post time slightly is scheduled for 5 p.m. There will be no racing on Sundays.

The meet will be under the supervision of the Jackson Trotting Association, headed by Leon A. Slavin, which has leased the remodeled Northville plant for its transplanted harness program after 40 nights of racing at Jackson.

THE MOVE culminates years of effort on Slavin's part to gain approval of the State Racing Commission to transfer at least part of his operation to the lucrative metropolitan market.

"This is something I have wanted for a long time, and it has been a long time coming," commented Slavin this week as workmen put the finishing touches to the plant in preparation for Monday's opening card.

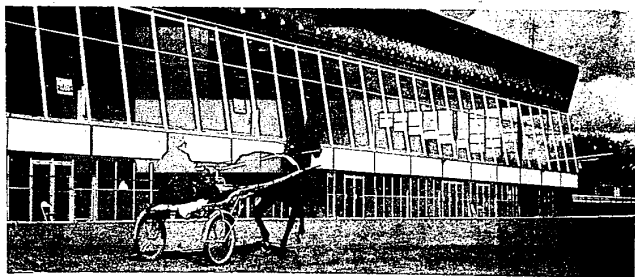
"This isn't a one-year experiment, but one with a long projection to make Jackson-at-Northville one of the most exciting meetings in the middle west," he said.

Biggest improvement in the Downs since its own mid-year meeting has been completion of the first floor of the three-story, glass enclosed clubhouse. The other two levels will be finished before the summer harness season opens, according to Northville's chief executive, John Carlo.

SLAVIN SAID that the racing strip is in top condition despite the heavy snowfall of the past week, and this was evidenced by the number of other-owners who have been putting their standards through workouts each morning of late.

Although the track will be operating head-to-head against the harness promotion at Windsor, Slavin said he expects his own operation to continue the great upsurge he has seen at Jackson the past month, business there was up almost 15% over 1968.

"The supply and demand for racing is big enough to support both tracks," said Slavin. "It has been proven time and again that winter harness racing is a must in America's major cities. New York and Chicago are two prime examples. Detroit should be no exception."



NORTHVILLE DOWNS' new winterized clubhouse will offer its patrons glass-enclosed comfort when the track opens for 30 nights of racing Monday. Only the first floor of the new facility will open at this time. The other two floors will be completed before the summer racing season opens. (Observer photo by Vince Wittek)

the business beat



OFFICERS OF UNITED Northwestern Realty Association-Western Wayne-Oakland County Board of Realtors for 1970 (from left) are Daniel R. Williams, vice president; Charles W. Allen Jr., president; and John R. Hussey, secretary. (Not shown: William Bowman, newly elected treasurer.)

Local Realtors Head Association For 1970

Charles W. Allen Jr., Livonia realtor, has been elected president of the Western Wayne-Oakland County Board of Realtors and its multi-list service, the United Northwestern Realty Association, for 1970.

Membership of both organizations consists of 2,400 realtors and associates.

Other newly-elected officers, who will serve with Allen during the coming year, are: Daniel R. Williams, vice-president; John R. Hussey, secretary; and William Bowman, treasurer.

Four directors were also elected to serve in 1970: Lois Dicks joins incumbent directors Marvin O. Moser, Allen and Williams. A director serves a three-year term.

ALLEN, LAST YEAR'S vice president, is the owner of a realtor firm in Livonia which bears his name. He has been a member of UNRA-WWOOCB since 1953 and on the board of directors for the last six years where he has served on several committees.

A Michigan State University graduate, he is also a certified appraiser, with memberships in the American Institute of Real Estate Appraisers and the Society of Real Estate Appraisers.

Allen resides in Livonia with his wife and children where he is active in the Livonia Rotary and YAC.

WILLIAMSON, the vice president-elect, is the broker-president of the Gordon Williamson Co. with offices in Detroit and suburbs. Williamson lives in Lathrup Village.

Hussey, of Farmington, is the broker-owner of the Detroit realtor firm bearing his name. Active in real estate for over a decade, he has been a member of the Detroit Real Estate Board and the National Institute of Real Estate Brokers.

Bowman, treasurer-elect, is the owner of a realtor firm in Livonia which bears his name. He has been a member of UNRA-WWOOCB since 1953 and on the board of directors for the last six years where he has served on several committees.

A Michigan State University

2 Seminars On Stocks

John R. Main of Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Inc., will lead two seminars on stocks in the Farmington Masonic Temple, Grand River at Farmington Road.

The first, for those interested in income securities, will be Tuesday, Dec. 2, at 8 p.m.

The second, for experienced investors interested in the techniques of buying and selling, will be Thursday, Dec. 11, at 8 p.m.

Realtors Set Griffith Talk On Tax Effects

Proposed tax reforms and how they may affect real estate values will be discussed by U.S. Rep. Martha W. Griffiths (D-Detroit) at a luncheon of the United Northwestern Realty Association - Western Wayne-Oakland County Board of Realtors on Thursday, Dec. 4, at Cregar's Restaurant, Detroit.

Mrs. Griffiths, serving in the House of Representatives continuously since 1954, is a member of the Influential Ways and Means Committee, chairman of the Subcommittee on fiscal policy of the Joint Economic Committee, and a member of the Select Committee on Crime.

Mrs. Griffiths received her B.A. degree from the University of Missouri and her LL.B. from the University of Michigan.



EVAN D. HENSCHKE, 31831 Grand River, Farmington, has been appointed general foreman of electrical system substations by Detroit Edison Co. He had been assistant general foreman in the electrical system department since 1964. A native of Wexford, he attended Cleary College and the University of Detroit, joining Edison in 1945 and advancing through the ranks.

Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

It was with a great deal of sadness that we received the announcement of the retirement of Orlow Owen, better known as "Mr. Harness Racing," as vice president and general manager of Wolverine Raceway.

Stricken by a stroke four years ago, Orlow shook off the effects and was his same old self even though he did relinquish his winter duties as general manager of the Pontiac Park harness racing plant near Fort Lauderdale in Florida.

Orlow made his retirement known to Wolverine President Frederick Van Lennep a couple of weeks ago. Probably the biggest reason was that he suffered a second damaging stroke shortly after the conclusion of this year's successful Wolverine meeting.

Owen didn't recover as quickly from his setback and apparently had decided that the time has come to call a halt to his harness racing activities and devote full time to enjoying his family and to supervising his large farm just a few miles outside Northville on W. Seven Mile Road.

Although the retirement didn't come as a complete surprise to those close to Orlow, it will shock hundreds of standardized owners, trainers, drivers and groomers who have known and appreciated him since the days back in 1944 when he was assistant manager and the "golden voice."

At the first night parimutuel betting meeting at Northville Downs.

A GRADUATE of Eastern Michigan University, Orlow had a varied career for quite a few years during which he was a high school coach and teacher, owner of a Chrysler agency, operator of a restaurant and proprietor of a men's clothing store—all in and around Northville.

Then when the syndicate from Buffalo, N.Y., secured permission to lease and operate the Northville Fairgrounds for a night meeting—first in Michigan and the first in the midwest—Orlow was one of the first group decided it needed.



ORLOW OWEN "Mr. Harness Racing"

His knowledge of the area was invaluable in securing items needed for the installing of a lighting plant. He was able to locate electric wire, and he helped convince horsemen that pacers and trotters could compete as well under lights as in daylight.

With that taken care of, Orlow was named the race caller and almost immediately became one of the best in the land. For the better part of six years, he served in the dual capacity of assistant manager and announcer before receiving an offer from Van Lennep to take charge of Wolverine Raceway.

That was in 1950, just after

The personable Owen, who also served as legislative lobbyist for Wolverine, took to the new duties much like a duck does to water. He made friends everywhere -- with legislators during the winter months and with the horsemen during the summer.

THROUGH HIS efforts Wolverine reached the highest heights of any harness racing plant in Michigan. Wolverine was the first to clear the \$400,000 wagering barrier on a single night. It was the first to go past \$500,000, then \$600,000 and finally \$700,000. It is the only Michigan track to handle more than \$700,000 in a single program.

The average nightly handle climbed from just over \$200,000 in 1950 to an all-time high of \$451,000 in 1969.



CLARENCEVILLE HIGH's gym will be the scene of a gymnastics exhibition Saturday (Nov. 22) at 7:30 p.m. by members of the Michigan State University team. Among them will be Charley Morse, twice state gymnastics champion when he was a Clarenceville student. Admission is \$1.

His work with the legislators benefited the horsemen with cash breeders' awards for winning races. He was a major factor in the passage of legislation that found the state putting up \$3 for every \$1 offered by county fairs. This resulted in minimum purses of \$1,500 for races at county fairs which formerly had gone for as little as \$200.

Then he worked with the Legislature, the Department of

IN A RECENT visit to racing tracks in Windsor and Toronto, we discovered that the runners start at 1 p.m. and the eighth and final race is completed by 4:20 p.m. This is a far cry from the Detroit tracks' customary 2 p.m. post on Saturdays that stretches to 2:30 and the final race over at 7:15 p.m. under lights.

Operators of Canadian tracks are told that the races must go off as scheduled, usually on a 23-minute schedule, and there isn't a delay unless something happens at the starting gate.

Harness races start at 7:45 p.m. and the first race is off at 7:45, not 8 or 9:15, to take care of those who wait to the last minute to play a daily double.

We never could understand why track operators in the Detroit area continually ask for another minute or two on each race to handle the bettors. It would be much better to start as scheduled and shut out a few. Experience has shown that they won't be shut out a second time.

We hope the commissioner cracks down on the meeting starting Monday. We believe it may shut out a few in the beginning but eventually it will result in a better conducted meeting.



WILLIAM C. HARKINS Asst. Cashier MARK A. BENNER Assistant VP CHARLES M. SHIELDS Trust Officer

DB&T Promotes 3

Two Farmington residents and one resident of Redford Township have received new office appointments at Detroit Bank & Trust.

Mark A. Benner of Orchard Lake Road, Farmington, has been advanced to assistant vice president, and Charles M. Shields of Grand Drive, Farmington, has been advanced to assistant vice president.

William C. Harkins of Glenmore Avenue, Redford Township, has been appointed an assistant cashier.

BENNER, who is officer-in-charge of the bank's office at Woodward Avenue and 14 Mile Road in Farmington, has been a member of the bank staff since 1934.

Shields, a member of the personal trust staff of Detroit Bank & Trust, joined the bank in 1965 as a trust aide. He later was promoted to assistant trust officer.

OFFICER-IN-CHARGE of the bank's office at Greenfield and Ten Mile Roads, Harkins has been a member of the bank staff since 1949. He served, successively, as a teller, auditing examiner, head teller, assistant manager and manager.

Osburn Takes Truck Course

Dan A. Osburn of 34203 Burton Lane, Livonia, manager of Osburn Trucking, was among those attending the seventh annual course in maintenance of commercial vehicles Nov. 10-14 at Tri-State College, Angola, Ind.

The intensive five-day course was designed to show how maintenance procedures can be applied more effectively by operators.

2 Get WSU Certificates

William Gavra of Redford and Arnold S. Michlin of Farmington received 25-year alumni certificates at the Wayne State University Pharmacy Alumni Reunion.

They are members of the graduating class of 1944.

Gavra lives at 6341 Virgil. Michlin lives at 3160 Stonewood Court.

Tape Produced By Local Firm

Karl Haas, the international motion picture director of the arts for WJR Radio in Detroit, has signed with Magnetic Video Corp. of Farmington to produce a series of Fine Arts Music Tapes.

The series will be patterned after Haas' "Adventures in Good Music" program, and will be available in tape cassettes, eight track cartridge tapes and LP records.

Haas is president of the Interlochen Center for the Arts, comprised of the National Music Camp and the Interlochen Arts Academy. He is also founder and former president of the Chamber Music Society of Detroit and past chairman of the Michigan State Council of the Arts.

He is the recipient of numerous national and international awards, including the coveted George Foster Peabody Award and several honorary Degrees in Humanities, Fine Arts and Music. In addition, he has represented the United States as a delegate to various UNESCO Conferences in Europe.

Magnetic Video plans to dis-

tribute the tapes to both educational institutions, and individual buyers beginning Dec. 1, 1969. Current plans call for them to be offered on a subscription basis, but the entire set may be purchased at one time if so desired.

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