

Club Parties Have Become Major Part In Track Planning

For four years Sandy Walker has handled the famous club parties at Wolverine Raceway, directed the happy events so successfully that in this, her fifth season, she has been swamped with calls from groups coming back for another year.

Sandy, who makes the parties more than a dinner and night at the races with her talks and programs prior to and during the dinner, has had more requests this season than ever before.

In fact so many that she's wondering what she can do to take care of those who are still awaiting a date for their annual trip to the races under the stars. Some groups haven't made up their minds and a word to the wise is to get in touch with Sandy at once.... or you may be too late.

A year ago Sandy and her associates took care of more than 11,000 happy visitors who joined in 180 parties... That was a new high for Wolverine.

The groups, ranged from a minimum of 40 to a maximum of 1,500 with as many as seven or eight parties on a single evening.

There were numerous requests last year for bowling leagues on nights of the big stakes. Sandy had so many repeats this year that she had to reject weekend parties several weeks ago.

Senior citizen organizations rank second to bowlers in signing up for events. Sandy had 65 senior groups a year ago and already has bids from 80 clubs with the expectation that others will be in line shortly.

Wolverine has complete facilities for political meetings, fraternal gatherings, business groups, celebrations, season end bowling affairs and the always welcome senior citizens.

Time was when those attending parties, sat down to an enjoyable meal, studied the racing program, wagered a bob or two on the pacers and trotters and went home satisfied they had a big night out.

Sandy changed that format when she took over. She decided

to liven things with a program of talks and jokes and explanation of harness racing. She explained the difference between trotters and pacers, gave a brief history of Wolverine Raceway and its progress over the years and then sat down with the group for dinner.

She involves guests in her discussions, points out the high-spots of the evening, explains how to read a program and does everything but give tips on the horses... that's not part of the game.

Party-goers love this entertaining interlude. The entire evening is arranged for fun and relaxation and the pre-dinner program has everyone relaxed and ready for the fun of watching the pacers and trotters perform.

Then comes the dinner and each of the four party plans offered by Wolverine guarantees a bountiful feast. It makes no difference whether the group is partaking of steak under the Executive plan or enjoying the tasty smorgasbord under Plans I, II and III, it is eating that is second to none.

The parties are slated for different rooms. The Executive and Plan I are in the glass enclosed clubhouse. Plan II is on the first floor of the new clubhouse and Plan III in the "Sulky Room" on the mezzanine floor.

The last mentioned is for those groups which like privacy... It is guaranteed in the "Sulky Room."

Prices range from \$8.50 per person for the Executive to \$6.00 for Plan II. Plan I costs \$7.50 and Plan III is \$6.50.

Prices include admission to the clubhouse, programs and guarantee a seat.

Interested in a party? Then get in touch with Sandy by calling Wolverine Raceway or write to Sandra Walker, Wolverine Harness Raceway, 28001 Schoolcraft, Livonia, Mich.

She has all the answers and will be glad to hear from you and your group. She'll send you a brochure describing each of the four plans if you desire additional information.



ROUNDING FIRST TURN as they go into the back stretch at Wolverine Raceway is this field of pacers. It's action like this that has marked the rapid growth of interest in the sport during the past few years in Michigan... especially at Wolverine.

Mal Linehan Is Back As Official

A familiar face is back in the judges' stand at Wolverine for the first six weeks of the 82-night season.

It is that of Malcolm Linehan, one of the well-known brothers from Adrian who have been active in Michigan harness racing for more than 30 years and who is a former state steward.

Mal, who served in the stand during the regime of Racing Commissioner James Inglis, will fill in for Associate Judge Ed Casey until the end of April. Casey is

presiding judge at the Pompano Park meeting in Florida where racing continued through the final week in April.

It will be a repeat performance for Linehan who filled in for Casey a year ago.

During his term in the judges' stand, Linehan is serving as an associate with Presiding Judge John Broderick and State Steward Clay Hulett. Clair Cook, veteran associate judge, will ride in the starting gate and observe the conduct of the horses

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