

DRC Winds Up Greatest Season With All Figures On Plus Side

Record performances... on the track, at the box-office and at the mutual windows... were the keynote of the 1964 Detroit Race Course's 72-day meeting.

Dale Shaffer, president of the DRC, felt the meeting marked the most significant development in the history of Michigan racing.

"This is the year Michigan racing came of age," Shaffer said in commenting on developments. "I feel the record we established demonstrate thoroughbred racing has earned a high place with the sports fans and that its popularity will continue to grow."

The DRC attracted 841,100 fans this season. This represented a 27.2 per cent increase over the 1963 attendance of 661,352.

This says one thing... and says it quite loudly," Shaffer pointed out. "Thoroughbred racing has gained strong public acceptance and the attendant public support."

The attendance was the highest since the modern racing plant at Middlebelt and Schoolcraft was constructed in 1950. The previous mark was the 697,856 fans attracted for a 60-day meeting in 1958. The daily average attendance this year was 11,681 as against 11,631 in 1958.

The total mutual play was \$56,162,063, another record. It represents an increase of 32.5 per cent over the wagering during the 1963 meeting. This is one of the largest gains ever recorded by a major track. The daily average mutual handle of \$729,890 likewise was an all-time high. The previous best DRC mark was \$755,175 in 1953 when the meeting ran 57 days.

On Labor Day (Sept. 7) a crowd of 27,432 fans bet \$1,660,529, the highest single day total in DRC history. On closing day (Thursday, Oct. 22), 16,553 fans bet \$1,463,460, the highest weekday handle of any Michigan track.

The State of Michigan received \$1,808,122.12 in taxes from the meeting.

Glynn Bernis, 17-year old apprentice from St. Martinsville, La., and 20-year-old Danny Gargan of New York, tied for the riding championship. Each had 65 victories.

The father-son combination of Marion H. Van Berg and his son, Jack, ran away with the owner and trainer honors.

The 68-year-old Van Berg from Columbus, Neb., won \$186,000 in purses. It was by far the highest total ever earned by an owner during a DRC meeting. The previous mark was \$120,691, won by T. A. Grissom of Detroit, during the 1957 season.

Jack Van Berg was the leading trainer with 66 victories. All but one of the horses with which he won was owned by his father. The 66 victories topped the former record of 55 victories for a trainer which V. R. (Tennessee) Wright set in 1957.

Byron Webb, who trains for the Audley Farm, was the runner-up with 31 victories, and Johnny Meaux, who conditions T. A. Grissom's horses, was third with 30.

Two track records were set during the 1964 meeting. Glass House, the brilliant sprinter owned by Rudy Gian, won the William Dowling Handicap on August 1 with a clocking of 1:08 for the six furlongs. Tibaldo, owned by Wilmington, Del. sportsman, Mrs. John R. H. Thouron, broke the track record for the one mile and an eighth when timed in 1:48 2-5 while winning the \$25,000 DRC Handicap, which featured closing day.

A highlight of the meeting was the dead heat between Tibaldo and Going Abroad, owned by Chicago automobile executives Ed and Harry Seltzer, in the \$62,500 added Michigan Mile.

Other major stake winners included Miss Maru from the Pleasant Hill Farm of Robert F. Brimer in the \$15,000 Sweet Patootie Handicap, and T. A. Grissom's City Line in the \$25,000 added Sweepstakes.

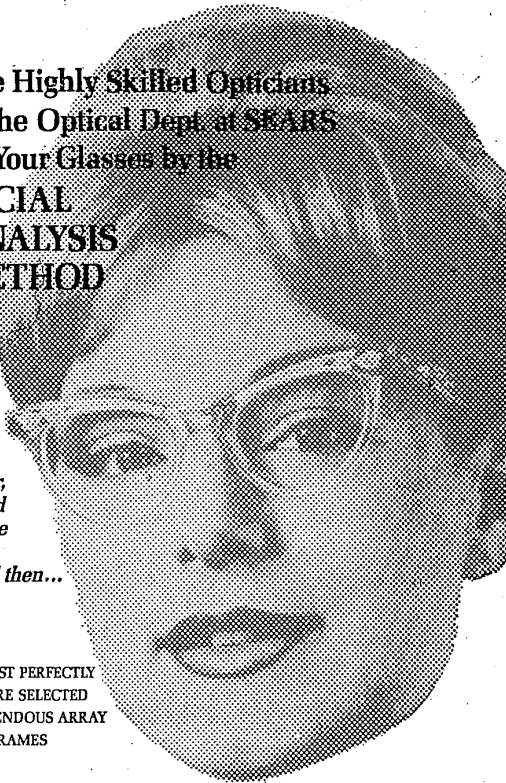
Immediately after the close of the DRC meeting, work began on a construction and expansion program. Before the 1965 opening, a new clubhouse, paddock and jockey quarters will be built; grandstand facilities will be expanded and improved and new, easy-in, easy-out access roads built.

MR. AND MRS. ARTHUR KEMP, 9146 Marion Crescent, Redford Township, were the guests of Dale Shaffer, President of the Detroit Race Course, at a VIF (Very Important Fan) luncheon at the DRC during the closing week of the 72-day meeting. The Kemps are shown with William C. McKay (center), Executive Vice President of the DRC.



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