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Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

The news from Pompano Beach, Fla. that Dick Wilson, general manager of Wolverine Raceway and vice president in charge of public relations and promotions for the Detroit Racing Association, had been elevated to vice president in charge of the racing division of Castleton Industries didn't exactly come as a surprise to those who have followed his career for the past 20 years.

The general feeling is "it couldn't have happened to a better guy" and "Castleton Industries really came up with the right decision this time."

Announcement of the promotion was made by Frederick Van Lennep, Castleton Industries Inc. president who also is board chairman of the Detroit Racing Association and president of Wolverine Harness Raceway.

We have followed the harness racing career of Dick Wilson since he first joined the Wolverine organization as an aide in the program department then under the supervision of Doc Robbins of New York City.

Robbins was one of the members of the New York syndicate that started harness racing at the Detroit Race Course and had the program concession for several years after Van Lennep took over the operation of the night racing activities.

When Robbins' contract ran out, Wilson was placed in charge of the program department and worked his way through the ranks with his untiring efforts to the point where he was an assistant to the Orlov Owen and then succeeded Orlov when he retired.

From a paint salesman and part-time worker in the program department to vice president in charge of the racing division - that's the story of Dick Wilson over a span of 20 years. No man ever worked harder in reaching the top and that's why so many of his longtime friends are so happy over his new assignment.

As vice president of the racing division, Dick will be in charge of the diversified activities of the five racing groups in the organization.

CASTLETON Industries Inc. operates Pompano Park, a harness and quarter horse track at Pompano Beach, Fla.; the Hollywood Dog Track at Hollywood, Fla.; Gator Downs at St. Augustine.

Wilson served as general manager of Pompano Park for three years and then took charge of the Wolverine operation after the retirement of Owen.

It was under his supervision that Wolverine shattered all attendance and wagering records for a Michigan harness racing track. His success reached its high spots in each of the past two years when he brought more than 19,000 to a single program and had the first \$300,000 handle in 1971 and became the first to handle more than a million during the recently completed late winter and spring meeting.

It's a big step for Wilson but he has his expertise and the drive necessary for such a job. He has demonstrated what he can do at Wolverine and hopes the same type of skillful planning will enable him to do a similar job at the other four racing operations.

GLANCING AT the business statistics for Hazel Park trotters and the DRC runners over the weekend, one notes that the standardbreds went ahead of the thoroughbreds for the first time.

Hazel Park had 6,690 customers who wagered \$779,490 and the DRC reported \$433 with a handle of \$725,342.

It was a different story Saturday when 16,309 poured into the Livonia plant and sent \$1,312,895 through the machines. Hazel Park had another big night attendance-wise with 11,383 but strange enough the betting only totaled \$795,494.

All of which tends to prove that the economic picture isn't as good now as during the late spring. Hazel Park had almost 1,700 more fans Saturday than Friday but business was only \$16,000 better.

The DRC did have an added perfect for Saturday's card with the permission of Racing Commissioner Les Shirley and it probably helped. All of which leads one to believe that Hazel Park's General Manager Harold Duris will be asking Shirley to explain why he gave permission to the DRC for the added gimmick and turned down Hazel Park.

It will be interesting to learn the commissioner's reasoning.

FOR THOSE who follow the bangbails and risk a bob or two at the mutuel windows, here are a few horses that are reported in fit condition and ready for a trip into the winner's circle in the near future: Skip's Mite, Beloved Gold, Billy Bumper, Armi Carla, San Juan, Bag O Luck, He Arrived, Artynoid, Bargaining Bartow, and Hot Corned.

10 Year-Old Girl Swimming To Top

Ten-year-old Maurine Jewell has become the first person to pass the 10th and highest level of the Farmington School District's learn to swim program.

The sixth grade Bond Elementary student passed all tests in: 400 yard crawl; back crawl; breaststroke; elementary backstroke; sidestroke; learn to swim butterfly and competitive starts and turns.

After becoming a member of the Michigan Stingray Swimming Association, an AAU age group swimming team coached by Farmington High Coach Doug Gembris, Maurine entered her first competitive meet last winter where she captured two thirds, a fourth and sixth place.

SHE has piled up 20 ribbons, four medals, two plaques and four trophies.

A typical training day for Maurine begins at 7 a.m. under the direction of Mark Holdridge. At noon she reports to North Farmington High for lessons with Coach Duthie and stays on in the afternoon for recreation swimming till 3 p.m.

In the evening Maurine returns to North Farmington for one or two hours of recreation swim and more practice.

Miss Jewell spends

anywhere from four to seven hours a day in the water.

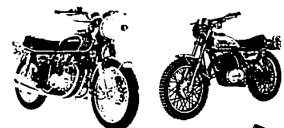
"Maurine has progressed so far in such a short time that I wouldn't even try to guess her potential for fear of underestimating her," concluded Coach Duthie.



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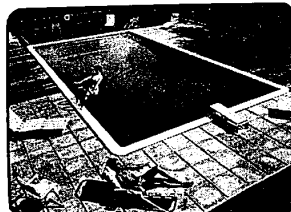
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PROMOTED to vice president in charge of the racing division of Castleton Industries Inc. is Richard S. Wilson, currently vice president and general manager of Wolverine Raceway and vice president in charge of public relations for the Detroit Racing Association. In his new post, Wilson will be in charge of five race tracks including: Wolverine and DRA which use the facilities of the Detroit Race Course; Pompano Beach, Fla.; Gator Downs at St. Augustine, Fla.; and the Hollywood Dog Track at Hollywood, Fla.



MAUREEN JEWELL

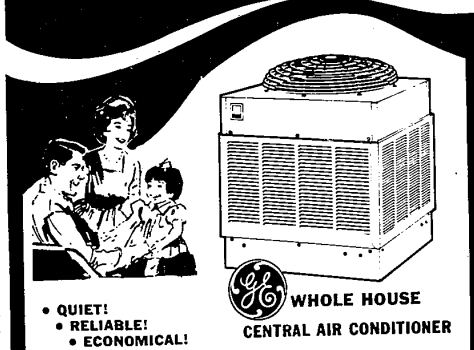
Snowmobile Sport Show On Sept. 15

The 1973 Greater Michigan Snowmobile & Winter Sports Show - the nation's largest and first of the season - opens for a three-day run at Detroit's Cobo Hall Friday, Sept. 15, according to Larry Johnson, president of the sponsoring Michigan Marine & Snowmobile Dealers Association.

More than 40 manufacturers and distributors of snowmobiles and winter sports equipment are expected to exhibit their products in the association's fifth show. Hours will be noon-11 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Sept. 15-16, and noon-10 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 17.

Don Stewart, executive director of the association, is manager of the show. Other members of the committee include: Ken Parks, association Chairman and President of Great Lakes Boat Top, 32451 Park Lane, Garden City; and Hayes, association Secretary and owner of G&D A Boat, 30303 Plymouth, Livonia.

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