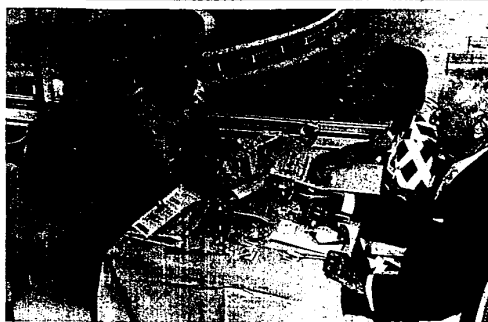




OPENING DAY VIEW -- New officials of the Detroit Racing Association, Inc., had front seats for the season's first program.



PRESIDENT'S TABLE -- New DRC president Jack Davis and Mrs. Davis (left) chat with Mr. and Mrs. Everett Fisher before the day's action begins.

New Era Begins At DRC

By MARGARET MILLER

A new era in thoroughbred racing in Livonia began officially Monday with the cry "they're off" at the Detroit Race Course.

The new "official family" of the Detroit Racing Association, Inc. was out in force to see the opening day program of the first meeting under its administration at the track at Middle Belt and Schoolcraft.

Among those who kept close watch as favorite Bornastorm ran home in the first race were John R. (Jack) Davis, former Ford Motor Co. official who is the new DRA president, and Mrs. Davis.

The president, in a bright blue sports coat, and Mrs. Davis, who wore a pale blue knit costume and matching flower hat, were joined in front-row seats in the well-filled clubhouse by several other members of the new administration that took over the track last November.

All the official family ladies had corsages of white carnations.

The group included Mr. and Mrs. Alan Gornick, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Cramer, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Sheldon, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Merrill, Mr. and Mrs. William Bridge, Mr. and Mrs.

Everett Fisher, and Mr. and Mrs. Roy M. Tolleson Jr.

Gornick's DRA vice president in charge of finance, Tolleson is secretary and assistant to the chairman of the board, and the other men in the group are stockholders in the association.

Also present were Paul Ryder of Livonia, vice president and general manager, and Mrs. Ryder, Richard S. Wilson, vice president for operations, and William P. Van Buren, treasurer. Frederick L. Van Lennep, chairman of the board in the new organization, was in New York and unable to attend the opening day program.

The clubhouse spectators also included Sid Abel, general manager of the Detroit Red Wings and owner of a thoroughbred stable.

Van Lennep, long an avid horseman, added his post as chairman of the board to presidencies of the Wolverine Harness Raceway, Pompano Harness Raceway, Castleton, Inc., and ownership of Castleton Farms in Florida and Kentucky and Castleton Industries. He is also vice president of Gulfstream School in Florida.

Jack Davis, former director of Ford sales and advertising programs, is beginning a third career in his post as president of DRA. After leaving the

automobile industry on doctor's orders several years ago, he entered the hotel business and is owner of the Parry-Davis Hotel in Petoskey and the Mulberry Hills Farm at Marshall, Va.

He also is a director of several developments in the area including Boulevard Center Corp., Otsego ski club and Meadow Park Development Co.

A crowd of 14,000 fans, one of the largest in the track's 21-year history, for a Monday opening, enjoyed the nine-race program in near-perfect racing weather.

Ready for the visitors were several improvements over last year's facilities, including a new track lighting system that makes DRC the best-lighted race track in the country.

There also is a new grandstand canopy and a new paddock restaurant and bar, and the north end of the grandstand has been glassed in for protection.

"May your season be a winning one," read the lighted sign in the center of the track before the runners got started.

The opening-day bustle and the enthusiasm seen on all sides indicated everyone thought it would be.



READY FOR RUNNERS -- Among Observerland residents on hand for the opening were Mrs. Paul Ryder of Livonia (left), wife of the DRA vice president and general manager, Mrs. Russell Wagstaff of Livonia and Mrs. Arthur Lafferty of Redford Township. (Observer photos by Vince Witke)

Remember Those Octagon Houses?

The account of the Melvin Gutheer's home on Newburgh Road, Westland, published in THE OBSERVER July 16, brought forth two experts on eight-sided houses.

Filling us in on the construction of these interesting homes 100 years ago, were Edmund Yerkes, Northville attorney, and George W. Brown, a member of the history department of Detroit Country Day School.

Both long-time students of the houses, they reported that the octagon that has been the Gutheer family home since 1925 is one of many built in the middle of the 19th century and one of about 20 still standing in Michigan.

THEIR ORIGINATOR was a gentleman named Orville Yerkes, who lived in Flakill, N.Y., and was not a sea captain, as our earlier information indicated, but a paleontologist, or student of the shape of the skull. Publisher of the "American Phenological Journal," he printed an article in 1853 that extolled the virtues of a house with eight sides instead of four. The piece was titled "A Home for All," and, reprinted widely, it began a vogue for building such homes.

m. m. memos

Past, present and future seemed to get together in our family vacation this year. The thing was that we went traveling in spots made famous by earlier national events just at the time of the greatest feat of modern times—the moon shot.

We viewed Civil War battlefields at Lookout Mountain, Tenn. We noted historical markers by the dozen. We delved deep into the story of America's battle for independence in the restored colonial town of Williamsburg, Va.

We saw so many places of historical importance that our seven-year-old looked over a sandy beach in North Carolina and wanted to know "what happened here."

The day of Apollo 11's lift-off, we stopped briefly at the hill where Wilbur and Orville Wright staged man's first flight, and Daughter No. 1 commented that it was an appropriate time for the visit.

Then, driving home and thinking over the vacation experiences, we listened on the car radio to the historic words: "This is Tranquility Base—the Eagle has landed."

Our second-born couldn't help remembering the recent guided tours through history.

"Two hundred years from now," she predicted, "guides are going to be taking a bunch of moon visitors to that spot and pointing out the marker where we first landed."

Probably sooner than that, the way history goes galloping.

—Margaret Miller

Northville Town Hall Plans Lecture Series For 1969-70

Women, music and education are the subjects of Northville Town Hall guest celebrities for the 1969-70 series, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, March 18 and April 9.

The Northville High School auditorium will again be the site of Town Hall meeting place and luncheon will follow in Plymouth.

Mrs. Nelson Hyatt at 349-4896 is chairman and Mrs. Robert Brueck at 349-2220 will arrange for baby sitters for the 11 a.m. lectures and through the luncheon period. Ticket orders should be addressed to Northville Town Hall Series, Box 93, Northville 48167. The series is \$10 and luncheons are \$3 per day with reservations due the Friday preceding the lecture.

"Are Women at the Point of No Return" is the title of the first speaker, Virginia Graham, best known for her television show Girl Talk.

A student of psychology and sociology with a master's degree in journalism, Miss Graham is author of such books as

"There Goes What's Her Name," "Don't Blame the Mirror" and her book cook, "The Last Day of the World."

Roaring editor of Readers Digest, Harry Morgan has been featured by Life magazine as one of the 100 members of the "Takeover Generation." He will speak Nov. 13 on his adventures and experiences in working toward international understanding and friendship and of his unshakable faith in America and Americans.

"Music is purely emotional art so actually, it makes no sense and in this ties its intimate variety and appeal," is Mario Braggiotti's credo. His piano presentation includes classical and popular music, satire, pantomime, mimicry, comedy, improvisation and sparks of wisdom to stir every face of audience interest.

Continental charm will be turned on the audience by Marquise de la Passardiere in his April 9 appearance. He is an international theatrical producer and husband of chanteuse, Lilo. His talk is titled "Remarkability of Women."

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VIRGINIA GRAHAM



HARRY MORGAN



MARIO BRAGGIOTTI



THE MARQUIS DE LA PASSARDIERE

Shopping Lists Aid Budgeting Battles

Start saving pennies by making a food shopping list at home, suggests Harold E. Neigh, extension consumer economics specialist of The Pennsylvania State University.

When you get to the food store or supermarket, compare prices by weight to see if you're getting a bargain. Buy a container to fit your family's size and appetite.

Large sizes won't be a good buy unless all the food will be eaten, or you've planned

menus in advance to use any leftovers.

AT THE meat counter, check the cuts and grades of meat, advises Neigh.

Figure cost of meat by the number of servings per pound, not only by price per pound. In general, one pound of boneless meat yields four servings. Meat with some bone yields two servings per pound, and

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