

# Finds 'Gold' In Picture Frames And A Cantankerous Old Mare

By R. T. THOMPSON  
Executive Editor

For Ed and Kathleen O'Hare, the facilities at 2725 W. 10-Mile Rd., Southfield, make for comfortable, rural living with ample space to entertain friends on the weekends during the late spring, summer and early fall.

But to their numerous friends-in-business and in harness racing, it is one of the showplaces of the Detroit area—a place they point out that has everything needed for good living and for the best type operation of a successful stable.

Ed and Kathleen, residents of the Detroit metropolitan area since the late 1940s, are directors, officers and owners of the Hope Frame Co. It operates out of a new plant at 4000 Autry in Livonia. In addition they have been patrons of the paces and trotters for more than 11 years.

Since they came to Detroit in 1946, where Ed had taken a position as general manager of a small picture frame plant, the O'Hares have made four moves, each to better quarters than the previous one.

THE FOURTH was to the Livonia site last November and already they are making plans for an expansion with a target date of 1972.

The success of the Hope

Frame Co. reads like a Horatio Alger tale and the growth of the operation since the move to Livonia has been nothing short of astronomical.

With a payroll of 160, the company turns out several million picture frames annually and has expanded the business to include framed reproductions of original paintings, wall accessories and numerous other lines.

It is shipping frames to all parts of the United States as well as to South America, Puerto Rico, Japan, Korea, The Philippines and some sections of Europe.

"We consider no job too small nor too large," said O'Hare. "We'll tackle anything in our line of business and we'll do a good job too."

At the moment, Hope Frame Co. furnishes frames and framed pictures to such large outlets as Kmart and Kresge's, the AMC chain which includes Hudson's, Dayton's, Lazarus in Columbus, and other members of the co-op buying group, the May Co. chain, Sears, Penney's, and many of the major trading stamp companies.

"We have recently added another group to our list of customers," O'Hare smiled. "We now furnish package kits for mobile homes which include frame, framed pictures and frames for the bathroom mirrors."

AND THE O'Hares have been just as successful in harness racing as in the picture frame business.

It was just seven years ago they bought the Ted Karsten's farm, located near the intersection of Inkster and 10-Mile Rds. in Southfield, and they have never regretted the purchase.

The 11-room ranch home with a large swimming pool is the central building in the facility which covers more than 10 acres. There is a seven-stall barn with a tack room and living quarters on the second floor for the driver-trainer. In addition there is a guest home for the caretaker.

The farm was sold to the O'Hares seven years ago and Ed and Kathy have devoted their attentions to improving it ever since. The success of their program is attested to by those who have visited the farm—they are the ones who have tagged it as the harness showplace of eastern Michigan.

The O'Hares are natives of Pennsylvania. Ed hails from Jeannette where he was a standout football and basketball player and then took his college work at Pitt where he won varsity letters in both sports.

Kathy comes from Greensburg, a middle-sized city only a few miles from Jeannette.

They moved to Detroit in the late '40s when Ed was transferred with the company he then worked for—an equipment firm. He took a position with a picture frame company shortly after arriving in Detroit and has been in that business ever since.

It was his work in the picture frame business that first introduced him to harness racing. He became acquainted with a nephew of the late Dr. R.B. Blanchard, of Morenci, owner and operator of a large breeding farm there.

The nephew took Ed to the Morenci farm, made him acquainted with the famed "Doc" and almost before he knew it, Ed was the owner of two yearlings.

ON THE recommendation of Dr. Blanchard, Ed turned the pair over to a then young but promising driver-trainer in Findlay, Ohio, by the name of Joe Marsh Jr.

Joe, who has since become one of the top trainers in the Midwest, was in his first year at the time after serving a long apprenticeship under the supervision of his father.

"We didn't do so well with that first two," recalls Ed. "One didn't get to the races at all and the other was anything but a speedy one. He did race for a couple of years but his wins were few and far between."

Their first success came after they purchased Giga, a three-year-old from Gene Riegle of Greenville, Ohio, and turned it over to Marsh. Giga was one of the better performers in her class and the O'Hares were off and running as the experts put it.

Then they shifted their allegiance to Driver-Trainer Harold Fisher of Adrian when Marsh expressed a desire to do most of his driving in the Chicago area.

It was through the recommendations of Harold and his wife, Sandra, that the O'Hares purchased Navy Prince. Then they had their first star pacer.

Navy Prince gave the O'

Hares a much coveted trophy when he won the Motor City Pacing Derby at Northville Downs and then went on to become one of the better sprinters in Michigan.

THE O'HARES have had many standardbreds since Navy Prince but their biggest claim to fame came 10 years ago when they purchased an aged trotter, Reed's Waylay, from Frank Altizer from upstate Michigan.

The person largely responsible for that buy was Sandra Fisher, who influenced the O'Hares to join with a couple of harness racing enthusiasts from Adrian to grab the trotter at what she considered a bargain price of \$10,000.

Joining the O'Hares in the venture were Gerald Johnson and Dick Abraham of Adolph.

That deal became one of the biggest bargains ever in Michigan. The Fishers worked with the trotter and finally declared her fit enough to compete in Windsor.

There, Reed's Waylay promptly trotted to a track record of 2:01.1, a mark this is still standing today.

Then Sandra recommended that the trotter be moved to the pace and the Fishers spent long hours working with her at Pompano Park in Florida before telling the owners they were now ready to see how the change had worked out.

The mare took to the pace like she had never trotted and within a matter of weeks was the fastest aged female pacer in the land.

REED'S WAYLAY recorded 13 straight victories before going to the fastest and best in Chicago. She was shipped to Wolverine where she competed in the historic Motor City Pace and came within an eyelash of taking it all.

In her long victory string she paced to a mark of 1:59.2 and was flirting with 2:00 and under all year. She more than paid for herself in the first year with winnings of over \$41,000.

To Tom the mare presented



AN ANXIOUS MOM stands over her newly born offspring at the O'Hare farm in Southfield. The foal was born just hours before the photographer snapped this picture.

In two years she has banked a total of \$100,000 and just now is getting back to top form again at Northville Downs for the summer and fall campaign. The mare is currently under the direction of Driver-Trainer Tom Wantz, also of Adrian, who received his early training from his father, Joe Wantz, and then joined brother-in-law George Sholly as second trainer for several years.

To Tom the mare presented

one of the most unusual problems of his career. Reed's Waylay detests workouts. She prefers to do her own training on the farm, cavorting around the layout like a three-year-old. She is shipped to and from the farm for the races.

More than that she seems to sense when the trailer pulls up that she is headed for the races and immediately takes off for the most distant point on the farm. If Wantz doesn't

have her bridled well in advance of the arrival of the van—then he has a good morning workout trying to catch her. Her preparation for a race—which generally comes on a Saturday—consists of taking her to the track on Thursday evening, a light workout Friday morning and then the race on Saturday. Immediately thereafter she is hauled back to the farm and set free for another week.



STUDYING PAINTINGS that will be reproduced and framed for distribution to the many outlets of Hope Frame Co. is President Edward O'Hare. Copies and paintings are shown in background.



FRAMES, FRAMES EVERYWHERE and they'll be sent to dealers throughout the world. That's O'Hare looking at some of the frames manufactured in his plant. The company sends out millions annually.



PICTURESQUE BARN, which has seven stalls, a tack room and quarters for the trainer, is in the background as Reed's Waylay is led around the drive accompanied by Wantz and O'Hare.



TRAINER TOM WANTZ has a tight grip on cantankerous mare Reed's Waylay as Owner O'Hare stands alongside a 100-year-old sulky that is one of the prized exhibits at the farm. That's Prince nuzzling O'Hare's leg.

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