

Kids Have A Big Day At Races

"Shucks, we never get a chance to see horses."

"Can't we visit the race track and see some horses?"

"My Dad tells me they have some beautiful horses at the Detroit Race Course and sometimes they allow kids to visit in the morning in groups. Can't we go?"

After listening to this kind of talk for three or four weeks, Ted Cunio, director of the Special Education summer program for Farmington schools, finally gave in and called DRC Publicity Director Bill Kofender to find out if there was a possibility of making arrangements for a tour in the morning.

"Quite a few of our youngsters are in wheelchairs and it could become quite involved," Cunio told affable Kofender.

"No sweat," was the reply. "Just bring the kids out to the track and we'll take care of everything. Don't worry about the wheelchairs, we'll make arrangements for all, just get the youngsters here and

we'll make sure they have a good time."

So, several busloads of youngsters arrived at the track -- some in wheelchairs, some on crutches, others ready to race in all directions as kids are prone to do, but all excited over the prospects of seeing horses, lots of horses.

They didn't have to wait long for Kofender and his No. 1 aides in such tours. "Wild" Walter Kehr and Urban McCann had trays waiting to take the group through the plant.

THEY WERE TAKEN to the edge of the track where horses were completing morning workouts. One of the horses, used by the leadout riders in the parade to the post, was brought over for all to touch, feel, pat and one lucky youngster was given a ride around the parking lot.

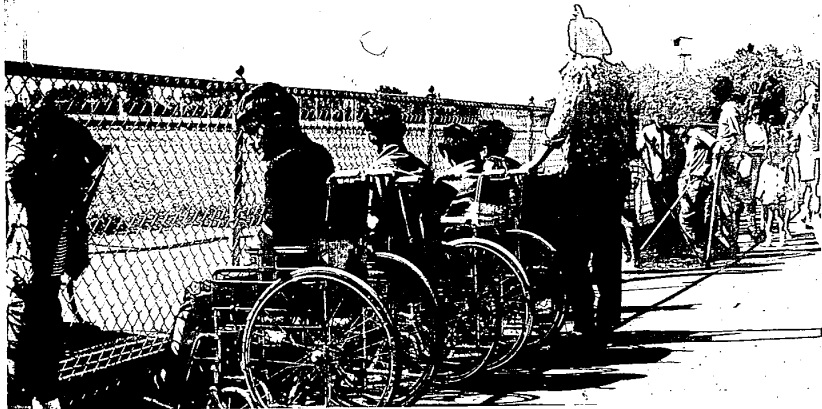
Then some of the pets ... there are many around every race track ... were moved from the barn area to the parking lot for examination of the youngsters.

One would have thought the pets were something from another world judging from the attention they received. It was a goat, who enjoyed every second of his big moment, who was the center of attraction.

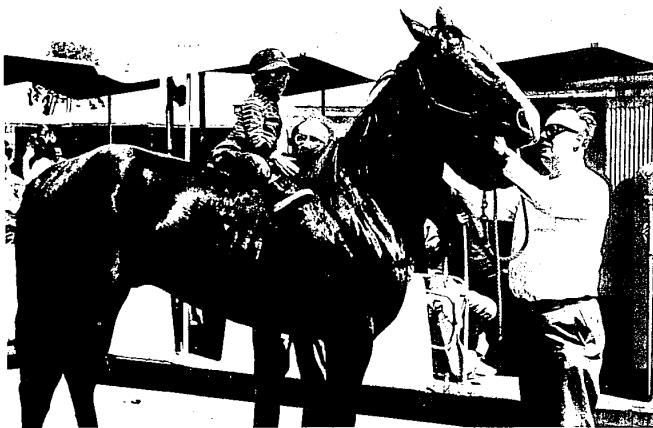
Never has a goat had so many admirers. Never before were horns handled by so many hands and never before did so many try to get

a ride. The goat didn't object until the matter of rides came up ... then he didn't quite appreciate the attention and let it be known as only goats can.

Then to top off the morning, there was ice cream, hot dogs, donuts, milk and pop. It was a day the kids in the Special Education classes won't soon forget ... their day at the races.



WHEELCHAIRS aren't the most comfortable seats while watching morning workouts but it didn't bother these youngsters



JUST LIKE A JOCKEY. This lucky lad had an opportunity to mount and ride a horse.



NOTHING LIKE milk to make a day complete.



WHO'D THINK a goat could get so much attention from youngsters.



WHEELCHAIRS, crutches make no difference when one rides in style

YOUNGSTERS from the special education classes in the Farmington school district wanted to see the horses. So Bill Kofender, promotion and publicity director at the Detroit Race Course, made arrangements for a morning tour of the plant, including watching the morning workouts. To add a bit of zest to the visit, a horse was brought out from the stable area and this is what happened. The kids couldn't get enough and were moaning and groaning when the horse was taken back to his stall. There was ice cream, milk, pop, hot dogs, donuts and everything else that goes with the appetites of youngsters ... and a chance to see the horses. (Photos by DRC's Tibor)

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