

Know your way around the track

Thursday, March 26, 1987 O&E

(F17A)

THE SPORT OF Kings, which declined in Michigan during the '70s and early '80s so far that it was barely the sport of scots, starts another chapter back toward royal status tomorrow afternoon when the thoroughbreds break from the gate to open the Detroit Race Course season.

From about two years ago came a savior, the ultra-rich Ladbroke Group, PLC, (Publicly Licensed Corp.) which converted enough of the mother country's English pounds into about 13 million U.S. dollars to buy operational control of 218-acre Livonia facility at Schoolcraft and Middlebelt Roads.

Ladbroke is a name which speaks class. It is among the 100 largest conglomerates in the United Kingdom and since its representatives took charge here nearly \$5 million has been spent on capital improvements.

"If it's not moving, paint it," was the first command given and those words have become symbolic as refurbishing has been pursued from one end of the plant to the other.

IMPROVING CREATURE comforts has been only part of the approach. It was important to put cushions on the seats, so to speak, but the promotional pump also had to be primed, and always there must be continuing advancement in the quality and fitness of horses to lead to better racing.

A 250-seat auditorium for use as a sports teletheater on the first floor of the renovated clubhouse, more closed circuit television monitors, extension of computerized facilities at the pari-mutuel windows, added wagering gimmicks, improvements in the racing surface, the richest stakes schedule in DRC history, and simulcasting of 25 major events across the nation — including the Triple Crown — all are part of Ladbroke's 1987 new look.

There was a time when the Dodge, Fisher and other great families of the Motor City raced their champion thoroughbreds here; Eddie Arcaro rode at Detroit; Calumet Farm, which produced such greats as Citation and Whirlaway, sent several challengers for the Michigan Mile trophy. Hopefully that class of racing will be brought back.

THE GREATEST place I've ever found for gaining a true sense of thoroughbred tradition is down in Kentucky's Blue Grass country around Lexington. It happens that 25 years ago last weekend a bunch of media types and



through
bifocals
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their wives from the Detroit area, Mother Goose and the writer included, enjoyed exactly that exposure as DRC guests.

This week darned if I didn't come across a memo in my files from Bruce Martyn, best known now as the Red Wings play-by-play announcer but in 1982 as sports director of WCAR. In his broadcast 25 years ago tomorrow this is part of what he said:

"I want you to know that you are listening right now to a Kentucky Colonel. Over the weekend it was my privilege to join a group of Detroit sports broadcasters and writers. Thanks to the Detroit Race Course, we were shuffled off to Lexington for a two-day course in the breeding, raising, praising and racing of thoroughbreds.

"With visits to places like Calumet Farm, Spendthrift and numerous others we watched stallions like Citation, Bull Lea, Nashua, Jet Pilot and others romp around their individual paddocks, and took like the heroes they are.

"BESIDES THE awe inspiring presence of the many great names of horse-drawn, and the beauty of the Kentucky thoroughbred farms, one of the other things that will stay in mind is the intense pride that everyone from the owner to the last stable boy takes in a prize horse.

"Let me tell you, I'm no more of an expert when it comes to picking a winner, but when the gates swing open at the DRC my appreciation of the sport itself will have grown a great deal after my weekend education in Lexington."

Martyn was right; it was educational. The late Dale Stoffer, who owned DRC in those days and who himself was a past chairman of the Kentucky Racing Commission, spared no expense in going first cabin. If Ladbroke would like to host a reunion, I still have an itinerary and will be happy to share it.

Meanwhile, remember that a horse is of the same family as the ass and zebra. A day at the track can be fun, but when you place your wagers at the reborn DRC be sure you can distinguish one equine cousin from another.

Farmington readers' forum

Letters must be signed, original copies and include the address and telephone number of the writer. None can be returned. Names will be withheld from publication only for sufficient reason. Letters should be limited to 300 words in most cases. We reserve the right to edit them. Send letters to Readers' Forum, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River Ave., Farmington 48024.

Thanks for lovely story

To the editor:

Thank you for a lovely and accurate article (March 12, Transitions, "Women Share Their Feelings on Going Through Life's Stages").

The truly meaningful part has been the numbers of people who were affected by the content of the article. Many have expressed the belief that they were alone in the struggle of aging.

Natalie Rice,
Farmington Hills

Columnist should do his homework

To the editor:

As I read Rich Periberg's article "Ideas Take Beating From Judge's Ruling" I immediately took pen in hand to write this rebuttal.

It seems to me that Rich Periberg would do himself a great service by doing his homework before attempting to write on a subject such as Secular Humanism. Rich is quoted in his article as saying "Many of you, I suspect, do not know what Secular Humanism is..." It appears that Rich Periberg is one of the many who do not know what Secular Humanism is. Well, Rich, here are the facts.

Humanism became an organized secular religion with clearly defined doctrines and goals in 1933 with the drafting of a document titled "Humanist Manifesto IV." In 1973 Humanist Manifesto II was written. This second document restated and updated the original doctrines and goals of the first one. These documents were followed by the 1980 Humanist Declaration. With these three documents the Humanist believe that they have the "New religion of man."

And have clearly outlined how this new religion will be implemented throughout the world. In 1969 the Supreme Court of the United States declared in *Torcaso vs. Watkins* that neither the Federal Government nor any state can "aid those religions based on a belief in the existence of God as against religions founded on different beliefs." The court further specified that "among religions

in this country which do not teach what would generally be considered a belief in the existence of God are Buddhism, Taoism, Ethical Culture and Secular Humanism."

It seems logical that since the Supreme Court of the United States has declared that Secular Humanism is a religion, it should be illegal to teach the Secular Humanistic value system in our public schools. I know Rich Periberg would agree with this statement because he is quoted as saying in his article "If Secular Humanism is a religion, then it is unconstitutional to teach it in tax supported public schools."

Well Rich, I have just proved it is a religion. So if I may alter the last line in your article, let us set the record straight with "facts" and not "opinions" for the readers in our community. According to Judge Hand, it is unconstitutional to teach Secular Humanism in public schools. It should be, because it is a religion.

Brady A. Walker,
Livonia

Library merits added quarters

To the editor:

As one who has received most of his post-high school education and made a substantial portion of his livelihood as a result of research in the public libraries of Boston, New York, Detroit and Farmington Hills, I urge citizens to support allocation of sufficient funds for obviously needed expansion of the library in Farmington Hills.

It's inspiring to see so many people — especially young people — seeking knowledge there. The community has grown so rapidly that our library can't seem to keep up with increasing demand for services.

May one citizen also express his appreciation for the vision and control of our planning commission. It's a pleasure to drive out Northwestern Highway. One hopes the relaxed rules relative to home care services do not preclude high-rise commercially.

Dick Osgood,
Farmington Hills

Resident gains royal treatment

To the editor:

Please accept my very honest opinion of the Royal Transmissions employees of Farmington Hills.

Mr. Ron Kuban, who is the manager, and his staff are so refreshing and so experienced. So gratifying to know that there are young men such as they are, to show superb respect for young and old like me.

I received a flyer through the mail having received estimates from four other establishments that were astronomical — quotations so high I could put their amounts down as a payment on a new car.

I phoned the Royal Transmission Co. and Ron answered — I swear I have never seen or heard of him before — but his voice made me feel that I was listening to a very fine honest person.

Ron told me to drive my car to his place, and he would give me a free estimate.

My car is 11 years old and conked out three times while I was driving. I got there.

Ron asked me to wait in the reception room. While in the reception room, I met Mrs. Garver, who is the mother of Kelly Garver, winner of the Miss Michigan Scholarship Pageant.

Mrs. Garver had her car fixed a few weeks prior. She told me how delighted and thankful for the work performed by Ron and his crew — therefore, she returned with a large portrait of Kelly, who inscribed her sincere thanks to Ron for a job so perfect.

Mrs. Garver had received such high quotes from other companies that when she heard Ron's quote and the work he did, Mrs. Garver said she will certainly recommend the Royal Transmissions to all her friends.

Feel that you are in a position that deems it apropos to mention the Royal Transmission, Mr. Ron Kuban, manager.

My car is driving better than some new cars even though it is 11 years old — thanks to Ron and his crew. God bless them.

Naomi Fox,
Farmington Hills

Older Americans... Help Someone Start a New Chapter in Life.



People Who Have Difficulty Reading Need to Know They Are Not Alone.

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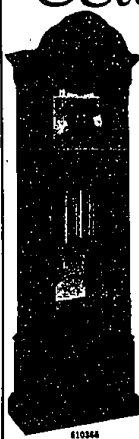
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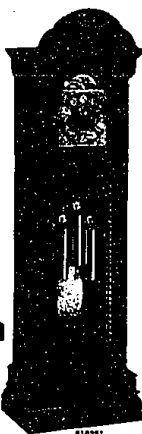
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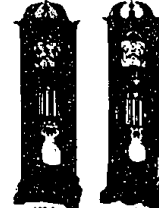
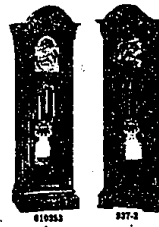
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